

	<h2>Community Leadership Committee</h2> <p>9 March 2016</p>
Title	Corporate Grants Programme, 2015/16 – The Axis Educational Trust
Report of	Director of Resources
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosure	Appendix A: Grant assessment – The Axis Educational Trust
Officer Contact Details	Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group (ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 2020) John Paxton, Narrowing the Gap Adviser/Lead NQT Adviser/Moderation Manager, Education & Skills Service (john.paxton@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 6363)

Summary

This report attaches an assessment of a grant application by The Axis Educational Trust.

Recommendations

That a start-up grant of £10,000 be awarded to The Axis Educational Trust, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid and the special conditions shown in the grant assessment enclosed

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Voluntary and community organisations may apply for a one-year start-up grant of up to £10,000 or a one-off grant of up to £5,000 from the corporate grants programme.
- 1.2 The power to award grants of more than £5,000 to voluntary and community groups is vested in this committee in accordance with the terms of reference of theme committees in the council's constitution - annex A of Responsibilities for Functions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 These are as set out in the assessment of the grant application in question herewith.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The grant to The Axis Educational Trust, if approved, will be payable in instalments following compliance with the special conditions contained in the assessment.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan, 2015-2020, identifies a set of strategic objectives which frame the council's approach to achieving its vision of making local services more integrated, intuitive and efficient by 2020, aimed at ensuring that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

- 5.1.2 The outcomes around which these objectives are prioritised include:

- To ensure that children and young people receive a great start in life and identify and address any issues that may impede a successful childhood
- To help disadvantaged children and young people who are at risk of not achieving their potential to close the gap with their peers and make a positive transition into adulthood

- 5.1.3 The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in the delivery of public services having regard to the reduction in government funding, not only by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money but also by developing innovative solutions to problems and improving customers' perception of public services.
- 5.1.4 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the former Cabinet Resources Committee in 2008, has brought:
- consistency to the council's financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector; and
 - procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council's procurement rules
- 5.1.5 The grants programme offers help to voluntary and community organisations (a) to develop sustainable new services and activities and (b) to run community events or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.
- 5.1.6 All applications are assessed on their individual merits against the council's policy objectives; the benefits to the local community; the effectiveness of the organisation in its service delivery; its overall value for money; its financial needs; and the budget for making awards each year. In the case of start-up grants, the apparent or likely viability of a proposal in the years following the council's twelve-month funding is a critical factor.
- 5.1.7 The application by The Axis Educational Trust fulfils these criteria and is recommended for an award.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2015/16 is comprised of funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity; a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme; and a sum of £51,000 collectively allocated to the corporate grants programme by the area committees with the approval of the Community Leadership Committee.
- 5.2.2 The current position on the funding available in 2015/16, which includes the latest instalment in the sum of £30,939 of the council's share of income from the Edward Harvist Charity, is as follows:

Budget item	Funding available, 2015/16	Approvals to date	Balance remaining	Recommended herewith
Edward Harvist Charity	£106,273	£64,963	£41,310	£10,000
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	£2,600	£12,400	0
Allocation by area committees	£51,000	0	£51,000	0
TOTAL	£172,273	£67,563	£104,710	£10,000

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 Not relevant in the context of this report.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 The council has general power of competence to make grants under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.4.2 Under the council's constitution, Responsibility for Functions, (annex A), the terms of reference of the Community Leadership Committee includes specific responsibility for

- Grants to the voluntary sector
- To maintain good relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring that all communities have the opportunity to participate in the borough's affairs

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 All grants are made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, with which applicants are required to signify their compliance by signing a written undertaking. Amongst other things, the conditions cover how awards are spent, allowing council officers a right of access to proof thereof, and requiring notification of any change in an organisation's circumstances which significantly affect its finances, operations or grant entitlement. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand full or partial repayment, if it appears that an organisation has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to the award.

5.5.2 The shift towards greater community involvement in the delivery of services has involved some relaxation in the attitude traditionally taken to compliance with eligibility criteria before an award is recommended. Whilst all applicants are expected to satisfy basic governance requirements, it is accepted that

community-led and self-help groups may initially require the support of a parent organisation or other agency.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council and all other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race, religion or belief; and sex and sexual orientation. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into daily business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services.

5.6.2 All voluntary and community organisations grant-aided by the council are required to demonstrate that they have an equal opportunities policy covering users, staff and volunteers, which promotes equal treatment for all irrespective of their age, disability, gender, sexuality, ethnic background, faith, health, language or social and economic background. Scrutiny of compliance with these considerations and how they contribute to promoting good relations between people and communities forms part of the standard procedure for assessing all applications.

5.6.3 Awards from the corporate grants programme fund projects and activities in support of people from all communities and focus particularly on those who may be regarded as vulnerable, as in the case of the grant recommended.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 The application in question has been assessed in conjunction with the Education & Skills Service.

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 The applicant has presented evidence in support of the need for the proposal.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework
(<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?CommitteeId=151&MeetingId=424&DF=22%2f07%2f2008&Ver=2>)
- 6.2 Council, 3 March 2015: approval of corporate grants budget for 2015/16
(<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=7819&Ver=4>)
- 6.3 Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015 (decision item 11): endorsement of decision by each area committee to allocate £17,000 of its available budget in 2015/16 through the corporate grants programme
(<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=8367&Ver=4>)