

	<p>Policy and Resources Committee</p> <p>16 May 2017</p>
<p>Title</p>	<p>Corporate Grants Programme, 2016/17 - Approval of Grants under Delegated Powers</p>
<p>Report of</p>	<p>Director of Resources & Deputy Section 151 Officer</p>
<p>Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p>Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Enclosure</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk (020 8359 2020)</p>

Summary

This report notifies the approval of grants under the Director of Resources' delegated powers in consultation with the chairman of the Community Leadership Committee.

Recommendations

To note the decisions to award grants of less than £5,000 under delegated powers from the corporate grants programme in 2016/17.

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 Annex B to Responsibilities for Functions in the Scheme of Delegated Authority to Officers authorises the Director of Resources to award grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary and community groups.
- 1.3 In accordance with annex A of Responsibilities for Functions, this committee is to be informed of any grants approved under delegated powers. The awards in question, approved in 2016/17 following consultation with the chairman of the Community Leadership Committee, were as follows:
- **£5,000 to Avenue House Estate Trust** to create an outdoor keep fit trail for adults in the grounds of Avenue House
 - **£5,000 to Barnet Multi-Faith Forum** in support of the Barnet Unity of Faiths Festival, a one-day multi-faith and multi-cultural event to be held on 29 May 2017
 - **£5,000 to North London Hospice** towards the creation of a shower facility for visitors as part of a refurbishment programme at the in-patient unit in Barnet
 - **£5,000 to West Hendon Allotment Society** to create raised planting beds for use by people with physical disabilities or sensory impairments
 - **£5,000 to 1st & 3rd New Barnet Scout Group** towards the construction of an extension to the scout hut to provide purpose-built space for training and to expand the capacity for community usage of the building
 - **£4,788 to Barnet Community Transport** to renew IT and telephone equipment following the relocation to Edgware Community Hospital
 - **£4,775 to Centrepoint** towards the creation of a gymnasium for young people at the Barnet Foyer
 - **£4,250 to Hendon Grove Allotment Society** to renovate and redevelop a trading hut to provide a meeting place, a shelter and a community resource for plot-holders
 - **£2,400 to The Boys' Clubhouse** in support of the hire of rehearsal space for a vocational training project for young people seeking a career in the music industry pending the creation of an in-house music production studio
 - **£2,000 to East Barnet Community Festival** in support of the annual festival in 2016
 - **£1,800 to Barnet Borough Arts Council** in support of the 2016 Barnet 'Christmas Fayre'
 - **£1,000 to East Finchley Arts** in support of the annual East Finchley Arts Festival in 2016
 - **£750 to Mill Hill Neighbourhood Forum** to defray the cost of space in the publication, 'A Guide to Mill Hill', dedicated to council-related messaging

The following applications were rejected:

- Time Banks UK – to sustain the Barnet ‘time bank’ scheme, which, as such, did not qualify for a corporate grant
- Friern Barnet Community Library Ltd – to modernise the children’s corner of the library, which was rejected on financial grounds.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Each of the approved awards supported a project or an event which contributed to delivery of one or more of the council’s corporate plan objectives and outcomes or Barnet’s Sustainable Community Strategy.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The applicants were notified of the decisions, which, in the case of a number of the approved awards, involved compliance with special conditions before the grant was released.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The council is seeking to develop new and effective partnerships to deliver high quality public services pursuant to the significant reduction in government funding. The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in this strategy, especially by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money, embracing innovative solutions and improving customers’ perception of public services.

- 5.1.2 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the former Cabinet Resources Committee, has brought about greater consistency to the council’s financial arrangements, embodying procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council’s procurement rules.

- 5.1.3 The corporate 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.

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

- 5.2.1 The awards made under delegated powers in 2016/17 amounted to £46,763, of which £17,400 was funded from income deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity; £14,050 was paid from the former Borough Lottery Scheme; and £15,313 was defrayed from funds collectively allocated to the corporate grants programme by the area committees with the approval of the Community Leadership Committee.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 Not relevant in the context of this report.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Under section 15 of the Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, annex A, the Policy and Resources Committee receives reports on the issuance of grants below £5,000 by officers under their delegated authority.

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 of Barnet's diverse communities and focus on those who may be regarded as vulnerable.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 5.7.1 Each of the applications in question was assessed in conjunction with commissioning managers and leads and/or service delivery units and the decisions that were made followed consultation with the chairman of the Community Leadership Committee. .

5.8 Insight

- 5.8.1 Each applicant presented evidence in support of the need for, or benefit of, their proposal.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Reports to the Director of Resources & Deputy Section 151 Officer and, in the absence of the post-holder, to the Interim Chief Operating Officer under delegated powers.