

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	21st November 2005
Subject:	HAVS Appointment on the Grants Advisory Panel
Responsible Officer:	Director of Financial and Business Strategy
Contact Officer:	Chander Vasdev 020 8420 9249
Portfolio Holder:	Communications, Partnership & Human Resources
Key Decision:	No

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

To confirm

- (a) The Cabinet's recommendation that HAVS be appointed as independent advisers on the Grants Advisory Panel at the start of this meeting and that the HAVS nominee be invited to attend the Panel's meeting as well all subsequent meetings;
- (b) The appointment of a reserve adviser;
- (c) The rights and responsibilities of the adviser at Grant Advisory Panel meetings.

### **Reason for report**

To enable the Grants Advisory Panel to confirm the appointment of a Voluntary Sector Adviser to the Grants Advisory Panel in accordance with the Cabinet decision of 6<sup>th</sup> October 2005.

## **Benefits**

The presence of a Voluntary Sector Adviser at the Grants Advisory Panel meetings will improve the information available to Members making decisions in relation to grants, will lead to a greater transparency in the decision-making process and will improve the relationship between the Council and the Voluntary Sector.

## **Cost of Proposals**

None

## **Risks**

N/A

## **Implications if recommendations rejected**

The benefits outlined above will be lost.

## **Section 2: Report**

### Brief History

2.1 This issue was first raised during the consultation on the Strategic Review of Grants. It was again raised during the discussions on the Compact between the Council and the Voluntary Sector, particularly the Funding Code of the Compact. The Steering Group on the Strategic Review of Grants made a commitment to address this issue, which was also raised at the Harrow Strategic Partnership. The consensus has been that it would be beneficial to have a representative from the Voluntary Sector on to the Grants Advisory Panel, who would act as a non-voting adviser.

### 2.2 Options considered

2.2.1 Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> October considered this matter and resolved:

- (1) That the proposal to appoint an Adviser to the Grants Advisory Panel be supported;
- (2) that the Harrow Association for Voluntary Service be requested to nominate a suitable person for the post;
- (3) That the Grants Advisory Panel be requested to confirm this arrangement at the start of their next meeting;
- (4) That the nominee be invited to attend the next meeting of the Grants Advisory Panel.

## 2.3 Rights and Responsibilities of the Adviser

- 2.3.1 Subject to guidance being issued on the rights and responsibilities for advisers currently appointed to Advisory Panels, it is proposed that the Adviser to the Grants Advisory Panel should adhere to the following rights and responsibilities:
- 2.3.2 the appointee will be a non-voting adviser;
- 2.3.3 the adviser should be allowed to speak whenever the Chair considers it appropriate;
- 2.3.4 the adviser is allowed to participate at meetings in the same way as members;
- 2.3.5 the adviser should receive all papers including Part II papers for meetings of the Grants Advisory Panel BUT is not entitled to receive any Part II papers for any other meetings;2.3.5 the adviser can attend and contribute to the debate on Part II items;
- 2.3.6 the adviser should agree to abide by the same rules of confidentiality as apply to members (Paragraph 3 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors) refers;
- 2.3.7 In addition the adviser will be required to declare personal and/or prejudicial interests in items to be debated by the Panel. Accordingly the Director of Corporate Governance will brief the Adviser on the basic rules.

## 2.4 Consultation

- 2.4.1 None on this report, but wide consultation was carried out in relation to the principle of appointing a Voluntary Sector Adviser to the Grants Advisory Panel.

## 2.5 Financial Implications

- 2.5.1 There are no direct costs for these proposals.

## 2.6 Legal Implications

- 2.6.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report. The appointment of a non-voting adviser to the Grants Advisory Panel complies with the section 13 of the Local Government and Housing 1989 and the provisions of the Executive Procedure Rules, which state "The Executive .....may appoint advisers to assist the work of the Panel or Forum either generally or on specific matters".

## 2.7 Equalities Impact

- 2.7.1 The appointment of an independent adviser from the voluntary sector aims to create a more transparent and equitable system for supporting the Voluntary Sector in Harrow. The Council through its grants and other forms of support aims to redress disadvantage and inequality and assist the most vulnerable members of society.

2.8 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

2.8.1 The proposals have neutral impact on crime and disorder.

**Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

None