

Outcomes Based Grants

DRAFT PROCESS

1. Introduction

The Council recognises the valuable role played by the Third Sector in Harrow and is committed to supporting a robust and diverse sector, able to meet the challenges of a new funding environment. We face a tough public sector funding challenge which means we must establish a clear basis for entering funding relationships and achieve better value for money from limited resources.

The Harrow Compact sets out how local statutory sector bodies and the Third Sector will work together to address the challenges facing the borough while continuing to support a thriving Third Sector. As part of our support for the Compact we are committed to introducing fair, transparent and consistent approaches to funding arrangements across the Council.

Our recognition of this is underpinned by a financial commitment to maintain the budget of £669,360, distributing this between small grants and outcomes based grants to meet the needs of Harrow's residents and help the Council meet its priorities. In drawing up our plans for the Outcomes Based Grants process we have tried to strike a reasonable balance between recognising the needs of local organisations and the very tough budgetary challenges that Harrow faces.

During 2011 we developed the Third Sector Investment Plan setting out the core principles for how the Council will support and work with the Third Sector. This process is informed by key Council strategies such as the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis, the draft Health & Well Being Strategy, the Future of Cultural Services Review etc.

2. Aims

The aim is to invest in entrepreneurial, innovative and sustainable local organisations to help meet the following outcomes, which are in line with the Council's priorities and core outcomes:

Supporting and protecting people who are most in need:

- Harrow residents are able to lead independent and fulfilling lives
- Harrow residents are helped to overcome poverty, worklessness and homelessness

United and involved communities:

- Diversity is celebrated and people feel they get on well together
- Harrow residents participate in art, sport, leisure and cultural activity
- A strong and sustainable voluntary and Third Sector able to deliver diverse, efficient and tailored local services

Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe

- Harrow's streets, public buildings and spaces are kept clear of litter, fly-tipping and vandalism

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

- Harrow residents and businesses enjoy local economic prosperity.

3. Who can apply?

The programme is open to all Third Sector organisations using the agreed definition adopted in the Third Sector Strategy:

Not for profit independent, voluntary and community groups or organisations formed by local people, or those with a local interest, to improve the quality of lives for themselves and/or fellow citizens in Harrow. These include registered charities; voluntary organisations; community groups; faith groups involved in social action; community interest companies and social enterprises.

4. How the funding will be distributed across themes?

To enable us to achieve the above aims Outcome Based Grants will be delivered across four themed areas. Within each theme are listed specific outcomes with the maximum amount that organisations can apply for. Funding is available for up to three years.

The table below provides a description of each theme area. A complete list of themes and outcomes, is provided in a separate document called Outcome Based Grants - Themes and Outcomes (Appendix 2).

Organisations will be able to apply for no more than one theme and outcome unless there is a very strong justification for doing so. Consortia bids between larger and smaller organisations will be encouraged.

	Theme area	Brief description	Maximum funding award per annum
1.	Supporting and protecting people who are most in need	Support for organisations providing direct services. Support for initiatives around supporting independent living, advice services, reducing the life expectancy gap and improving mental health and wellbeing,	£50,000? or max budget £200,000 for theme
2.	United and involved communities	Community cohesion and leadership, community networks and innovative partnerships, community arts, heritage and sports organisations facilitating	£50,000? or max budget £200,000 for theme

		community engagement	
3	Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe	Supporting environmental projects, biodiversity, community safety, maintenance of open spaces, perception of crime or fear of crime, diversionary activity	£20,000? or max budget £75,000 for theme
4	Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses.		£20,000? or max budget £75,000 for theme

5. Costs that can be applied for?

Needs vary across the Third Sector and as long as organisations can demonstrate that Council investment enables the organisation to deliver services that meet the outcomes, we can be flexible about the costs that are eligible for funding. However no capital costs will be funded.

As a guide, we will consider the following types of costs:

- Salaries of key staff;
- Overheads including rent;
- Business planning and fundraising support;
- Volunteer recruitment, training and support;
- Innovation, modernisation, adaptation to new funding/operating environments e.g. developing models of social enterprise, co-locating services, sharing resources, achieving efficiencies;
- Quality assurance schemes;
- Initiatives to strengthen governance arrangements;
- Partnership working, networking and consortia development;
- Community outreach and development of new services;
- Communications and marketing; and
- Costs associated with providing support to other organisations

Organisations should also be applying for and receiving income from a mix of funding sources (which could include funding from other council departments).

6. Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Is able to provide relevant activities / services as required by the criteria (up to 20 points)
- Meets the needs / outcomes specified (up to 20 points)

- Meets the expected quality and performance standards (up to 15 points)
- Provides value for money (up to 15 points)
- Demonstrates commitment to access additional funding (up to 10 points)
- Promotes community cohesion, equality and diversity, social inclusion and sustainability (up to 10 points)
- Demonstrates commitment to explore joint working with other organisations (up to 10 points)

In reaching a decision we will also seek to ensure that resources are

- fairly distributed across the borough
- fairly and appropriately apportioned across the Outcome areas
- can be accessed by all sections of the local community.
- provide quality and value for money against competing bids

7. Application process

The application process is electronic.

8. Timetable

Date	Action
	Application process opens
	Deadline for online applications
	Evaluation of applications
	Notification of successful and unsuccessful applications

9. After submissions have been received

Once a submission has been received further supporting evidence may be requested at any time to substantiate the information contained in the application. Any requested supporting information must be submitted within 48 hours as the Council will assume that the information is readily available.

Submissions will be evaluated by a panel of officers.

10. Successful submissions

New contracts will be in place for successful organisations no later than 1st April 2013.

As we are working to a fixed budget it will not be possible to vary payments from year-to-year and organisations should plan ahead on the basis that funding they receive will be reduced in years two and three. There will also be no inflation applied to the funding.

Key performance indicators will be negotiated each year and will form part of a formal agreement with the Council. Organisations will be required to submit monitoring returns and a full report at year end.

11. Unsuccessful submissions / Appeals

Options

Options: We hold an appeal process or there is no appeal on the decision of the Assessment Panel.

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