

Appendix 2:

Funding proposal for the development of a new Equalities Body

Recommendation:

That £58,000 is ring-fenced in the grants budget to enable the Council to meet its commitment to establish a new Equalities Body for 2010/11.

Background:

The Grants Advisory Panel at its meeting on the 20th November 2008 received a report providing an update on the position in relation to the former Harrow Council for Racial Equality (HCRE). In February 2009 Cabinet agreed that grant funding previously agreed for HCRE be transferred to HAVS (Harrow Association of Voluntary Service) to support their interim management of HCRE core functions while a steering group oversaw the establishment of a new equalities organisation.

Following the dissolution of HCRE in December 2008 some core functions were transferred to the interim management of HAVS. A Service Level Agreement was agreed with HAVS and regular reports on the progress of these have been received by the Harrow Equalities Body Transition Group (formerly known as the Transition Steering Group) throughout the year.

Options considered:

The Harrow Equalities Body Transition Group has been meeting since April 2009 to progress the development of a new equalities organisation. The Group has undertaken a number of consultation exercises during the year with key stakeholder group and individuals. With this input it has developed a preferred governance model for the new organisation (see below). Over the coming months the Group will continue to work to establish a management board and appoint a Director for the new organisation.

In line with national developments in the field of equality and human rights there is general agreement on the need for a local organisation that can respond more effectively to the new agenda and emerging needs, especially in relation to the formation of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission. This new body will aim to bring all equality strands together within the wider context of human rights. The organisation will be an independent body able to advocate for the rights of the individual and champion equalities issues across all sectors.

Recommendation:

The Council has made a commitment to fund the setting up of this new organisation and the Grants Advisory Panel are requested to make a recommendation to Cabinet that £58,000 is ring-fenced from the Grants Budget in 2010-11 to facilitate this development.

HAVS will act as the accountable body for this funding and will continue to provide interim management of former HCRE functions. This recommendation has been

discussed with HAVS who have agreed to continue this arrangement until the new body is established.

Once the new body is established it will be expected to apply for grant funding alongside all other organisations.

Additional information:

(a) Preferred governance model



(b) Membership of Harrow Equalities Body Transition Group

Core group:

Councillor Jean Lammiman (Chair)
Councillor Golam Choudhury
Councillor Manji Kara
Councillor Navin Shah
Rob Lewis
Digvijay Jadeja

Co-optees:

Sonoo Malkani
Yusuf Yusuf
Punitha Perinparaja

Advisers:

Julia Smith
Kashmir Takhar