

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL
Date:	22 NOVEMBER 2004
Subject:	HARROW COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY (HCRE) – REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN 2004/05
Key decision:	NO
Responsible Chief Officer:	DIRECTOR FINANCIAL & BUSINESS STRATEGY
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	PARTNERSHIP & PROPERTY
Status:	PART 1
Ward:	N / A
Enclosures:	LETTER FROM HCRE DATED 25.5.04 (APPENDIX 1) LETTER FROM HCRE DATED 23.8.04 (APPENDIX 2)

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

1.1 HCRE are requesting additional funding in 2004/05 for additional work they have been carrying out since 1st April 2004.

2. **Recommendations (for decision by Portfolio Holder)**

2.1 That Members consider the request from HCRE for additional funding of £3,000 in 2004/05.

REASON: To enable HCRE to finalise its budget for the current financial year, or seek funding from alternative sources in relation to the additional duties they have been undertaking since 1st April 2004.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors.**

3.1 Not applicable

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

4.1 Grants Advisory Panel 26 November 2003 - The Panel agreed to recommend to Cabinet funding for HCRE in the sum £45,855, inclusive of salary inflation.

- 4.2 Grants Advisory Panel 8 March 2004 – Members considered a request from HCRE for additional funding to cover accommodation costs at their new premises and agreed additional funding of £6,220 in 2004/05.
- 4.3 Grants Advisory Panel 13 September 2004 – The Panel discussed the HCRE request, but decided to defer decision, pending the receipt of more information.

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

- 6.1 From 1st April 2004, HCRE have assumed responsibility for monitoring cases of racial incidents reported to Harrow Police. The monitoring amounts to contacting by telephone the people who have been the victims of racial harassment to check if they are satisfied with the way the Police dealt with their case.
- 6.2 The Racial Harassment Sub Committee of the Harrow Police Community Consultative Group, whose funding was not renewed by the Council in the current financial year, previously carried out this task. Officers have been informed that the HPCCG Racial Harassment Sub-Committee was disbanded soon after the withdrawal of funding from the Council. It is not envisaged that this organisation will be reconstituted in the foreseeable future, if at all.
- 6.3 Monitoring of racial harassment cases has always been within the HCRE's potential remit. Members will need to decide whether HCRE could undertake these tasks with their existing resources, or whether they would need additional funding. Following further consultation with HCRE, officers have been informed (see letter dated 23rd August 2004, attached as Appendix 2) that "cases arising from these new duties number roughly 25-30 new per month; these are dealt with in addition to the existing caseload at HCRE. I estimate that around 25 hours per month are devoted to the completion of these new duties by HCRE staff..."
- 6.4 In view of the fact that HPCCG Racial Harassment Sub Committee no longer exists, and bearing in mind that HCRE have been carrying out this monitoring work since last April, Members are asked to decide on HCRE's application for additional funding of £3,000 to cover the costs of associated with this work.

7. Consultation

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. Finance Observations

- 8.1 Members are reminded that the grants budget for 2004/05 has been committed already and that budgets are cash limited. Any additional grant would therefore require compensatory savings. However, this may in fact now be available as ADHD support group (Attention Deficit and Hyperactive Disorder) may not qualify for £3,000 funding reserved by the Grants Panel in the current year, as they have already secured funding from alternative sources.

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 None

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 HCRE have been undertaking some additional work in relation to the monitoring of racial incidents reported to Harrow Police. The organisation stated that the additional work involves monitoring about 25 – 30 cases a month, which amounts to about 25 hours extra work per month.

10.2 Given the fact that this work is not being carried out by the (now defunct) Racial Harassment Sub-Committee, Members may wish to consider agreeing HCRE's request in order that this monitoring task continues.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None

12. **Author**

12.1 David Ward – Risk & Insurance Manager Ext. 2064. E-mail: david.ward@harrow.gov.uk