

Meeting:	Grants Advisory Panel
Date:	4 th March 2009
Subject:	Grant Funding 2009-10
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Javed Khan, Director of Community and Cultural Services
Portfolio Holder:	Chris Mote, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services
Exempt:	Other Background Papers: Exempt under (Part 2) under Paragraph 1, Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act in that it contains information relating to individuals.
Enclosures:	<p>Appendix 1 – Schedule of grants, including funding awarded in 2007/08, 2008/09, and funding recommended for 2009/10.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – List of organisations recommended to continue receiving grant through Service Level Agreements;</p> <p>Appendix 3 – List of applications recommended to receive grant in 2009/10; Appendix 3a – Report summaries of applications recommended to receive grant funding in 2009/10;</p> <p>Appendix 4 – List of applications not recommended for grant funding in 2009/10; Appendix 4a – Report summaries of applications not recommended for grant funding in 2009/10.</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Brief summaries of applications rejected (not meeting grants qualifying criteria).</p>

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the applications made for grant funding for 2009/2010:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested to:

1. Agree and make recommendations to Cabinet for continued funding of organisations currently receiving grant as part of a three-year Service Level Agreement (SLA) as listed in Appendix 2 and delegate authority to officers to extend and review existing agreements accordingly;
2. Agree and make recommendations to Cabinet for grant funding of organisations as listed in Appendix 3 and 3a, 4 and 4a and 5 respectively.
3. Agree to recommend to Cabinet approval in 2009/10 a grant of £15,000 to the Harrow Heritage Trust out of the Council's Capital Programme.

Reason: (For recommendation)

The reason for this recommendation is to enable the distribution of Council grant funding to eligible organisations in accordance with the current grant criteria.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Introductory paragraph

2.1.1. The decisions sought will help the Council distribute grant funding to local voluntary sector organisations in accordance with the current grant criteria and funding priorities. Funding to these organisations will help them deliver services that support the Council's 2009-10 corporate priorities for; improving support for vulnerable people and building stronger communities.

2.2 Options considered

2.2.1 All grant applications have been assessed to establish their eligibility for funding against the current grant criteria. Applications that are considered to meet the eligibility criteria have also been assessed against current funding priorities contained within 'A Sustainable Community Plan for Harrow 2006-2020'.

2.2.2 Applications considered to meet the current grant criteria and are recommended for funding are set out in Appendix 3. Appendix 3a provides a summary of these grant applications and the recommendation for grant.

- 2.2.3 Applications considered to meet the current grant criteria but not recommended for funding are set out in Appendix 4. Appendix 4a provides a summary of these grant applications and the reasons why grant funding is not recommended.
- 2.2.4 Applications assessed as not meeting the current grant criteria are listed in Appendix 5.
- 2.2.5 All applicants were asked to complete Section F of the grant application form stating how much funding they had received from other funding sources in the current financial year. The information, where it was provided, has been incorporated into the attached individual reports.
- 2.2.6 In addition, copies of applications were sent to relevant officers in various Council Directorates for their comment on applications where appropriate. Where comments were provided, these have been included in to the individual reports.
- 2.2.7 Where possible grant recommendations have been made for specific items of expenditure to enable the organisation to use the grant effectively and allow for effective future monitoring of grant.

2.3 Background

- 2.3.1 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.
- 2.3.2 Cabinet approved the current grants criteria under which applications are assessed for eligibility on the 14th October 2004.

2.4 Current situation

- 2.4.1 During July 2008, 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 website, via the HAVS mail-out and at the Community Premises inviting local voluntary organisations to apply for funding. The deadline for receipt of completed application forms was Friday 26th September 2008.

Organisations in receipt of funding through service level agreements:

- 2.4.2 14 organisations are currently in receipt of grant funding through a three-year service level agreement these are listed in Appendix 2.
- 2.4.3 Appendix 2 sets out the recommended level of grant funding for these organisations. Where the grant is used as a contribution to the cost of staff salaries it is recommended that an inflationary increase award of 1.75% be applied.
- 2.4.4 It is recommended that the level of grant funding for three organisations listed below, remains at the same level as for 2008-09 as

the funding does not directly contribute to the cost of staff salaries and in some cases the organisation have under spent their grant allocation in 2007-08. These organisations are;

Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations
Harrow Sports Council
Harrow Weald Common Conservators

- 2.4.5 All three-year service level agreements are due to expire on the 31st March 2009. It is recommended that these agreements are extended for a further one year, from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 and that officers are delegated authority to review agreements with organisations taking in to account relevant feedback from monitoring visits or other factors to improve performance on service delivery.

One-off grant funding of organisations

- 2.4.6 An annual process of monitoring of funded organisations was completed in November 2008. This included monitoring visits to organisations in receipt of grant funding above £5,000. Organisations in receipt of funding below £5,000 were required to submit a self-assessment monitoring form. All monitoring information was presented in a report to the Grants Advisory Panel on 20th November 2008.
- 2.4.7 Applications were received by the deadline from 62 voluntary organisations (this includes 11 applications from organisations that have not previously applied for grant funding).
- 2.4.8 The following organisations, which are currently funded in 2008/09 have not applied for funding in 2009/10:

Afghan Association – £1,540
Harrow Emerald Circle – £1,000
Harrow in Leaf – £1,500
Harrow Youth and Community Project – £1,500
HAVS Trans-Age Project – £5,000
Islamic and Cultural Society of Harrow – £1,020
Persian Senior Citizens Club - £500

- 2.4.9 Of the 62 applications received, 6 have been rejected, as the applicants do not fully meet the grant qualifying criteria. These are:

Girlguiding Middlesex North West (currently funded);
Harrow Special Olympics
Hillplayers
Huntingdon Disease Association
Pinner Road Learning Centre
Rayners Lane Islamic Welfare and Cultural Association

- 2.4.10 Appendix 5 gives a brief summary on each of the organisations listed above, and the reasons these applications have been rejected.

2.5 Why a change is needed

- 2.5.1 No change is being proposed to the current process however, the Panel is aware that the whole grants function has been part of an overall Overview and Scrutiny review of support to the voluntary sector which was undertaken during 2008/09. The recommendations from this review were noted by Cabinet at its meeting on the 18th December 2008, a further paper with more detailed responses to the recommendations is due to be presented to Cabinet in March 2009.

Implications of the Recommendation

2.6 Staffing/workforce

There are no staffing or workforce implications for the Council related to this decision.

2.7 Equalities impact

The grant recommendations contained in this report support a number of voluntary sector organisations in Harrow that work to address inequalities and disadvantage and to promote equality of opportunity. The proposed grant recommendations will assist organisations serving Black and minority ethnic communities, young people, women, people with disabilities, the elderly and carers.

2.8 Legal comments

The Council should distribute grants in accordance with its agreed criteria. Agreed policies should only be departed in exceptional circumstances. Due weight must be given in terms of equalities duties, procedural fairness and the statement of intention of the Compact with the voluntary sector. Should the Council distribute funds not in accordance with these principles, then it will be at risk of legal challenge by way of judicial review.

2.9 Community safety

Some of the organisations recommended for funding contribute to community safety through the provision of community safety activities such as diversionary activities for young people, third party reporting sites and support for victims of crime.

2.10 Financial Implications

- 2.10.1 The total grants budget is £762,610. An inflation percentage of 1.75% has been applied to the budget giving a total available budget of £775,956.

- 2.10.2 The grant recommendations contained within this report total £772,877, leaving a balance of £3,079.

- 2.10.3 Providing the Grants Advisory Panel work within the total amount of £775,956 available for allocation, there are no implications on the medium term budget strategy as this funding is contained within the Strategy.

2.11 Performance Issues

2.11.1 National Indicator (NI) number 7, which relates to creating an environment in which the voluntary and community sector can thrive, has been included within Harrow's Local Area Agreement. Results from the first national Third Sector Survey indicate that Harrow's performance against this indicator is 10.4%. Although a target has not yet been agreed, Harrow will be aiming to improve performance by a statistically significant amount, likely to be around 4%.

The proposals set out in this report have the potential to contribute to improving performance against this indicator.

2.11.2 The provision of grant funding to voluntary and community sector organisations has the potential to contribute to NI 1 '% of people who believe people from different backgrounds get on well together in their local area'. Current performance against this indicator is 49% and target performance is 61%.

2.11.3 The provision of grant funding to voluntary and community sector organisations has the potential to contribute to NI 6 'Participation in regular volunteering'. The target increase in numbers volunteering is 300 for 'socially excluded' volunteers and 1,200 for other volunteers. The current position is an achievement against target on 'socially excluded' volunteers and a slight under-achievement against 'other volunteers'.

2.12 Environmental Impact

2.12.1 Some of the organisations recommended to receive grant contribute to the preservation of local biodiversity, flora and fauna and to improving the quality of publicly accessible open space

2.13 Risk Management Implications

2.13.1 The potential risk associated with this decision is that organisations approved for funding may not deliver services as described in their grant applications. This risk is mitigated through a process of annual grant monitoring that also aims to support groups to improve their capacity to deliver.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No
Separate risk register in place? No

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name:.....Sheela Thakrar.....



on behalf of the*
Chief Financial Officer

Date:19th February 2009...

on behalf of the*

Name: ...Helen White..... Monitoring Officer
Date: ...19th February 2009.....

*Delete the words "on behalf of the" if the report is cleared directly by Myfanwy or Hugh.

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name:.....Liz Defries..... on behalf of the*
Divisional Director
(Strategy and
Improvement)
Date: ...19th February 2009.....

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name:...Finlay Flett..... on behalf of the*
Divisional Director
(Environmental
Services)
Date: 19th February 2009.....

*Delete the words "on behalf of the" if the report is cleared directly by John Edwards

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kashmir Takhar, Interim Head of Service – Community Development, 020 8420 9331

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – Schedule of grants, including funding awarded in 2007/08, 2008/09, and funding recommended for 2009/10.

Appendix 2 – List of organisations recommended to continue receiving grant through Service Level Agreements;

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Appendix 5 – Brief summaries of applications rejected (not meeting grants qualifying criteria).

Other Background Papers:

Directory of Grant Applications 2009/10 (circulated to Members ONLY under Part 2 of the Agenda);

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 2008.