

## GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

8 MARCH 2006

Chair: \* Councillor Mrs R Shah

Councillors: \* Arnold Paddy Lyne  
\* Nana Asante \* Mrs Joyce Nickolay  
\* Marilyn Ashton \* Omar (1)  
\* Billson (1) \* N Shah (5)  
\* Bluston

Adviser: \* Deven Pillay, Chief Executive, Mencap

\* Denotes Member present  
(1) and (5) Denote category of Reserve Member

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS****RECOMMENDATION 1 - Review of Community Premises**

Your Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, including an appendix written by the Chair of the Community Premises Review Group, which set out the findings of the Review.

The Chair of the Community Premises Review Group gave a presentation in which he stated that the Review had taken evidence from a range of community premises within Harrow and elsewhere and had found that a number of improvements could be made to improve the service offered to voluntary organisations.

Members stated that the Review was intended to ensure that the Community Premises were able to meet the diverse needs of those groups using them in the future and hoped that it would be able to make further progress including the creation of a clear business plan.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Cabinet)

That (1) the submission and report made by the Chair of the Review of Community Premises and the officer report be noted;

(2) due consideration be given to taking the Review forward.

**[REASON:** To enable the Cabinet to consider the detailed findings of the Review of Community Premises.]

(See also Minute 248).

**RECOMMENDATION 2 - Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07 - 2nd Round**

Your Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, which set out the second round of applications for funding.

A number of amendments were proposed in respect of the grants to individual organisations and it was

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Cabinet)

That the 'in principle' decisions on grant funding and grants-based service level agreements, as set out in Appendix 1 to the minutes, be agreed, subject to the Council approving its overall Revenue Budget for 2006/07.

**[REASON:** To enable the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations in 2006/07.]

**RECOMMENDATION 3 - Edward Harvist Trust Charity - Grant Applications**

Your Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, which presented applications for funding from the Edward Harvist Trust for 2006/07.

A number of amendments were proposed in respect of the grants to individual organisations and it was

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to the Portfolio Holder)

That the 'in principle' decisions on grant funding, as set out in Appendix 2 to the minutes, be agreed, subject to the Council approving its overall Revenue Budget for 2006/07.

[**REASON:** To enable the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations in 2006/07].

(See also Minute 246).

**PART II - MINUTES**237. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Members:

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Anjana Patel	Councillor Billson
Councillor Harrison	Councillor N Shah
Councillor Thammiah	Councillor Omar

238. **Declarations of Interest:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the declarations of interest made by Members in relation to the business to be transacted at this meeting, as set out in Appendix 3 to these Minutes.

239. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

The Chair indicated that an item of urgent business regarding Harrow Weald Common Conservators would be discussed in private session.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances/Grounds for Urgency</u>
13. Community Premises Review	This report was not available at the time the agenda was printed and circulated as the final meeting of the Review Group was held on 27 February 2006. Members were requested to consider this item, as a matter of urgency, as the next meeting of the Panel was not scheduled until June 2006.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present with the exception of the following item for the reasons set out below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
12. Any Other Urgent Business – Provision of a Loan to Harrow Weald Common Conservators	The appendix to the report contained exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) in that it contained confidential information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

(See also Minutes 248 and 249).

240. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2006, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- (i) Minute 232 – Grants Appeals 2006/07  
In the third paragraph, replace “deferring all appeals, including those from the Russian Immigrants Association and the Harrow Refugee Forum, who had not originally submitted late applications, until the next meeting of the Grants

Advisory Panel” with “refusing all appeals, except those from the Russian Immigrants Association and the Harrow Refugee Forum, which would be deferred”.

After “The Voluntary Sector Advisor stated that a full review of the application process could be considered to avoid the problems that had been experienced recurring in future.” add “He asked the Panel to consider reverting to past practice rather than addressing some, but not all, of his concerns and sought clarification on the status of the new round.”

(ii) Minute 236 - Evaluation of Grants Application Process

Replace “Members stated that this should be considered at the meeting due to be held in June 2006” with “Members agreed that this should be considered at the meeting due to be held in June 2006”.

241. **Public Questions:**

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

242. **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).

243. **Deputations:**

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

244. **Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07 - Appeals:**

Members received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy on the above matter. An officer stated that only those appeals submitted by the Russian Immigrants Association and the Harrow Refugee Forum required a decision by the Panel as all the other organisations which had appealed against the decision would have their new applications considered separately (Minute 245 refers).

Members discussed the merits or otherwise of the motion submitted to the Council meeting held on 23 February 2006 and it was noted that the motion had been withdrawn.

Members discussed the appeals submitted by the Russian Immigrants Association and the Harrow Refugee Forum and stated that both organisations could seek funding from alternative sources.

**RESOLVED:** That the appeals by the Russian Immigrants Association and the Harrow Refugee Forum be dismissed.

245. **Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07 - 2nd Round:**

(See Recommendation 2 above).

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

Further to Recommendation 3 above, the Voluntary Sector Adviser sought clarification on why the Panel had been asked to ignore reserves of under £10,000 when determining applications for funding from the Edward Harvist Trust, when all levels of reserves had been taken into account when determining other similar applications. An officer stated that he would provide information on this matter to the next meeting of the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** To note that further information on reserves would be provided to the next meeting of the Panel.

247. **Community Lettings Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07:**

Members received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy. An officer stated that it was intended to change the procedure by which voluntary organisations were able to hire accommodation in schools. Each school would establish a price policy and in the event that costs to a voluntary organisation rose, that organisation could apply for a grant to cover the increase. The officer stated that many

schools had not yet established a price policy and that it was not possible to submit grant applications to the Panel at this stage. He asked that the Panel defer this item to the meeting due to be held on 12 June 2006.

A Member expressed the view that the changes to this procedure had led to an increase in costs and was inferior to the previous system. The Director of Financial and Business Strategy stated that there had been a number of problems with the previous system and that the new procedure was more transparent and made it possible to maintain an overview of the Council's expenditure on grants. She stated that it would be possible for herself and grants officers to work with schools to ensure they set reasonable rates for the use of rooms. In response, a Member stated that it was important that the system was seen to be working effectively.

**RESOLVED:** To defer consideration of the item to the next meeting of the Panel.

248. **Review of Community Premises:**

Prior to consideration of this item, Members noted that a report on the Review of Community Premises, circulated on a supplemental agenda, had not been received by a number of Members. A Member stated that she did not wish to consider a report that she had not had the opportunity to read. Another Member suggested that the Panel could view a presentation from the report author and take a decision on the matter after that.

Members discussed whether or not to defer this item as the majority of the Members had not received all the relevant documents. It was moved and seconded that the report be considered and, following a vote, it was

**RESOLVED:** That the report be considered.

[Note: Councillors Arnold, Marilyn Ashton, Billson and Mrs Joyce Nickolay wished to be recorded as having voted against the above Resolution].

(See also Recommendation 1 above).

249. **Any Other Urgent Business:**

**Provision of a Loan to Harrow Weald Common Conservators**

Members received a confidential report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy. Members noted that the Leader of the Council would be taking a decision on whether to grant a loan to Harrow Weald Common Conservators. Members discussed the matter and it was

**RESOLVED:** That Members submit their views on the matter in writing to the Leader of the Council by Friday 10 March 2006.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 11.15 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR REKHA SHAH  
Chair

APPENDIX 1**PROPOSED GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2006/2007**

Further to Recommendation 2, the following "in principle" decisions were made in relation to the applications for grants in 2006/07.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Reason/Comments</u>
<b>Organisations currently funded</b>		
Bentley Priory Nature Reserve	2,200	
Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum	5,000	
Harrow Crime Prevention Panel	5,000	
Harrow Pre-School Learning Alliance	4,230	
Harrow Weald Common Conservators	30,000	It was noted that this increase was to cover additional accommodation costs arising from a rent review
Harrow Women's Centre	56,891	
Women's Aid Harrow	30,000	
<b>Organisations currently funded and already approved for funding in 2006/07</b>		
Harrow Council for Racial Equality	Nil	Organisation funded in the first round of applications
Ignite Trust	Nil	Organisation funded in the first round of applications
<b>Organisations which applied for funding in the first round, but were not approved</b>		
Flash Musicals	3,430 reserved	This allocation was reserved pending the result of negotiations regarding an increase in rent payable by the organisation.
Harrow Family Learning	Nil	
<b>Organisations not currently funded and which did not apply in the first round (paid from 2005/06 budget)</b>		
Academy of Punjabi Heritage	Deferred	See Note 1 below.
Harrow Business against Crime Partnership	Nil	
Domestic Violence Forum	Nil	
Harrow Gingerbread	570	It was moved that the level of funding be increased to £1,000. Upon being put to the vote, this motion was not carried. See Note 2 below.
Harrow in Leaf	1,000	
Headstone Manor Ladies Cricket Club	500	It was moved that the level of funding be £500, as stated in the officer recommendation. Upon being put to the vote, this motion was carried. See Note 1 below.
Kodak Football Club	Nil	It was noted that the organisation could apply for a grant from the Harrow Sports Council.

Pinner Albion Football Club	Nil	It was noted that the organisation could apply for a grant from the Harrow Sports Council.
Pulse Harrow	1,000	
Rayners Lane Islamic Welfare & Cultural Association	1,000	
Romance Academy	Nil	
Shaw Trust	1,500	
Wealdstone Active Community	1,000	

[Note 1: Councillors Marilyn Ashton, Arnold, Billson and Mrs Joyce Nickolay wished to be recorded as having abstained from voting on this motion.]

[Note 2: Councillors Marilyn Ashton, Arnold, Billson and Mrs Joyce Nickolay wished to be recorded as having voted for the motion.]

APPENDIX 2PROPOSED GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2006/2007

Further to Recommendation 3, the following "in principle" decisions were made in relation to the applications for grants from the Edward Harvist Trust in 2006/07.

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Reason/Comments</u>
Association of Senior Muslim Citizens	860	It was noted that the organisation could also apply for funding from the North West London Community Foundation.
Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Thomas of Canterbury	1500	It was noted that the organisation could also apply for funding from Harrow Heritage or the North West London Community Foundation.
Combat Stress	740	
Flash Musicals	2,000 reserved	
Force Wheelchair Basketball Club	800	It was noted that the organisation could also apply for funding from the Harrow Sports Council.
Friends of Cannons Park	314	It was moved that the proposed level of funding be increased to £500. Upon being put to the vote, this was not carried. (See Note 1 below).
Harrow Bengalee Association	3,000 reserved	It was noted that the organisation could also apply for funding from People First and the North West London Community Foundation.
Harrow Community Transport	1,000	
Harrow Fuchsia Society	500	
Horn Community	2,170 reserved	Members requested further information on whether the organisation was in receipt of funding from other bodies.
Ivanaaji Somali Disabled Association of Harrow and Hillingdon	1,500	It was noted that the organisation could also apply for funding from the North West London Community Foundation.
New Life Bible Church	2,000	
Pulse Harrow	2,286	It was noted that the organisation could also apply for funding from the North West London Community Foundation.
Rayners Lane Islamic Welfare and Cultural Association	1,000	
6 <sup>th</sup> Wealdstone Guides	750	

[Note 1: Councillors Marilyn Ashton, Arnold, Billson and Mrs Joyce Nickolay wished to be recorded as having voted to increase this allocation.]

APPENDIX 3DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1. The following Members declared personal and prejudicial interests in the items indicated below arising from their involvement with the organisations listed. Accordingly they left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting on the applications relating to those organisations:

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Organisation and nature of interest</u>
9. Grants to voluntary organisations 2006/07 - applications	Councillor Omar	* <b>Harrow Council for Racial Equality (HCRE)</b> , Executive Member
	Deven Pillay, Adviser	* <b>Harrow Council for Racial Equality (HCRE)</b> , Executive Member

2. The following Members declared an interest in the items indicated below arising from their involvement with the organisations listed. They remained and took part in the discussion and voting on the applications relating to these organisations:

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Organisation and nature of interest</u>
8. Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07 - Appeals	Councillor Nana Asante	* <b>Harrow Crime Prevention Panel</b> - The Member is a member of a Scrutiny Review Group on Reducing the Fear of Crime.  * <b>Harrow Weald Common Conservators</b> - attended presentation of Open Spaces Review Group.  * <b>Harrow Women's Centre</b> - attended International Women's Event in 1997. Councillor Margaret Davine who chairs the organisation is the Member's ward councillor.  * <b>Harrow Refugee Forum</b> - have known the secretary Alex Da Costa for a number of years. The Member attended their AGM in October at his invitation.  * <b>Russian Immigrants Association</b> - was at Community Premises when the Member organised a fundraiser to buy a microwave for the kitchen. Attended interview of organisation in October 05, as part of Review of Community Premises.
	Councillor Marilyn Ashton	* <b>Harrow Weald Common Conservators</b> - Council appointed representative.
9. Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07 – 2nd Round	Councillor Nana Asante	* <b>Flash Musicals</b> – The Member had attended a performance by the organisation.



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|   |                        | <p>* <b>HCRE</b> - The Member worked with Chairperson Trevor Chisholm on Black History Month matters early this year.</p>  |
|   | Councillor Bluston     | <p>* <b>Flash Musicals</b> – The Member had attended a performance by the organisation.</p> <p>* <b>Friends of Canons Park</b> – Personal interest</p> <p>* <b>Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Thomas of Canterbury</b> – the Member had discussed a grant application with the Church’s Priest.</p> <p>The Member was a trustee of the North West London Community Foundation.</p> |
| 10. Edward Harvist Trust Applications 2006/07 | Councillor Nana Asante | <p>* <b>Harrow Council for Racial Equality</b> - attended their conference at the Civic Centre. Chairperson Trevor Chisholm worked with the Member on Black History Month early this year.</p>   |
|   | Councillor Bluston     | <p>* <b>Edward Harvist Trust</b> - Council appointed representative.</p>   |