

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda item:

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| Meeting: | GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL |
| Date: | 19 TH FEBRUARY 2004 |
| Subject: | HARROW IN EUROPE ASSOCIATION |
| Key decision: | NO |
| Responsible Chief Officer: | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BUSINESS CONNECTIONS |
| Relevant Portfolio Holder: | PROPERTY & PARTNERSHIPS |
| Status: | PART 1 |
| Ward: | N / A |
| Enclosures: | DOCUMENTS RECEIVED FROM HARROW IN EUROPE |

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

- 1.1 This report brings to the Panel's attention new information, recently supplied by Harrow in Europe, which Members may wish to consider.

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

- 2.1 That Members consider the information provided by Harrow in Europe and decide whether to: a) reinstate the reserved grant of £2,500 from the 2003/04 grants, already taken back into the grants budget on 26.11.03, and
- 2.2 b) to increase the funding of Harrow in Europe in 2004/05 from £2,500 agreed on 26.11.03 to £5,000, as requested by the organisation.

REASON: Harrow in Europe have now provided information which Members may wish to consider.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors** None

Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)

- 4.1 Grants Advisory Panel 26.11.03 – The Panel decided to withdraw the reserved funding of £2,500 allocated for 2003/04 and take it back into the grants budget.
- 4.2 The Panel also agreed to recommend funding for Harrow in Europe in 2004/05 of £2,500.
- 4.3 Cabinet considered and agreed the Panel's recommendations on 13. 1. 04.

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 specification of the organisation's Service Level Agreement (SLA) for 2003/4 states under Quantity Standards that Harrow in Europe are required to monitor, amongst other things " the number of people from ethnic minorities, people on low income, people with disabilities and young people involved in twinning activities, including exchanges". The SLA was signed by the Association on 2nd April 2003.
- 6.2 At the monitoring meeting held on 11th August 2003, the organisation's Chairman and Treasurer were advised that the release of the reserved grant of £2,500 is dependent on them providing information on the number of people from ethnic minorities, people on low income, people with disabilities and young people involved in twinning activities. They promised to send the information by the end of August, but the information was not received until 9th February 2004. At the same meeting it was agreed that the amount of £2,500 provided by the Council to HIE for civic duties carried on the Council's behalf is sufficient.
- 6.3 The Grants Panel on 28th July 2003 was informed that Harrow in Europe had provided a re-designed monitoring form but were not in a position to give details of individuals assisted. Members agreed to continue to defer the release of the reserved grant of £2,500.
- 6.4 At the Grants Panel meeting on 15th September 2003, Members expressed concern that the additional information had not been forthcoming from Harrow in Europe. The Chair agreed to write to the organisation to advise that the Panel were minded to withdraw the funding held in reserve if further information was not provided by the time of the next Panel meeting in November.
- 6.5 On 19th September 2003, the Chair of the Grants Panel wrote to the Chairman of Harrow in Europe informing him of the Panel's decision at the meeting on 15th September 2003. The Chair of the Panel requested the Chairman of the organisation to telephone him in order to arrange to meet and discuss this matter at a mutually convenient time, date and place, but there was no response to that letter.
- 6.6 On Friday 6th February 2004 the Temporary Grants Officer attended a meeting with the Chairman of the organisation and Cllrs Lammiman and Blann who wished to discuss the

decisions of the Grants Panel of 26th November 2003. During the meeting they produced documents providing information previously requested by the Council and requested that this new information should be presented to the Panel at this meeting. It was agreed that they would e-mail a letter and the monitoring information by Monday 9th February. The officer undertook to seek advice as to how to process this matter. The officer was advised by the Committee Section that it would be possible to take a late report to the Panel with the Chair's agreement. The Acting Chair of the Panel informed the Temporary Grants Officer on 11th February that he would like the panel to discuss this issue at the meeting on 19th February and requested him to write a report.

6.7 Harrow in Europe at the Executive Committee meeting held on 21st January 2004 received a Treasurer's report that stated that the organisation had balances of £7,814.24.

6.8 In view of the fact that HIE have balances of £7,814.24 and bearing in mind that the end of the financial year is only a few weeks away, Members may take the view that HIE would not experience hardship if the reserved funding for 2003/04 is not reinstated. However, Members may wish to reconsider the amount of funding for 2004/05, taking into account the work programme recently submitted by the organisation.

7. **Consultation** None

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 Should Members decide to increase the funding of Harrow in Europe in 2004/05 to £5,000, there is budget provision to cover the increase.

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 None

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 Harrow in Europe on 9th February 2004 provided information, previously requested by the Council, which the Panel may consider justifies a review of its decisions on 26.11.03 relating to the funding of this organisation.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 Panel minutes of 28th July, 15th September and 26th November 2003. Service Level Agreement 2003/04.

12. **Author**

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