

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2009
Subject:	Proposed assessment process
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Brendon Hills – Corporate Director (Community and Environment)
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Jean Lammiman, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1: Assessment grid Appendix 2: Proposed summary report template

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the recommendations for the proposed assessment process and the revised summary grants report template that were agreed at the Grant Advisory Panel meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

### **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to approve the following GAP's recommendations:

- The proposed grant assessment tool
- The revised summary grants report template

### **Reason: (For recommendation)**

- To address the recommendations raised in the Overview and Scrutiny Review: "Delivering a Strengthened Voluntary and Community Sector for Harrow"(December 2008)
- To ensure greater clarity and transparency in the grants process for round 2010/11

## Section 2 – Report

### 2.1 Introductory paragraph

- 2.1.1 The approval of these recommendations will contribute to the delivery of the following priorities:

#### **Build stronger communities**

Greater clarity and transparency of the grants criteria and process has the potential to strengthen the Voluntary and Community Sector's relationship with the Council

#### **Local Area Agreement Priorities**

The alignment of the grants funding priorities to those of the Local Area Agreement will ensure that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) deliver services that contribute to the achievement of partnership agreed targets.

### 2.2 Options considered

- 2.2.1 The Grant Advisory Panel (GAP) met on 8 September 2009 to consider and approve the assessment tool as set out in Appendix 1 and the summary grants report template in Appendix 2. These are now attached in their final form.

### 2.3 Why a change is needed

- 2.3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Review: "Delivering a Strengthened Voluntary and Community Sector for Harrow"(December 2008) found that there was a lack of confidence and trust in the current grant arrangements; and expressed a number of concerns about the grants programme that related to the application process.
- 2.3.2 During the 2009/10 grants round, there were requests from the voluntary and community sector for a clearer process, which will be address through the introduction of the assessment tool.

## 2.4 Implications of the Recommendation

### 2.4.1 Legal comments

The Council is empowered under a number of legal provisions, including s.2 of the Local Government Act 2000 (the power to do anything which it considers likely to improve or promote economic, environmental or social well-being), to make grants to voluntary organisations. Having an approved process will reduce the risk of challenge to decisions involving grants and ensure that the Council can comply with its statement of intention of the Compact with the voluntary sector.

### 2.4.2 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications for the Council related to this report.

### 2.4.3 Performance Issues

The introduction of a robust and fair assessment process has the potential to contribute to the following national indicators:

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.

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'.

The provision of grant funding to voluntary and community sector organisations has the potential to contribute to NI 6 ' Participation in regular volunteering'.

#### 2.4.4 Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

### Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: ...Sheela Takhar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divisional Director – Finance and Procurement
Date: ...14 September 2009 .....		
Name: Jessica Farmer.....	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Head of Legal Practice
Date: ...14 September 2009.....		

### Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Alex Dewsnap	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Divisional Director Partnership Development and Performance
Date: ...14 September 2009 .....		

### Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Audrey Salmon, Interim Service Manager, Community Resources and Projects

**Background Papers:**

Appendix 1: Assessment grid

Appendix 2: Proposed summary report template