

	<p>Community Leadership Committee</p> <p>25 June 2014</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Corporate Grants Programme, 2014/15 – East Barnet Community Festival - approval of award under delegated powers</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Head of Finance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group (ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 2020) Flo Armstrong, Head of Youth & Community Service, Children’s Service (flo.armstrong@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 7846)</p>

Summary
<p>This report notifies the approval of a grant in support of the 2014 East Barnet Community Festival under the chief executive’s delegated powers after consultation with the leader, having regard to the proximity of the festival (4-6 July 2014) to the date of this meeting to which the application would routinely have been presented.</p>

Recommendations
<p>To note the decision to award a grant of £1,500 to the organisers of the East Barnet Community Festival from the 2014/15 corporate grants programme, subject to the council’s Standard Conditions of Grant Aid.</p>

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Voluntary 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.
- 1.2 East Barnet Community Festival (EBCF) takes place annually in Oak Hill Park, East Barnet. It attracts up to 20,000 people each year, depending on the weather. Designed to appeal to whole families, a range of activities includes live music and dance, combining displays and participatory events. Up to 1,000 people perform. Entertainment is provided on two stages and in marquees and is complemented by 60 or more stalls hired by local voluntary and community groups to promote their activities and raise funds. There is also a commercial funfair.
- 1.3 The organisers of the festival traditionally seek a decision in May on an application for a council grant to help balance the annual festival budget. The assessment of this year's application was presented for decision under the former delegated powers scheme, but remained unresolved. Awaiting a decision by this committee would compromise the budgeting for this year's event. A grant of £1,500 has therefore been approved under delegated powers after consultation with the leader.
- 1.4 The approved sum is in relation to a pre-grant shortfall of £1,594 on a festival budget of £31,835. The organisers state the award will go towards making up the balance of funding required to hire stages and tents (£1,680) after the loss of sponsorship which defrayed some of that expenditure in 2013.
- 1.5 In accordance with the council's constitution, paragraph 7.2 of Responsibilities for Functions, the parent committee must be informed at its next meeting of any decisions discharged by the chief executive under delegated powers in consultation with the leader of the council or the chairman of the relevant committee where a decision was so urgent that there was insufficient time in which to convene a meeting.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 EBCF is one of Barnet's largest festivals and encourages voluntary participation on many levels. The festival reaches a large number of people at relatively little expense, with significant voluntary input and the need for only a modest subsidy, and encourages greater use of and appreciation of Barnet's green spaces.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The new constitution provides for urgent matters to be presented to an Urgency Committee, to be convened with the consent of the leader, an option that was considered inappropriate in this case having regard to the value of the grant.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The applicants have been notified of the grant award and, in the absence of any special conditions, the approved sum has been paid.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The council is committed to promoting civic pride; to facilitating the conditions where an active and diverse community can thrive; and to ensuring that Barnet remains a harmonious and cohesive place in which to live. Extending community involvement in arts and recreational activities is an effective means of promoting social integration; building community cohesion; and generating pride in the borough. Community festivals traditionally involve local people taking responsibility for their community and serve to give opportunities to local residents to celebrate what they have achieved and bring different parts of the community together.

5.1.2 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. 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.

5.1.3 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee in July 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.

5.1.4 The grants programme offers one-off awards to help voluntary and community groups (a) develop new services and activities and (b) run specific 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 provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2014/15 is comprised of a general council fund and funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity and a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme.

5.2.2 The current position on the 2014/15 budget, which reflects the sum that is currently held by the council from the Edward Harvist Charity, to be supplemented during the course of the year as and when the council receives further payments, is as follows:

Budget item	2014/15 budget	Approvals to date	Funds available
General fund	£45,000	0	£45,000
Edward Harvist Charity	£44,390	£10,200	£34,190
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	1,500	£13,500
TOTAL	£104,390	£11,700	£92,690

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The council has power to make grants awards under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 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 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 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 people from different groups;
- foster good relations between people from different groups

The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into day business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 The award in question is supported by the Youth and Community Service, which considers that the festival offers good value for money, organised, as it

is, on an entirely voluntary basis and with many acts performing for free in return for publicity, showcasing local talent and stimulating interest in the arts and in the local community.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.
- 6.2 Council, 4 March 2014: approval of corporate grants budget for 2014/15.