

	<h2>Adults & Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3>19 March 2015</h3>
Title	<h3>Corporate Grants Programme, 2014/15 – grant applications</h3>
Report of	Deputy Director of Finance & Deputy Chief Operating Officer
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Grant assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A - Community Health and Development Foundation • Appendix B - Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation
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<h2>Summary</h2>
This report attaches assessments of grant applications by two not-for-profit organisations.

<h2>Recommendations</h2>
<p>(1) That, for the reasons set out in the relevant assessment, the application for a grant by Community Health and Development Foundation is not supported.</p> <p>(2) That a one-year start-up grant of £6,500 be awarded to Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation, subject to the council’s Standard Conditions of Grant Aid and the special conditions shown in the grant assessment enclosed.</p>

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 contained in the terms of reference of theme committees in the council's constitution - annexe A of Responsibilities for Functions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 These are as set out in the assessments of the two grant applications in question herewith.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The applicants will be formally notified of the decisions.
- 4.2 The grant to Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation 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 for 2013-16 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

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

- To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed population
- To increase resilience amongst older people and help them to age well

- 5.1.3 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. 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.

5.1.4 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee in 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

5.1.5 The grants programme offers help to voluntary and community organisations (a) to develop new services and activities and (b) to run a community event 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 Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation fulfils these criteria and is recommended for an award. The application by Community Health and Development Foundation is not supported on the grounds that has not been possible to determine its skills and capability to deliver its proposals, which may in any event duplicate the work of other voluntary groups.

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 funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity; a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme; and a one-off contingency fund.

5.2.2 The current position on the funding available in 2014/15, which reflects the sum that has been drawn down to the corporate grants programme from the council's share of income from the Edward Harvist Charity, to be supplemented, if necessary, from further income from the charity held in an accumulated balance, is as follows:

Budget item	Funding available, 2014/15	Approvals to date	Balance remaining	Recommended herewith
Edward Harvist Charity	£44,390	£24,680	*£19,710	£6,500
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	£10,800	£4,200	0
Contingency	£45,000	0	£45,000	0
TOTAL	£104,390	£35,480	£68,910	£6,500

(* further grant recommendations for approval by other committees or under delegated powers in March will further reduce this balance after allowing for the grant recommended)

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.

5.4.2 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, 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.

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 daily business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services.

5.5.2 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.

5.5.3 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. The recommendation not to award a grant to Community Health and Development Foundation is not considered to be prejudicial to the community in question because of the existence of other voluntary organisations that support the same needs.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 The applications in question have been assessed in conjunction with the Joint Commissioning Unit for Older Adults, Adults & Communities.

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.