

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	9 th June 2008
Subject:	Grant Funding 2008/09 – Reserved Grants
Responsible Officer:	Javed Khan, Director of Community and Cultural Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Chris Mote
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides an update on the reserved grants to Voluntary Organisations from the last Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 5th March 2008.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to recommend to the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services approval of the reserved grant applications outlined in this report.

Reason: (For recommendation)

To finalise the allocation of grant funding to Voluntary Organisations for 2008/09.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background

2.1.1 At the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 5th March 2008 – the Panel recommended to reserve grants in respect of the following organisations:

- Harrow Bengalee Association (incl. Over Fifty Society) - £2,729;
- Harrow Youth & Community Project - £3,000.

2.1.2 Cabinet on 13th March 2008 approved the recommendations of the Grants Advisory Panel on Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2008/09.

2.2 Options Considered

2.2.1 HARROW BENGALEE ASSOCIATION: The Panel agreed to reserve a grant of £1,000 pending receipt of further information about the organisations activities, and clarification on how the Council's grant will be used. The organisation have confirmed that their activities are aimed at working with the socially excluded Bengalees, particularly those who are unemployed, and elderly, and helping to build a community that in the long term overcome isolation and deprivation. They also provide appropriate information centred on social welfare, housing, health, and direct them to the appropriate agencies. The funding of £2,729 recommended will be used as a contribution towards the associated costs (i.e. hall hire, volunteer expenses, etc.) for the following:

- Mother Tongue classes and music;
- Health awareness sessions / lectures on health related issues;
- Yoga classes (for the over 50's);
- Information sessions / coffee afternoons;
- Various cultural events and summer trip for children and families.

During 2007/08, Harrow Bengalee Association have provided the following statistics for their various activities:

- Health Promotion Lecture delivered by qualified medical practitioners – held on 21st July 2007 at Harrow High School (37 people attended);
- Summer trip to Margate on 12th August 2007 (98 people in 2 coaches);
- Drama presentation by young members of HBA - held on 8th September 2007 at Hatch End High School (approx. 350 people attended);
- Iftar party - held on 3rd October at HAVS premises (over 50 people attended);
- Eid reunion - held on 18th November 2007 at Harrow High School (nearly 300 people attended);

- Yoga classes – held every Saturday at Harrow High School (average of 12 people attend regularly)

The organisation will continue to provide the above services at similar or enhanced levels in 2008/09.

The Panel is reminded that Harrow Bengalee Association holds charitable status and officers have previously advised that they should also explore possible funding from other sources, i.e. City Bridge Trust and Awards for All.

It is recommended that the reserved amount of £2,729 be released on the understanding that HBA make every effort to secure other possible sources of funding, and provide evidence that they have done so during 2008/09 and 2009/10.

2.2.2 HARROW YOUTH & COMMUNITY PROJECT: The Panel agreed to reserve an amount of £3,000 pending receipt of more detailed information about their services to young people and the elderly club. However, following the GAP meeting on 5th March 2008, officers were informed that the organisation had not held any activities since January 2008 due to a damaged roof at Kenmore Park Community Hall. Officers from Adults and Housing Team have confirmed that work to repair the roof is expected to start end of May 2008 and not likely to be finished until June/July 2008. Due to the uncertainty of when the activities are likely to be resumed, it is recommended that only 50% of the reserved amount (i.e. £1,500) be released to Harrow Youth & Community Project for 2008/09 only on completion of the repair work and the full resumption of their activities.

2.3 Why a change is needed

2.3.1 No changes are required to the current process.

2.4 Other options considered

2.4.1 There are no other options to consider.

2.5 Implications of the Recommendation

2.5.1 Resources, costs and risks

No direct implications.

2.5.2 Staffing/workforce

No direct implications.

2.5.3 Equalities impact

2.5.3 The applications aim to address through funding inequalities and disadvantage, to promote equality of opportunity and improve community cohesion. If approved, some of the funding will provide support to organisations serving black and minority ethnic

communities, children and young people, women, people with disabilities and the elderly.

2.5.4 Legal comments

There are no legal implications.

2.5.5 Community safety

The provision of grant funding through the Main Grants Programme has the potential to support initiatives that contribute to community safety. Some of the activities of the organisations listed in this report contribute to preventing and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.

2.5.6 Financial Implications

The recommendations relating to the reserved grant applications from the 2008/09 budget amount to £5,729, which is already included in the total amount allocated by the Grants Advisory Panel on 5th March 2008, therefore there are no financial implications.

2.5.7 Performance Issues

The provision of funding through the Main Grants Programme has the potential to contribute to the performance of the LAA target on community cohesion. Target performance against this indicator is 61%; current performance against this measure is 51%.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: ...Sheela Thakrar.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 28 th May 2008		
Name:Helen White.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 28 th May 2008		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Kashmir Takhar, Service Manager, Community Resources & Projects (ext. 5332);
Parveen Vasdev, Principal Grants Officer (ext. 7625);
Charlotte Clark, Senior Grants Officer (ext. 2335).

Background Papers:

Available on request. Directory of grant applications (circulated to Members prior to the Panel meeting on 5th March 2008, under Part 1 of the Agendas.

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES - Draft report sent to Voluntary Sector Advisor for comments.
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES