

	<p style="text-align: center;">Executive 13th September 2006</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Report from the Director of Housing and Community Care</p>
<p>For Action Wards Affected: ALL</p>	
<p>Edward Harvist Trust Fund Criteria</p>	

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks Members approval of the new criteria to be used to assess applications for the Edward Harvist Trust, and to increase the maximum funding available to individual organisations. The report also summarises the background to the revision and outlines the benefits to voluntary organisations applying for the grant.
- 1.2 If the proposal is accepted the new criteria will be effective from October 2006, when the second round for the grant is advertised.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- 2.1 Agree the new criteria for the Edward Harvist Trust as set out in Appendix A of this report.
- 2.2 Approve the proposal to increase the maximum level of funding from £3,000 to £5,000 to individual groups/projects applying for the grant.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Edward Harvist Trust dates back to 1610 when it was first established to maintain the Edgware Road. Five Boroughs (Brent, Barnet, Camden, Harrow and the City of Westminster) receive income from the Trust proportionate to the length of the Edgware Road passing through their respective areas. The London Borough of Harrow acts as Administrator of the Trust and is responsible for distributing the income to the other participating boroughs. All 5 boroughs receive income from the fund twice a year. The Council receives approximately £45,000 each year from the fund, but this amount will vary depending on the amount for allocation by the Fund.
- 3.2 The object of the charity is to further 'relief of aged and poor inhabitants, relief of distress and sickness, provision and support of education and recreation and other leisure time activities.' The Council is required to spend the funding received for the purposes of achieving this objective, but subject to that can determine the criteria for making grants from it. Over the years the grant has mainly been awarded for one-off capital expenditure such as the purchase of equipment or other non-recurring expenditure such as summer playschemes, outings, faith and cultural events organised by local voluntary organisations throughout the year.
- 3.3 The Voluntary Sector Team has administered the Fund for some time and although the grant is widely advertised by the Team, the number of applications received from voluntary sector has fallen over the last few years.
- 3.4 Because of the shortage of applications, the Fund is under utilised and as a result the Council has built up a large surplus in the Edward Harvist Trust budget.
- 3.5 The Trustees are concerned about unallocated funds, and last February wrote to the Council reminding us of our responsibility to distribute the fund and to ensure monies from the Charity are fully allocated each year.
- 3.6 To be considered for the Edward Harvist Fund organisations must meet the funding criteria set by the Funders as well as the Council's criteria for funding.
- 3.7 The Council's current criteria for this grant were approved in 2001 and include a maximum award of up to £3,000 for individual groups or projects. The criteria are attached as Appendix B.
- 3.8 Officers are of the view that the Council's criteria are out of date and because the amount awarded is relatively small, organisations no longer apply for the grant.
- 3.9 Officers are recommending new criteria which will encourage more applications, and will include an increase in the amount awarded to individual organisations. The proposal is to increase the maximum award allowed by

the grant from £3,000 up to £5,000. The revised criteria are attached as Appendix A.

- 3.10 Officers are seeking member's approval to implement the new criteria in October 2006, when the second round of the grant is advertised.
- 3.11 We anticipate the new criteria will attract more applications and thus reduce the surplus in the budget.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There is currently £60,183 in the Edward Harvist Trust budget and this does not include monies the Council will receive for the second round in 2006/07.
- 4.2 However it is estimated that the annual income to Brent Council from this Fund is approximately £40,000 per year
- 4.3 The table below shows the resources available for distribution in 2006/07

	£
Balance as at the 1 st April 2006	110,391
Payment received in May 2006/07	27,078
Total	137,469
Less allocations made in the 1 st round (June 2006)	77,287
Balance available for allocation in 2nd round (Oct/Nov 06)	60,182

- 4.4 If the criteria are not approved the Council may continue to carry forward large surpluses. Members should note that any surplus accumulated by the Authority cannot be utilised for Council purposes and is restricted to the aims specified by the Charity.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the Constitution officers can approve grants up to £5,000, so if the increase in maximum grant is approved by the Executive the grants will continue to be determined by officers.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Edward Harvist Trust funding can be of significant assistance in assisting local voluntary organisations in meeting the need of our diverse community. Funding is potentially available to agencies working across the full range of diversity issues
- 6.2 Each organisation which is recommended to receive Edward Harvist Trust funds is required to provide a copy of the Equal Opportunities policy to council officers before funding is released.

7.0 Staffing Implications

7.1 There are no staffing implications arising from this report

Background Papers

Appendix A – Revised Funding Criteria
5.1 Appendix B – Current Funding Criteria as approved by the Council in December 2001

Contact Officers

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