

# REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 March 2010
<b>Subject:</b>	Grant Funding 2010/11 – Recommendations of the Grant Advisory Panel
<b>Key Decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Brendon Hills – Corporate Director Community and Environment
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	Councillor Jean Lammiman, Portfolio Holder Community and Cultural Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Decision subject to Call-in:</b>	No The decision is urgent for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To enable grant agreements to be put in place by 1 April 2010</li><li>- To allow for the distribution of the grants in a timely manner to the voluntary and community sector from April 2010 so that organisations can deliver services within the community without delay.</li></ul>
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix 1: Minutes of the Grants Advisory Panel on 3 March 2010 Appendix 2: Funding proposal for the Equalities Body Appendix 3: Funding proposal for Harrow Weald Common

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

This report sets out the recommendations from the Grants Advisory Panel for the allocation of grants to the voluntary and community sector for 2010/11, together with further information to enable Cabinet to give effect to the GAP recommendations.

### **Recommendations:**

Cabinet is requested to consider and approve the recommendations set out in this report:

- (1) A virement of £125,000 from the 2010/11 contingency to the grants budget in 2010/11, and to further supplement the budget by carrying forward £64,000 from the under-spend on treasury management activity this year to meet the value of the recommended awards (paragraph 3.1.1 and 3.1.2);
- (2) Grant awards for 2010/11 detailed at appendix 1 of the minutes be agreed;
- (3) Authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Community and Environment to withdraw grant awards from successful applicants that fail to provide the Council with supporting documentation by the published deadline of the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010 (paragraph 2.2.4);
- (4) Applicants that are successful on appeal be placed on a reserve list so that when funds become available they can be considered for funding (paragraph 3.1.4);
- (5) £58,000 be ring-fenced in the grants budget to enable the Council to meet its commitment to establish a new Equalities Body for 2010/11 (See appendix 2 for details);
- (6) £18,000 be transferred to the Council's Public Realm department to maintain Harrow Weald Common on behalf of Harrow Weald Common Conservators through a service level agreement (see appendix 2 for details);
- (7) A grant of £15,000 be awarded to the Harrow Heritage Trust from the Council's Capital Programme for the financial year 2010/11;
- (8) A review of grant-making arrangements which reports on the current year's process and outcomes takes place to ensure appropriate support for the Voluntary and Community Sector in 2011/12.

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

- To enable voluntary and community organisations to deliver appropriate services in 2010/11

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ensure that current grant recipients do not receive less than they were awarded in 2009/11 during the transitional period.</li></ul> |
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## **Section 2 – Report**

### **2.1 Introductory paragraph**

2.1.1 The distribution of grants enables the voluntary and community sector to support the Council in meeting the following corporate priorities:

- Improve support for vulnerable people  
Many of the organisations recommended for funding will deliver services to vulnerable people, such as older people, people with physical, mental or terminal illnesses, children who are at risk of exclusion, etc.
- Build stronger communities  
Many of the organisations recommended for funding will deliver services that enhance community cohesion.

2.1.2 If the grant recommendations set out in appendix 1 are approved, this will also contribute to delivering the Local Area Agreement priorities, which were adopted as the funding priorities for 2010/11 and have driven the entire exercise.

### **2.2 Options considered**

2.2.1 119 grant applications were received by the deadline of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009, which is approximately two times the number of grants awarded in 2009/10. The grant budget for 2010/11 is £784,360 and the total value of grants requested is £2,031,799. The Grants Advisory Panel met on the 3 March 2010 and noted that in response to Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommendations, the marketing of grants and the support available through the grant information sessions during this round has led to an unprecedented level of demand on the grants budget. It was also recognised that it was inevitable that the new process introduced for the first time this year would result in successful outcomes for some organisations and less successful outcomes for others.

2.2.2 The Cabinet is requested to approve that the grants budget be supplemented by £189,000 one-off 'top-up' for 2010/11 to enable the smooth transition to the new arrangement and to ensure that current grant recipients who applied this year do not receive less than they were awarded in 2009/10. This will be funded in part from the 2010-11 contingency and by carrying forward unspent funds from the treasury management activity this year. Therefore the total amount recommended for grant award is £979,712.

2.2.3 If the above recommendation is agreed, Cabinet is requested to approve the grant awards for 2010/11 as set out in appendix 1, subject to applicants submitting relevant supporting documents by the agreed deadline.

2.2.4 Cabinet is also requested to approve that the Corporate Director for Community and Environment be given delegated authority to withdraw grants

from successful applicants that fail to submit the required documents by the published deadline of the 29 March 2010. This would enable officers to implement this action in a speedy and efficient manner.

### **3. Implications of the Recommendation**

#### **3.1 Financial Implications**

- 3.1.1 The main grants budget for 2010/11 is £784,360 and the total value of the grant recommendations set out in appendix 1 is £979,712 therefore requiring a "top-up" of £188,352. It is proposed that the grants budget for 2010-11 be supplemented by £189,000. This will be funded in part from the 2010-11 contingency of £125k, and by carrying forward £64,000 from the under-spend on treasury management activity this year. Cabinet is asked to approve the necessary virement and carry forward this request.
- 3.1.2 If approved, this one-off payment will enable the smooth transition to the new grants process and will ensure that no current grant recipient loses out. The letter to the applicants will state clearly that all or part of their grant award is "one-off" money for 2010-11 only. This will help to manage expectations for 2011/12.
- 3.1.3 All applicants have the right to appeal on the grounds that: "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." Further pressure could be put on the already supplemented grants budget if their appeal is upheld. Funds may become available if grants are withdrawn from successful applicants that fail to submit supporting documents by the published deadline.
- 3.1.4 Members are advised that recommendation 4 set out in appendix 1, as agreed by GAP to distribute unallocated funds to organisations on the reserve list based on the score achieved during the assessment process, is no longer relevant. As these organisations are now being recommended for funding, there is no reserve list. Therefore it is recommended that applicants who are successful on appeal be placed on a reserve list and considered for funding as funds become available. Any remaining money should be returned to the contingency budget.

#### **3.2 Performance Issues**

- 3.2.1 The provision of grants to voluntary and community sector organisations has the potential to contribute to 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%. Harrow will be aiming to improve performance by a statistically significant amount, now agreed as an increase of 4.4%.
- 3.2.2 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%. Applicants have indicated in their application that their activities will address this NI.

- 3.2.3 The provision of grant funding to voluntary and community sector organisations has the potential to contribute to NI 6 'Participation in regular volunteering'. The target increase in numbers volunteering is 300 for 'socially excluded' volunteers and 1,200 for other volunteers. The current position is an achievement against target on 'socially excluded' volunteers and a slight under-achievement against 'other volunteers'. Applicants have indicated in their application that their activities will address this NI.

### **3.3 Environmental Impact**

- 3.3.1 Some of the grant awards, if approved, will contribute to the preservation of local biodiversity, flora and fauna and the improvement of the quality of publicly accessible open space.

### **3.4 Risk Management Implications**

- 3.4.1 The supplementary funding of £189,000 delivers Grants Advisory Panel's recommendations.

- 3.4.2 The potential risk associated with this decision is that organisations approved for funding may not deliver services as described in their grant applications. This risk will be partially mitigated through a process of in-year monitoring that also aims to support groups to improve their capacity to deliver.

Risk included on Directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? To be developed

### **3.5. Equalities implications**

- 3.5.1 The grant awards, if approved, will address inequality and disadvantage and promote equality of opportunity. Fifty-eight percent of those recommended for funding indicated that their services would benefit all ethnic groups in Harrow, whereas 45% and 42% stated that their sole beneficiaries would be vulnerable people and /or those from the black and minority ethnic (BME) community. Furthermore, 70% of BME applicants and 81% of applications targeting vulnerable people are being recommended for funding.

### **3.6 Legal comments**

- 3.6.1 The Council has power to distribute grants to voluntary and community organisations.

### **3.7 Community safety**

- 3.7.1 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.

### **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Name: Kanta Hirani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 9 March 2010		
Name: George Curran	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 9 March 2010		

### **Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance**

Name: Anu Singh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director Partnership, Development and Performance
Date: 8 March 2010		

### **Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance**

Name: John Edwards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Divisional Director (Environmental Services)
Date: 8 March 2010		

### **Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

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

**Background Papers:**

Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Grants Advisory Panel on 3 March 2010

**Call-In Waived by the  
Chairman of Overview  
and Scrutiny  
Committee**

**YES**

*(for completion by Democratic  
Services staff only)*

*\* Delete as appropriate*