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| Meeting: | Grants Advisory Panel |
| Date: | 8 th June 2009 |
| Subject: | Grant Funding 2009/10 – Grant Appeals |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Responsible Officer: | Brendon Hills – Corporate Director (Community & Environment) |
| Portfolio Holder: | Chris Mote, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services |
| Exempt: | Yes – Appendix 4 to this report is exempt by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that it contains information relating to individuals. |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1 – List of Appeals; Appendix 2 - Summary Reports of Appeals from Grant Applicants; Appendix 3 – Summary Reports of Original Applications Presented to Grants Advisory Panel on 4 th March 2009; Appendix 4 – Letters of Appeals (Part 2). |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report presents the appeals received against the recommendations made on 4th March 2009 by the Grants Advisory Panel and/or the decisions made by Cabinet on 26th March 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Panel is requested to consider the organisations meeting the grounds for appeal (listed in paragraph 2.2.3 of this report) and make recommendations to the Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services accordingly.

Reason: (For recommendation)

A number of organisations have appealed against the recommendations

made by the Grants Advisory Panel at the meeting of 4th March 2009 and/or the decisions made by Cabinet on 26th March 2009. Some of these appeals have been made in accordance with grant funding processes and require consideration by the Grants Advisory Panel (please see Appendix 2).

The Panel should note that some of the organisations listed in paragraph 2.2.3 and Appendix 1 of this report do not meet the grounds for appeal as notified to them in the letter dated 14th April 2009 informing them of Cabinet's decisions. Where this is the case, it is highlighted in the summary reports in Appendix 2, for information only.

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 Organisations applying for funding from the Council's Main Grants Programme are given the opportunity to appeal against any decisions made by the Grants Advisory Panel and Cabinet not to award funding towards their activities/services as outlined in their grant application (subject to the conditions outlined in paragraph 2.2.2 below).

2.2 Options considered

- 2.2.1 Following the meetings of the Grants Advisory Panel on 4th March 2009 and Cabinet on 26th March, letters were sent to all grant applicants on 14th April to inform them of Cabinet's decisions. The letter also informed the grant applicants of their right to appeal against the recommendations/decisions and the appropriate procedure
- 2.2.2 The recommended grounds for appeal are if the Organisation feels that the information contained in the officer report submitted to the Panel was incorrect or incomplete, and therefore had a material affect on the decision.
- 2.2.3 In response to the letter of 14th April, correspondence was received by the deadline of 12th May from 5 organisations as listed below (see also Appendix 4):

Meeting Grounds for Appeal:

Bentley Priory Nature Reserve
London Kalibari
Youth United

Not Meeting Grounds for Appeal:

Harrow Over 50's Club
Indian Association of Harrow

- 2.2.4 Summary reports of the above appellant organisations are listed in Appendix 2.
- 2.2.5 Copies of original officer reports presented to the Grants Advisory Panel at the meeting on 4th March 2009, are listed in Appendix 3.
- 2.2.6 In relation to appeals, Panel are reminded that the Grants Advisory Panel at its meeting on 6th July 2006, agreed that they would not allow an appeal simply because an organisation felt that the grant recommended was less than what they applied for.
- 2.2.7 Panel are requested to consider the appeals and take into account the implications and risks, before they accept or reject the appeals.

2.3 Current situation

- 2.3.1 It should be noted that from the total grants budget of £ 775,956 available for 2009/10, an amount of £769,310 was allocated, leaving a balance of £6,646.
- 2.3.2 Furthermore Harrow Pensioners Action Association, having been recommended for a grant of £500 in 2009/10, have now declined this award as a motion was carried at their AGM to “wind up” the Association, due to there not being enough people willing to take on the Officer or committee posts. Notification of this was received by the Grants Unit on 23rd March 2009. Therefore the total balance currently available is **£7,149**.

2.4 Why a change is needed

- 2.4.1 No change is currently being proposed to the current process.

Implications of the Recommendation

2.5 Staffing/workforce

There are no staffing or workforce implications.

2.6 Resources, costs and risks

Some of the appellant organisations have highlighted the detrimental effect the Cabinet’s decisions of 26th March will have on their organisation and the services they provide to the communities of Harrow.

Some of the organisations may have to cease operations and others may have to reduce their services considerably.

2.7 Equalities impact

If appeals are upheld, some of the funding will provide support to organisations serving black and minority ethnic communities, children and young people, women, people with disabilities, elderly and carers.

2.8 Legal comments

2.8.1 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.

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 If the appeals from organisations listed in paragraph 2.2.3 (under “Meeting Grounds for Appeal”) are approved in full, the revenue funding associated with these will be £14,350.

2.10.2 The unallocated grants budget of £7,149 (see paragraph 2.3.2) could not cover these appeals should members decide to accept them in full. This will result in an overspend of £7,201 in the grants budget for 2009/10.

2.10.3 In addition, should the Panel consider those organisations listed in paragraph 2.2.3 (under “Not Meeting Grounds for Appeal”) in full, there will be a further amount of £11,385 added to the revenue budget, which will total £25,735.

2.10.4 This will result in a total overspend of £18,586 in the grants budget for 2009/10.

2.10.5 The Grants Advisory Panel will need to work within the total grants budget of £775,956 for 2009/10. Providing any further allocations are under £7,149, there are no financial implications.

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%.

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%.

2.12 Environmental Impact

2.12.1 Some of the appellant organisations 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 if any of the appellant organisations are approved for funding, they 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: 26 th May 2009 | | |
| Name: Jessica Farmer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer |
| Date: 27 th May 2009 | | |

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name: Tom Whiting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Divisional Director (Strategy and Improvement) |
| Date: 22 nd May 2009 | | |

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Name: John Edwards | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Divisional Director (Environmental Services) |
| Date: 26 th May 2009 | | |

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Audrey Salmon, Interim Service Manager – Community Resources and Projects, 020 8420 9332;
Parveen Vasdev, Principal Grants Officer, 020 8424 7625

Background Papers:

Appendix 1 – List of Appeals;

Appendix 2 – Summary Reports of Appeals from Applicants;

Appendix 3 – Summary Reports of Original Applications Presented to Grants Advisory Panel on 4th March 2009;

Appendix 4 – Letters of Appeals (Part 2):

- Schedule 1: Bentley Priory Nature Reserve;
- Schedule 2: London Kalibari;
- Schedule 3: Youth United;
- Schedule 4: Harrow Over 50's Club;
- Schedule 5: Indian Association of Harrow.

Other Background Papers:

Available on request. Directory of Grant Applications 2009/10 (circulated to Members ONLY prior to the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 4th March 2009, under Part 1 of the Agenda);

Appendix 1

LIST OF APPEALS

| ORGANISATION | GRANT 2008/09 | GRANT REQUESTED 2009/10 | GAP RECOMMEN DATION 4 th MARCH 2009 | CABINET DECISION 26 th MARCH 2009 |
|--|------------------|---|---|---|
| Meeting Grounds For Appeal: | | | | |
| Bentley Priory Nature Reserve | £3,500 | £7,650 | £3,500 | £3,500 |
| London Kalibari | £1,530 | £4,700 | Nil | Nil |
| Youth United | Nil | £2,000 (revised request of £980) | Nil | Nil |
| Not Meeting Grounds For Appeal: | | | | |
| Harrow Over 50's Club | £2,000 | £6,085 | £2,000 | £960 |
| Indian Association of Harrow | Nil | £5,300 | £1,000 | Nil |

Appendix 2

SUMMARY REPORTS OF APPEALS FROM GRANT APPLICANTS

ORGANISATIONS MEETING GROUNDS FOR APPEAL:

Bentley Priory Nature Reserve:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Funding 2008/09: | £3,500 |
| Funding Requested 2009/10: | £7,650 |
| GAP Recommendation 4 th March 2009 and Cabinet Decision 26 th March 2009 for 2009/10: | £3,500 |

Bentley Priory Nature Reserve are appealing against the recommendation made by officers to award them £3,500 for 2009/10. This was due to some misunderstanding by officers that a breakdown of their grant request had not been received when requested, therefore no increase was recommended. Officers acknowledged this misunderstanding and presented the additional information prior to and at the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 4th March and subsequently recommended revised funding of £5,000. However, the Panel agreed funding at 2008/09 level, i.e. £3,500.

London Kalibari:

| | |
|--|--------|
| Funding 2008/09: | £1,530 |
| Funding Requested 2009/10: | £4,700 |
| GAP Recommendation 4 th March 2009 and Cabinet Decision 26 th March 2009 for 2009/10: | Nil |

London Kalibari are appealing against officers' comments that their services are deemed to be of a religious nature, rather than cultural. The organisation would like to clarify that their range of events are attended by people of all backgrounds and faiths, although the functions reflect Indian Bengali culture. They celebrate Poet's Day, Saints Day, India Day, Black History Month, and organised coach trips to UK sites for people over 50 and yoga classes. They have stated that they actively seek wider participation from Harrow communities.

Youth United:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Funding 2008/09: | Nil |
| Funding Requested 2009/10: | £2,000 |
| GAP Recommendation 4 th March 2009 and Cabinet Decision 26 th March 2009 for 2009/10: | Nil |
| Revised Request (due to change in circumstances): | £980 |

Youth United are appealing against officers' recommendation not to award funding to their organisation, on grounds of some inaccuracies in the report presented to the Grants Advisory Panel at the meeting on 4th March 2009. These are as follows:

- The outstanding debt to the Council's Community Lettings as highlighted in the report was in fact cancelled after they had contested the amount;

- With the 50% concession offered to Youth United on the rental charges for Cedars Youth & Community Centre, they would have to pay approximately £77 per session for 21 sessions per annum, which totals £1,617. They receive £580 per annum from subscriptions, therefore making a shortfall of £1,037;
- The £580 they receive from subscriptions is used for equipment and training expenses, and not for premises rental. This statement was omitted in the officers' report;
- Youth United cater for 25-40 young people aged 8-16 years. The report to Panel states "the youth club provides a meeting place for young people aged up to 12-13 years of age";

The Club's situation has since changed. They now cater for teenagers up to 19 years of age. As they can no longer afford to use the Cedars, they now hold sessions at a scout hall at half the cost – 21 sessions at £30 rental per session, and 10 longer sessions per annum at £35 rental per session, bringing their total rental costs to £980 per annum.

In light of this, Youth United no longer require £2,000 as originally requested, but a reduced amount of **£980** in order to continue the work of running the youth club.

ORGANISATIONS NOT MEETING GROUNDS FOR APPEAL:

Harrow Over 50's Club:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Funding 2008/09: | £2,000 |
| Funding Requested 2009/10: | £6,085 |
| GAP Recommendation 4 th March 2009: | £2,000 |
| Cabinet Decision 26 th March 2009 for 2009/10: | £960 |

Harrow Over 50's Club are appealing against Cabinet's decision to overturn the Panel's recommendation to award them £2,000. A letter dated 24th February 2009 was sent to the Organisation with a copy of the Officer report (which recommended funding of £960 for 2009/10). As a result, Harrow Over 50's Club submitted additional information in support of their funding request (see Appendix 3), and asked that this be made available to the Grants Advisory Panel meeting on 4th March for consideration. This additional information was presented to the Panel, and they subsequently recommended funding of £2,000 for 2009/10. Cabinet at its meeting on 26th March overturned this recommendation and awarded the Organisation £960 (officers' original recommendation).

Indian Association of Harrow:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Funding 2008/09: | Nil |
| Funding Requested 2009/10: | £5,300 |
| GAP Recommendation 4 th March 2009: | £1,000 |
| Cabinet Decision 26 th March 2009 for 2009/10: | Nil |

Indian Association of Harrow have requested that the additional information they had submitted for consideration by the Grants Advisory Panel at its meeting on 4th March, be re-presented to the Panel for further consideration

(see Appendix 3). Together with their letter of appeal dated 12th May 2009, they have submitted a breakdown of the estimated income and expenditure for 2009/10 (this was not included with their original application). The organisation have stated in their appeal that officers made presumptions that the grant would be used for general activities (cultural, sports activities, etc) rather than for specified need. It should be noted that the Indian Association of Harrow was recommended funding of £1,000 by the Panel, however the recommendation was overturned by Cabinet on 26th March.

Appendix 3

Summary Reports of Original Applications Presented to Grants Advisory Panel on 4th March 2009

ORGANISATIONS MEETING GROUNDS FOR APPEAL:

BENTLEY PRIORY NATURE RESERVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Grant requested: | £7,650 |
| Current grant: | £3,500 |
| Grant recommended: | £3,500 |

Background

Bentley Priory Nature Reserve is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The Management Committee through its use of the voluntary sector, including British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and specialist contractors assists the Council in maintaining the open space in accordance with a Management Plan set by Natural England. The Management Plan sets out the work required to manage and maintain the various elements of the open space including grassland, woodland and marshland so that their condition is maintained and improved and to retain the SSSI status. The work carried out includes flailing of scrubland, coppicing of trees, woodland management and marshland maintenance.

The Nature Reserve is a high quality open space of more than 60 hectares for educational or leisure pursuits for all sectors of the community and is used by schools in Harrow and surrounding boroughs for field trips to assist their education in the natural environment. At the last review by Natural England they found that 30% of the site was in 'favourable' condition and the remaining 70% of the SSSI is in 'unfavourable recovering condition', this is a positive change since the last survey in 2005. 'Unfavourable recovering condition' means that the SSSI is not yet fully conserved but all the necessary management measures are in place and provided that the work programme is sustained the SSSI will reach favourable condition.

Grant Request

The organisation has stated that grant will be use mainly to fund BTCV Workdays and the use of a contractor for scrub clearance and other works as prescribed in the Management Plan. The increase in the grant is requested so that the current programme of works to improve 70% of the site, which is designated as 'recovering', can be enhanced so that recovery will be sooner. Funding will also be used to prepare leaflets and promotional literature for distribution to schools with the aim of increasing the organisation's activities with them. The expenses of the Voluntary Warden and Secretary will also be paid from the grant.

Funding Priorities Met

Sustainable Communities in Harrow - Bentley Priory Nature Reserve is a large area of natural open space with areas of open grassland, woodland, a lake and a pond. It provides habitats for a large number of bird species,

invertebrates and vertebrates as well as plant and tree life. The continued structured management of the site helps to maintain and improve these habitats.

Young Harrow – the organisation has stated that several times a year groups of young volunteers work with the voluntary warden to help maintain the site and that local schools and colleges use the Reserve for educational field trips. It has also stated that it will be working with local schools to encourage them to 'adopt BPNR as their own'.

Evidence of Need

The organisation reports that Harrow Council has a statutory obligation to maintain Bentley Priory Nature Reserve as a SSSI to the standard required by Natural England. The organisation has stated that the work carried out is complimentary to the Councils own works, which are mainly the maintenance of the hard landscape features, and the use of volunteer groups is a cost effective way of achieving this.

Funding received from other sources in 2008/09

No other funding received.

Comments and Recommendations

Public Realm Maintenance, Community & Environment Services are aware of this organisation and state that it provides an important function and has a proven track record of delivering quality conservation work and education.

A breakdown of costing was requested, but this was not provided.

It is recommended that funding of £3,500 be awarded to the Bentley Priory Nature Reserve Management Committee for 2009/10, which would be at the same level as last year.

LONDON KALIBARI

Grant requested: £4,700
Current grant: £1,530
Grant recommended: £Nil

Background

The objective of London Kalibari is to establish a permanent community centre for the benefit of Hindu Bengalees, but open to people of all faiths and cultures, in Harrow and neighbouring areas to meet the social, cultural and spiritual needs of the community. The organisation has stated that these needs are not being met at present due to the lack of permanent accommodation. The organisation has stated that it meets regularly and holds activities including music, dance, plays and historical talks, a senior citizens club, Bengali language tuition, yoga, bereavement services and children's activities.

Grant Request

Funding of £4,700 is requested as a contribution towards the 'Kalibari Action for Community 2009' project. The total cost of this project is £6,500 and the organisation has already secured £1,800 from donations and fundraising. The grant will be used for transport, postage and out-of-pocket expenses, fees for performers and artists and hall hire. A full breakdown of the grant request has not been provided.

Funding Priorities Met

Stronger Communities in Harrow - the organisation has stated that for many years it has been holding social, cultural and spiritual/religious functions where people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures participate actively, thus providing community cohesion.

Healthier Harrow - the organisation has stated that it holds regular yoga sessions and organises short-term outings for senior people to promote physical and mental health. It has also stated that it encourages all people, particularly senior citizens, to keep in contact with their GP and develop a balanced diet. Details of where these activities are held and how many people attend them have not been provided.

Young Harrow - the organisation has stated that it provides children's activities and invites young people to develop their learning potential by providing targeted information and advice on education and training available in Harrow and elsewhere. Details of where these activities are held and how many people attend them have not been provided.

Evidence of Need

The organisation has stated that around 25,000 Bengali Hindus of Indian/Bangladeshi origin are estimated to live in Harrow and surrounding areas. It states that the social and cultural needs of this community are different from those of other Indian and Bangladeshi communities.

Funding received from other sources in 2008/09

£600 from Edward Harvist Trust Fund for arts/cultural function to be held in October 2009 (agreed February 2009)

Comments and Recommendations

From the monitoring information received in 2008, the organisation's constitution and accounts indicate that there is a religious element to their services. It is therefore recommended that London Kalibari is not awarded funding for 2009/10.

YOUTH UNITED

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Grant requested: | £2,000 |
| Current grant: | Not currently funded |
| Grant recommended: | £Nil |

Background

Youth United is a youth club that meets fortnightly during term time at the Cedars Youth and Community Centre for three hours a session. The organisation states that 25-40 young people attend each session and positively interact with a variety of professional trainers and each other to improve their social skills and their own sense of self-value. The organisation has stated that activities include a co-ordinated course of public speaking training, media training, public performances, specialised quizzes, games and challenges, self-defence and first aid. These are in addition to regular participation in local and international service projects including Understanding the Aged, World Vision 24 Hour Famine and Help the Homeless.

Grant Request

Youth United has stated that it is requesting funding of £2,000 for rental costs the Cedars Youth and Community Centre. The organisation has stated that its current rental costs are £105 (plus insurance) per session for a total of 21 sessions a year. The club charges £1.20 per young person per session, raising approximately £580 per annum.

Funding Priorities Met

Young Harrow - The youth club provides a meeting place for young people aged up to 12-13 years of age and they have stated that they are currently working with children from seven different ethnic groups. The activities that take place aim to improve the social skills of the young people that attend and raise their confidence.

Evidence of Need

Youth United have stated that they feel there is a real need to teach pro-active citizenship to children.

Funding received from other sources in 2008/09

No other funding received.

Comments and Recommendations

Youth United has stated that the rental costs for the Cedars Youth and Community Centre have increased to £105 (plus insurance) for each three-hour session. It has stated that it used to get a 85% concessionary discount on the rental charges but has not applied for this on time this year. The organisation would be able to re-apply under the Community Lettings scheme to receive a 50% discount on the rental charges of Cedars for 2009/10, which would mean that it would pay £24 per hour plus insurance at 7%, e.g. approximately £77 per session. In light of this and the fact that the organisation is expecting to receive £580 per annum from the charges it makes. There is also an outstanding debt to the Council's Community Lettings, therefore it is recommended that funding is not awarded to Youth United for 2009/10.

ORGANISATIONS NOT MEETING GROUNDS FOR APPEAL:

HARROW OVER 50'S CLUB

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Grant requested: | £6,085 |
| Current grant: | £2,000 |
| Grant recommended: | £960 |

Background

The Harrow over 50's Club was established in 2007 for the older residents of Harrow and surrounding areas. There are currently 60 members, who are predominately from the Asian community. The main aim of the Club is to provide a social forum for the older residents of Harrow, many of whom feel isolated and lonely to exchange views and share their problems and worries. It also aims to assist in areas of health and welfare.

The Club holds monthly meetings in Pinner Hill Community Centre to help promote and foster educational, cultural and physical activities. Seminars are arranged with guest speakers to explain and guide the members about healthy life style and medical issues. The Club carries out home visits to provide comfort and consolations to families suffering illness, tragedies and bereavement. The Club also helps members keep abreast of national and local issues by providing its members with local newspapers, journals and magazines and also assists the members to keep abreast of technological developments via regular seminars in the use of IT. The Club holds Keep Fit classes and runs an annual day trip to a place of interest for which a small charge is made.

The organisation states that a significant proportion of Harrow's older residents are from Asian communities. It is the Clubs intention to increase awareness amongst these communities about the considerable support and advice already offered by Harrow Council.

Grant Request

The Harrow over 50's Club has requested £6,085 to cover the cost of hiring Pinner Hill Community Centre for the monthly meetings, fees for experts for the information seminars, keep fit Instructors, home support visits, provision of journals and the printing of newsletters and local advertising materials.

Funding Priorities Met

Safer Harrow - The Club aims to contribute to a safer Harrow by providing a secure and welcoming forum whereby the older residents of Harrow can meet to discuss issues of personal safety and fear of crime, as well as health and welfare issues. The club also states that is proposing to run a series of seminars whereby the issues raised in the forums can be addressed by experts and practical advice given to improve the safety of members.

Stronger Communities in Harrow - The Club organises various community functions, including cultural, social and musical events which they believe generate and encourage a sense of belonging to Harrow.

Healthier Harrow - As well as regular seminars on health issues the Club runs weekly Yoga classes and actively encourages members to take regular exercise.

Evidence of Need

Since the Club opened in August 2007 95% of member's have attended the monthly meetings. A successful day trip to Blenheim Palace was over subscribed. The fitness classes are also well attended.

Funding received from other sources in 2008/09

None

Harrow Over 50's Club currently have casual use accommodation at the Community Premises.

Comments and Recommendations

As the organisation provides very little evidence of the need for this service, it is recommended that they be awarded £960 to meet the hall hire costs. It is advised that they should explore other sources of funding for their activities.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF HARROW

Grant requested: £5,300
Current grant: Not currently funded
Grant recommended: £Nil

Background

Indian Association of Harrow was established in 1977 with the following aims and objectives:

- To create a forum where the Indian community can pool resources and skills and form strategies to enrich the social and cultural aspects of the community they live in
- To promote the social and economic welfare for Indians to enable them to contribute fully to the economic regeneration of UK
- To establish strategic alliances with other minority and mainstream organisations to create better understanding between communities
- To provide support and leisure facilities for young people, including facilities for young people to learn Indian dance, music and languages
- To provide information and advisory services to people in need, e.g. the elderly.

Grant Request

The Indian Association of Harrow has requested £5,300 to contribute towards the total project costs of £13,800. The organisation has reported that £8,500 has already been secured. The grant will be used to arrange outings, cultural events and meals for the elderly, sports activities, dance classes and mother tongue teaching for young people and health seminars, first aid workshops, blood pressure testing and information/testing for diabetes. A full breakdown of the grant request has not been received.

Funding Priorities Met

Stronger Communities in Harrow - some of the activities the organisation is proposing could be seen as opportunities for people to bond, e.g. trips for the elderly, youth activities and cultural events.

Healthier Harrow - the organisation is proposing to hold quarterly health seminars for approximately 100 people and blood pressure/diabetes testing with a qualified nurse/doctor. It is also proposing to hold first aid workshops.

Young Harrow - the organisation has stated that sports activities, dance classes and mother tongue teaching will be held for young people.

Evidence of Need

The Association has made reference to the published research that highlights severe health problems (i.e. coronary heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure) being 30% more prevalent amongst the Indian community. It has also highlighted the inadequacy of services currently being provided to the growing number of elderly people of Indian origin. It stated that the Council's

own statistics show that well over 20% of Harrow population is of Indian origin and that statutory services provided by Harrow Council are inadequate.

Funding from other sources in 2008/09

No funding is received from other sources during this period.

The Indian Association of Harrow currently occupies a designated desk at the Community Premises building, 27 Northolt Road.

Comments and Recommendations

Additional information provided states that CRB checks are not made for the volunteers assisting with youth activities as they are 'long time members of the Association'.

Funding to Indian Association of Harrow is not recommended for 2009/10 as there is insufficient evidence provided by the organization that there is a need for these activities.