



Meeting: Grants Advisory Panel

Date: 22nd January 2007

Subject: Grant Funding 2007/2008

Key Decision: Yes
(Executive-side only)

Responsible Officer: Myfanwy Barrett
Director of Financial and Business Strategy

Portfolio Holder: David Ashton – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for
Business Development

Exempt:

Enclosures: Appendix 1 – Schedule of grants, including funding
awarded in 2005/06 and 2006/07, funding requested in
2007/08, and funding recommended for 2007/08.

Appendix 2 – List of Grants-based Service Level
Agreements;

Appendix 3 – List of currently funded groups;
Appendix 3a – Report summaries of currently funded
groups (2006/07);

Appendix 4 – List of new grant applicants (2007/08);
Appendix 4a – Report summaries of new grant applicants
(2007/08).

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report presents the applications for funding and the grants-based service level agreements for 2007/2008:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are recommended to:

1. 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 2007/08;
2. Agree to recommend that Cabinet approve the overall grants budget for 2007/08, inflation additions to salaries (if any) and the individual grant allocations.

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 2006, grant application packs were sent to all organisations currently in receipt of funding from Harrow Council (excluding those on 3-year service level agreements). 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 2 funding workshops jointly with HAVS on 10th and 14th August 2006 to advise groups on the new grant application process. The deadline for receipt of completed application forms was Friday 29th September 2006.

2.2.2 Detailed monitoring of all grant-based service level agreements were carried out by officers from the Grants Unit during July/August 2006 (i.e. organisations in receipt of funding above £10,000 in 2006/07) and reports presented to the Grants Advisory Panel on 20th November 2006. There were no concerns regarding the level and quality of the services provided by these organisations, therefore no further reports are necessary for this meeting. A list of voluntary organisations under 3-year SLA arrangements are listed in Appendix 2 of this report. Officers have not prepared reports for these organisations, as the level and quality of their activities/services were reported in detail at the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 20th November 2006.

2.2.3 Applications were received by the deadline from 90 voluntary organisations.

2.2.4 The following organisations, which are currently funded in 2006/07, have not applied for funding in 2007/08:

Crime Prevention Panel;
Kala Anjali Arts Circle.

- 2.2.5 Applications received from voluntary organisations funded in 2006/07 are listed in Appendix 3.
- 2.2.6 Applications received from new groups are listed in Appendix 4.
- 2.2.7 All applicants were asked to complete Section F of the grant application 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.
- 2.2.8 Officers have either met with the new applicants (as listed in Appendix 4) or have telephoned them to discuss their application with them to pre-assess their application and to establish if they meet the Council's priorities and qualifying conditions. Officers have assessed all the applications received from currently funded and new groups for 2007/08, and have provided summaries and their comments / recommendations which have been incorporated into the attached individual reports, to enable Members to approve grant allocations in principle. Where applications related to specific Directorates, draft reports were sent to the relevant officers for their comments. Where Directorates have provided comments, these have subsequently been incorporated into the attached individual reports.
- 2.2.9 Under the Council's draft budget proposals, the 2006/07 grants support has been reduced by £90,000 for 2007/2008. Funding of £373,008 awarded to Arts Culture Harrow in 2006/07 is no longer part of the grants budget and therefore this has not been reflected in the overall draft grants budget of **£717,502** available for allocation in 2007/2008, as calculated below:
- Total Grants Budget 2006/07: - £1,163,694
Less reduction of £90,000 in 2007/08 = £1,073,694
Less reduction of £373,008 for ACH = £700,686
Add inflation of 2.4% = **£717,502**.
- 2.2.10 The total amount requested from currently funded and new groups amounts to £1,392,034, which exceeds the amount available in the grants budget for 2007/08 by £674,532.
- 2.2.11 In view of the draft budget proposal to reduce support by £90,000, allocations to organisations on 3 year SLA arrangements have had to be reduced by approximately 10%, and the currently grant funded groups have also had to be either scaled down by a similar percentage or not recommended for funding in 2007/08.
- 2.2.12 It should be noted that from the amount of £717,502 available for allocation in 2007/08, a total amount of £715,470 has been recommended, leaving a balance of £2,032 for contingency purposes.

2.2.13 It should also be noted that on 6th July 2006, the Panel recommended that where an officer's recommendation is amended, a clear reason is given and recorded. This can then be relayed to the organisation in question after recommendations have been approved by Cabinet or the Portfolio Holder.

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

2.3 Equalities Impact Consideration

2.3.1 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.

SECTION 3 – STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	Name: Barry Evans
	Date: 5 th January 2007
Monitoring Officer	Name: Jill Travers
	Date: 8 th January 2007

SECTION 4 – CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact: Chander Vasdev, Service Manager (Community Links/Grant Funding) (ext. 5249);
Parveen Vasdev, Principle Grants Officer (ext. 7625);
Charlotte Clark, Senior Grants Officer (ext. 2335).

Background Papers: Grant Applications Directory: This contains all the grant applications and supporting documents (circulated separately to Members ONLY). Any reference to monitoring information for individual organisations (where required) is available in the report presented to the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 20th November 2006.

IF APPROPRIATE, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES - Draft reports sent to Voluntary Sector Advisor for comments.
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	ACEF