



Executive
23 June 2010

**Report from the Director of
Housing and Community Care**

Wards Affected:
ALL

Main Programme Grant Funding 2010/11

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Executive with details of local voluntary organisations that has applied for renewal of their one year funding from the Council's Main Programme Grant (MPG) for 2010/11.
- 1.2 In November 2008, the Executive agreed that each year they will provide a grant to currently funded organisations not affected by the new three-year funding programme. The groups recommended in this report have been in receipt of the MPG for some time and pending the change in the funding process, will continue to receive funding until they are eligible to apply for the new three-year programme
- 1.3 This report provides details of the funding that will be renewed for 2010/11.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members to note and approve recommendations for allocation of the Main Programme Grants for 2010/11 as summarised in Appendix A and detailed in individual reports attached as Appendix B.
- 2.2 Note that the funding recommendations in this report will commence on 1st July 2010. (Further details are provided in 3.15 below).
- 2.3 Members to confirm that all funding made is subject to the Council's Grant Conditions, and that the funding is subject to each organisation agreeing and abiding by a statement of purpose with the Council.

2.4 Members to note that of the 12 organisations that previously received funding in 2009/10 have re-applied. One organisation did not re-apply and therefore has not been recommended for the grant. Another organisation also applied for the three-year funding and has been recommended and therefore its one-year grant has not been recommended.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The Council has provided grant funding to a range of voluntary organisations for a number of years. Some of these organisations provide services which supplement those provided by the Council and assist in ensuring that specific local needs are met.

3.2 Over the years much of the funding has been allocated on a historical basis and there has been very little change in the organisations that receive MPG funding or the amounts allocated to them. This has made it very difficult for new organisations to access Council funding from this source.

3.3 In April 2007, a Scrutiny Task Group made up of a member from each political party was asked to review voluntary sector funding. Proposals were made to change the funding process and the following were included

- That the MPG should be made more accessible to organisations not currently funded by the Council
- That future funding from the MPG should be linked to corporate priorities
- That we should identify ways of funding voluntary sector organisations for periods longer than a year

3.4 The recommendations made by the Task Group were agreed by the Executive in July 2007, and officers were asked to explore possible new approaches for allocating the Main Programme Grant.

3.5 Officers had to take into consideration the issues relating to the current funding process (as stated in the Task Group report) and explore options that would ensure that the MPG would deliver services that meet locally identified needs and priorities, whilst minimising disruption to local voluntary agencies and the services they provide.

3.6 Officers carried out intensive work over a period of time on this task and reported back to the Executive in November in 2008. The report proposed an allocation of up to £260,000 from the MPG budget to a theme selected from the Council's Strategy. The proposed themes were

- children and young people services,
- crime/community safety, regeneration and
- sustainability.

3.7 The report also detailed the implications of funding each priority and the subsequent effect of reducing or withdrawing funding from currently funded groups to resource the new programme.

- 3.8 The proposals to develop a new funding process were accepted . The Children and Young People's Services was the first theme for the new programme which started in April 2009.
- 3.9 The Executive in November 2008 also agreed that existing organisations, not affected by the three-year funding would have their funding renewed each year until they became eligible to apply for the three-year programme. This will allow them to continue their service and prepare their organisation for the new funding process.
- 3.10 The 12 organisations were invited to re-apply for their grant.
- Assessment Process
- 3.11 In assessing the grant applications, officers ensured that every application was treated fairly, according to the grant conditions and Council's funding priorities. Officers noted the aims and objectives of each organisation, the activities or projects for funding, the outcomes and outputs to be achieved and the internal monitoring arrangements for the funded activity.
- 3.12 Performance information held by the Voluntary Sector Team for previously funded groups was also considered. In addition to the above, each application was assessed by a management accountant to ascertain the financial viability of the organisation. This process was carried out in accordance with guidance from the Council's contract standing orders and included a detailed financial analysis of each organisation.
- 3.13 Of the 12 groups invited to re-apply, 11 have been recommended for funding. One organisation, Middlesex Association for the Blind decided not to apply and therefore was excluded from the process. African Women's Care has also made an application for three year funding and their application has been recommended. Their one year grant has therefore not been recommended. The total amount recommended for re-allocation in 2010/11 is £393,844
- 3.14 Funding has been recommended for projects that complement and support the Council's overall aims and objectives. Also, where organisations indicated that they could deliver a number of services, officers assessed each project and selected the one that best met the Council's priorities. Appendix A shows the organisations recommended for funding, the funding level and details of the project or activity to be provided. Individual assessment reports of all organisations that have applied for the grant is attached as Appendix B.
- 3.15 If members agree to the funding recommended in this report the Voluntary Sector Team will monitor each organisation regardless of funding level. Organisations will be monitored according to established procedures which will include planned and unannounced visits to administrative offices and service locations, feedback from service users and regular analysis of service targets set out in the original grant application.
- 3.16 A large number of applications were received for the MPG three-year funding and the assessment process for this programme i.e. one year funding took longer than anticipated. To compensate for this, organisations were given

one quarter of their funding in advance of the decisions being made. This payment was made in April 2010.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The MPG budget for 2010/11 is £1,970,749. A payment of £929,051 will be made from this budget to the London Councils Grant Programme.

4.2 Based on the proposals in this report the table below shows how the current resources will be allocated.

Main Programme Grant Budget 10/11	£1,970,749
Less London Council allocation for 10/11	£929,051
Less funding awarded in 09 for - Children and Young People Services (year 2)	£253,467
Less allocation to new theme i.e. Crime/Community Safety and Regeneration (20 organisations)	£365,479
Less allocation to currently funded groups not within the theme (at the same level as 2009/10)	£393,844
Exit Fund and Capacity Building fund	28,908
Total	£1,970,749

4.3 It is proposed that the balance of £23,308 from the voluntary sector budget should contribute to funding initiatives to enable effective liaison and engagement with the voluntary sector, such as the Voluntary Sector Forum, annual voluntary sector conference and Funders Fair. Also a proportion of this fund will be used as an exit fund for the 9 organisations previously funded but not recommended for the 3 year programme.

4.4 If the proposals in this report are accepted the Main Programme Grant budget for 2010/11 will be allocated and funding will commence in July 2010. The recommendations made in this report can be implemented within the available budget.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Responsibility for making decisions on the allocation of funding from the Main Programme Grant 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 noted that the Council has the power to make the grants recommended.
- 5.3 The Council has powers under s137 Local Government Act 1972 and s2 Local Government Act 2000 to make grants to voluntary organisations.
- 5.4 The decision to award a grant is discretionary. The Council discretion must not be fettered by previous commitments they may have given. It should make its decision in the light of present circumstances.
- 5.5 The Council is bound to act reasonably and must take into account only relevant considerations and consider its fiduciary duty towards local taxpayers.
- 5.6 As a public authority the Council has general duties to promote equal opportunities relating to race, disability and gender and to remove discrimination. These duties are set out in the:
- Disability Discrimination Act 2005 (DDA 2005);
 - Equality Act 2006;
 - Equal Pay Act 1970;
 - Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 (RRAA 2000);and
 - Sex Discrimination Act 1975.
- 5.7 The DDA 2005 requires public authorities, when considering disabled people, to promote positive attitudes towards them and take positive steps, even if that involves treating them more favourably than others.
- 5.8 To provide guidance on the duty there is a Statutory Code of Practice. The general duty is not absolute but it does require authorities in respect of all their functions to give due regard to disability equality.
- 5.9 The core general duties are similar for race and gender i.e.:
- To promote equality of opportunity; and
 - To eliminate harassment and unlawful discrimination.
- 5.10 The Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended) places a statutory duty on public authorities to work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, and to promote race equality in all its functions. There are three complementary parts to the general duty:
- Eliminating unlawful racial discrimination
 - Promoting equal opportunities
 - Promoting good relations between people from different racial groups
- 5.11 The Code of Practice issued under s71C Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended) is relevant and the council must have regard to it.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 As part of the application process organisations were asked to submit a copy of their Equal Opportunities Policy. These were evaluated by officers to identify how each organisation will promote equality and eliminate discrimination. Details of the Equal Opportunities Policy assessment are included in the appraisal reports in Appendix B.
- 6.2 Given the demographic profile of the borough, a number of community specific projects based on identified need and Council priorities have been recommended for funding. Due consideration has been given to ensure that a broad spectrum of projects are funded reflecting the very diverse service issues and needs within the borough.
- 6.3 Steps will be taken to ensure that all funded projects are duly supported and monitored for achieving equality outcomes thereby encouraging all projects to mainstream equality across all aspects of employment and service delivery. Such an approach, whilst strengthening partnership working will result in creating a positive impact across the voluntary sector.

7.0 Staffing Implications

- 7.1 The new monitoring arrangements for grants will be met from existing resources.

Background Papers

Voluntary Sector Funding – A report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – May 2007

Voluntary Sector Funding – Allocation of Main Programme Grant 2008/09 - 18th March 2008

Process for Allocating Main Programme Grant 2009 – 17th November 2008

Contact Officers

Beverleigh Forbes, Acting Manager for Voluntary Sector Team

Beverleigh.forbes@brent.gov.uk

Tel 020 8937 4163

Linda Martin, Head of Commissioning and Service Development

Linda.martin@brent.gov.uk

Tel 020 8937 4061

Housing and Community Care, 6th Floor, Mahatma Gandhi House, Wembley Hill Road, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 8AD

Martin Chessman

Director of Housing and Community Care