

REPORT FOR: GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

Date of Meeting:	13 June 2011
Subject:	INFORMATION REPORT – Update on Grant Appeals 2011/12
Responsible Officer:	Brendon Hills, Corporate Director Community and Environment
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix 1: List of Appeals submitted Appendix 2: List of Appeals upheld Appendix 3: Analyses of the responses to Questions 5 on the grant application forms 2011/12. Appendix 4: Analyses of the responses to Questions 3c and 3d on the grant application forms 2011/12

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out to update the Grants Advisory Panel on decisions approved by Cabinet on the 7th April 2011, that delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture and Divisional Director Community and Culture to consider and determine appeals and vary both the percentage grant awarded and scoring range. This report provides an update on the number of appeals received and the outcomes of those appeals.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 On 7th April 2011 Cabinet approved the award of 85% of grant funding applied for to 31 applications, subject to the outcome of the appeal process. Authority was delegated to the Portfolio Holder and Divisional Director Community and Culture with the benefit of advice from an Independent Adviser (the Appeals Panel) to decide the outcome of the appeals and to adjust the final grant award percentage in the light of any successful appeals.
- 2.1.2 Organisations were notified of the outcome of their applications and were alerted to the appeals process and deadline. 31 organisations were also notified that, subject to the outcome of those appeals, they would receive 85% of the funding requested but that this amount would be adjusted in the light of any successful appeals.

2.2 Grant Appeals Outcome 2011/12

- 2.2.1 33 appeals were received by the deadline of 12.00pm (midday) on Thursday 26th May 2011 (Appendix 1). The total value of grant application appeals was £670,326. On Friday 3rd June 2011 and on Monday 6th June 2011, the Appeals Panel met to consider the appeals. To ensure a timely response to appellant organisations this report is being presented to GAP in June rather than the next meeting in July which meant the information report has been released close to the committee date. The Appeals Panel did not uphold 26 of the appeals received but did uphold 7 appeals (Appendix 2) with a total application value of £185,409.
- 2.2.2 Consequently, 38 grant applications in total are recommended for funding in 2011/12. The successful appeals met the 95% scoring threshold. This was achieved through a small score change which can have a significant impact on the overall score. One of the organisations (Ignite) stated in their appeal letter that, as a result of other successful fund-raising activities in which they raised £18,000, they have revised their application and have requested £37,000 instead of their original application for £55,000. This gives a total application value across the 38 organisations to £809,113. The total available grants budget available for allocation is £585,930. This would leave a total shortfall of £223,183 if all applications were to receive 100% of funding applied for.

2.3 Financial implications

- 2.3.1 The total amount of funding available for distribution from the Main Grants programme in 2011/12 was £669,360. Of this approximately £62,649 was set aside to fund the one month grant extension payments approved by Cabinet on 13th January 2011 and a further £20,781 was set aside to support the development of new infrastructure services for the voluntary and community sector, to replace HAVS. The total budget therefore available, within which grant recommendations for 2011/12 will be made, is £585,930. The Portfolio Holder is taking careful consideration of the implications of the appeal outcomes and will confirm the final grant awards to organisations by Friday 17th June at the latest and payments will be released as quickly as possible.

2.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

2.4.1 An equality impact assessment on the scoring of grant applications to assess any potential differential impact of the decision to award grants to applicants scoring 95% or above was previously undertaken and presented to the Special Cabinet on 17th May 2011.

2.4.2 In the light of our continuing duty and commitment to equalities a further equality impact assessment has been completed to ensure due regard to equalities duties has been fully considered. (See Appendices 3 and 4). This further analysis supports the equality impact assessment results previously undertaken on the scoring threshold to determine grant awards, in that the final award decisions do not have any significant differential impact on any of the protected equality groups.

2.5 Corporate Priorities

Each applicant is required to indicate on the application form which corporate priority their proposed project relates to, of the 131 applications received the breakdown is as follows:

Corporate priority	Number of applications
Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe	5
Supporting and protecting people who are most in need	74
United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads	43
Supporting out town centre, our local shopping centres and our business	9

Name: **Steve Tingle**



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: **10 June 2011**

Section 3 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Melvyn Leach, Service Manager Community Resources, Tel: 020 8416 8328

Appendices

Appendix 1: Harrow Council, Voluntary & Community Grants, 2011-2012, List of Appeals submitted.

Appendix 2: Harrow Council, Voluntary & Community Grants, 2011-2012, List of Appeals upheld.

Appendix 3: Analyses of the responses to Questions 5 on the grant application forms 2011/12.

Appendix 4: Analyses of the responses to Questions 3c and 3d on the grant application forms 2011/12.

Background Papers:

Cabinet 7th April 2011, Agenda, Reports and Minutes.

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MId=60263>

Special Cabinet meeting on 17th May 2011, Agenda, Reports and Minutes.

<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MId=60882>