

Cabinet - 19 February 2015 - Questions not reached at Cabinet

11.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “What contingency provisions – both financial and otherwise – are being made to help support the many voluntary organisations affected by the sizeable reduction in their funding?”

Written Response: Until we see the outcome of the consultation and receive the options at March Cabinet, we do not know which organisations will be affected and to what level. However, we have already confirmed to funded organisations that they will receive three months notice of any proposed changes to their funding levels in line with their SLAs. For discretionary grant beneficiaries, 2015-16 would in any case be the last year of their Outcome Based Grant and organisations should therefore have already been considering their exit strategies during 2015-16 in line with their SLA requirements. Small Grants are awarded on an annual basis and therefore all these grants will have come to an end at the end of March 2015.

12.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: Can you clarify what is happening to the community festivals funding, as paragraph 1.20 states there is a £10,000 reduction in the total budget from £40,000 to £30,000 – but the MTFS tables suggest a £30,000 reduction to a total budget of £10,000?

Written Response: The total budget for community festivals in 2014-15 was £40,000 which included a one-off addition of £10k in-year to cover the costs of Under 1 Sky. All festival costs were contained within this figure. Our draft budget plan is to delete the complete community festivals budget for 2015-16 and onwards (£30,000) but this is now out to consultation as part of the voluntary sector consultation and we will see the final options on March.

13.

Questioner: Councillor Susan Hall

Asked of: Councillor Sue Anderson, Portfolio Holder for Community, Culture and Resident Engagement

Question: “Would you agree with me that Harrow’s voluntary sector do fantastic work supporting some of our most vulnerable residents?”

Written Response: Harrow’s voluntary sector does indeed provide a wide range of services to the vulnerable residents in the borough through commissioned services from Harrow Council or through other funding streams. Harrow Council commissions over £5million of services from the voluntary sector currently in addition to spending in the region of £95m supporting vulnerable adults and children in the borough.