

	<h2>ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY DEPUTY CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER</h2>
Title	Corporate Grants Programme, 2014/15 – grant applications
Report of	Head of Finance
Wards	All
Status	Public
Enclosures	Grant assessments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Path Development CIC • Hendon Grove Allotment Society
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Summary

This report attaches assessments of grant applications by two not-for-profit organisations.

Decisions

To approve grants of:

- (i) £4,845 to Future Path Development CIC and
- (ii) £1,416 to Hendon Grove Allotment Society,

subject to the council’s Standard Conditions of Grant Aid and the special conditions shown in the respective grant assessments

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 Deputy Chief Operating Officer to award grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary and community groups.

2. REASONS FOR DECISIONS

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

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The applicants will be informed of the decisions and the grants will be paid following compliance with the special conditions in each case.

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 support families and individuals that need help, such as to change behaviour and lead active lives
- To increase resilience amongst disabled people and help them to enjoy a good quality of life and achieve their potential
- To maintain and improve the borough's parks and green spaces
- To support residents to live as healthily and independently as possible through increased physical activity
- To encourage a sense of community

- 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 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

5.1.5 The corporate 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. In the case of start-up grants, the apparent or likely viability of a proposal in the years following the council's funding is a critical factor.

5.1.7 Both applications in question fulfil these criteria and are 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 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 funding remaining in 2014/15, which reflects the sum drawn down to the corporate grants programme from the council's share of income from the Edward Harvist Charity, including an additional £1,635 to defray in full one of the awards recommended herewith, and awards made during the course of the year, is as follows:

Budget item	Funding available, 2014/15	Approvals to date	Balance remaining	Recommended herewith
Edward Harvist Charity	£46,025	£41,180	£4,845	£4,845
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	£10,800	£4,200	£1,416
Contingency	£45,000	0	£45,000	0
TOTAL	£106,025	£51,980	£54,045	£6,261

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.

5.3.2 Scheme of Delegated Authority – Responsibility for Functions, annex B: the Deputy Chief Operating Officer may approve grants of up to £5,000 to the voluntary and community sector.

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 day 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 whilst focusing on those who may be regarded as vulnerable. In the case of these particular awards, the project belonging to Future Path Development CIC is specifically to support people with specific forms of learning disability, neuro-diverse conditions, autism and other chronic medical conditions. The allotments managed by Hendon Grove Allotment Society accommodate people with disabilities.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 The applications in question have been assessed in conjunction with the Joint Commissioning Unit, Adults & Communities, and the Green Spaces & Streets Team, Street Scene, which support the respective awards recommended.

5.6.2 The chairmen of the Adults & Safeguarding and Environment Committees have been consulted on the report and each endorses the award that relates to the work of their respective committees.

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.

7. DECISION TAKER'S STATEMENT

- 7.1 I have the required powers to make the decisions documented in this report. I am responsible for the report's content and am satisfied that all relevant advice has been sought in the preparation of this report and that it is compliant with the decision making framework of the organisation which includes constitution, scheme of delegation, budget and policy framework and legal issues, including equalities obligations.

8. OFFICER'S DECISION

- 8.1 I approve grants of:

- (i) £4,845 to Future Path Development CIC and**
- (ii) £1,416 to Hendon Grove Allotment Society,**

subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid and the special conditions shown in the respective grant assessments enclosed.

Signed **Anisa Darr**
Assistant Director of Finance

.Date **31 March 2015**