

Grants Programme - Proposals for Change 2010 – 2011

Harrow Council has a responsibility to deliver services to meet the needs of a diverse community, and recognises that in some cases the voluntary and community sector may be best placed to provide responsive services. The council would like to encourage innovative community projects and therefore welcomes requests for grant aid from the wide and diverse voluntary and community sector.

During 2008, Harrow Council undertook a scrutiny review to examine its relationship with the voluntary and community sector. Through this review, a number of concerns were raised about the current grants process. The scrutiny review made a number of recommendations, some of which will be further explored through the development of a Third Sector Strategy. The scrutiny review also recommended a review of current grant criteria to be made in the interim to the grants process for the 2010/2011 round.

We are currently seeking the views of the voluntary and community sector (VCS), particularly those of you who have received grant aid, on the proposed changes to the main grants programme.

It is important to stress that this is a proposal and that this consultation will inform the final decision. Your responses will be collated and presented to the Grants Advisory Panel meeting in 2nd July 2009, where the final decision will be made.

As we would like to ensure that the views of the VCS are reflected in this review, we would appreciate it if you could take the time to read the following proposal and complete the attached consultation questionnaire.

Please respond by Friday 5th June 2009

Proposed Change 1: Who will be eligible for Grant Aid?

Currently the grant qualifying conditions state that:

“The applicant must be a voluntary group based in Harrow with 80% of its beneficiaries either living or working in Harrow”

This condition requires organisations to demonstrate that they are both **based** in Harrow, and **deliver** services in Harrow. To make the grant qualifying condition clearer it is proposed that this statement is split in to two parts, as follows:

*(1) “Grant aid will be available to support voluntary and community organisations to deliver services, where this resource is used **solely** for the benefit of people living in Harrow”*

The second part could read as follows:

Either

- The service provider can be **based outside of Harrow** but **must** deliver services in the borough

OR

- the organisation **must** be **based in Harrow**

Please answer questions 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Proposed change 2: Type of grants available

It is proposed that three types of grants are made available:

Small Grants – value - £500 - £2000

Medium Grants – value - £2001 - £10,000

Large Grants – value - £10,001 - £100,000

This will ensure that applicants are aware of the minimum and maximum grant aid available for each award.

It is also proposed that a percentage of the total grant budget is allocated to these different grants.

Please answer questions 5, 6 and 7.

Proposed change 3: Funding Priorities

Currently applicants need to demonstrate that they support one of the six key themes for Harrow as detailed below. (Harrow’s Sustainable Community Strategy, March 2009).

<p>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN HARROW</p> <p><u>Jobs Demand More Highly Skilled Employees</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are practical opportunities available to prepare people for work • Harrow residents are supported to relearn and retrain <p><u>No large industrial or commercial employers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrow continues to attract and support small businesses • Local work opportunities continue to be available • There is provision and access to outer borough employment opportunities • Harrow continues to have a strong retail and service sector 	<p>AN IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Environmental Issues</u> • Harrow has attractive, sustainable and accessible transport • Open space and environmentally sensitive areas are protected • Harrow is well designed, with sustainable buildings, public spaces and transport • Harrow is clean with high standards of waste recycling and reuse • The effects of climate change and adverse air quality are mitigated • <u>Growing Population</u> • Harrow’s environment is sustainable • Implications of overcrowding and increased density are minimized • There is better access to a range of appropriate housing
<p>EVERY HARROW CHILD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and young people continue to have access to education opportunities • Social opportunities are available • Children and young people are healthy and safe • Children and young people are heard and consulted • Children and young people are supported to make a positive contribution and take responsibility 	<p>CULTURE, COMMUNITIES AND IDENTITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrow’s diverse community is celebrated and valued • Communities work together to help themselves • There is a balance between universal and separate services for our communities • People feel safe • Individuals are treated with dignity and respect
<p>HEALTH, WELLBEING AND INDEPENDENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Health inequalities are reduced ▪ There is an increase in preventative services ▪ Independent living is promoted and supported (choice, control and empowerment) ▪ Recognition and improved support to carers ▪ Isolation and marginalisation is reduced ▪ There is increased involvement in sport and art activities 	<p>THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND DEMOCRACY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harrow has a strong and respected partnership • Services are personalised and neighbourhood focused • The community is engaged in the development and delivery of services • Residents and stakeholders have the ability to have real influence • The Voluntary and Community Sector is strengthened

With a restricted grants budget and the availability of funding through other sources to support some of these themes – it is proposed that the grants programme would support a select number of themes each year from Harrow’s Sustainable Community Strategy, which would be agreed by the Grants Advisory Panel.

Please answer question 8.

Proposed change 4: Conditions of Grant Approval

Currently applicants are required to provide the following supporting documents to demonstrate that they have the required structures and policies in place and will only be considered for funding if everything is in place. It is proposed that applicants would **not** be required to provide this evidence until **after** the grant has been agreed. The evidence required will depend on the amount of grant aid requested.

Supporting documents required for grants under £2,000

- A bank account in the organisation’s name
- Policies for the protection of children and vulnerable adults (if relevant)
- Health and safety procedures (if relevant)
- Appropriate insurances and indemnities (if relevant)
- A written statement of commitment to equal opportunities

Supporting documents required for grants between £2,001 - £10,000:

(In addition to the above requirements)

- A constitution/memorandum and article of association/trust of deed
- Certified or audited accounts from the previous year (by an independent person). If your organisation has been running for less than 15 months, you may not be able to give us this so in these cases we will accept a 12-month financial projection for the year when you will spend the grant

Supporting documents required for grants over £10,001:

(In addition to the above requirements)

- Employment and staffing policies and procedures, which address the recruitment and selection, and training of staff and volunteers
- Systems to monitor the quality of services delivered

Please answer questions 9 and 10.