

Meeting: Grants Advisory Panel  
Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2006  
Subject: ALG Future Commissioning Priorities  
Responsible Officer: Director of Financial & Business Strategy  
Contact Officer: Chander Vasdev 020 8420 9249  
Portfolio Holder: Business Development – David Ashton  
Key Decision: No  
Status: Part 1

### **Section 1: Summary**

The report provides a brief summary of the ALG consultation paper titled “Better Services for Londoners”.

#### **Decision Required**

No decision required. The Panel is asked to note the ALG Future Commissioning Priorities.

#### **Reason for report**

To brief Members of the Panel on the proposed changes to the Future ALG Commissioning Priorities.

#### **Benefits**

By being aware of the proposed changes, Members will be in a better position to advise local groups on ALG funding opportunities.

#### **Cost of Proposals**

None arising from this report.  
Harrow Council currently contributes £756k per annum to the ALG Grant fund.

## Risks

Historically, benefits to Harrow based groups from ALG scheme has been less than the sum paid in (for 2004/05, £546k compared with £716k) inner London Boroughs have generally benefited more.

## Implications if recommendations rejected

Not applicable

## Section 2: Report

### 2.1 Brief History

2.1.1 Following recommendations made earlier this year by an independently-chaired Grants Review Board, London Council Leaders decided that changes should be made to the way ALG grants are distributed. It was decided that from 2007/08, instead of groups bidding for funding, the ALG would commission voluntary organisations to deliver services that Londoners want. It was further decided to undertake a consultation process with all interested parties to determine the future priorities for the grant scheme's funding.

### 2.2 Summary of the Consultation Paper

2.2.1 Grants Scheme Purpose: The ALG Leaders' Committee agreed the overall purpose of the ALG's grants scheme in September 2005:

"To enable the independent voluntary and community sector to play a key role, in partnership with the private and public sectors, in maintaining London as a world city and delivering high quality, value-for-money services that meet the needs of London. In particular to support organisations that increase access to London's opportunities; and/or reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage; and/or promote equality and reduce discrimination."

2.2.2 Grants scheme principles (agreed in September 2005):

- To meet identified strategic needs by funding pan-London services or London-wide patterns of provision;

- Identified needs must affect the majority of Londoners or are of strategic importance;
- Support sub-regional services that form part of a strategic or pan-London pattern of provision;
- Pan-London services should reflect collaborative unified approaches;
- To promote the most efficient distribution and use of resources in London.

#### 2.2.3 Future priority areas:

- Increased access to London's opportunities;
- Reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage;
- Promote equality and reduce discrimination.

#### 2.2.4 The ALG consultation paper lists a number of questions relating to the three priority areas, which can be summarised as follows:

- Increased engagement in employment, education and cultural activities;
- Improved knowledge and skills;
- Improve health and well-being;
- Improved public services;
- Increased confidence, self-esteem and motivation;
- Reduced social exclusion;
- Improved physical environment;
- Reduced violence and abuse;
- Increased access to health and welfare services;
- Improved community well-being.

The consultation paper suggests a number of services for all the above priority areas.

#### 2.2.5 In response to a consultation exercise conducted by ALG in 2005, Harrow Council confirmed its supports for the move towards commissioning provided this is done in an open and transparent way and that, where appropriate, a number of suitable organisations are invited to submit proposals to meet the identified needs. The response was prepared in consultation with Grants Advisory Panel members and relevant portfolio holders. The response incorporated some of the views expressed by the West London Alliance.

2.2.6 The Council's response to the review was presented in a report to GAP on 28 June 2005.

### 2.3 Consultation

2.3.1 The consultation paper was sent for comment to HAVS and to the Voluntary Sector Advisor, but neither had any adverse comments.

### 2.4 Financial Implications

2.4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

### 2.5 Legal Implications

2.5.1 The ALG appears to rely on the power to issue a levy under Section 74 of the Local Government Act 1988. Detailed regulations about when the levies are to be issued, the maximum amount of certain levies, the interest thereon are contained in The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations SI 1992/2903 (as amended). The regulations also include provisions about the method of apportionment where the ALG is requesting a levy from more than one authority.

### 2.6 Equalities Impact

2.6.1 Part of the grants scheme's purpose is to reduce social exclusion, poverty and disadvantage and/or promote equality and reduce discrimination.

### 2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

2.7.1 Not applicable

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

ALG Consultation Paper