

GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

4 SEPTEMBER 2007

Chairman: * Councillor Joyce Nickolay

Councillors: * Ms Nana Asante * Mrs Myra Michael
* Don Billson * Asad Omar
* Susan Hall (5) * Mrs Rekha Shah
* Ashok Kulkarni * Mrs Sasi Suresh
* Julia Merison (2)

Adviser: * Deven Pillay, Chief Executive, Mencap

* Denotes Member present
(2) and (5) Denote category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**RECOMMENDATION 1 - Edward Harvist Trust Charity - Grant Applications**

The Panel received a report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services, setting out applications to the Edward Harvist Trust Fund.

An officer explained that there was a balance of £9,907 of Trust monies to be allocated in 2007/2008.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

- That (1) £257 be allocated to Carramea;
(2) £2,000 be allocated to Maesnant Centre, subject to legal advice;
(3) £2,000 be granted to Mind in Harrow;
(4) £2,000 be granted to St Luke's Hospice, subject to legal advice.

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

[Note: Legal advice had been sought on recommendations 2 and 4 above and approval for allocation of funds had been obtained].

RECOMMENDATION 2 - Community Premises Accommodation Update

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services, which provided an update on the Community Premises Accommodation. Members were asked to agree that voluntary organisations be contacted to submit application forms for allocation of space at the Community Premises.

An officer reported that following a recommendation from the Grants Advisory Panel meeting held on 11 June 2007, the Community Premises Accommodation had been advertised to voluntary organisations. She informed the Panel that 16 existing users and 8 new organisations had expressed an interest in the premises. Three existing users had not responded and had been sent a reminder.

A Member was of the view that the Council might be able to allocate space to all organisations that had shown an interest and were expected to make an application.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (To the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services)

That (1) the next stage of asking the organisations listed at Appendix 2 of the published officer report to submit a formal application for accommodation at the Community Premises be agreed;

(2) officers be authorised to analyse the applications received, put together proposals for allocations based on the aims and objectives of the organisation, and to provide up to date usage information for those currently based at the Community Premises.

[Reason for Recommendation: To make the Community Premises available for more organisations, enabling it to be fully utilised].

(See also Minute 78).

PART II - MINUTES

70. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

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

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Mrs Anjana Patel Councillor Stanley Sheinwald	Councillor Julia Merison Councillor Susan Hall

71. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

72. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That all items be considered with the press and public present with the exception of the following item for the reason set out below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Reason</u>
8. Edward Harvist Trust Fund Applications – Appendix 5	Appendix 5 was exempt from publication under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

73. **Minutes:**

RESOLVED: That (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2007 be taken as read and signed as a correct record;

(2) the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 be deferred until printed in the Council Bound Minute Volume.

74. **Public Questions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 16 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

75. **Petitions:**

RESOLVED: To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

76. **Deputations:**

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

77. **Edward Harvist Trust Charity - Grant Applications:**

(See Recommendation 1).

78. **Community Premises Accommodation Update:**

Further to Recommendation 2 above, it was explained that each year groups were requested to sign a facilities users' agreement, but that this had not been undertaken in the current year. It was noted that this was essential and officers were asked to ascertain that the agreements were signed in 2008.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

79.

Community Lettings Update:

The Panel considered a report of the Director of Community and Cultural Services, which set out the progress made on the Community Lettings Scheme.

The Chairman informed the Panel that in September 2008 new criteria for Community Lettings would come into effect. Allocation of grants to voluntary groups would support community lettings, mainly in school premises. She added that historically rents had been subsidised up to 85% for many years. The subsidy had reduced to 70% from 1 September 2006 and 60% from 1 September 2007. From 1 September 2008 the system would change whereby organisations would apply directly to schools for lettings and then be able to apply to the Council for a grant of up to 50% of the actual cost.

Members expressed concern that some schools were increasing their charges considerably for use of their premises. One Member noted that some schools were not sympathetic to voluntary organisations in the form of reduced charges. An officer responded that schools had a duty of care and community cohesion, and the Community Lettings Scheme could be part of this. She added that guidance would be issued to schools on this matter. The officers would endeavour to find out whether organisations which had not continued with their lettings had found cheaper premises. The Adviser suggested helping organisations to look for alternative funding to ensure services were maintained.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.32 pm, closed at 8.57 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR JOYCE NICKOLAY
Chairman