

## GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2017/18 FINANCIAL YEAR

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Douglas Mills
<b>Cabinet Portfolio</b>	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
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<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A : Voluntary Sector core grant Recommendations 2017-18 Appendix B : Transport grant recommendations 2017-18 Appendix C : Assessment of core grant applications 2017-18

### HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	Cabinet is asked to agree the Council's 2017/18 Voluntary Sector Grants budget (core funding) and Transport grants. In addition, to agree the Council's 2017/18 contribution to the London Councils Grants scheme.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	This report contributes to the following Council objectives: <i>Our People; Our Natural Environment; Financial Management.</i>  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 £1,681,200 core funding grants for the 2017/18 financial year and the allocation of £50,513 to support the provision of transport. The report also proposes making provision to enable a contribution to the London Councils Grant scheme of <b>£263,222.</b>
<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 £1,681,200 for the provision of core grant funding for the 2017/18 financial year and specific awards as set out in the schedule - Appendix A.**
- 2. Grants totalling £50,513 to organisations to enable the provision of transport as set out in Appendix B.**
- 3. The Council's 2016/17 contribution of £263,222 to the London Councils Grants scheme.**

## **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 challenging time for local government finances.

The ongoing commitment of significant financial support to the Borough's voluntary sector by the Council has served to sustain a wide range of voluntary sector activity. The certainty of core funding has provided a platform for many groups to expand activity, diversify to meet new demands, or to pursue new initiatives.

### **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, which for Hillingdon was £308,502.

## **Comments of Policy Overview Committee**

As in previous years, the Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee will consider the grants proposed at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 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 attract additional income either via other funders or by securing contracts. Detail of the funding secured by each organisation is contained in the assessments of each application, Appendix C.

## **2017/18 Recommendations**

An analysis of each application together with financial comments is attached as Appendix C. Where applicable, in the individual assessment of applications, reference is made to issues that the organisation is asked to address in respect of the funding offered.

## **Current funding climate**

In assessing the grant applications officers have noted a decline in the levels of external funding some organisations are able to secure. This reflects the changing nature of voluntary sector funding; that of increased competition in a harsher financial climate. Whilst this situation does not apply to all organisations in receipt of core funding, it is noticeable that the smaller groups and particularly those without national links or part of a consortium are most affected by this trend. The move to commissioning and consolidation of contracts is having an effect, with some larger organisations reliant on bigger contracts, which now encompass smaller contract pots that were previously held by smaller groups. This combined with an increasing level of detail and complexity required of some funding streams has further impacted on levels of income.

For the last few years the grants reports have touched upon on the levels of reserves that some organisations had been holding. It acknowledged that whilst the majority were holding levels of reserves commensurate with the level of need and risk some organisations appeared to be holding funds that were above those that were likely to be required. This trend appears to be coming to an end and officers have noticed in some organisations are getting to levels of reserves that are low and could, in some circumstances, give rise to cash flow issues. Officers will work with the organisations in question to see what strategies can be applied to address such issues.

For organisations seeking funding opportunities, social media and the internet is the primary source of information. Smaller voluntary groups are reporting that the former annual funding fair, where organisations were able to meet potential funders face to face and receive advice on making applications is missed. In order to

support the Borough's smaller voluntary sector groups, officers together with sector representatives, will explore the potential for delivering a funding advice event. Pan London plans are also currently being developed for a co-ordinated provision of support to the sector and to volunteering, which officers will seek to support.

## **New Applications**

The Council has received one new application from Outside Chance an organisation previously not funded by the Council. A detailed assessment of each of the applications is included in Appendix C. The comment is summarised below.

### **Outside Chance**

Outside Chance is an organisation that provides schools with a support programme that delivers, anti-crime, anti-gang, age appropriate workshops in primary and secondary schools. Targeted at year 6 & 7 stage pupils, students are taught how to safely report bullying and hate crime in all its forms.

Outside Chance already operates in four London boroughs including Hillingdon and also runs a young offender programme and workshops on sexually transmitted infections and relationship management for girls. In 2015/16 sessions were run in 8 primary schools (672 students) and 4 secondary schools (882 students) in Hillingdon. The proposal is to deliver sessions to a further 1,200 students in Hillingdon for 2017-18. The initial workshop programme was funded by Heathrow Community Fund. Whilst the service is popular and well received, the Core Grants budget is not considered the appropriate source of funding. There is a case that should schools value this type of support then they should be prioritising this initiative and making budget provision so that the service can be purchased direct from Outside Chance, rather than rely of ongoing core grant support to run workshops in schools.

### **Funding Levels**

Officers, having assessed the applications, are making recommendations for levels of funding for the 2017/18 financial year at the same amounts as those for the 2016/17 awards. Officers are pleased to report of particular note, a first time funded group, Recycle a bike has gone from strength to strength.

### **Recycle a bike (RAB)**

The Council first committed funding to RAB in December 2015, when it agreed a contribution to this relatively new charity which supports people with mental health issues to gain skills in bicycle repair and work experience in retail. It successfully supported 30 plus residents last year, operating as a social enterprise, recycling discarded and donated old bikes, refurbishing and selling them on.

The December 2015 report recommended funding over the next two financial years, which would enable the employment of a full time co-ordinator and support RAB to become self sufficient. Cabinet agreed funding of £25,000 for 2016/7, made up of £13,000 from the grants budget and a further £12,000 from section 106 employment

training funds. Cabinet agreed that support for 2017/18 would be considered on its merits at the next grants round based on progress the organisation had made. Officers are pleased to advise that the organisation has shown considerable progress. RAB moved to Council owned premises in Fassnidge Park during the summer of 2016, having transformed a semi derelict store into a workshop and retail space. Furthermore at the Council's request the RAB have taken over the operation of the cafe in Fassnidge Park. RAB have transformed a rundown building into an attractive vibrant facility and are using the cafe to offer further training for residents with mental health challenges. Officers, therefore, recommend a contribution for the 2017/18 financial year of £20,000. As for the 2016/17 financial year officers will seek to identify a proportion of the grant awarded from section 106 or other budgets on top of the £13,000 core grant.

### **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 which have been 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 proposed grants budget to support these organisations for 2017/18 is £50,513. 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.

On 23rd November 2016 the London Councils Grants Committee agreed that its overall budget for the London Council's Grants scheme for 2017/18 would total £8,000,000.

The level of budget and individual constituent Council contributions has reduced from the level agreed for the 2016/17 budget from a base line £9,000,000.

Hillingdon's contribution for 2017/18 is £263,222 a decrease of £45,280 over the Council's 2015/16 contribution of £308,502.

The 2016/17 contribution was offset by a one off reduction in funding achieved by decreasing the amount of reserves the Grants Committee holds. Hillingdon's one off reduction was £16,659 making its actual contribution for 2016/17 to the London Council's Grants scheme £291,843.

Individual borough contributions are based on the Office of National Statistics mid-year population estimates for June 2015, with Hillingdon's percentage of London's total population increasing slightly from 3.37% to 3.43%.

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

## **Financial Implications**

This report proposes the allocation of £1,681,200 core funding grants for the 2017/18 financial year. The draft 2017/18 budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of award. A full review of the financial statements and application forms of each organisation has been undertaken and brief financial commentary has been included for each organisation in Appendix C to this report.

Recommendations also include the full allocation of Transport Grant budgets for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix B to this report, and a reduced contribution to the London Councils Grant Committee of £263,222, both of which to be contained within existing planned revenue resources and budget proposals.

## **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 2017/18 draft budget has been updated to fund the level of grant award and reduced contribution to the London Borough Grants Scheme detailed 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.

To ensure value for money is achieved, the current financial standing and longer term financial viability of recommended organisations, in conjunction with service provision provided to Hillingdon residents, have been reviewed and considered by Officers alongside grant bids.

### **Legal**

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council 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, Finance, Adult Social Care and Children and Young Peoples Services have been consulted on the proposals.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Previous Cabinet reports.

<b>Corporate Voluntary Sector Grant Recommendations 2017-18</b>			
<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Grant Award 16-17</b>	<b>Grant Request 17-18</b>	<b>Grant Rec 17-18</b>
<b>Adult Social Care</b>			
Age UK Hillingdon	270,000	270,000	270,000
Community Cancer Centre	20,000	30,000	20,000
Carers Trust Thames (previously Crossroads Care)	135,000	135,000	135,000
Crown Centre for the Deaf	10,000	10,000	10,000
DASH	98,000	98,000	98,000
EACH - Pukaar	30,000	30,000	30,000
Heathrow Travel Care	30,000	30,000	30,000
Hillingdon Aids Response Trust	15,000	15,000	15,000
Hillingdon Carers	105,000	120,000	105,000
Hillingdon Citizens Advice Bureau	280,000	280,000	280,000
Hillingdon MIND	70,000	85,000	70,000
Hillingdon Shopmobility	22,000	22,000	22,000
Hillingdon Women's Centre	25,000	32,000	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	13,013	12,000
Samaritans Hillingdon	3,000	5,000	3,000
Victim Support Hillingdon	10,000	10,540	10,000
RVS (Royal Voluntary Service)	40,000	40,000	40,000
Recycle-A-Bike	13,000	20,000	13,000
<b>CHILDREN &amp; FAMILIES SERVICES</b>			
Bell Farm Christian Centre	50,000	55,000	50,000
Centre of ADHD and Autism Support	10,000	23,805	10,000
Hestia	44,950	44,984	44,950
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support	40,000	62,500	40,000
Hillingdon Federation of Community Association - Playschemes	23,500	23,500	23,500
Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre	54,500	54,600	54,500
Homestart Hillingdon	120,000	120,000	120,000
P3	42,000	42,000	42,000
Uxbridge Child Contact Centre	3,000	3,910	3,000
<b>RESIDENTS SERVICES</b>			
Friends of No 11(F) Group Operations Rm	6,000	12,000	6,000
Groundwork South	18,000	18,000	18,000
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	15,300	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>	25,000	0	0
<b>NEW APPLICATIONS 2017/18</b>			
Outside Chance	0	15,000	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,706,200</b>	<b>1,802,402</b>	<b>1,681,200</b>

**TRANSPORT GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS 2017/18**

<b>GRANT TO</b>	<b>AWARD 2016/17 £'s</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED 2017/18 £'s</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>Requested Award</b>
As One Club	900	900	The Club supports 10 members that have been attending the club for 15 plus years and are all Hillingdon residents.	900
Hayes and Harlington Social Club for the Blind	2,600	2,200	The Group applied for the amount stated they serve residents of Hillingdon that have been going to the club for 8+ years	2,200
Hayes Stroke Club	3,400	3,400	The Club has 12 members that have been attending for more than 8 years they all have disabilities that require special transport and assistance.	3,400
Jubilee Club	3,640	3,640	The Club supports 15 users ranging from the ages of 18 to over 75 there are 12 sessions the club would not be able to continue if the grant was not provided.	3,640
Mencap (North)	7,000	7,000	The average number of people are 48 per session for people with learning difficulties in addition to 2 club sessions per week. Their expenditure is £14,000 per year with all volunteers	7,000
Mencap (South)	8,500	8,500	The club supports a wide variety of members of the community with learning disabilities.	8,500
Phoenix Blind Club	1,000	1,000	The group supports 12 people over 12 sessions per year they use the HCT service request came from the organisation.	975
Shopmobility	2,000	2,000	Shopmobility provides a service for the elderly and disabled to be able to navigate in the shopping area where there is no public access.	2,000
Social Activities for Multiple Sclerosis (SAMS)	2,000	2,000	With regards to this grant the administrator was in hospital long term so will provide the paperwork following return.	2,000
Society for Disabled Artists (SODA)	5,000	5,000	The Service is provided to a consistent level of users who can ensure that they are able to attend the service provided.	5,000
Uxbridge Social Club for the Blind	3,000	1,300	The amount requested was provided by the organisation.	1,200
Windmill Club for People with Disabilities	13,000	13,000	The group supports 20 people who have been accessing the programme for more than 27 years.	1,300
Pelican Club	400	500	Group supporting blind and partially sighted residents aged 75+.	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,140</b>	<b>50,840</b>		

