

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Strengthening Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	14 October 2004
Subject:	Strategic Review of Grants
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Director of Financial and Business Strategy
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Partnership & Property
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	N / A
Enclosures:	Appendix A – Proposed Strategy Appendix B –MORI Summary Consultation Results

1. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

1.1 N / A

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Members note the proposed strategy for future support to the voluntary sector.

REASON: This is an information report.

3. Consultation with Ward Councillors.

3.1 N/ A

4. Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)

4.1 Strengthening Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee 13th July considered the proposed consultation document and the Sub-Committee's comments were provided to the Grants Advisory Panel for consideration as part of the review.

4.2 Grants Advisory Panel 13th September finalised the strategy document (attached at appendix A) which will be reported to Cabinet on 14th October 2004 for approval.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 This report addresses the Council's stated priority of "strengthening Harrow's local communities by promoting social inclusion amongst all Harrow residents both young and old, by seeking to eradicate poverty and by reducing the fear of crime."

6. **Background Information and options considered**

- 6.2 Members will recall that a two stage consultation was carried out with the voluntary sector regarding the proposed strategy. The 1st stage the consultation involved 9 umbrella groups as well as the Chairs of the Primary and Secondary Headteachers' Associations and the Chair of the Association of Harrow Governing Bodies.
- 6.3 For the 2nd stage consultation the Council consulted 427 community groups, many of which are in receipt of some form of support from the Council. In order to expedite the process and ensure transparency and accountability, the Council commissioned MORI to conduct the 2nd stage consultation. MORI carried out a postal survey of the 427 groups which included reminder letters for those who did not respond within the first deadline given.
- 6.4 The response rate of 19% (80 responses) was disappointing although it is recognised that voluntary groups often lack the resources for this type of survey. A summary of the results is attached at Appendix B.
- 6.5 Importantly however, during this second phase MORI carried out face to face in-depth interviews with 10 umbrella groups suggested by the Council and the feedback received from these proved invaluable.
- 6.6 In addition, the survey was able to collect useful data about the groups and their users and obtained general views on how the Council's support is currently perceived.
- 6.7 The grants strategy document was amended to take account of the MORI report and is attached at appendix A.

7. **Consultation**

- 7.1 Extensive consultation has taken place, both within the Council and with the Voluntary Sector, as set out above.

8. **Finance Observations**

- 8.1 This is a report by the Director of Financial and Business Strategy.

9. **Legal Observations**

- 9.1 None

10. **Conclusion**

- 10.1 After extensive consultation with the Voluntary Sector, the Council's recommended strategy for supporting voluntary organisations in the Borough has been finalised (Appendix A) and will be considered by the Cabinet on 14th October 2004.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None

12. **Author**

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