

## GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

7 MARCH 2007

Chairman: \* Councillor Joyce Nickolay

Councillors: \* Ms Nana Asante \* Mrs Anjana Patel  
\* Marilyn Ashton (1) \* Mrs Rekha Shah  
\* Don Billson \* Stanley Sheinwald  
\* Ashok Kulkarni \* Mrs Sasi Suresh  
\* Asad Omar

Adviser: \* Deven Pillay, Chief Executive, Mencap

\* Denotes Member present

(1) Denotes category of Reserve Member

[Note: Councillor Navin Shah also attended this meeting to speak on the item indicated at Recommendation 1 and Minute 55 below].

**PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS****RECOMMENDATION 1 - Main Grant Applications 2007/08 - Appeals**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy which set out details of correspondence received from voluntary organisations appealing funding allocated at the Panel's previous meeting.

An officer stated that a letter had previously been despatched to organisations regarding the Council's financial position, and which also set out the appeals criteria.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (To the Portfolio Holder, Finance and Business Matters)

That (1) the organisations that did not meet the appeals criteria not be considered;

(2) funding to organisations that did meet the criteria be revised as set out at Appendix 1 to these minutes;

(3) funding to Bentley Priory Nature Reserve, as a special case, be revised from £1,900 to £2,200.

**[REASON:** To finalise the allocation of funding to Voluntary Organisations in 2007/08].

[Note: Councillors Ms Nana Asante, Asad Omar, Mrs Rekha Shah and Mrs Sasi Suresh wished to be recorded as having voted against (1) above].

(See also Minutes 49 and 55).

**RECOMMENDATION 2 - Main Grant Applications 2007/08 - Reserved**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, setting out grants which had been reserved from the Panel's meeting on 22 January 2007.

On considering the applications, it was

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (To the Portfolio Holder, Finance and Business Matters)

That (1) £1,000 remain reserved for Flash Musicals, pending the outcome of discussions regarding lease arrangements;

(2) £500 be released to Harrow Gingerbread;

(3) £4,500 be released to Home Start Harrow.

**[REASON:** To finalise the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations in 2007/08].

**RECOMMENDATION 3 - Edward Harvist Trust Charity - Grant Applications 2007/08**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, setting out applications to the Edward Harvist Trust Fund.

An officer explained that there was a balance of £7,843 of Trust monies to be allocated in 2007/08.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (To the Portfolio Holder, Finance and Business Matters)

That (1) £500 be allocated to Friends of Canons Park;

(2) £80 be allocated to Harrow Public Transport Users Association;

(3) £2,000 be allocated to Stanmore Baptist Church;

(4) £940 be allocated to Survive and Save Club.

**[REASON:** To consider the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations from monies received from the Edward Harvist Trust in 2007/08].

#### **RECOMMENDATION 4 - Street Collection Applications for 2007**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Financial and Business Strategy, which presented requests by Harrow Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre and Mencap Hillingdon North to sponsor their applications for street collection permits.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (To the Portfolio Holder, Finance and Business Matters)

That the applications received from Harrow Multiple Sclerosis Society and Mencap Hillingdon North for street collection permits for 2007 be sponsored.

**[REASON:** To enable the organisations to make a formal application to the Metropolitan Police in order to obtain a permit to collect on a specified date].

#### **PART II - MINUTES**

##### 48. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

**RESOLVED:** To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Myra Michael	Councillor Marilyn Ashton

##### 49. **Declarations of Interest:**

**RESOLVED:** To note that (1) the following Members declared a prejudicial interest arising from their involvement with the organisations listed. Accordingly, they left the room and took no part in discussions or voting relating to these organisations:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Councillor Asad Omar	Harrow Council for Racial Equality
Deven Pillay, Adviser to the Panel	Harrow Council for Racial Equality

(2) the following Members declared a personal interest arising from their involvement with the organisations listed. Accordingly, they took part in discussions and voting relating to these organisations:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Councillor Ms Nana Asante	Bridge Trust Flash Musicals Harrow Association of Voluntary Services Harrow Women's Centre Stanmore Baptist Church
Councillor Joyce Nickolay	Bentley Priory Nature Reserve Harrow Association of Voluntary Services Harrow Citizens Advice Bureaux
Councillor Mrs Rekha Shah	Harrow Association of Voluntary Services

50. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

**RESOLVED:** That (1) in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the following agenda item be admitted late to the agenda by virtue of the special circumstances and grounds for urgency detailed below:-

<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Special Circumstances / Grounds for Urgency</u>
8. Main Grant Applications 2007/08 - Appeals	The report had not received the necessary clearances at the time the agenda was circulated. Members were requested to consider the report as a matter of urgency.

(2) all items be considered with the press and public present.

51. **Minutes:**

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the minutes of the meetings held on 20 November 2006 and 18 December 2006 be taken as read and signed as a correct record;

(2) the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2007 be deferred until printed in the Council Bound Minute Volume.

52. **Public Questions:**

**RESOLVED:** That the following question be received under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution):

1.

**Questioner:** Mrs Sahida Mughal

**Asked of:** Councillor Joyce Nickolay

**Question:** The dependence of many Voluntary organisations to make use of inexpensive and local community/school halls is imperative to hold events and/or provide the service to the Community. However, costs to hire schools facilities are extortionate. In light of the current cuts, and the influence the Council has with schools, is it not possible for the Council to create an intermediary relationship to allow voluntary organisations to make use of facilities at reduced or no cost?

[Note: An oral response was given to the question. In addition, one supplemental question was asked, which was additionally answered.]

53. **Petitions:**

In accordance with Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution), the Panel received a petition from Blossom Fitness, containing 185 signatures. The terms of the petition cited the potentially adverse affects of a cut in funding on the activities of the organisation, and presented information relating to group members.

**RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted.

54. **Deputations:**

**RESOLVED:** That Committee Procedure Rule 15.7 (Part 4E of the Constitution) be suspended in order to receive deputations from the Harrow Association of Voluntary Services, KSIM Senior Citizens Association, and Blossom Fitness, in relation to agenda item 8, Main Grant Applications 2007/08 Appeals.

(See also Minute 55).

55. **Main Grant Applications 2007/08 - Appeals:**

Further to Recommendation 1 above, prior to the discussion on this item, the Panel received deputations from Harrow Association of Voluntary Services, KSIM Senior Citizens Association, and Blossom Fitness. Deputies felt that the reduction in the grants budget for 2007/08 would jeopardise the work of their organisations, as well as those of voluntary groups throughout the Borough. It was felt that the Council had not entered into appropriate consultation with voluntary groups when making the

reductions, particularly in relation to those organisations holding Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the Council.

An officer stated that there had been appropriate consultation with organisations regarding the grants budget, including documentation published through the Council's website and Harrow People, and several public meetings regarding the Council's financial position. It was added that discussions were continuing with those organisations holding SLAs regarding funding levels.

Further to this, a motion was put and seconded proposing restoration of funding to those voluntary organisations holding SLAs. Upon being put to a vote, the motion was not carried.

**RESOLVED:** That the above be noted.

(See also Minutes 49 and 54).

56. **Main Grant Applications 2007/08 - Reserved:**  
(See Recommendation 2).

57. **Edward Harvist Trust Fund Applications:**  
(See Recommendation 3).

58. **Street Collections:**  
(See Recommendation 4).

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.34 pm, closed at 9.28 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JOYCE NICKOLAY  
Chairman