

	<p align="center"><b>Community Leadership Committee</b></p> <p align="center"><b>9 March 2016</b></p>
<p align="right"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Corporate Grants Programme – start-up grants – progress report</b></p>
<p align="right"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Director of Resources</p>
<p align="right"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="right"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="right"><b>Urgent</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="right"><b>Key</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="right"><b>Enclosure</b></p>	<p>Appendix A: Start-up grants – progress report</p>
<p 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>

## Summary

This report attaches a summary of outcomes / progress on projects supported with a start-up grant from the corporate grants programme over the last eighteen months.

## Recommendation

**That the committee note the progress report on projects supported with a start-up grant from the corporate grants programme.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 To inform the committee of the outcomes achieved, or progress made, on projects supported with a start-up grant from the corporate grants programme over the last eighteen months.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The report is for information purposes only.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 None.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan, 2015-2020, identifies a set of strategic objectives which frame the council's approach to achieving its vision of making local services more integrated, intuitive and efficient by 2020, aimed at ensuring that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

- 5.1.2 The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in the delivery of public services having regard to the reduction in government funding, not only by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money but also by developing innovative solutions to problems and improving customers' perception of public services.

- 5.1.3 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the former Cabinet Resources Committee in 2008, has brought:

- consistency to the council's financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector; and
- 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 help to voluntary and community organisations (a) to develop sustainable new services and activities and (b) to run

community events or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.

5.1.5 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.

5.1.6 One-off grants are generally, but not exclusively, limited to a maximum of £5,000 and may be subject to matching funding in the case of the purchase of equipment or other non-recurrent expenditure. Grants of this type over the last eighteen months have included:

- £7,500 to Friends of Childs Hill Park – towards conversion of a section of Childs Hill Park into a natural educational play space for the community
- £3,175 to African Refugee Community – towards the purchase of IT equipment to facilitate the expansion of services
- £2,500 to 1374 (East Barnet) Squadron, Air Training Corps – towards the replacement of a minibus
- £1,500 to East Barnet Community Festival – in support of the annual summer festival in 2015
- £1,100 to East Finchley Arts – in support of the annual East Finchley Arts Festival in 2015

5.1.7 This report focuses on start-up awards from the corporate grants programme, which may extend over one year (maximum) and are subject to an upper limit of £10,000. They embrace proposals by established or new local voluntary or community groups to launch a new project or activity and by groups operating outside of Barnet seeking to extend their work into the borough.

5.1.8 The appendix summarises the outcomes of, or progress on, the following projects supported with a start-up grant over the last eighteen months:

GRANT RECIPIENT	AWARD	PROJECT
ART REACH BARNET	£7,800	Development of a weekly programme of training and support for people recovering from mental health problems to produce and sell arts and crafts and deliver other services in the community
BARNET SENIORS' ASSEMBLY	£7,500	Expansion of assembly's work including the production of a newsletter; the development of new cultural sub-groups; and recruitment and training of older people to assist as volunteers in sustaining its activities

GRANT RECIPIENT	AWARD	PROJECT
CHINESE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION	£7,500	An assisted transport service for elderly and disabled Chinese people linked to the development of outreach work in the Chinese community
INCLUSION BARNET	£10,000	Creation of 'Barnet Giving', a scheme to expand opportunities for local fundraising in support of existing and new community-based support groups, services and projects
LEARNING THROUGH HORSES	£8,500	Help for vulnerable young people to learn and develop life skills through accredited personal development training linked to working with horses
MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION	£6,500	A weekly social and activity club for older people from the Arabic, Kurdish and Turkish communities
PHOENIX CANOE CLUB	£10,000	Expansion of activities linked to creation of a borough-wide hub for training and adventure for all sections of the community
SAAM THEATRE COMPANY	£6,480	A weekly drama and dance club for older people from the Iranian and Farsi-speaking communities
SARACENS SPORT FOUNDATION	£10,000	Creation of a community garden at Allianz Park to provide a holistic, therapeutic and educational green space for vulnerable members of the community
STONEGROVE ESTATES YOUTH PROJECT – <i>PROJECT A</i>	£2,700	An inter-generational dance, fitness and nutrition club for women living on the regeneration estates in Edgware
STONEGROVE ESTATES YOUTH PROJECT – <i>PROJECT B</i>	£9,620	A pilot weekly programme of activities to unify children and young people living on the Stonegrove, Grahame Park and West Hendon Estates
STROKE ACTION	£9,000	A pilot well-being service for stroke survivors of working age, including help to re-learn life roles and employment skills training

GRANT RECIPIENT	AWARD	PROJECT
VALUE YOU	£4,368	Launch of a volunteer recognition scheme

Compliance with special conditions attached to such awards, such as agreement of implementation plans, targets and milestones or the need for other funding to achieve a balanced budget, in most cases accounts for the time lapse between approval of an award and the start of a project.

## **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 The corporate grants programme budget is mainly comprised of funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity (a variable annual sum this year amounting to £74,878) and a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme (£15,000). In the autumn, the budget was augmented by a one-off allocation of £51,000 by the area committees with the approval of this committee.

5.2.2 If a grant (of £10,000) to a voluntary organisation recommended elsewhere on this agenda is approved, expenditure from the corporate grants budget in 2015/16 will amount to £77,563, leaving an unallocated balance of £94,710 after taking account of unspent Edward Harvist Charity funds carried forward from 2014/15, which will support any further awards recommended under delegated powers and will otherwise be carried forward to the next financial year.

## **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 Not relevant in the context of this report.

## **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

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

5.4.2 The council's constitution:

- prescribes that grants of up to £5,000 may be approved by the Director of Resources & Deputy Section 151 Officer (Scheme of Delegated Authority – Responsibility for Functions (annex B)
- reserves approval of grants of more than £5,000 to the Community Leadership Committee (annex A of Responsibilities for Functions)

5.4.3 Specific responsibilities for grants to the voluntary and community sector fall within the remit of the Community Leadership Committee.

## **5.5 Risk Management**

- 5.5.1 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.
- 5.5.2 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, it is accepted that community-led and self-help groups may initially require the support of a parent organisation or other agency.

## **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.6.1 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 persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

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

- 5.6.2 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.

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.7.1 All applications are assessed in conjunction with the commissioning group and/or service delivery units as appropriate.

## 5.8 **Insight**

- 5.8.1 All grant applicants are required to present evidence of need in support of their proposal.

## 6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.
- 6.2 Council, 3 March 2015: approval of corporate grants budget for 2015/16 (<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ielistDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=7819&Ver=4>)
- 6.3 Community Leadership Committee, 24 June 2015 (decision item 11): endorsement of decision by each area committee to allocate £17,000 of its available budget in 2015/16 through the corporate grants programme (<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=8367&Ver=4>)