

## GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2014/15

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Douglas Mills
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Nigel Cramb: Administration Directorate
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A Voluntary Sector core grant Recommendations 2014-15 Appendix B Transport grant recommendations 2014-15 Appendix C Assessment of grant applications 2014-15

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	To agree the Council's 2014/15 Voluntary Sector Grants budget (Core funding) and Transport grants. To agree the Council's 2014/15 contribution to the London Councils Grants scheme.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The grants budget is used to support a range of Voluntary Sector activity, which supports the Council in achieving its priorities and objectives.. The transport grant is used to facilitate the transport needs of members of a number of small voluntary organisations.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	The report proposes the allocation of £1,751,956 core funding grants for the 2014/15 financial year from a budget of £1,815,058 and the allocation of £54,940 to support the provision of transport.  The report also proposes making provision to enable a contribution to the London Councils Grant scheme of £278,085. If agreed, this would result in an estimated under spend of £27,130 compared to budgets in 2014/15.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Corporate Services and Partnerships
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the Cabinet agrees:**

- 1. The overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector of £1,751,956 for the provision of core grant funding for the 2014/15 financial year and specific awards as set out in the schedule - Appendix A.**
- 2. Grants totalling £54,940 to organisations to enable the provision of transport as set out in Appendix B.**
- 3. Approve the Council's 2014/15 contribution of £278,085 to the London Councils Grants scheme.**
- 4. That the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration be delegated authority to agree any additional funding to HAVS for the 2014/15 financial year.**
- 5. That the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration be delegated authority to agree the terms and conditions of the 2014/15 small grants programme.**

## **INFORMATION**

### **Reasons for recommendation**

The Council continues to be a long term financial supporter of the Borough's voluntary sector and acknowledges the important role particularly in providing services that residents value. As such, the Council has committed significant levels of funding to a range of voluntary sector organisations based in the Borough.

The Council seeks to maximise the benefits to residents from investment in Hillingdon's voluntary sector and to ensure value for money in the current economic climate. The increased budget agreed by the Cabinet in recent years has served to strengthen Hillingdon's commitment to the voluntary sector in key areas and provide significant additional investment.

### **Alternative options considered / risk management**

The Cabinet has the following alternative options:

- 1 Agree the recommendations subject to any changes the Cabinet wishes to make or;
- 2 Reject one or more of the recommendations.

In respect of the Council's contribution to the London Councils Grant Scheme, the Council has the option of not approving its contribution. However, for the overall London grants scheme to be approved, at least two thirds of the 32 London boroughs plus the City of London must approve their individual budget contribution. If there is no agreement, under the legislation governing the grants scheme, the overall level of expenditure for the Grants Committee reverts back to the previous year's budget. Last year's budget was set at a higher level so this would not result in savings for the Council.

Also included in the Cabinet agenda there is a report on the award of Community Support Services contracts. It is recognised that several organisations that have been recipients

of long term support from the Corporate Grant budget are being considered for contracts. Through continued support via core grants local groups have become increasingly professional and able to prove themselves in a competitive market.

### **Comments of Policy Overview Committee**

Grants will be discussed at the Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee's meeting in January 2014 and any comments reported back to Cabinet.

### **Supporting Information**

The voluntary sector core grants budget is unique in offering core funding to organisations that are seen to be key partners and offer services that contribute to the Council's priorities and the well-being of residents. Recipients with stable core support are often able to draw down external funding.

### **2013/14 Financial Year**

For the 2012/13 financial year, the Council significantly increased the level of funding it committed via the core grants budget, which was in contrast with the sizeable reductions that have been made by other Councils. This increased level of funding was again made available for 2013/14.

### **2013/14 Recommendations**

The Cabinet, in agreeing the recommendations on the level of funding for 2013/14 financial year, made provision for additional levels of financial support to be offered to Heathrow Travel Care and Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS), subject to the funding being justified or required and with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration.

### **Heathrow Travel Care**

The request from Heathrow Travel Care was in part to make their Emergency Planning Officer a full time permanent post and, thereby, enable them to respond more effectively to major issues and emergency situations. Whilst supportive of the application, there was concern over the level of reserves the organisation carried and it was agreed to discuss the situation with Heathrow Travel Care in more detail. Heathrow Travel Care have now appointed a full time Emergency Planning Officer and this will, over a period of time, serve to reduce the level of reserves the organisation holds. An increase in funding is not, therefore, considered necessary for 2014/15.

### **Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS)**

The additional funding potentially available to HAVS in 2013/14 was subject to the HAVS continuing to make headway in demonstrating that it was sustainable and had a viable business strategy. HAVS has been actively involved in a number of West London initiatives and has reviewed its governance. The Council is keen to support improvements in the performance of HAVS volunteering services and its support for small voluntary groups. An initial business plan was produced but did not provide the focus or detail that could justify additional core grant funding. Further discussions are ongoing relating to HAVS business strategy.

It is recommended that the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Commerce and Regeneration be delegated authority to agree some additional funding once the Council is reassured that HAVS has a viable business strategy.

### **Support to local Chambers of commerce**

Cabinet agreed in December 2012 that the element of the grants budget earmarked for small grants be used to pump prime and develop new ideas to stimulate initiatives by local chambers of commerce and retail associations.

The promotion proved to be popular, with seven applications from small trade associations and local chambers. The average award was in the region of £3,000 per application. The funding has been committed to a series of initiatives aimed at boosting trade and encouraging and supporting activity in local high streets. The small grants programme to chambers also complements the Council's Economic Development and Regeneration programme and Town Centre Development projects.

### **2014/15 recommendations**

The majority of the recommendations on the level of funding to be offered to organisations are consistent with those offered for the 2013/14 financial year. A detailed analysis of each application together with financial comments is attached as Appendix C.

There are a small number of exceptions where an increased level of grant or further work with an organisation is recommended. These are:

### **Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations Summer Playschemes**

The Council has been a long term supporter of the Playscheme programme, which is now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year and provides supported summer holiday play schemes in community association buildings across the Borough. The Association currently delivers nine schemes and HFCA propose extending the programme so it is delivered from ten venues and to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A modest increase of £3,500 taking the grant to £23,500 for 2014/15 is recommended.

### **Cancer Community Centre**

The Council commenced funding support in 2012/13. The funding has made a considerable difference to the way the organisation is able to operate and offer its services; however it is clear that with the current level of finance available, running the Centre continues to be a challenge. A modest increase in funding of £5,000, giving an annual contribution of £20,000 should have a positive impact in terms of how the centre is managed and to support more staff hours.

### **Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support**

The Council has been a long term supporter of Hillingdon Autistic Care. (HACS). HACS supports families who have children on the autistic spectrum and provides advice guidance and training. HACS expanded its services in recent years as a result of funding from the National Lottery and Hillingdon Community Trust. These sources of funding are now due to end and the organisation is facing a shortfall to meet current commitments. HACS has produced a development plan and fundraising strategy. One of the key components is the creation of Business Development post, which would be responsible for future fundraising. They have requested an increase grant for this year in order to assist in delivering their development plan.

It is recognised that the role the organisation plays in supporting families is valuable to residents therefore an increase of £45,000 is recommended. This should enable the organisation to start delivering the development and fundraising strategy. This will bring the Council's 2014/15 commitment to £70,000.

### **Royal Voluntary Service**

The Council began supporting the RVS (previously the WRVS) Dementia care scheme in 2012/13. The organisation has not made the progress in delivering and developing the service as was originally envisaged. The RVS has continued to work with both the Council and other partners such as Age UK Hillingdon to lay the foundations of a Dementia care service. Not all of the £45,000 allocated by the Council was needed for 2013/14 and the reduced allocation requested for 2014/15 is a reflection of this.

### **Michael Sobell House Hospice**

The Council has received a request from Michael Sobell House Hospice. The organisation is well known and well regarded in the Borough for providing a range of support to residents facing life-limiting illness. The organisation does not receive statutory funding but relies on fund raising. The application advises that funding is sought to support the Rehabilitation service. Whilst acknowledging the tremendous work the hospice does in the local community, core grant funding would not usually be offered to an organisation with this level of reserves. At present the hospice hold some 18 months running costs, equating to £1,359,000 at the time the application was submitted.

### **Small Grants**

The development of a Small Grant budget has been a very useful and cost effective method of pump priming and supporting new initiatives across the Borough. It is again proposed to set aside £50,000 from the Core grants budget to support a small grants programme.

Details of the focus for 2014/15 small grants scheme will be worked up in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration.

### **Transport Grants**

In addition to the funding the Council offers to support the core costs of organisations it has traditionally awarded grants to support some of the Borough's smaller voluntary groups. These grants are used to meet the transport needs of group members. The organisations supported from this budget cater mainly for clients with disabilities who require specialist transport and that would find it challenging to travel by public transport. The budget to support these organisations for 2014/15 is £54,940. Details of the organisations and the level of grant recommended are attached as Appendix (B).

### **London Councils Grant Scheme**

For the 2013/14 financial year the Council committed £302,227 to the London Councils Grant Scheme.

The scheme supports voluntary sector activity and specifically funds voluntary organisations across all 32 London authorities and the City of London.

On 8<sup>th</sup> November London Councils Leaders Committee agreed that overall borough contributions for 2014/15 would again total £9m. Hillingdon's contribution would have been £305,215; a small increase due to Hillingdon's percentage of London's total population rising slightly based on the Office of National Statistics mid year population estimates. This has been revised down by £27,130 due to the one off rebate from London Councils in respect of the 2013/14 contribution, meaning next year's total contribution will be £278,085.

It is anticipated that the individual boroughs will agree to accept the recommendations on their contributions.

### **Financial Implications**

This report proposes the allocation of £1,751,956 core funding grants for the 2014/15 financial year from a budget of £ 1,815,058, leaving an unallocated balance of £63,102. A full review of the financial statements and application forms of each organisation has been undertaken and brief comments have been included in the Summary of Applications 2014/15. The report also recommends the full allocation of the budget of £54,540 to support the provision of transport.

### **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

#### **Consultation / What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

The overall effect of these proposals will be to strengthen and support Hillingdon's voluntary sector with new growth and initiatives, which will directly benefit residents.

#### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

No formal consultation has been undertaken on the proposals for agreement at this Cabinet.

### **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that the budgetary position set out above is consistent with the draft 2014/15 revenue budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda. The recommendations contained within this report would broadly maintain funding to the voluntary sector at 2013/14 levels, enabling the sector to continue to provide valued support to residents

#### **Legal**

The Localism Act 2011 introduces a power of general competence which provides local authorities with the power to do anything that individuals may generally do. It includes the power for Council to make grant payments to voluntary organisations.

With regard to the London Councils Grant Scheme, this Scheme is established under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. As stated in the report, if two-thirds of the London boroughs do not approve their individual budget contribution, the previous year's budget will continue to apply to the Scheme.

**Relevant Service Groups**

Relevant teams in Residents Services, Adult Social Care and Children and Young Peoples Services have been consulted on the proposals.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL

**APPENDIX  
A**

**CORPORATE VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2014-15**

<b>Organisations</b>	<b>GRANT AWARDED 2013-14</b>	<b>BIDS 2014-15</b>	<b>RECS 14-15</b>
Age UK Hillingdon	295,000	295,000	295,000
Cancer Community Centre	15,000	20,000	20,000
Crossroads	135,000	135,000	135,000
Crown Centre for the Deaf	10,000	19,000	10,000
DASH	85,000	85,000	85,000
EACH - Pukaar	30,000	30,000	30,000
HAVS + Participation Fund	47,000	92,000	47,000
Heathrow Travel Care	30,000	45,000	30,000
Hillingdon Aids Response Trust	15,000	20,000	15,000
Hillingdon Carers	105,000	105,000	105,000
Hillingdon Citizens Advice Bureau Service	305,000	305,000	305,000
Hillingdon MIND	70,000	75,000	70,000
Hillingdon Shopmobility	25,000	22,000	22,000
Hillingdon Women's Centre	25,000	33,508	25,000
Mencap Jubilee Pool	5,000	5,000	5,000
MHA - Northwood Live at Home Scheme	15,000	15,000	15,000
RELATE London North West	12,000	13,800	12,000
Samaritans Hillingdon	3,000	5,000	3,000
Victim Support Hillingdon	10,000	10,000	10,000
Royal Voluntary Services	45,000	40,000	40,000
Bell Farm Christian Centre	25,216	47,157	25,216
Hestia	45,000	45,000	45,000
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support	25,000	70,000	70,000
Hillingdon Federation of Community Association - Playschemes	20,000	23,500	23,500
Homestart Hillingdon	120,000	120,000	120,000
P3	42,000	42,000	42,000
Uxbridge Child Contact Centre	2,900	2,990	2,990
Groundwork South	33,000	33,000	33,000
Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	2,500	2,500	2,500
Hillingdon Community Transport	32,000	32,000	32,000
Hillingdon Federation of Community Association	15,000	15,000	15,000
Hillingdon Natural History Society	1,000	1,000	1,000
London Wildlife Trust (Hillingdon)	10,000	10,000	10,000
Pinner & Ruislip Beekeepers Assoc	750	750	750
<b>Small Grants Scheme</b>			
Small Grants	50,000	50,000	50,000
<b>New Application Received</b>			
Michael Sobell Hospice House	0	35,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,706,366.00</b>	<b>1,900,205</b>	<b>1,751,956</b>

**TRANSPORT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2014/15**
**APPENDIX B**

GRANT TO	AWARD 2013/14 £'s	RECOMMENDED 2014/15 £'s	COMMENTS
As One Club	900	900	Club has been in existence since 1982. Supports 15 people with a physical disability aged over 25. The group meets once a month at Grassy Meadow Day Centre.
Hayes and Harlington Social Club for the Blind	4,300	4,300	Club was started in 1939. Supports 10 older residents and meets alternate Mondays at Barnhill Community Centre.
Hayes Stroke Club	3,400	3,400	Club has been in existence since 1978. Supports up to 18 people who are living with stroke and meets on a fortnightly basis at Barnhill Community Centre.
Healing Gardens - (Groundwork South)	800	800	This was established in 1997. This organisation supports 13 people per month with learning and/or physical disabilities and also people with mental health needs and enables them to attend monthly outings at various gardens and indoor meetings at Christchurch, Uxbridge or the Iver Nature Reserve.
Jubilee Club	3,640	3,640	Club started in 1987. It meets on a monthly basis at Grassy Meadow Day Centre and Christchurch, Uxbridge and supports 20 disabled residents, most of whom are older people.
Mencap (North)	7,000	7,000	Club also started in 1958 and is based at the Wren Centre, Bourne Court in South Ruislip. Group supports up to 80 people with learning and physical disabilities and their families with weekly meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. It also provides 15 outings a year for up to 40 people and one holiday a year for up to 26 people.
Mencap (South)	8,500	8,500	Club started in 1958 and meets at Grassy Meadow Day Centre. It supports up to a 150 people with learning disabilities with evening clubs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, dance classes on Saturdays and monthly meetings on a Sunday.
Phoenix Blind Club	1,000	1,000	Group was established in 1997 and is for residents who are registered blind or partially sighted. It supports 21 residents and meets monthly at the 4th Ruislip Scout HQ.
Shopmobility	2,000	2,000	Shopmobility has been based in The Chimes since 2001 and provides access to powered and manual wheelchairs and powered scooters to anyone with limited mobility to enable them to mobilise around Uxbridge town centre. The funding contributes to the maintenance of equipment.
Social Activities for Multiple Sclerosis (SAMS)	2,000	2,000	SAMS started in 1989 and now supports 648 people living with MS and their partners/carers. The funding is for wheelchair accessible transport to enable club members to attend a social evening once a month and also a club outing once a month.

Society for Disabled Artists (SODA)	5,000	5,000	Group started in 1982 to encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of the visual arts by disabled people and to use these arts as a therapy, recreation and possible route to employment. The group supports 50 Hillingdon residents, most of whom are older people.
Uxbridge Social Club for the Blind	3,000	3,000	Group started in 1938. It meets once a month at Christchurch, Uxbridge and supports 11 residents over 75 who are blind or partially sighted.
Windmill Club for People with Disabilities.	13,000	13,000	Group started in 1974. It meets once a week at Hillingdon Baptist Church and supports 19 disabled residents aged between 36 and 56.
Pelican Club	400	400	Group supporting blind and partially sighted residents aged 75+.
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,940</b>	<b>54,940</b>	