

	<p align="center">Policy and Resources Committee</p> <p align="center">17 May 2016</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p>Corporate Grants Programme - Approval of Grants under Delegated Powers</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Director of Resources</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p align="center">Enclosure</p>	<p>None</p>
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group (ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 2020)</p>

Summary

This report notifies the approval of grants under the Director of Resources' delegated powers in consultation with the chairman of the Community Leadership Committee.

Recommendations

To note the decisions to award six grants of less than £5,000 under delegated powers from the corporate grants programme in 2015/16.

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 Director of Resources to award grants of up to £5,000 to voluntary and community groups.
- 1.3 In accordance with annex A of Responsibilities for Functions, this committee is to be informed of any grants approved under delegated powers. The awards in question, approved in 2015/16 following consultation with the chairman of the Community Leadership Committee, were as follows:
 - **£1,500 to East Barnet Community Festival** in support of the annual festival in 2015
 - **£1,100 to East Finchley Arts** in support of the annual East Finchley Arts Festival in 2015
 - **£4,368 to Value You** in support of the launch of a volunteer recognition scheme in Barnet
 - **£800 to Friends of Childs Hill Park** to promote and grow ownership of the park amongst the local community
 - **£3,175 to African Refugee Community** towards the purchase of IT equipment to help expand and develop the rehabilitation and integration of French-speaking asylum seekers and refugees from Africa
 - **£2,500 to 1374 (East Barnet) Squadron, Air Training Corps** towards the purchase of a second-hand minibus.

An application by Barnet Borough Arts Council to help stage an annual one-day 'Christmas Fayre' was rejected on financial grounds.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Each of the approved awards supported a project or an event which contributed to delivery of one or more of the council's corporate plan objectives and outcomes or Barnet's Sustainable Community Strategy.

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 three of the cases, involved compliance with special conditions before the grant was released.

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 pursuant 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, embracing innovative solutions and improving customers' perception of public services.
- 5.1.2 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the former Cabinet Resources Committee, has brought about greater consistency to the council's financial arrangements, embodying 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 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.

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

- 5.2.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2015/16 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 sum of £51,000 collectively allocated to the corporate grants programme by the area committees with the approval of the Community Leadership Committee.

5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 Not relevant in the context of this report.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 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 under their delegated authority.

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.

5.6.3 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.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

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

5.8 Insight

5.8.1 Each applicant presented evidence in support of the need for, or benefit of, their proposal.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Reports to the Director of Resources under delegated powers:

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5842>

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5932>

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5963>

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6151>