

## GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2015/16

<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 2015-16 Appendix B Transport grant recommendations 2015-16 Appendix C Assessment of grant applications 2015-16 Appendix D Equalities Impact Assessment

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	Cabinet is asked to agree the Council's 2015/16 Voluntary Sector Grants budget (core funding) and Transport grants. Additionally, to agree the Council's 2015/16 contribution to the London Councils Grants scheme.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	<b>Putting our Residents First: Our People; Our Natural Environment; Financial Management</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 £1,723,700 core funding grants for the 2015/16 financial year and the allocation of £54,140 to support the provision of transport.  The report also proposes making provision to enable a contribution to the London Councils Grant scheme of £306,665 a £1,450 increase on last year's allocation.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Corporate Services and Partnerships
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **That Cabinet agrees:**

- 1. The overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector of £1,723,700 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 £54,140 to organisations to enable the provision of transport as set out in Appendix B,**
- 3. The Council's 2015/16 contribution of £306,665 to the London Councils Grants scheme and;**
- 4. That the Chief Executive be delegated authority to agree the terms and conditions of the 2015/16 small grants programme and any subsequent grant that may be considered appropriate in light of progress by Hillingdon Association of Voluntary Services, with any decisions subject to the full agreement of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community, Commerce and Regeneration.**

## **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 the sector provides for residents. 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.

The Cabinet has previously acknowledged that several organisations that have been recipients of long term support from the Corporate Grant budget have secured Community Support Service Contracts from the Council. Through continued support via core grants local groups have become increasingly professional and able to prove themselves in a competitive market.

### **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.

### **Comments from the Policy Overview Committees**

As usual, the Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee will consider the grants proposed by Cabinet at its meeting on 8 January 2015 and report any comments back to the subsequent Cabinet meeting.

### **Supporting Information**

The voluntary sector core grants budget is unique in offering core funding to organisations that are 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. Details of funding secured by each organisation is detailed in the assessment of applications, Appendix C.

### **2015/16 recommendations**

The majority of the recommendations on the level of funding to be offered to organisations are consistent with those offered for the 2014/15 financial year. A detailed analysis of each application together with financial comments is attached as Appendix C.

### **HAVS**

It is not recommended, at this time, to offer HAVS core funding for the 2015/16 financial year. This recommendation is not made lightly as HAVS has in the past been a lead partner in many Council / voluntary sector initiatives. The performance over recent years however, has failed to meet Council's expectations.

Cabinet will recall that in January 2012 it agreed a reduction of 50% to the grant award to HAVS for the 2012/13 financial year. This decision was in line with the commitment to prioritise investment in front line voluntary services which directly benefit residents and to withdraw support from organisations offering help to other organisations or "Tier 2" bodies.

Cabinet also acknowledged that there were areas of HAVS work, namely supporting the development of smaller voluntary groups and supporting volunteering, that were of particular value to the Council and residents.

Over the past two financial years the Council has tried to encourage HAVS to refocus and re-evaluate its priorities, with the offer of possible enhanced funding if change was delivered, but progress has been disappointing slow. In addition, HAVS have failed to provide monitoring information in a timely way.

HAVS 2015 / 16 application for funding also does not meet the Council's expectations and taken with the response over the last two years, it is not felt possible at this time to recommend core funding for the 2015/16 financial year.

Since the submission of the application for the 2015/16 financial year, however there have been some important changes at HAVS relating to personnel and the organisational structure. The Management Committee has increased and shown itself as taking a lead and the Chief Executive has left. The organisation is keen to demonstrate its value to the authority and work with the Council to expand the capacity of the Borough's voluntary sector.

Officers will continue to work with HAVS, and if the early signs of improvement in their strategic direction continue, with demonstrable benefits to Hillingdon residents in terms of volunteering and small group support, officers may consider advising the Cabinet Member and Leader to reconsider offering HAVS the previous core grant.

An assessment of the impact on HAVS and its member groups of withdrawal of funding is attached at Appendix D. Potential mitigating actions against any adverse effects is proposed should this become the case.

### **Changes in the level of funding**

Whilst the majority of organisations are recommended to receive funding at the same level as 2014-15 there are a small number of exceptions where an increased level of grant or further work with an organisation is recommended. The 2014/15 programme also included two one-off grants to Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support and to Hillingdon Citizens Advice Bureau which are not replicated for 2015/16 (see Appendices A and C) and two new applications for funding were received. The recommended changes are:

#### **DASH**

DASH is the Borough's lead organisation supporting residents with disabilities. Their 2015/16 application highlights changes to disability benefits; people with disabilities now having to claim the new Personal Independence Payment. DASH has been supporting residents affected by these changes and predicts that they will see a significant increase in residents seeking support with claims. Furthermore, they have been expanding their activities to include more work with children and young people. DASH has requested a modest increase in order to support the increased workload and officers are sympathetic to this request.

#### **Bell Farm**

Bell Farm centre has continued to be a committed partner and a key service deliverer in West Drayton. They have in recent years expanded their services both to the local residents and across a wider geographical area. Officers agree with the application's assessment that additional core funding is required to enable the organisation to maintain the current level of service delivery and deliver the objectives of its business plan. The recommended increase of £25,000 will enable the recruitment of a part time Operations Manager. Officers are hopeful that this contribution will be matched by Hillingdon Community Trust to enable a full time post to be created.

### ***New application - Michael Sobell House Hospice***

The Council has received a further 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 its fund raising efforts and donations. The application advises that funding is sought to support the Rehabilitation service. Whilst acknowledging the tremendous work the hospice does in the local community, it is not considered that corporate grants programme is an appropriate funding stream for a hospice service. It is also noted that the Hospice continues to hold approximately 9.5 months of unrestricted reserve. The organisation benefited this year from being the Mayor's charity and also from the Leader's Recycling Initiative (£30,000) which combined total more than the amount requested.

### ***New Application - Friends of the 11(F) Group Operations Room***

The 'Friends' have submitted a bid for funds to assist in maximising the potential of the World War Two bunker on St Andrew's Park. Supporting volunteer work at this important venue is consistent with Council plans for protecting heritage and promoting the history of the Borough. In recognition of the role in developing the visitor experience it is recommended that an initial grant of £6,000 is made.

### **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 2015/16 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 2015/16 is £54,140. Details of the organisations and the level of grant recommended are attached as Appendix (B).

### **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. For the 2014/15 financial year the Council committed £278,085 to the London Councils Grant Scheme, the agreed contribution for 2014/15 of £305,216 having been revised down by £27,130 due to the one off rebate.

On 26th November 2014 London Councils Grants Committee agreed that overall borough contributions for 2015/16 would again total £9,000,000. Hillingdon's contribution is

£306,665 compared to £305,215 an increase of £1,450. Individual borough contributions are based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2013, with Hillingdon's % of London's total population increasing slightly from 3.39% to 3.41%.

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

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

### **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.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and confirms that the sufficient budgetary provision is in place to support the range of grant awards outlined in this report. Alongside the broader support offered to the voluntary sector through the Council's voluntary sector leasing policy and non-domestic rate discounts, this programme of grants enables these groups to support delivery of services 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.

In making grants to voluntary organisations, the Council is required to obtain value for money for Borough Residents. The absence of a credible Business Plan from HAVS, leads Officers to recommend that the Council no longer provides grant funding to HAVS.

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) explains that the withdrawal of funding might cause possible detriment to some Borough Residents, but that any adverse effects are likely to be minimal because HAVS does not provide services directly to Borough Residents.

Nonetheless the EIA explains that Officers will monitor any impacts that withdrawal of funding from HAVS may have and to consider whether any ameliorative action is required

by the Council. This will help demonstrate that the Council is meeting its duty under Section 149 of the Equalities Act 2010 to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

### **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**

Previous Cabinet reports on voluntary sector grants.

<b>Corporate Voluntary Sector Grant Recommendations 2015-16</b>			
<b>Annual Grants Organisations</b>	<b>Grant Awarded 2014-15</b>	<b>Grant Request 2015-16</b>	<b>Grant Recs</b>
<b>ADULT SOCIAL CARE</b>			
Age UK Hillingdon	295,000	295,000	295,000
Community Cancer Centre	20,000	25,000	20,000
Carers Trust Hillingdon (previously Crossroads Care)	135,000	135,000	135,000
Crown Centre for the Deaf	10,000	10,000	10,000
DASH	85,000	98,000	98,000
EACH - Pukaar	30,000	30,000	30,000
HAVS + Participation Fund	47,000	92,000	0
Heathrow Travel Care	30,000	30,000	30,000
Hillingdon Aids Response Trust	15,000	15,000	15,000
Hillingdon Carers	105,000	115,000	105,000
Hillingdon Citizens Advice Bureau	280,000	284,760	280,000
Hillingdon Citizens Advice Bureau	25,000	0	0
Hillingdon MIND	70,000	84,361	70,000
Hillingdon Shopmobility	22,000	22,000	22,000
Hillingdon Women's Centre	25,000	35,000	25,000
Mencap Jubilee Pool	5,000	5,000	5,000
MHA - Northwood Live at Home	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	14,000	10,000
RVS (Royal Voluntary Service)	40,000	40,000	40,000
<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES SERVICES</b>			
Bell Farm Christian Centre	25,216	50,000	50,000
Hestia	45,000	48,722	45,000
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support	70,000	70,000	70,000
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support - (additional one off grant)	31,000	0	0
Hillingdon Federation of Community Association - Playschemes	23,500	24,000	23,500
Homestart Hillingdon	120,000	120,000	120,000
P3	42,000	42,000	42,000
Uxbridge Child Contact Centre	2,990	2,950	2,950
<b>RESIDENTS SERVICES</b>			
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	16,500	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>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>50,000</b>

<b>NEW APPLICATIONS 2015/16</b>			
Michael Sobell House Hospice	0	36,800	0
Friends of No 11(F) Group Operations Rm	0	12,000	6,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,782,956</b>	<b>1,916,143</b>	<b>1,723,700</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	0	Club will close on 31.03.15.
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>54,140</b>	