

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Executive - 14 March 2005

Report from the Director of Education, Arts & Libraries

For action

Wards affected: All

Report Title: MAIN GRANTS PROGRAMME FUNDING 2005/6

Forward Plan Ref: EAL-04/05-0072

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Main Grants Programme, April 2005 – March 2006. It seeks decisions from Members on the allocation of this budget.
- 1.2 A number of appendices are attached to this report these are:
- (i) Appendix A: clearly shows the financial position of the organisations in terms of the amount received in 2004/05, the amount requested for 2005/06, the recommended figure for April 2005- March 2006 and the total amount that is recommended for each organisation in 2005/2006
 - (ii) Appendix B: Individual reports on currently funded organisations
 - (iv) Appendix C: Spreadsheet setting out the reasons for recommendations on the new applications.
 - (v) Appendix D: Criteria of grants that were agreed by the Executive in November 2003
 - (vi) Appendix E: Areas for funding. These are the Brent Council Corporate Priorities that were agreed by the Executive in November 2003
 - (vii) Appendix F: Grant Conditions

2.0 Recommendations

That Members:-

- 2.1 Note and approve the recommendations for the allocation of the Main Grants Programme for April 2005 to March 2006 as summarised in Appendix A and detailed in the individual reports attached at Appendix B; subject to the standard grant conditions (Appendix F) and other relevant additional conditions contained in paragraph 5 and 8 of the reports in Appendix B.
- 2.2 Agree that the Cultural Services Unit shall be allowed to allocate, manage and administer the Navratri and Dasherah festivals funding from 2005/6 onwards in line with all other Brent Council Festivals funding and that the unit should also allocate, manage and administer the grant funding for the Tricycle Theatre as set out in paragraph 8 below.
- 2.3 Agree an allocation of £10,856 to deliver training and capacity building to the voluntary sector organisations by the Voluntary Sector Support Team.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council has a long tradition of supporting the local voluntary sector and many organisations within the current grant programme have been funded for a considerable period of time.
- 3.2 The main programme grant application process for 2005/6 was advertised in the local press, namely the Willesden and Brent Chronicle and the Wembley Observer. The advertisement clearly invited organisations to apply, with a specified deadline for submission and outline of the funding period. The closing date for the grant application process was the 11th November 2005 and organisations were notified that grants would be awarded for 12 months only for the period of April 2005 – March 2006.
- 3.3 A substantial number of new organisations submitted applications in addition to the large number of previously funded organisations. All organisations that expressed an interest in applying for a grant were sent an application form along with the Grant Criteria, Grant Conditions, Areas for Funding and Guidance Notes (see appendices D,E,F).
- 3.4 The grants recommended in this report for April 2005 – March 06 are a combination of new grants and grants to previously funded organisations (Appendices A, B, C). Eleven community organisations that were funded in 2004/2005, did not re-apply for grant funding in 2005/2006.

- 3.5 In assessing the grant applications, officers ensured that every application was treated fairly and according to the grant criteria, grant conditions and area for funding criteria. Officers particularly checked whether or not organisations had specified that they were looking to deliver outputs/outcomes. Individual reports on each grant application were completed by grants officers and a finance officer, and then recommendations were made by a team comprising of the Team Leader of the Voluntary Sector Unit and the grant and finance officers.
- 3.6 Where existing organisations did not fully meet the Main Grants Programme Assessment Criteria (Appendix D), officers took into consideration the fact that they will be delivering specific outcomes that are linked to the Council's corporate priorities. Payment of the final quarter's grant will be dependent on an officer assessment to check that outcomes as specified will be fully met within the agreed timescale.
- 3.7 Where incomplete account information has been submitted by organisations, officers recommend that where all other criteria are fulfilled that in principle, these organisations be funded to deliver their specific agreed outcomes, subject to the conditions specified in their individual reports i.e. full submission of account information. This means that no monies will be paid until satisfactory accounts have been submitted.
- 3.8 In assessing the grant applications from new organisations, officers ensured that a stringent approach was adopted by looking specifically at service delivery and how it fits with the Council objectives. Though some organisations indicated in their applications that they could deliver a number of services, officers had to appraise each project and choose those with realistic outcomes that the Council could fund. Therefore officers were not able to recommend the requested amount in all cases but agreed a figure that was based on the organisation's outlined budget, to deliver those specific outcomes.
- 3.9 Officers of the Voluntary Sector Unit carried out a detailed consultation with other officers of the Council to discuss the recommendations of 2005/06, ensuring that local area strategies are being considered when making recommendations.
- 3.10 There are a number of organisations that are currently funded through the main grants programme whose grant funding would be more suitably administered through officers responsible for the development and provision of culture within the borough to ensure consistency of approach and informed monitoring of outcomes. It is therefore proposed that the following grant funds are transferred to the Cultural Services Unit:
- **Navratri /Dashera Festival** (Brent Hindu Council). The Cultural Services Unit already manages and allocates the funding for all other Brent funded

festivals such as Diwali, Eid, Hanukah etc It is proposed that the grant for Navratri and Dasher Festival should be transferred to Cultural Services and administered in this way from 2005/6 onwards to ensure consistency of delivery and adherence to the Council's Festivals and events protocols where applicable.

- **Tricycle Theatre.** It is proposed that the grant funding for Tricycle Theatre should be transferred to the Cultural Services Unit for management and administration. This grant funding is the largest single grant awarded to any organisation in Brent from the main programme funding and as such requires specialist input to ensure that outcomes are meaningful and delivered; to ensure that Arts Council objectives for Brent are considered as part of the funding criteria; and to enable further development of the partnership between Brent and the Tricycle. The grant will be administered and managed in the same way as previously and as all grants are currently, using the main grants programme funding criteria and monitoring procedures, by the Cultural Services Unit.
- 3.11 The Voluntary Sector Support Team recommend that a small amount of the allocated budget for the year (£10,856) should be held aside to enable capacity building and training work with the voluntary sector organisations to support their work and growth.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 Full Council agreed a budget of £2,172k (including £959,677 to the Corporation of London for the London Borough Grant) for Main Programme Grants in 2005/2006.

4.2 Members will wish to know that:

- i. 46 currently funded organisations applied for the Main Programme Grant April 05 – March 06) at a total of £1,858,555.51
- ii. 11 organisations with total Grant Aid of £31,901 in 2004/2005 did not re-apply for the Main Programme Grant in 2005/06
- iii. 40 new groups applied for the Main Programme Grant at a total of £1,062,390.28

4.3 The total recommended funding amounts to the voluntary sector is £1,201,144. This can be met within the budget available for 2005/06.

4.3.1 This report recommends the transference of the grant funding budgets for Navratri Festival (£67,750) and Tricycle Theatre (£218,000) to the Cultural Services Unit as outlined in paragraph above.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Responsibility for making decisions on the allocation of funding from the Main Programme currently rests with the Executive of the Council.
- 5.2 Officers in the Council's Legal Services Unit have considered the individual reports on the grant applications and consider that the Council has the power to make the grants recommended

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The current grant arrangements means that a wider range of voluntary sector organisations, including those that work with under-represented or hard to reach groups, were given the chance to apply for funding and an Equalities Impact Assessment is now included in the appraisal report of each organisation's application (Appendices B1). The new arrangement has therefore the potential to benefit a more diverse range of residents than has been the case hitherto.
- 6.2 Projects or services that benefit specific target groups are prioritised under some of the broad criteria. These are in line with priorities already identified in the Corporate Strategy. This does not, however, necessarily mean that these groups are the only beneficiaries of Council grants

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 No staffing implications arise directly from this report

Background Papers

- a) Grant applications and budget papers held on file in the Voluntary Sector UNIT

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