

**REPORT FOR: GRANTS ADVISORY  
PANEL**

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**Date of Meeting:** 30<sup>th</sup> July 2012

**Subject:** **INFORMATION REPORT –  
Update on Commissioning**

**Responsible Officer:** Paul Najsarek, Corporate Director  
Community Health and Well-Being

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** Appendix 1: Outcomes Based Grants  
draft process  
Appendix 2: Outcomes Based Grants  
draft themes and outcomes  
Appendix 3: Information event feedback

**Section 1 – Summary**

This report sets out an update on proposals for commissioning services from the Third Sector during 2013-14.

**FOR INFORMATION**

## **Section 2 – Report**

2.1 The Grants Advisory Panel (GAP) received two reports on proposals for commissioning and Small Grants on the 14<sup>th</sup> July and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011. GAP have provided their comments and feedback on these proposals and this report provides a further update on the development of plans for moving from the Main Grants Programme to an Outcomes Based Grants and a Small Grants process in 2013-14.

### 2.2 Background

The Main Grants Programme is currently an annual funding scheme (£669,360) which offers grants of up to £100,000 in a competitive application and appeals process. The current process does not guarantee that the Council's core priorities will be met nor offer any sustainability for those organisations who receive core funding through the Main Grants process. It has already been agreed by Cabinet that we should move to commissioning services over a three year period whilst retaining an annual small grants fund for one-off projects.

### 2.3 Proposals

The draft proposals are based on discussion and consultation with the Third sector, officers and Members as well as an analysis of other borough models, in particular Ealing and Haringey. The proposed model supports the delivery of the Third Sector Investment Plan. The model proposed is an Outcomes Based Grants process that uses commissioning principles to allocate funding to services that are delivering against the Council's core outcomes.

2.4 The key principles that have been identified for this process are:

- Driven by Harrow Council's agreed core outcomes.
- Based on engagement with the sector.
- The Main Grants budget should be protected for funding outcomes and a small grants process.
- Small grants budget increased from last years level to support more smaller organisations.
- New process building on the current process and incorporating important commissioning principles.
- Ensure organisations are supported through this process.
- Review of organisations receiving more than one source of Council funding to make sure good value for money is being achieved.
- Each funded organisation to have one relationship manager within the Council.
- To seek engagement with other partners eg. Health, Police in future years.

### 2.5 Draft process

The draft process is outlined in Appendix 1. It is based on the delivery of the Council's draft core outcomes (these are still under consideration and may be subject to further change). The corporate priorities are listed as themes with the draft core outcomes sitting under each theme.

Seven core outcomes have been identified for this process from a full list of 21. The outcomes selected represent the types of service areas that have traditionally been funded through the grants programme. It also excludes those outcomes which are already commissioned by other Council departments eg. Outcomes for children and young people which are funded by the Children's Services Directorate.

Funded services would be expected to deliver against the outcomes. These are described in detail in Appendix 2:

***A. Supporting and protecting people who are most in need***

Draft Outcome 1: Harrow residents are able to lead independent and fulfilling lives

Draft Outcome 2: Harrow residents are helped to overcome poverty, worklessness and homelessness.

***B. United and involved communities***

Draft Outcome 3: Diversity is celebrated and people feel they get on well together.

Draft Outcome 4: Harrow residents participate in art, sport, leisure and cultural activity.

Draft Outcome 5: A strong and sustainable voluntary and Third Sector able to deliver diverse, efficient and tailored local services.

***C. Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe***

Draft outcome 6: Harrow's streets, public buildings and spaces are kept free of litter, flytipping and vandalism

***D. Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses***

Draft outcome 7: Harrow residents and businesses enjoy local economic prosperity.

2.6 The draft process proposes the following;

- Organisations would be limited to making one application per organisation, against one of the outcomes.
- The maximum award for outcomes that fall under the two themes of 'Supporting and protecting people who are most in need' and 'United and involved communities' is £50,000 per annum. There is potential to increase this limit to £75,000 for the following two outcomes; Draft outcome 2: Harrow residents are helped to overcome poverty, worklessness and homelessness; Draft outcome 5 'A strong and sustainable voluntary and Third Sector able to deliver diverse, efficient and tailored local services.'
- The maximum award for outcomes that fall under the two these of 'Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and sage' and 'Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses' is £25,000 per annum.

- That funding could be awarded for a period of up to three years with the grant being reduced in years two and three.
- That consortia bids would be encouraged.
- The application process will be based on the current process.

#### 2.7 Proposed Timetable

The proposed timetable is as follows:

May – June: Preparation of process

July – Aug: Third Sector information event / Third Sector involvement in development of process

September: Cabinet approval of process

Sept – Dec: Application process

February: Cabinet final decision on Outcomes Based Grants

- 2.8 An information event for Third Sector organisations was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the feedback from this event is attached at Appendix 3.

### **Section 3 – Financial Implications**

- 3.1 These proposals are based on the assumption that the grants budget will remain at its current level of £669,360 during 2013-14. The allocation of this budget between small grants and commissioning budget is yet to be determined.
- 3.2 The draft process proposes maximum awards of £50,000 and £25,000 per annum with funding available for up to three years. However, this is dependent on the further development of the MTFs for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

### **Section 4 - Equalities implications**

- 4.1 A full equalities impact assessment will be undertaken of these proposals. GAP is requested to consider and provide its feedback on the equalities implications of these proposals.

### **Section 5 – Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 These proposals incorporate all of the corporate priorities as potential themes under which services would be secured:
- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.
  - United and involved communities: A Council that listens and leads.
  - Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.

- Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses.

Name: Roger Hampson



on behalf of the  
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 25.7.2012

## **Section 7 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

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

### **Background Papers:**

(1) GAP report, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011: Consultation on draft proposals to contribute to the development of a Third Sector Investment Plan

<http://modern.gov:8080/documents/g60678/Public%20reports%20pack,%20Thursday%2014-Jul-2011%2019.30,%20Grants%20Advisory%20Panel.pdf?T=10>

(2) GAP report, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011: Update on Third Sector Investment Plan proposals

<http://modern.gov:8080/documents/g60679/Public%20reports%20pack,%20Tuesday%2013-Sep-2011%2019.30,%20Grants%20Advisory%20Panel.pdf?T=10>