**ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBER UNDER DELEGATED POWERS (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION)**

**Subject:** Grants to Voluntary & Community Organisations, 2013/14 – Delegated Grants Report No. 6

**Cabinet Member:** Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships

**Date of decision:** 5 December 2013

**Date decision comes into effect:** 5 December 2013

| Summary: | This report attaches an assessment of an application for a one-off grant for decision under delegated powers in accordance with the procedure for approving voluntary and community sector grants of up to £20,000. |

**Officer Contributors:** Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group
Flo Armstrong, Head of Youth and Community Services, Children’s Service

**Status:** Public

**Wards affected:** All

**Enclosures:** Appendix 1 - Approval sheet
Appendix 2 - Grant assessment

**Reason for exemption from call-in (if appropriate):** Not applicable

**Contact for further information:** Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group, 020 8359 2020
1. **RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

1.1 Cabinet, 21 May 2001 (Decision item 6) - adoption of scheme of delegated powers, vesting authority in the appropriate Cabinet Member to approve grants of up to £20,000.

1.2 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (Decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.

1.3 Council 5 March 2013: approval of corporate grants budget for 2013/14.

2. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

2.1 The Corporate Plan for 2013/14-2015/16 includes the following strategic objectives:

- Creation of the right environment to promote responsible growth, development and success across the borough
- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and well-being
- Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study

2.2 Delivery of these objectives is prioritised around the following outcomes:

- To maintain Barnet as a well-designed, attractive and accessible place with sustainable infrastructure – such as by way of improving parks and green spaces
- To maintain the right environment for a strong and diverse local economy – including regeneration of priority areas and improvements in skills and employment opportunities, especially for young people
- To create better life chances for children and young people – support for families with the greatest needs / those on the cusp of becoming vulnerable and early intervention in the lives of young people most at risk of not achieving their potential
- To sustain a strong partnership with the local NHS so that families and individuals can maintain and improve their physical and mental health – encouragement for people to keep well and take responsibility for their own health; new integrated responses to the health and social care needs of residents; and new ways of reducing risk-taking amongst children and young people
- To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed over-55 population and to encourage and support residents to age well – such as by way of closer collaboration of health and social care services and support for those with a caring role when they most need it
- To promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities – support for children and young people who are most vulnerable / at risk; strengthened safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults at risk of harm; and action to address anti-social behaviour and crime.

2.3 The council is seeking to develop new and effective partnerships to deliver high quality public services having regard to the significant reduction in government funding, investing in early intervention and prevention models of service where there is a clear cost benefit. The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in this strategy, especially by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money, leading on innovative solutions and improving customers' perception of public services.
2.4 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee in July 2008 and consistent with the Voluntary Sector Compact agreed by Cabinet on 3 April 2008, sets out guidelines to:

- bring consistency to the council’s financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector; and
- bring procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council's procurement rules.

2.5 Following the transfer of responsibility for the community advice contract to the Adults and Communities Directorate, the renewal of annual revenue funding from the corporate grants budget in 2013/14 is now restricted to:

- the provision of selected infrastructure services for the voluntary and community sector and civil society through a two-year funding agreement with Community Barnet;
- community arts courses for older and disabled people on a performance-by-results basis.

2.6 The balance of the grants programme in 2013/14 focuses on one-off awards towards helping voluntary and community groups (a) develop new services and activities and (b) run specific events or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.

2.7 The Big Society Innovation Bank has helped kick-start new citizen and community-led projects over the last three years, rewarding the development of innovative solutions to local challenges. Awards from round 3 of the scheme were made by the Cabinet Resources Committee on 4 November 2013.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1 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.

3.2 The shift towards greater community-led 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, such as having an independent management committee, it is accepted that community-led and self-help groups often require the support of a parent organisation or other agency. In cases such as these, account is taken of other relevant factors, such as knowledge of a supporting agency and mechanisms to manage an applicant’s financial affairs. All applicants are expected to work towards full independence within a reasonable period.
4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

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

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between those with protected characteristics and those without;
- foster good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without

The protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

4.2 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 and is reflected in the assessments herewith.

4.3 As the council moves towards a greater emphasis on commissioning and awarding of contracts, voluntary and community organisations are required to demonstrate how their activities support the council in meeting its equalities obligations.

5 USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance and Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2013/14 is comprised of funds deriving to the council from the Edward Harvist Charity and a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme.

5.2 The 2013/14 budget has been increased by £27,080 since the last report following the receipt of £23,721 from the Edward Harvist Charity and the transfer of the balance of income previously paid by the charity to Barnet, an adjustment that is reflected in the following summary:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget item</th>
<th>2013/14 budget</th>
<th>Approvals to date</th>
<th>Funds available</th>
<th>Recommended herewith</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edward Harvist Charity</td>
<td>£91,830</td>
<td>£58,250</td>
<td>£33,580</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Former Borough Lottery Fund</td>
<td>£15,000</td>
<td>£7,800</td>
<td>£7,200</td>
<td>£800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>£106,830</td>
<td>£66,050</td>
<td>£40,780</td>
<td>£800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6. **LEGAL ISSUES**

6.1 The council has power to make the grant award under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The award will be subject to the council’s Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, which have been approved by Legal Services.

7. **CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

7.1 Council Constitution: section 3 (Responsibility for Functions) – paragraph 4.2 enables the Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships to approve grants to voluntary and community organisations up to the value of £20,000 per annum.

8. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

8.1 Applications for start-up and one-off grants are invited on a quarterly basis. An assessment of an application by East Finchley Community Trust for a one-off grant is attached.

9. **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9.1 Grant application by East Finchley Community Trust and related correspondence.

9.2 Any person wishing to inspect these papers should telephone 020 8359 2020.

10. **DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER**

10.1 I authorise the award recommended overleaf, subject to the council’s Standard Conditions of Grant Aid.

Signed

Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships

________________________________________

Date 5 December 2013
Please indicate your decision by placing an ‘X’ under the relevant column

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ref</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
<th>Grant Recommended</th>
<th>Agreed</th>
<th>Not Agreed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>116/C/CTY</td>
<td>East Finchley Community Trust</td>
<td>£800 BL</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL: £800 BL

[Key: BL – Former Borough Lottery Fund]

Signed: R Rams  Date: 5 December 2013
Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships