

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	5 th December 2005
Subject:	Grant Funding 2006/07
Responsible Officer:	Director Financial & Business Strategy
Contact Officer:	Chander Vasdev 020 8420 9249
Portfolio Holder:	Communications, Partnership & Human Resources
Key Decision:	Yes
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

This report presents the applications for funding and the grants-based service level agreements for 2006/07.

Decision Required

Members are recommended to:

1. Decide whether to accept the applications received after the deadline (outlined in paragraph 2.2.2 and in the individual reports)
2. Agree in principle the recommendations relating to the individual reports in the appendices, which will be subject to the Council approving its overall Revenue Budget for 2006/07
3. Agree to recommend that Cabinet approve the overall grants budget 2006/07, inflation additions to salaries, and the individual grant allocations.
4. Agree to recommend funding of £14,900 from this year's budget to 9 new applicants, as detailed in the individual grant applications and Appendix 1.
5. Agree to recommend that Cabinet approve in 2006/07 a Heritage Grant of £15,000 to the Harrow Heritage Trust out of the Council's Capital Programme.

Reason for report

To enable the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations in 2006/07.

Benefits

The funding will enable the relevant organisations to continue delivering services to their members and users, thereby improving the quality of life for people in Harrow.

Cost of Proposals

The base Grants Budget (excluding Community Lettings) for 2006/07 is

£1,163,694. This includes inflation additions at £24,094. Whilst the total grants applied for in 2006/07 is £2,025,554 the total amount recommended is £1,162,651, which leaves a balance of £1,043.

The figures do not include £15,000 from the grants budget for 2005/06, which is available for distribution in the current year. It is recommended that a total of £14,900 from this under-spend be offered to 9 new applicants as shown in Appendix 1.

Risks

Some of the organisations approved for funding may not deliver all the services they promised in their grant applications, or the quality of their services may not be of high enough standard. Officers will address these risks through vigorous monitoring and support to groups in order to improve their capacity.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Should the recommendations be rejected services to the community will be greatly affected or cut and relevant voluntary organisations will be unable to pay their staff salaries.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

2.1.1 Harrow Council is empowered to make grants to voluntary organisations under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as well as under other legislation.

2.2 Options considered

- 2.2.1 During July 2005, grant application packs were sent to all organisations currently in receipt of funding from Harrow Council, including those in receipt of service level agreement funding. Notices were placed in the local press, Harrow libraries, on the Harrow Live website, via the HAVS mail-out and at the Community Premises inviting local voluntary organisations to apply for funding. Officers from the Grants Unit organised a funding workshop jointly with HAVS on 1st September 2005 to advise groups on the grant application process. The deadline for receipt of completed application forms was Friday 30th September 2005.
- 2.2.2 Applications were received after the deadline from Harrow Crime Prevention Panel, Harrow Pre-School Learning Alliance, Harrow Weald Common Conservators, Harrow Women's Centre, Women's Aid Harrow and Harrow Agenda 21 Environmental Forum.
- 2.2.3 The following organisations, which are currently funded, have not applied for funding in 2006/07: Arts Culture Harrow (funded directly by Cabinet), Bentley Priory Nature Reserve, Aspire, BTWSC, Disability Foundation, Harrow Community Transport, Harrow in Leaf, Headway Harrow, National Council of Vanik Associations UK, Rayners Lane Tenants and Residents Association, Sahara and Wealdstone Active Community.
- 2.2.4 All applicants were asked to complete a form stating how much funding they had received from all other funding bodies in the current financial year. The information, where provided, has been incorporated into the attached individual reports.

- 2.2.5 When the applications were received, copies were hand-delivered to officers in the relevant departments. The officers provided summaries and their comments / recommendations, which have been incorporated into the attached reports. Where departments failed to respond or did not provide full reports, the Grants Unit wrote and/or amended those reports.
- 2.2.6 Officers attempted to meet with all the new applicants to pre-assess their application and establish if they met the qualifying conditions. Officers have assessed the grant applications received for 2006/07 and have provided individual reports, which include their comments and recommendations, to enable Members to approve grant allocations in principle.
- 2.2.7 The original recommended grants exceeded the budget by £80,862. It needs to be noted that £52,815 was recommended in respect of 5 new applicants. Usually, new applicants only attract start-up funding of up to £5,000 and therefore the Grants Unit scaled those recommendations down. Significant growth was also recommended in respect of 9 currently funded organisations, which amounted to £61,093. Again, the Grants Unit had to scale those recommendations down in order to ensure that there is budget provision for all the recommended grants.
- 2.2.8 Under the new Strategy, funding for £10,000 or more will be provided in the form of a service level agreement on a 3-year cycle and will be subject to quarterly payments and claw-back provisions. A number of currently funded groups have service level agreement funding below that figure and therefore from 2006/07 these will revert to grants.

2.3 Consultation

- 2.3.1 None in relation to this report but the Grants Advisory Panel held a consultation meeting with the voluntary sector in June to discuss the new strategy and grants process. Officers also held jointly with HAVS a funding workshop in September to advise organisations on the new grants process.
- 2.3.2 The draft report was sent to the Voluntary Sector Adviser for comments (see 2.8 below).

2.4 Financial Implications

- 2.4.1 This is a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy and deals with financial matters throughout.

2.5 Legal Implications

- 2.5.1 The Council will be complying with its duty in accordance with s48 of the Local Government Act 1985, by providing grants to voluntary organisations.

2.6 Equalities Impact

- 2.6.1 The funding proposals contained in this report have significant implications for the whole of the voluntary sector in Harrow. The proposals aim to address through funding inequalities and disadvantage and to promote equality of opportunity and better community and race relations. The funding proposed will assist organisations serving

Black and minority ethnic communities, young people, women, people with disabilities, the elderly and carers.

2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

2.7.1 The organisations being recommended for funding in this report are expected to comply with all relevant legislation. They are expected to have Health and Safety policies and procedures, Child Protection policies (where applicable), procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (where applicable). Relevant organisations are expected to play an active role on relevant committees of the Safer Harrow Management Group. Included in the aims of some of the organisations being recommended for funding is the provision of services that deal with crime prevention, crime and anti-social behaviour and ways to combat them.

2.8 Comments by Voluntary Sector Adviser

2.8.1 Verbal comments will be given at the meeting.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendix 1 – Schedule of grants, including funding awarded in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06, funding requested 2006/07 and funding recommended for 2006/07

Appendix 2 – A) Grants-based Service Level Agreements
B) Grant applications from currently funded groups
C) Grant applications from groups not currently funded

Other background papers:

Grant Applications Directory: This contains all the grant applications and supporting documents (circulated separately to Members ONLY).