

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL
Date:	28 JULY 2003
Subject:	HARROW AGENDA 21 ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM
Key decision:	NO
Responsible Chief Officer:	ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	DEPUTY LEADER
Status:	PART 1
Ward:	N / A
Enclosures:	

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

- 1.1 The report provides information on the activities and projects undertaken or planned by HA 21 in the current financial year to help members decide if they should release the organisation's reserved grant for this year and the £1,000 outstanding from last year.

2. **Recommendations (for decision by Portfolio Holder)**

2.1 That the organisation's reserved grant of £1,500 from this year's grant aid budget is released to enable HA21 to carry out the activities outlined in the report.

2.2 That the outstanding grant of £1,000 from last year's budget remains reserved until HA21 produces invoices / receipts of expenditure relating to funded activities in 2002 / 03.

REASON: To enable HA 21 to carry out its planned activities for the remainder of this financial year.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors Not applicable**

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 Grants Panel – 6 March 2003 – Members decided to reserve £1,500 for Harrow Agenda 21 from the 2003 /04 grant budget. Members also agreed that there was potential for the role of HA

21 to be extended and resolved that officers should produce a report on the future of LA 21 in Harrow and the funding arrangements for LA 21 in other boroughs.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 The report addresses the Council's stated priority of "strengthening Harrow's local communities by promoting social inclusion amongst all Harrow residents both young and old, by seeking to eradicate poverty and by reducing the fear of crime.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 Harrow Agenda 21 was awarded a grant of £1,500 in 2003 / 04, which was reserved pending information on the future direction of the organisation. A grant of £1,000 from 2002 / 03 is also reserved. The cheque for this amount had been sent in October 2002 to the previous Chairperson who, in the meantime, had moved away from the area. The cheque was not cashed and was cancelled.

6.2 Two meetings were held recently with HA 21 in order to establish what activities they have carried out, what they are planning to do to the end of the financial year and what are the financial implications of those planned activities.

6.3 Activities / Projects completed or nearing completion:

a) Web-Site. They developed a web –site which provides information on recycling, sustainable transport, waste disposal and other environmental issues relevant to Harrow, including maps of recycling sites, schools that have done work on the environment etc. The recycling data for the web-site have been provided by the Council. The costs associated with the production of the web-site are £100 for the name and £250 for hosting the site.

b) Work with schools: They collected and began to judge entries from 12 schools on sustainable youth awards 2003. The decision will be made this week and the awards will be made in September. The admin costs will be around £150.

c) Audit on Cycle Facilities: The Sub-group on Transport and Air Pollution are carrying out an audit of cycle facilities in schools, railway stations, shopping centres and other public places in Harrow. They hope to finish by the end of August. When the audit is finished they will lobby the Council and all the other relevant agencies to make better provision of cycle facilities, thus encourage more people to cycle rather than use their cars. They intend to produce a leaflet on available facilities. This will cost about £350.

6.4 Activities planned for the rest of the financial year:

A) Green Guide for Harrow. The guide will provide every household in Harrow with advice and information on environmental issues, such as energy consumption, waste disposal e.t.c. They will use volunteers to gather the information, and then will collate the data and print and distribute the guide to all households in Harrow. The costs for admin and volunteers' expenses will be about £500. The production and distribution costs will be in the region of £5,000 to £10,000, but they hope to raise sponsorship for those;

B) They aim to set up another sub group on bio-diversity to assess public feeling on the matter. They will produce a questionnaire to gauge the public's response on bio-diversity and then will undertake a campaign to encourage more people to become involved and come up with ideas and suggestion on how to increase bio-diversity and wild life in Harrow. The publicity and admin costs will be at least £500.

C) Schools Environmental Liaison Officer. This post is currently vacant. Bridge House Estates Trust provided 50% of the funding for the post on condition HA 21 found matching funds of £10,000. Up until June 2003 they were allowed to use DEFRA money as matching funds, but the DEFRA funding has now stopped. They plan to fundraise in order to appoint to this important post. They will incur some admin costs associated with the fund-raising.

6.5 Officers are unable to advise on the financial viability of HA21, as the current bank statements were not available at the time of writing. However, the activities outlined at 6.3 above amount to at least £850 and the proposed activities outlined at 6.4 above amount to at least £1,000. All these activities could be funded by utilising this year's grant of £1,500 and the outstanding grant from last year, if Members are satisfied that the activities are in line with the Council's priorities.

7. **Consultation**

7.1 Held two meetings with representatives of HA 21, the first on 18th and the second on the 23rd July 2003.

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 None.

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 None.

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 Members could decide to release at least the £1,500 reserved for HA 21, because the activities carried out or planned for the rest of the financial year are in excess of that amount. The outstanding grant of £1,000 from 2002/03 could be released later on the production of receipts / invoices covering the amount, should bank statements show that not to pay this grant will jeopardise the future of HA 21.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2003 / 04 application forms (circulated with papers for Grants Advisory Panel meeting held on 5 December 2002. Minutes of Grants Advisory Panel held on 6 March 2003.

12. **Author**

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