

Meeting: Cabinet
Date: 16th February 2006
Subject: Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07
Responsible Officer: Director of Financial and Business Strategy
Contact Officer: Chander Vasdev 020 8420 9249
Portfolio Holder: Communications, Partnership & Human Resources
Key Decision: Yes
Status: Part 1

Section 1: Summary

This report presents the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel on the grant applications received for 2006/07.

Decision Required

That Cabinet approves the 2006/07 Grants budget and recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel made on 5th December 2005 and 23rd January 2006 in relation to grants funding in 2006/07.

Reason for report

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

Benefits

The funding will enable the relevant community organisations to:

- Continue delivering services to their members, users and the wider community
- Improve their infrastructure and services, in response to suggestions from users and
- Improve the quality of life for people in Harrow.

Cost of Proposals

From the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 5th December 2005 £908,279 from the 2006/7 budget and £3,500 from the 2005/6 budget underspend (Appendix 1A)

and from the Panel meeting on 23rd January 2006 £106,964 from 2006/07 and £4,000 from 2005/06 budget (Appendix 1B).

Risks

Some of the organisations approved for funding:

- may not deliver all the services they promised in their grant application form
- or the quality of their services may not be of sufficient standard
- or some organisations may cease to function for a variety of reasons.

Officers will address these risks through rigorous monitoring and support to groups to improve their capacity. In order to minimise the financial risks, grant payments to SLA-funded groups (£10k and above) will be made quarterly.

Implications if recommendations rejected

Should the recommendations be rejected,

- services to the community will be greatly affected or curtailed
- relevant voluntary organisations may not be able to pay salaries to their staff
- some organisations may have to cease operating.

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.

2.1.2 Cabinet on 17th March 2005 agreed the grants budget for 2005/06 in the sum of £1,139,600.

2.1.3 The grants budget for 2006/07 is £1,163,694, inclusive of inflation additions for salaries @ 2.75%. In addition, there is a balance of £15,000 from the grants budget 2005/06, which the Panel is recommending for allocation in the current year.

2.2 Options considered

2.2.1 The Grants Advisory Panel on 5th December 2005 considered the applications for grants and service level agreement funding for 2006/07. The Panel made in principle decisions on most applications and deferred some for more information, or because they had also submitted grant applications for the Edward Harvist Trust monies held by Harrow Council and the Panel decided to consider those applications together with the applications from the main grants programme at the January 23rd meeting. The Panel also decided not to accept 7 grant applications, which were received after the deadline of 30th September 2005.

2.2.2 The Panel on 23rd January considered the deferred grant applications and also decided to launch another round of grants funding for four specific areas of priority: Safer Harrow, Greener Harrow, Children and Young People and Women's Support Services. The deadline for the receipt of such applications is the 10th of February 2006 and the Panel will consider them on 8th March 2006.

3. Consultation

3.1 The new round of grants funding has been advertised in the local press, Council website and Harrow libraries. The 7 groups who had submitted late grant applications in the last round were invited to reapply.

3.2 The draft report was sent to the Voluntary Sector Adviser for information.

4. Financial Implications

Subject to Council's approving 2006/07 budget. There would be a provision for the grants recommended.

5. Legal Implications

The Local Authority can make grants to voluntary/ not for profit organisations under Section 19 of the Local Government Act 1976. Alternatively it can rely on powers under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 so long as this benefits the community and is in line with Office of the Deputy Prime Minister guidance.

6. Equalities Impact

6.1 The funding proposed has 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 proposed funding will assist organisations serving Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, young people, women, people with disabilities, the elderly and carers.

7. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

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 & 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. Some of the organisations deal with crime prevention, crime and anti-social behaviour issues and ways to combat them.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendix 1A – Grant Applications 2006/07, considered by the Grants Advisory Panel on 5th December 2005 (circulated in the Cabinet Supporting Documents Pack).

Appendix 1B – Grant Funding 2006/07 – Deferred Grants, considered by the Grants Advisory Panel on 23rd January 2006 (circulated in the Cabinet Supporting Documents Pack).

Appendix 2 – Recommendations from the Grants Advisory Panel meetings of 5th December 2005 (attached) and 23rd January 2006 (circulated separately).