

REPORT FOR: Grants Advisory Panel

Date of Meeting: 2 March 2011

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT – Update on Actions From Grants Advisory Panel Meeting Held on 2 December 2010**

Responsible Officer: Brendon Hills, Corporate Director
Community and Environment

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out information requested at the 2nd December 2010 Grants Advisory panel (GAP) meeting relating to community premises, community lettings and grant appeals.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Budget information relating to Community Premises

The Community Premises building at 27 Northolt Road, South Harrow provides office accommodation, meeting room and drop-in facilities at no cost to VCS groups who have applied to use this facility. It was originally intended to support new and emerging groups to gain access to office accommodation. The accommodation is categorised as individual office, designated desk or casual use, depending on the number of hours spent at the premises and individual groups needs. There is also the option for organisations to use the Community Premises as a postal address only. Currently 26 organisations benefit from this support. This is provided at an annual cost of £105,000 to the Council.

These costs break down as follows;

Utilities (including cleaning):	£10,480
Rent / Rates (payable to the Housing Revenue Account):	£29,660
Building maintenance, insurance etc.:	£6,580
Office costs (telephone, photocopier etc.)	£2,290
Staff costs:	£30,570
SSC charges (internal recharges):	<u>£25,330</u>
Total budget for 2010/11:	£104,910

2.2 Budget information relating to Community Lettings

Community lettings offers a booking service for community organisations, offering concessionary rates (50% of the full rate) for school premises and the Teachers' Centre. Currently 20 out of a potential 50 sites operate the community lettings system for 45 voluntary and community groups with some schools offering direct bookings outside of this service. This concessionary rate is subsidised by the Council at a cost of £89,000 per annum.

These costs break down as follows:

Reimbursements to schools:	£105,120
School caretaker costs:	£119,290
Staff costs:	£31,980
SSC charges (internal recharges):	£15,117
Income:	<u>£(182,200)</u>
Total budget 2010/11:	£89,307

2.3 Independent adviser's report on grant appeals

In November 2010 the Leader approved the appointment of an independent adviser to review the grant appeals outstanding from the 2010/11 grants programme. In addition to the report of the independent adviser the Council also received at the same time the report of internal audit on the outstanding appeals. These reports provided two independent views on these appeals and on the basis of the views received the Leader approved the upholding of two appeals;

- Girlguiding Middlesex North West
- Aspire

Section 3 – Further Information

- 3.1 A further report on proposals for revising the way that the Council provides support currently provided through the provision of Community Premises, community lettings and the 2012/13 grants programme will be presented to Cabinet in due course.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

- 4.1 Financial information relating to Community Premises and community lettings is provided within this report.

Section 5 – Corporate Priorities

- 5.1 The Council recognises the valuable contribution that the Voluntary and Community sector makes in helping it achieve its corporate priorities including the following draft corporate priorities;
- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
 - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

Name: Kanta Hirani



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 17th February 2011

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kashmir Takhar, Head of Service – Community Development, 020 8420 9331

Background Papers:

- (1) Report on grant appeals 2010-11, November 2010

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=60328>

- (2) Report on grant appeals 2010-11, February 2011

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=60367>