

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	26 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:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1 – Recommendation and minute extract of the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 4 th March 2009. Appendix 2:- Recommended allocations Appendix 3:- Rationale to support revised recommendations

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the recommendations for allocation of community grants 2009/10.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to approve the grant recommendations as set out in Appendix 2 and confirm funding to voluntary organisations for 2009/10.

Reason: (For recommendation)

To approve the allocation of funding to voluntary organisations for 2009/10.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Introductory paragraph / background

- 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.
- 2.1.2 The provision of grant funding to voluntary organisations in Harrow has the potential to contribute to the delivery of the following 2009-10 Council's Corporate Priorities;
- Improve support for vulnerable people, and
 - Build stronger communities.

2.2 Options considered

- 2.2.1 The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) at its meeting on 4th March 2009 considered applications for grant funding and recommendations for continued funding of organisations supported through service level agreements (SLA) for 2009/10. The recommendations are consistent with the grants budget for 2009/10.
- 2.2.2 The Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services has further reviewed the GAP panel's recommendations to ensure adherence to the grants criteria. As a result, some of the recommendations of the GAP panel have been adjusted and the revised allocations are attached at Appendix 2, along with the rationale for each of the revisions at Appendix 3.

2.3 Current Situation

- 2.3.1 Cabinet at its meeting on 12th February 2009 approved the grants budget for 2009/10, which includes inflation at 1.75%.
- 2.3.2 Cabinet is requested to approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 2 to enable distribution of funding to eligible organisations.

2.4 Why a Change is needed

- 2.4.1 No change is being proposed to the current process, however Cabinet is aware that the whole grants function has been examined as 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, and a further paper with more detailed responses to the recommendations is being presented to Cabinet on 26th March 2009.

Implications of the Recommendation

2.5 Staffing / Workforce

2.5.1 There are no staffing or workforce implications for the Council.

2.6 Equalities Impact

2.6.1 The allocation of grant funding to voluntary and community groups in the Borough has implications for the whole of the voluntary sector in Harrow. The provision of grant funding to organisations aims to address inequalities and disadvantage and promote community cohesion. The proposed grant funding will assist some organisations serving black and minority ethnic communities, young people, women, people with disabilities, the elderly and carers.

2.7 Legal Comments

2.7.1 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.

2.8 Community Safety

2.8.1 The organisations recommended for funding in 2009/10 are expected to comply with all relevant legislation. They are expected to have Health and Safety policies and procedures, Child Protection policies (where applicable), and procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (where applicable). Some of the organisations supported through grant 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.

2.9 Financial Implications

2.9.1 Cabinet on 12th February 2009 agreed the grants budget for 2009/10 in the sum of £775,956, which includes inflation of 1.75%.

2.9.2 The Grants Advisory Panel at its meeting on 4th March 2009 agreed a total amount of £550,985 to be awarded to organisations on current 3 year service level agreements.

2.9.3 The Panel also agreed an allocation of £218,380 as grants to voluntary organisations that applied for funding in 2009/10. These allocations have since been revised as explained in 2.2.2 above, and now total £218,323.

2.9.4 The allocations outlined in paragraphs 2.9.2 and 2.9.3 above are within the total amount of £775,956 available in the approved grants budget for 2009/10, with a projected surplus of £6,646.

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%. Harrow will be aiming to improve performance by a statistically significant amount, now agreed as an increase of 4.4%.
- 2.11.2 The recommendations in this report have the potential to contribute to improving performance against this indicator.
- 2.11.3 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%.
- 2.11.4 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 funding 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 recommended 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.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakrar



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 4th March 2009

Name: Helen White



on behalf of the
Monitoring Officer

Date: 13 March 2009

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Tom Whiting



Divisional Director
(Strategy and
Improvement)

Date: 25th February 2009

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: John Edwards



Divisional Director
(Environmental
Services)

Date: 24th February 2009

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Audrey Salmon – Interim Service Manager, Tel: 020 8424 7625

Background Papers:

Minutes of the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 4th March 2009.