

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda item:

Page no:

<b>Meeting:</b>	GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL
<b>Date:</b>	8 MARCH 2004
<b>Subject:</b>	GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2004/05 – APPEALS AGAINST THE PANEL'S DECISIONS OF 26.11.03
<b>Key decision:</b>	NO
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	PARTNERSHIP & PROPERTY
<b>Status:</b>	PART 1
<b>Ward:</b>	N / A
<b>Enclosures:</b>	LETTERS OF APPEAL FROM: HARROW COUNCIL OF RACIAL EQUALITY, GIRLGUIDING NORTH WEST MIDDLESEX, KURDISH ASSOCIATION AND THE PAKISTAN SOCIETY OF HARROW

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

1. To finalise the grant allocations for 2004/05 before the beginning of the new financial year.

2. **Recommendations (for decision by Portfolio Holder)**

2.1 That Members consider the letters of appeal submitted by the four groups.

**REASON:** To enable the four groups to finalise their budget for 2004/05.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

N / A

#### **4. Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

4.1 Grants Panel 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003 – In relation to the four groups the Panel decided the following:

- Harrow Council for Racial Equality (HCRE): The Panel decided to recommend for 2004/05 funding of £45,855, which includes £494 for salary inflation.
- Girlguiding North West Middlesex: The Panel decided not to recommend any funding to this organisation in 2004/05.
- Kurdish Association: The Panel decided not to recommend any funding to this organisation in 2004/05.
- Pakistan Society of Harrow: The Panel decided to recommend funding of £1,000 to the Pakistan Society of Harrow in 2004/5.

4.2 Cabinet 13<sup>th</sup> January 2004- Cabinet endorsed the Panel's decisions of 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

#### **5. Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 This report addresses the Council's stated priority of "strengthening Harrow's local communities by promoting social inclusion amongst all Harrow residents both young and old, by seeking to eradicate poverty and by reducing the fear of crime."

#### **6 Background Information and options considered**

6.1 The Panel on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003 decided to recommend funding of £45,855 to the HCRE in 2004/05, which includes £494 for salary inflation addition. The letter of appeal (Appendix 1a) states, incorrectly, that the grant allocated for 2004/05 is £39,340, despite a letter to the organisation dated 26<sup>th</sup> January 2004 stating that the funding allocated in principle for 2004/05 is £45,855. However, since the meeting of the Panel on 26.11.03, the HCRE has moved to bigger premises at the Civic Centre complex. According to the letter of appeal, the total rent at the new premises, together with the rent of a small office they still retain at the Lodge, amounts to £13,000, whereas the rent for the old premises was only £5,500. Whilst HCRE have not provided any evidence yet of the rent charges at the new premises, Members may wish to reserve an amount to help HCRE meet the additional rent charges. The Balance Sheet of HCRE as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 showed total assets of £40,389. The balance in the HCRE business account up to last July was £46,729.

6.2 The Panel on 26<sup>th</sup> November decided not to recommend any funding for Girlguiding North West Middlesex. The organisation had applied for a grant of £5,000 towards the £28,000 running costs of the Willow Tree Centre, a multi-purpose residential centre with full disabled facilities located in Hillingdon, but used by a large number of users from Harrow (approximately 50% of the 6,000 users in 2002 and 2003 were from Harrow). Members decided not to recommend any funding for this organisation in 2004/05, because it has reserves of £127,000 and fixed assets of £885,000. The letter of appeal (Appendix 1b) states that they need help to meet the costs of wood treatment to the entire exterior of the

buildings. "Sadolin" have donated all the liquid treatment valued at £1,500. The cost of labour and scaffolding is £4,800. They have raised £2,000 so far, and are confident they can raise a further £1,000. They are appealing to the Panel for the balance of £1,800. Should Members decide to uphold the appeal, it is recommended that the grant be given from this year's unallocated funds.

6.3 Kurdish Association: The Panel on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003 decided not to recommend any funding to the Kurdish Association in 2004/05. The organisation received funding from the Council for three years, i.e. £2,350 in 2001/02, £2,166 in 2002/03 and £1,082 in 2003/04. This funding was a contribution to the costs of the organisation's supplementary classes at Whitmore High School. It needs to be noted that only 390 out of 3192 users live in Harrow. It is also worth noting that the organisation has reserves of £ 204,828 (restricted) and £10,091 (unrestricted). The letter of appeal (Appendix 1c) states that they will not be able to continue to provide this service without a grant from the Council.

6.4 The Panel on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003 decided to recommend a grant of £1,000 to the Pakistan Society of Harrow in 2004/5. The organisation had applied for £7,200, of which £6,000 was for running costs and salary for a part-time clerical assistant, and £1,000 capital for a computer and fax/telephone answering machine. The letter of appeal (Appendix 1d) states that they would like the Panel to reconsider their decision and offer the Society a further grant of £5,000 to enable it to employ a part-time clerical assistant, working from 11 am to 4 p.m. for four days a week (Monday to Thursday).

7. **Consultation** None

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 The total unallocated funds for 2004/5 amount to £14,943. Should all four appeals be upheld, the total would exceed the unallocated funds.

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 None

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 Members are advised to consider the letters of appeal from Harrow Council for Racial Equality, Girlguiding North West Middlesex, the Kurdish Association, and the Pakistan Society of Harrow and recommend accordingly. Should Members decide to uphold any or all of these appeals they need to note that the total unallocated funds for 2004/5 amount to £14,943, whereas the amounts requested by the appellants organisations total £15,300.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 The grant applications made by the four groups, which were previously circulated to Members for the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

12. **Author**

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