

GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

5 SEPTEMBER 2005

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Chair: | * Councillor Thammaiah | |
| Councillors: | * Arnold | * Lavingia (2) |
| | * Nana Asante | * Paddy Lyne |
| | * Marilyn Ashton | * Mrs Joyce Nickolay |
| | * Bluston | * Anjana Patel |
| | * Harrison | |

* Denotes Member present
(2) Denote category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**RECOMMENDATION 1 - Edward Harvist Trust Charity - Grant Applications**

Your Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy which presented applications for funding that had been made to the Edward Harvist Trust. Additional information submitted by five organisations following the publication of the officers' report was also tabled, as detailed below.

The Panel was advised that the Council administered the funds on behalf of the Edward Harvist Trust. Members discussed the application of the Council's common grants criteria to the funding requests, with particular reference to the application of the criterion which states that: "the applicant must be a voluntary group working in Harrow, with 80% of its members either living or working in Harrow". Whilst Members of the Panel felt that a flexible approach should be taken in relation to this criterion, it was advised that the decision to apply the common grants criteria to the Edward Harvist Trust grant applications had been agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 28 June 2005. It was further advised that the decisions of the Panel in relation to these grant applications must be consistent with this previous decision. The Panel requested that officers report back to their next meeting with details of the Panel's ability to withdraw a decision made at a previous meeting.

In line with the discussion detailed above, Members discussed the applications as follows.

Norwood: The organisation had requested funding to develop a new school for children with learning difficulties. It was noted that the school was going to be located in Bushey, not in Harrow as stated in the officers' report. The Panel acknowledged that it would be unrealistic for a project of this nature to satisfy the common grants criterion outlined above. In accordance with the grants process, the Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £5,000, on the condition that at least 80% of the funds were administered to Harrow residents. The Panel commended the work of the organisation.

National Youth Jazz Orchestra: The Panel received a brief letter and financial accounts submitted by the organisation following the publication of the officer report. The organisation had requested a contribution towards the running costs for their coach. The Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £1,500, reasoning that as 10% of the beneficiaries were Harrow residents, 10% of the £15,000 transport costs should be granted.

Love Lane Foyer Project: The organisation had requested funding to develop the Pinner Methodist Church. A Member of the Panel noted that the funding would be used to support a community facility and not to promote religious teaching. The Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £5,000.

BTWSC: The Panel was informed that the organisation had submitted all the required information and that the Council knew the work of the group. The Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £2,500.

Somali Family Support Group: The Panel received a letter naming the organisation's management committee and detailing their financial accounts for 2003/04, submitted by the organisation following the publication of the officer report. The Panel noted that the addresses of the management committee had not been supplied. In response to a Member's query, the Panel was informed that the organisation was currently based in Finchley and working with a local internet café to begin to provide services to people in Harrow. Members of the Panel cited work the co-ordinator had been involved in within Harrow. The Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £2,500.

Harrow Gateway: The Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £2,500.

Refugee Link and Training Agency: The Panel received information submitted by the organisation following the publication of the officer report, including management committee details and a financial statement. The application was requesting funding to

develop a project centring on Somalian youths, envisaged to run for a period of six months. Several Members felt that the budget presented in the application required further clarification, and a Member expressed concern that six months was not sufficient time to achieve the aims of the work and asked what would happen after the six-month period. It was proposed that the grant be deferred until the applicant supplied further information to satisfy Members' concerns. Other Members cited the importance of the work the project sought funding for, and expressed concern that the decision should not be deferred. It was further proposed to grant funding, but provide a specification for what the money could be used for.

Upon been put to the vote it was agreed to defer the application pending further information from the applicant including a more detailed budget proposal.

Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations: Noting that the organisation had provided the full information requested, the Panel agreed to recommend a grant of £2,500.

Humanitarian Action Group: The Panel received correspondence submitted by the organisation following the publication of the officer report. The application sought funding for a project for the Congolese community living in Harrow. Members felt that there was insufficient evidence of a connection with Harrow to grant the funding. It was agreed to defer the application pending further information from the applicant, including: accounts for 2004/2005; the number of beneficiaries who were Harrow residents; and an established connection with Harrow.

IJAPA: The Panel received additional information submitted by the organisation following the publication of the officer report. Several Members expressed their concern that the project was too vague for the parameters of the Edward Harvist Trust. A Member with specific knowledge of the organisation provided the Panel with further information on the organisation. It was agreed to defer the application pending further information.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To the Portfolio Holder)

That the Grants Advisory Panel's in principle decisions on the grant applications to the Edward Harvist Trust be agreed, as outlined in appendix 1.

[REASON: To enable the applications for the Edward Harvist Trust monies held by Harrow to be considered by Members of the Grants Advisory Panel.]

RECOMMENDATION 2 - Reserved Grants 2005/06

The Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy which provided an update on the grants reserved to voluntary organisations in 2005/06.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to the Portfolio Holder)

- (1) That the reserved grant of £5,000 be released to Home Start Harrow;
- (2) that the grant of £1,000 reserved for the Harrow Show Committee be taken back into the grants budget.

[REASON: To enable the Home Start Harrow to utilise the reserved grant of £5,000 and to take back into the grants budget a reserved grant that is no longer required.]

RECOMMENDATION 3 - Harrow Heritage Trust - Heritage Grant

Your Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy which presented an application from the Harrow Heritage Trust for a heritage grant of £15,000.

Officers advised the Panel that Cabinet normally considered the request for a heritage grant as part of the capital grants allocation. It was noted that the report to Cabinet on 17 March 2005 had not addressed the request for the heritage grant; it was therefore

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To Cabinet)

That the Grants Advisory Panel in principle decision to award a £15,000 heritage grant to the Harrow Heritage Trust be approved.

[REASON: To enable Harrow Heritage Trust to continue their renovation work of historical buildings in Harrow.]

PART II - MINUTES200. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

| <u>Ordinary Member</u> | <u>Reserve Member</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Councillor Mrs R Shah | Councillor Lavingia |

201. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

(1) The following Member declared a personal interest in the business transacted at the meeting arising from their involvement with the organisation listed. Accordingly, they remained and took part in the discussion and voting on the relevant item.

| <u>Agenda Item</u> | <u>Member</u> | <u>Nature of Interest</u> |
|--|--------------------|--|
| 8: Edward Harvist Trust Charity – Grant Applications | Councillor Bluston | Council appointed representative to the Edward Harvist Trust |

(2) The following Member declared an interest in the business transacted at the meeting arising from their involvement with organisations listed.

| <u>Agenda Item</u> | <u>Member</u> | <u>Nature of Interest</u> |
|--|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 8: Edward Harvist Trust Charity – Grant Applications | Councillor Nana Asante | African SANG The A Connexion |

202. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That all items be considered with the press and public present.

203. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2005 and 28 June 2005, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 189 (GAP 87, VOL2, 28 June 2005)

A further sentence to be included at the end of the Note:

“The general spirit of the meeting was that an informal consultation should be separated from the formal part of a meeting if held on the same day; otherwise be held on a different day.”

204. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

205. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 13 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

206. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

207. **Edward Harvist Trust Charity - Grant Applications:**

See Recommendation 1.

208. **Reserved Grants 2005/2006:**

See Recommendation 2.

209. **Information on the Council's Support to the Voluntary Sector in 2004/05:**
The Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy which summarised the Council's support to the voluntary sector in 2004/05. The Panel was advised that a future report would breakdown the figures under specific categories, which would be based on the annual Home Office survey on Local Authority funding to the voluntary sector.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

210. **Harrow Heritage Trust - Heritage Grant:**
See Recommendation 3.

211. **Community Premises Review:**
The Panel received an update on the Member-led review of community premises. The Panel was informed that an officer had been appointed to support the review and that meetings had been arranged.

A Member expressed concern that organisations were, allegedly, illegitimately using the community premises address. It was agreed that officers write to the manager of the community premises to inform him that the allegations would be investigated.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.35 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR KEEKIRA THAMMAIAH
Chair

APPENDIX 1Edward Harvist Trust Charity – Grant Applications

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| Norwood | - | £5,000 (see Note 1 below) |
| National Youth Jazz Orchestra | - | £1,500 |
| Love Lane Foyer Project | - | £5,000 |
| BTWSC | - | £2,500 |
| Somali Family Support Group | - | £2,500 |
| Harrow Gateway | - | £2,500 |
| Refugee Link and Training Agency | - | Deferred |
| Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations | - | £2,500 |
| Humanitarian Action Group | - | Deferred |
| IJAPA | - | Deferred |

[Note 1: The grant was allocated on the condition that at least 80% of the funds were administered to Harrow residents.]