

DELEGATED POWERS REPORT NO:

2055

SUBJECT: Grants to Voluntary & Community Organisations, 2013/14 – Delegated Grants Report No. 2

Control sheet

All of the following actions MUST be completed at each stage of the process and the signed and dated report MUST be passed to Governance Service for publishing

All reports		
1. Governance Service receives draft report	Name of GSO Date	DPR mailbox 22/5/2013
2. Governance Service cleared draft report as being constitutionally appropriate	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 29/5/2013
3. Finance clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Fin. officer Date	Claudette James 22/5/2013
4. Staff and other resources issues clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Res. officer Date	-
5. Strategic Procurement clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of SPO officer Date	Kevin Bates 4/6/2013
6. Legal clearance obtained from (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Legal officer Date	Lanna Childs 30/5/2013
7. Policy & Partnerships clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of P&P officer Date	Andrew Nathan 3/6/2013
8. Equalities & Diversity clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of officer Date	Andrew Nathan 3/6/2013
9. The above process has been checked and verified by Director, Head of Service or Deputy (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name Date	Anisa Darr 3/6/2013
10. Signed & dated report, <u>scanned or hard copy</u> received by Governance Service for publishing	Name of BGO Date	Andrew Charlwood 12/06/2013
11. Report published by Governance Service to website	Name of BGO Date	Andrew Charlwood 12/06/2013
12. Head of Service informed report is published and can be implemented.	Name of BGO Date	Andrew Charlwood 12/06/2013
13. Expiry of call-in period	Date	N/A
14. Report circulated for call-in purposes to Business Management OSC members & copied to Cabinet & Head of Service	Name of GSO Date	
	Date	

**ACTION TAKEN BY CABINET MEMBER UNDER DELEGATED POWERS
(EXECUTIVE FUNCTION)**

Subject: Grants to Voluntary & Community Organisations, 2013/14 – Delegated Grants Report No. 2

Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships

Date of decision: 6 June 2013

Date decision comes into effect: 6 June 2013

Summary:	This report attaches assessments of two applications for grants for decision under delegated powers in accordance with the procedure for approving voluntary and community sector grants of up to £20,000.
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Officer Contributors: Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group
Karen Ali, Youth & Communities Service Manager, Children's Service
Rachel Williamson, Former Commissioning Team Leader, Adults and Communities Directorate

Status: Public

Wards affected: All

Enclosures: (1) Approval sheet
(2) Grant assessments

Reason for exemption from call-in (if appropriate): Not applicable

Contact for further information: Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group, 020 8359 2020

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1. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 1.1 Cabinet, 21 May 2001 (Decision item 6) - adoption of scheme of delegated powers, vesting authority in the appropriate Cabinet Member to approve grants of up to £20,000.
- 1.2 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (Decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.
- 1.3 Council 5 March 2013: approval of corporate grants budget for 2013/14.

2 CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Corporate Plan for 2013/14-2015/16 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
- 2.2 Delivery of these objectives is prioritised around the following outcomes:
 - To maintain Barnet as a well-designed, attractive and accessible place with sustainable infrastructure – such as by way of improving parks and green spaces
 - To maintain the right environment for a strong and diverse local economy – including regeneration of priority areas and improvements in skills and employment opportunities, especially for young people
 - To create better life chances for children and young people – support for families with the greatest needs / those on the cusp of becoming vulnerable and early intervention in the lives of young people most at risk of not achieving their potential
 - To sustain a strong partnership with the local NHS so that families and individuals can maintain and improve their physical and mental health – encouragement for people to keep well and take responsibility for their own health; new integrated responses to the health and social care needs of residents; and new ways of reducing risk-taking amongst children and young people
 - To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed over-55 population and to encourage and support residents to age well – such as by way of closer collaboration of health and social care services and support for those with a caring role when they most need it
 - To promote family and community well-being and encourage engaged, cohesive and safe communities – support for children and young people who are most vulnerable / at risk; strengthened safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults at risk of harm; and action to address anti-social behaviour and crime.
- 2.3 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, investing in early intervention and prevention models of service where there is a clear cost benefit. 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.

- 2.4 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee in July 2008 and consistent with the Voluntary Sector Compact agreed by Cabinet on 3 April 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.
- 2.5 The renewal of annual revenue funding from the corporate grants budget in 2013/14 is restricted to:
- the provision of community advice through a three-year contract which commenced on 1 February 2012;
 - the provision of selected infrastructure services for the voluntary and community sector and civil society through a two-year funding agreement with CommUNITY Barnet;
 - community arts courses for older and disabled people on a performance-by-results basis.
- 2.6 The balance of the grants programme in 2013/14 focuses on one-off awards towards helping voluntary and community groups (a) develop new services and activities and (b) run specific events or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.
- 2.7 The Big Society Innovation Bank launched by the council in 2011 is aimed at kick-starting new citizen and community-led projects, rewarding the development of innovative solutions to local challenges. The criteria for this year's round of funding will be publicised shortly.

3 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 The shift towards greater community-led 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.

4 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 4.1 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 and is reflected in the assessments herewith.
- 4.2 As the council moves towards a greater emphasis on commissioning and awarding of contracts, voluntary and community organisations are required to demonstrate how their activities support the council in meeting its equalities obligations.

5 USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance and Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2013/14 is comprised of funds deriving to the council from the Edward Harvist Charity and a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme.
- 5.2 Set out below is the current position on the 2013/14 budget, which reflects a recent payment by the Edward Harvist Charity. The budget will be supplemented during the course of the year as and when further payments are received, which are expected to yield at least a further £50,000 in 2013/14.

Budget item	2013/14 budget	Approvals to date	Funds available	Recommended herewith
Edward Harvist Charity	£61,500	£9,870	£51,630	£12,500
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	£800	£14,200	0
TOTAL	£76,500	£10,670	£65,830	£12,500

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 Pursuant to section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council and all other organisations exercising public functions on its behalf must have due regard in considering grant awards to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between those with protected characteristics and those without;
- foster good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without.

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

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 Council Constitution: section 3 (Responsibility for Functions) – paragraph 3.2 enables the Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships to approve grants to voluntary and community organisations up to the value of £20,000 per annum.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 Applications for start-up and one-off grants are invited on a quarterly basis. A number of applications have been carried forward from 2012/13, either because certain information was awaited, such as in relation to the sustainability of a proposal, or because insufficient funds remained in last year's budget to enable an award to be made. Assessments of two applications are attached.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Grant applications received in 2012/13 and related correspondence.
- 9.2 Any person wishing to inspect these papers should telephone 020 8359 2020.

10. DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER

- 10.1 I authorise the awards indicated overleaf, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid and any special conditions shown.

Signed

R RAMS

Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships

Date

6 June 2013

Please indicate your decision by placing an 'X' under the relevant column

<u>SUMMARY OF GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS</u> <u>- DELEGATED POWERS REPORT NO. 2 (13/14)</u>				
<u>Ref</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Grant Recommended</u>	<u>Agreed</u>	<u>Not Agreed</u>
8/C/CTY	African Cultural Association	£10,000 EHC	X	
95/E/YTH	Chaverim Youth Organisation	£2,500 EHC	X	
		TOTAL: £12,500 EHC		

[Key: EHC – Edward Harvist Charity]

Signed: *R Rams*

Date: 6 June 2013

Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships