

GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL (SPECIAL) MINUTES

30 MARCH 2011

Chairman: * Councillor Nana Asante

Councillors:

* Sue Anderson	* Chris Mote
* Nizam Ismail	* Joyce Nickolay
* Krishna James	* Lynda Seymour (4)
* Mrs Vina Mithani	* Sasi Suresh

Adviser: * Deven Pillay, Representative, Voluntary and Community Sector

* Denotes Member present
(4) Denotes category of Reserve Members

41. Attendance by Reserve Members

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:-

Ordinary Member

Reserve Member

Councillor Manji Kara

Councillor Lynda Seymour

42. Declarations of Interest

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

Agenda Item 5 – Internal Audit Review: Grants to Voluntary Organisations
Councillor Nana Asante declared a personal interest in that she had chaired the Scrutiny Challenge Panel that had originally considered the audit report. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

Councillor Susan Anderson declared a personal interest in that she had been a Member of the Scrutiny Challenge Panel that had considered the audit report. She would remain in the room whilst the matter was considered and voted upon.

43. Deputations

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received.

44. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item for the reasons set out below:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Reason</u>
5.	Internal Audit Review: Grants to Voluntary Organisations	This item was considered to contain exempt Information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, in that it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

RESOLVED ITEMS

45. Internal Audit Review: Grants to Voluntary Organisations

The Panel received a confidential internal audit report, which had been requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the way in which the Council's Grants Programme operated and agreed by Internal Audit for inclusion in the 2010/11 Internal Audit Plan as an emerging risk. The Chairman informed Members that the meeting had been called to allow the Grants Advisory Panel to consider the report before considering the grant applications for 2011/12.

An officer explained that the audit report had requested that the Grants Advisory Panel respond to the following two recommendations:

- that, in the future, all funding decisions should be made in line with the set criteria to ensure that there is transparency of recommendations made by Members;
- that the criteria, once set, are adhered to in order to prevent overspending and to avoid placing further pressure on the Council's overall budget.

Members stated that they agreed with the recommendations in principle, but that the Panel should be involved in the development of the assessment criteria. It was also felt that the Panel should have the opportunity to consider the audit report in full at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the internal audit review be considered in full at a future meeting of the Grants Advisory Panel.

(Note: The meeting, having commenced at 7.00 pm, closed at 7.20 pm).

(Signed) COUNCILLOR NANA ASANTE
Chairman