

GRANTS TO HILLINGDON'S LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR

Cabinet Member	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
Officer Contact	Kevin Byrne, Residents Services
Papers with report	Appendix A : Voluntary Sector Core Grant Recommendations 2018-19 Appendix B : Assessment of core grant applications 2018-19

HEADLINES

Summary	Cabinet is asked to agree the Council's Voluntary Sector core funding Grants budget for 2018/19 and also the Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants scheme 2018/19, along with delegated authority to agree Small Transport grants for the ensuing year.
Putting our Residents First	This report contributes to the Council's objectives of: <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.
Financial Cost	The report proposes the allocation of up to £1,984,150 core funding grants for the 2018/19 financial year. The report also proposes making provision to enable a contribution to the London Councils Grant scheme of £229,511.
Relevant Policy Overview Committee	Corporate Services and Partnerships
Ward(s) affected	All.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet agrees:

- 1. The overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector of up to £1,984,150 for the provision of core grant funding for the 2018/19 financial year and specific awards as set out in the schedule - Appendix A.**
- 2. The Council's 2018/19 contribution of £229,511 to the London Councils Grants scheme.**
- 3. To delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Commerce & Regeneration, the award of Transport Grants for the 2018/19 financial year, within the budget set out in the report.**

Reasons for recommendation

1. The Council has been an established financial supporter of the Borough's voluntary sector for many years. The core grant programme ensures that Hillingdon has a vibrant and thriving voluntary sector providing support, guidance and services for local residents.
2. The Council seeks to maximise the benefits from investment in the Borough's voluntary sector to encourage activity that supports residents, reduces demand on Council services and provides value for money.
3. The ongoing commitment of significant financial support to the Borough's voluntary sector has served to sustain a wide range of voluntary sector activity. The certainty of core funding provides a platform for many groups to expand activity, diversify to meet new demands, to pursue new initiatives and to bid for additional external funding.

Alternative options considered / risk management

4. The Cabinet has the following alternative options:
 - Agree the recommendations subject to any changes the Cabinet wishes to make or;
 - Reject one or more of the recommendations.
5. In respect of the Council's contribution to the London Councils Grant Scheme, the Council has the option of not approving its contribution. For the overall London grants scheme to be approved, however, 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 in 2017/18 was £263,222.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee

6. As in previous years, the Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee will consider the grants proposed at its meeting on 4th January 2018 and report any comments back to the subsequent Cabinet meeting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

7. The voluntary sector core grants budget is unique in offering core funding to organisations that are key partners and provide services that contribute to the Council's priorities and support the wellbeing 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 assessment of each application at Appendix B.

Current funding climate

8. Funding and finance issues highlighted last year, continue to impact on the sector:

- Organisations have experienced more competition in accessing funds resulting in less external funding being secured in some organisations, more being necessary to be devoted to fundraising and more social enterprise type initiatives being developed or small charges being made to clients where appropriate and affordable.
- This reflects the changing nature of voluntary sector funding; that of increased competition in a harsher financial climate. Organisations have responded accordingly, with larger ones working more collaboratively and in consortiums, restructuring to gain efficiencies and relying on reserves to cover shortfalls. For some especially smaller groups though this has given rise to cash flow issues. Officers will continue to work with organisations to see what strategies might assist them.

9. The most obvious strategy is to increase external funding. Over the summer a "meet the funders" event was organised with Heathrow Communities Fund and the Hillingdon Community Trust; where both funders set out how to access the funding they have available to groups from across the Borough. The aim is to continue such events in the coming year.

10. Hillingdon 4 All (H4All) is now well established as a Community Interest Company based on a consortium of Age UKH, Hillingdon Carers, Hillingdon Mind,

DASH and Harlington Hospice. The H4All wellbeing service is an integral part of the Hillingdon Better Care Fund Plan and is showing promising results. The Council has supported H4All partners through their core grants and sought to encourage greater collaboration across the sector including reaching out to community based groups.

11. In addition, the Council has supported H4All's ideas around encouraging more voluntary sector collaboration and networking across the Borough to improve the delivery of the prevention agenda and a seminar for voluntary sector groups will be jointly hosted. The seminar will explore the support needs of the sector, how they can support and engage with the health and social care agenda and how H4All can support the involvement of groups in delivering against this agenda. The outcome will be a co-produced proposal to strengthen groups in the Borough via the City Bridge Trust.

2017/18 Recommendations

12. While the majority of the recommendations on the level of funding to be offered to organisations are consistent with those offered for the 2017/18 financial year, there are a few exceptions and recommendations concerning those and three new bids are highlighted below.

13. An analysis of each application, together with financial comments is attached at Appendix B. 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.

New Applications

14. The Council has received three new applications from organisations not previously funded by the Council: Outside Chance, who also applied in 17/18, Green Corridor and Value You. A detailed assessment of each of the applications is included in Appendix B. The comment is summarised below.

Outside Chance

Outside Chance is a small charity working in 7 boroughs with 2 full time staff and an impressive reach and record of delivery, especially in Hammersmith and Hounslow. They have attracted funding support from respective councils. Outside Chance delivers early intervention, anti-crime and anti-gang workshops in primary and secondary schools.

For the last couple of years they provided workshops in Hillingdon schools (funded from other sources) which have been well received by staff and pupils. They are now approaching the Council for a 40% contribution to their projected costs for next year. Outside Chance continue to successfully fundraise from major statutory and non statutory funders.

Advice from the Council's Early Intervention and Youth Offending teams considers, however, that similar workshops are proposed to be delivered internally by the Council next year and therefore it is not recommended to award the grant.

Green Corridor

The Grant requested is for a contribution towards Green Corridor to host the Crane Valley Partnership (CVP). CVP is a partnership of charities, communities, local authorities, businesses and government agencies in the five boroughs bordering the River Crane. Costs are to cover a share of the Catchment Development Manager post, which develops and implements the CV catchment plan and works to bring in additional funding for projects. Hillingdon covers 43% of the catchment area.

Green Corridor as CVP "host" is able to access external funding to support environmental improvements and sustainability along the River Crane. The investment sought of £10k towards the administration of the CVP offers good value for money and a recommendation is made to support.

Value you

Value you is a registered charity that provides a volunteer recognition scheme in over 12 London boroughs and would like to establish one in Hillingdon. The scheme provides a discount card and a gift voucher for use in donating shops to volunteers who give more than 100 hours of their time to charities.

Hillingdon already has a volunteer recognition scheme run with Uxbridge College and local partners and, whilst this does not provide gifts or discount cards, the Council has also developed its own Hillingdon First Card providing residents with preferential rates on Council Services such as parking and leisure and discounts with a wide range of local traders. Another discount scheme may prove confusing to residents and local businesses. Further, it is difficult to see how the scheme would be co-ordinated across the borough to reach all volunteers eligible. It is, therefore, not considered appropriate to recommend the award at this time.

Funding Levels

15. Officers, having assessed the applications, are making recommendations for levels of funding for the 2018/19 financial year at the same amounts as those for the 2017/18 as set out in Appendix B, with the exception of the following changes to awards:

Age UK Hillingdon

As a long standing key partner, the Council has been working with AgeUKH to consider ways to improve how Council support enables AgeUKH to better meet the needs of older people, to be more sustainable, and to reinforce shared aims on: early intervention and prevention, reducing loneliness and to help people to live well and longer in their own homes.

A new operating model has been developed to reflect the priorities identified by Age UKH and the Council's priorities regarding Better Care and the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy (see Appendix B). The departure from a mixture of specific delivery contracts backed up by grant to a new single grant arrangement will offer greater flexibility and produce a streamlined offer which will reduce administrative overhead. It will strengthen Age UKH's ability to meet needs of older people and increase their reach into communities. To enable this to happen, the costs of the former contracts will transfer into the core grants budget and become a single grant to Age UKH. The total grant will amount to £582,400, consisting of £312,400 transferred from Social Care contracts into core grant budget and the ongoing core grant of £270,000.

Heathrow Travel Care

HTC's core work provides crisis social work at Heathrow Airport for anyone coming in or out of the airport, taking referrals from local, national and international agencies. Clients are given an initial assessment followed by interventions, advice or advocacy support, and referred to other services. HTC runs a number of targeted programmes such as for rough sleepers, provision of responsible adults for minors and advice to British nationals in need and emergency planning.

The organisation also co-ordinates and provides initial Humanitarian Assistance following any major incident or disaster affecting Heathrow Airport. It hosts the Liaison group for voluntary and public sector partners including the Council for ongoing emergency planning. HTC assists the Council to discharge its Emergency Planning duties as a Category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act.

HTC provides value for money on a number of levels (set out in Appendix B) and demonstrably reduces demand on Council services, through provision of cost effective early intervention. Where cases are referred to Hillingdon services (estimated at about 2% of the total) they will have undergone appropriate preparatory work.

The full time trained Emergency Response officer assists the Borough for the first 12 hours of any large scale incident at Heathrow.

The majority of their income is secured from Heathrow Airport and the Foreign Office. Heathrow also provides their office and other in-kind support such as HR advice. While their income is relatively stable it has been static for a number of years whereas costs and demands have been continually rising.

In addition, 6 years ago, officers recommended reducing the grant from £45K to £30K based on their relatively high reserve levels. As a result HTC reserves have reduced year on year to a more prudent 3 month level. Deficits continue to be predicted, however and officers are recommending that, given the important contribution made towards the Borough in terms of prevention and discharge of its statutory duties, the grant should be reinstated at its previous level of £45K.

Hillingdon MIND

Hillingdon MIND has proven itself as a key local partner. It delivers a responsive and effective service as evidenced by their expansion in activities and in client numbers; which include employment support to people with mental health conditions to bring them closer to the labour market, work with children and addiction services that complements the Council's contract for addiction services.

MIND has opened a new office in the south of the Borough giving easier access to clients. MIND has expanded their counselling offer and is now restructuring it as part of a shared counselling offer for H4All. This will result in greater efficiencies and access for a wider range of Hillingdon residents.

Their expansion has increased their expenditure and stretched their core functions. MIND has responded by streamlining its senior management and making savings but is still incurring a deficit. MIND is therefore requesting an increase of £10K to strengthen their core and to help to stabilise their financial position. It is recommended to award the request.

Hestia

Hestia delivers a domestic abuse refuge and floating support service in the Borough, funded primarily through a substantial Council contract, with a corporate grant to support their work with children. The request is to continue to deliver a remodelled children's support service at the refuge and within the community, for children affected by domestic abuse.

The proposed programme would include an additional albeit, limited amount of counselling for children between ages of 11-18 and more structured interventions with mothers and children at the refuge as well as activities over holiday periods for clients at the refuge. They would continue to deliver a community programme of three groups per year, to include children from second stage housing and referred by social services.

The grant monitoring returns have raised concerns with the children's programme regarding staff retention and the model's effectiveness and efficiency.

While Hestia is working closely with the Council to address these issues and others raised via the contract, officers believe that in future the work with children would better be commissioned as part of the Council contract rather than as an add on service via the grants programme.

Officers are discussing internally the incorporation of the children's support service into the contract specification for next year. It is likely that the grant will become part of a wider contract for refuge support and approval is sought on the basis that the equivalent grant is transferred into the contracts budget.

Groundwork South

The Council has supported Groundwork South over several years through its core grant delivering a range of regeneration and community development projects with a focus on the environment and sustainability. In the past Groundwork South has proven to be a reliable partner to pick up potential projects as and when they arise.

Recently, however, Groundwork South's project delivery in Hillingdon has decreased having suffered financial difficulties and this year they handed their flagship project, funded by the Council - the Com Cafe, back. Other activities are the Healing Gardens project for older people, the Colne Valley Partnership, environmental projects with schools, a Charity Shop in Hayes, and managing the Heathrow Community Fund across six boroughs. The latter three projects could be considered as self supporting.

The Council recently started contributing directly towards the Colne Valley Partnership, under a memorandum of understanding, providing support to Groundwork South indirectly as the host. The Healing Gardens scheme, therefore, remains as the main project in terms of delivering Council priorities. It is understood that £7K of the core grant of £18K supports this scheme, which last year provided garden maintenance to 53 older people's gardens.

Given the reduction in activity in Hillingdon and Groundwork South's capacity, there is a case, therefore, for the core grant to be reduced to reflect the level of value provided to Hillingdon residents, i.e. to the healing gardens project.

Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations

The HFCA uses its core grant to distribute small grants to its membership of 19 community associations (CAs) to assist them in the maintenance and running of community buildings and activities. The majority of buildings are owned and leased from the Council.

Over a number of years the HFC had also organised summer playschemes and were awarded a grant of £23,500 in 2017/18 for this purpose. In the event the association decided not to proceed with the schemes and the grant was returned shortly before the summer.

The Federation currently hold nearly £35K in reserves and balances. This includes £7,000 as a revenue holding account in line with its reserves policy. The 2016 end of calendar year accounts identifies some £8,350 in unspent funds from the now defunct playschemes. The Federation has confirmed that the end of year accounts for 2017, are likely to contain similar figures.

Given that the Federation no longer intends to operate play or other schemes but to focus on its grant providing programme, it is suggested that the playscheme reserves of £8,350 make up part of the grant for next year. It is, therefore, recommended to

award a reduced amount of £7,000. This will still leave the Federation with substantial resources and reserves above its stated policy.

London Councils Grant Scheme

16. The scheme supports voluntary sector activity and specifically funds voluntary organisations across all 32 London authorities and the City of London. In November 2017, the London Councils Grants Committee proposed that its overall budget for the London Councils Grants scheme for 2017/18 would total £8,668,000.

17. Hillingdon's contribution for 2018/19 is proposed to be £229,511 a decrease of £33,711 over the Council's 2017/18 contribution of £263,222. As in previous years, this has been made possible by decreasing the amount of reserves the Grants Committee holds.

18. Individual borough contributions are based on the Office of National Statistics mid-year population estimates for June 2016, with Hillingdon's percentage of London's total population increasing slightly from 3.39% to 3.44%.

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

Transport Grants

20. In addition to the provision of core grants and the London Council's grant scheme, the Council 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 for clients with disabilities who require specialist transport and who would find it challenging to travel by public transport.

21. The Council is in discussion with those who received transport grants for 2017-18 to confirm the level of need. These grants ranged from £500 to £8,500 in 2017. It is recommended that the authority to agree these grants for 2018/9 up to the budget of £50,513 is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive and Corporate Director of Residents Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Community Commerce & Regeneration.

Financial Implications

22. This report proposes the allocation of £1,984,150 core funding grants for the 2018/19 financial year. This is inclusive of £312,400 to be transferred from Social Care contracts in relation to Age UK. The draft 2018/19 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 B to this report.

23. Recommendations also include a reduced contribution to the London Councils Grant Committee of £229,511, with the reduction relating to planned use of balances by the grants committee and sufficient funding included within the draft 2018/19 budget.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities?

24. 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

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

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

26. Corporate Finance has reviewed this report, noting that the 2018/19 draft budgets includes sufficient funding to support the level of grant award and 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

27. 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

28. 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.

29. 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

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A Voluntary Sector core grant recommendations 2018-19

Appendix B Analysis and information on Core Grant applications

APPENDIX A

Organisations	Grant Award 17-18	Grant Requested 18-19	Recommended 18- 19
ADULT SOCIAL CARE		£	£
Age UK Hillingdon*	270,000	270,000	270,000
Community Cancer Service (delivered by Harlington Hospice)	20,000	20,000	20,000
Carers Trust Thames (previously Crossroads Care)	135,000	135,000	135,000
Crown Centre for the Deaf	10,000	12,000	10,000
DASH	98,000	98,000	98,000
EACH - Pukaar	30,000	36,043	30,000
Heathrow Travel Care	30,000	45,000	45,000
Hillingdon Aids Response Trust	15,000	15,000	15,000
Hillingdon Carers	105,000	105,000	105,000
Hillingdon Citizens Advice Bureau	280,000	280,000	280,000
Hillingdon MIND	70,000	80,000	80,000
Hillingdon Shopmobility	22,000	22,000	22,000
Hillingdon Women's Centre	25,000	27,000	25,000
Mencap Jubilee Pool	5,000	5,000	5,000
MHA - Northwood Live at Home	15,000	21,300	15,000
RELATE London North West	12,000	13,500	12,000
Samaritans Hillingdon	3,000	5,000	3,000
Victim Support Hillingdon	10,000	10,000	10,000
RVS (Royal Voluntary Service)	40,000	41,000	40,000
Recycle-A-Bike	13,000	13,000	13,000
CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES			
Bell Farm Christian Centre	50,000	55,000	50,000
Centre of ADHD and Autism Support	10,000	24,771	10,000
Hestia	44,950	43,123	43,000
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support	40,000	40,000	40,000
Hillingdon Federation of Community Association - Playschemes	23,500	0	0
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	3,608	3,000
RESIDENTS SERVICES			
Friends of No 11(F) Group Operations Rm	6,000	12,000	6,000
Groundwork South	18,000	18,000	7,000
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	7,000
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
NEW APPLICATIONS 2017/18			
Outside Chance	0	9,000	0
Green Corridor		10,000	10,000
Value You		6,067	0
Subtotal	1,681,200	1,753,262	1,671,750
*support for Age UKH to include transfer of former contract costs into grant.		312,400	312,400
Grand total			1,984,150