

	<p><b>Policy and Resources Committee</b></p> <p><b>2 June 2015</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Approval of Grants under Delegated Powers</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Finance</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group  (<a href="mailto:ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk">ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk</a>) (020 8359 2020)</p>

<p><b>Summary</b></p>
<p>This report notifies the approval of four grants under the Deputy Chief Operating Officer’s delegated powers in consultation with the chairmen of the relevant committees.</p>

<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>
<p>To note the decisions to award four grants under delegated powers, three to voluntary organisations from the 2014/15 corporate grants programme and one towards the cost of the removal of a dangerous tree on private property.</p>

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Annex B of 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.
- 1.2 In addition, in keeping with the trust deed, the annual allocation to Barnet of accumulated income in the Edward Harvist Charity, which makes up a large part of the annual corporate grants programme budget, is also used to help local residents on low incomes with the cost of removing dangerous trees from their property. A limit of £500 is placed on such awards.
- 1.3 In accordance with annex A of Responsibilities for Functions, this committee must be informed of any grants approved under delegated powers. The awards in question, approved following consultation with the chairmen of the relevant committees, are as follows:
  - **£4,845 to Future Path Development CIC** to pilot a project to help people with specific forms of learning disability or neuro-diverse or other long-term chronic conditions to find, and sustain, paid employment
  - **£1,416 to Hendon Grove Allotment Society** to install a noticeboard at the entrance to Hendon Grove Allotments
  - **£800 to Barnet Borough Arts Council** in support of the 2014 Barnet 'Christmas Fayre'
  - **£500 to remove a dangerous tree on private property assessed as being at risk of collapse**

## 2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Each of the awards from the corporate grants programme supports projects or activities which contribute to delivery of one or more of the council's key corporate objectives and outcomes or Barnet's Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 2.2 The award to help remove a dangerous tree on private property complements the strategic priorities of promoting independence / well-being and reducing inequalities by providing appropriate help to people who need it.

## 3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

## 4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The grant recipients were notified of the awards, which, in two of the cases, involve payment in instalments linked to compliance with special conditions.

## **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 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.

5.1.2 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.

5.1.3 The corporate 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 was 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.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.3.1 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 in accordance with their delegated authority.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

5.4.1 All grants are made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, which, amongst other things, cover how awards are spent and requiring notification of any change in an organisation's circumstances which affect its 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 conditions attached to an 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.

5.5.2 Awards from the corporate grants programme fund projects and activities in support of people from all communities and focus on those who may be regarded as vulnerable.

## 5.6 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.6.1 Each of the applications in question was assessed in conjunction with commissioning and / or delivery units, as appropriate.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 Reports to the Deputy Chief Operating Officer under delegated powers.