



**Executive**  
23rd June 2010

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

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Main Programme Grant - Three Year Funding for Crime,  
Community Safety and Regeneration Services 2010/13**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides members with details of local voluntary organisations that have applied for funding from the Council's Main Programme Grant (MPG) for three years - 2010/13.
- 1.2 A new funding process which links funding from the MPG each year to Council service priorities was introduced in April 2009. The funding priorities for 2009/12 were Children and Young people Services, 22 organisations received funding of £258,197 under this theme. The theme for 2010/13 is Crime, Community Safety and Regeneration services. Members agreed to fund these services at the Executive Meeting in October 2009
- 1.3 Members are asked to agree funding recommendations detailed in this report. Members should note that funding for this programme should have commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010, however decisions were deferred from March Executive meeting. As a result funding will now commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. Further details are contained within the report

**2.0 Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- 2.1 Note and approve the schemes and funding allocations recommended in paragraph 3.16 of this report. These allocations will be made from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

- 2.2 Note Officers' individual assessment reports for all the organisations that applied for funding in Appendix E. A summary of these reports including officers' recommendations is attached as Appendix D.
- 2.3 Note that all funding will be made subject to the Council's Grant Conditions and that each organisation approved will sign an agreement with the Council, stating the purpose of the grant and expected outcomes before funding is released.
- 2.4 Note that an exit fund of approximately £48,908 will be created for organisations previously funded from the MPG but were unsuccessful in their bid for the new fund.
- 2.5 That in cases where an organisation either declines their grant during the funding period or the grant is withdrawn for performance reasons, that the decision to re-allocate the fund is delegated to the Director of Housing and Community Care.

### 3.0 Detail

#### Background

- 3.1 A review of the Council's Main Programme Grant (MPG) was carried out by a Scrutiny Task Group in May 2007. The review found that, over a number of years funding from the MPG was allocated on a historical basis and relatively the same organisations received annual allocations from the fund. This made it impossible for other organisations providing essential community services to access Council funding. The review recommended various changes to the MPG process including:
- Allocating a proportion of the MPG (at least £250,000 per year) to a specific theme taken from the corporate strategy to ensure that future funding is linked to council priorities.
  - Making funding available to currently funded organisations as well as those that previously did not have access to Council funding
  - Awarding funding on a three-year basis thereby offering longer term grants and better financial stability to organisations
- 3.2 It was also proposed that the historical funding pattern should be phased out within three to four years. These proposals were broadly supported by the voluntary sector, who welcomed the greater stability provided by three- year grants and recognized the need for a fair and transparent process for allocating the grant.

Based on the above recommendations members approved a new funding process in November 2008. This funding process was based on the following:

- Allocate funding over the next three years to themes taken from the Council's Corporate Strategy. The initial three themes agreed were ***children and young people services, crime/community safety, regeneration and sustainability.***
- Existing funded groups to re-apply for their funding when the theme under which they were classified was advertised.
- Award funding of up to £25,000 each year (£75,000 over three years)

- Develop an open bidding process to make the grant accessible to new and existing organisations

3.3 The Council remains committed to maintaining the current Main Programme Grant allocation which effectively represents an increased commitment to the voluntary sector, especially when set against the low and negative inflation rates and the Council's requirement for savings of £75 million over the next four years. We continue to regard the sector as crucial to the Council's Transformation Programme and to other important areas of the Council's service delivery. We anticipate that as well as maintaining the MPG there will be increased investment in the sector via the normal commissioning routes.

3.4 The following table shows how many groups were classified into each theme and the total amount of funding that was allocated to the organisations.

Theme	Number of organisations receiving funding before the 3 year bid round	Funding level (£)
<b>Year 1</b> - Children and Young People's Services	12	260,821
<b>Year 2</b> - Crime/community safety, Regeneration	19	340,217
<b>Year 3</b> - Sustainability	12	401,064

3.5 Based on the above, funding to **all** currently funded organisations will cease over the next three years. Each year a new theme will be advertised and organisations providing services within the theme will be required to re-submit applications for the funds available within that theme.

3.6 The first phase of the new process was introduced in April 2009. The theme was children and young people's services. 22 organisations received funding totalling £760,401 over three years.

3.7 At the Executive meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009, Members agreed to allocate funding to the second phase and selected crime/community safety and regeneration services. These services were selected on the basis that they met council priorities and MPG will offer additional resources to strengthen our commitments to develop safer and stronger communities. This report provides details of the organisations and projects that have applied for funding.

#### **Assessment Process**

3.8 Organisations were invited to apply for the grant on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Details appeared in the local press, Council's website, BRAIN and direct mail was sent to the 17 previously funded organisations that provided similar services from MPG.

Organisations were invited to attend workshops held by officers in the voluntary Sector Team, Community Safety Unit and the Regeneration Unit, where the funding process was discussed in detail and where organisations had the opportunity to discuss their proposed projects with officers. These workshops were held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

3.9 Organisations that expressed an interest in the grant were sent the following documents

- MPG application form
- Criteria for the grant – Appendix A
- Summary of the Council's Corporate Strategy – Appendix C
- Standard Conditions of Grant Aid – Appendix B.

The closing date for receiving completed applications was 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

3.10 67 organisations applied but a total of 69 applications were received. Two organisations submitted more than one application. A total of £4,521,448 over three years has been requested.

3.11 Of the 69 applications received

- 17 were from organisations previously funded by the MPG
- 53 were new organisations
- 5 were from organisations that were already funded from the three years MPG for children and young people services.

3.12 All applications were assessed against the criteria. Officers noted the activities to be provided, their location, links with existing services and the outcomes and outputs to be achieved. All organisations were required to submit references to verify their experience and ability to provide services within the proposed theme.

3.13 Officers from Community Safety and Regeneration also participated in the assessments and provided valuable feedback on the contribution each project would make to the Council's plans to develop safer and stronger communities and improve services to people living in deprived neighborhoods.

3.14 All applications were also 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. The assessment included detailed financial analysis for each organisation.

3.15 Funding has been recommended for 20 projects. These projects meet the funding criteria, offer value for money and complement and support the Council's priorities for Crime, Community Safety and Regeneration. Also, preference has been given to organisations not previously funded from the Main Programme Grant.

3.16 Details of the projects, including funding levels are as follows:

No	Organisation	Annual funding (£)	Total funding (3 years) (£)	Project
1	Addaction	21,500	64,500	<u>Brent Break Free Project</u> Workshops and one-to-one sessions for people with substance misuse
2.	Advance	21,500	64,500	<u>Advance Advocacy</u> Services for women experiencing domestic violence
3	African Women's Care	17,126	51,379	<u>Health Advice and Guidance</u> Health and wellbeing workshops for BME women in priority areas
4.	Bosnia and Herzegovina Community Advice Centre	19,888	59,664	<u>Local Active Healthy Elders in Brent</u> Services to improve the quality of life of elderly people from West Balkans living in Brent
5	Brent Addiction Counseling Service	21,500	64,500	<u>Addiction Services</u> Counseling services for people with drugs and alcohol addiction
6.	Brent Indian Association	21,500	64,500	<u>Being Safe and Staying Safe</u> To provide advice, information and training on crime awareness and prevention to the Asian community
7.	Brent Irish Advisory Service	21,500	64,500	<u>Housing Community Project -</u> to provide specialist information, advice and support to vulnerable older people on various housing issues
8	Brent Neighborhood Watch Association	7,164	21,492	<u>Training Co-ordinators and Members</u> Providing support and training to volunteers to keep them up to date on crime prevention issues
9.	Cricklewood Homeless concern	20,867	62,601	<u>STEPS</u> Support, training, employment and personalized services to homeless people
10.	Elders Voice	18,869	56,607	<u>The Whole Community</u> To provide intergenerational activities for older people and young people in priority areas
11.	Energy Solutions	21,500	64,500	<u>Home Energy Support</u> Provide fuel debt and fuel poverty advice and support to people in priority areas

No	Organisation	Annual funding (£)	Total funding (3 years) (£)	Project
12.	Groundwork London	20,640	61,920	<u>Growing Greener Stronger Communities</u> Establish gardening activities in deprived areas
13	Kilburn Youth Centre / P3	21,153	63,459	<u>Jobshop</u> Information, advice and guidance to unemployed young people in South Kilburn
14.	Mayhew Animal Home	21,500	64,500	<u>Responsible Dog Ownership</u> Provide information and education about registration and the responsibility of dog ownership in priority areas
15	Minster Centre Families without Fear Project	21,500	64,500	<u>Families Without Fear Project</u> Delivery of a range of sessions to include therapeutic support, group work and post group follow up work
16	Princes Trust (The)	20,432	61,296	<u>Realising Potential in Brent</u> To enable young people to set up their own business and compete for community cash awards
17.	Relate London West	12,900	38,700	<u>Relationship Counseling in Brent</u> Family counseling service to people living in priority areas
18.	St Raphael's Youth Football and Sports Club	8,330	24,990	<u>Learn and Earn Project</u> To provide courses in event stewarding, spectator safety (NVQ2) and Door security, for people living on St Raphael's Estate to enable employment opportunities at London 2012 Olympics
19.	Thames 21	14,998	44,994	<u>Waterway Action Co-ordinator</u> Engage volunteers to clean up Brent waterways, particularly within the priority areas
20.	Toucan Employment	17,200	51,600	<u>Employability</u> To run workshops that will target jobseekers with special needs
	<b>Total</b>	<b>371,567</b>	<b>1,114,701</b>	

3.17 A large number of applications were received for this programme and the assessment process has taken longer than anticipated. As a result the funding period will need to be adjusted and it is proposed that funding will now commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 for a period of 2 years and 9 months. Also due to the large number of eligible applications received it is not possible to award the maximum grant of

£25,000. Officers propose that the funding level is reduced by 14% making a maximum allocation of £21,500 per organisation.

- 3.18 If members agree to the funding recommendations in this report, each funded organisation will be issued with a written agreement clearly stating the services to be provided and the outputs to be achieved. Due to the reduction in funding levels officers will need to re-negotiate outputs and outcomes prior to issuing these agreements.
- 3.19 The Voluntary Sector Team will monitor each organisation's performance against the output and outcomes set out in their funding agreement. As part of this process the team will have regular meetings with organisations and will carry out planned and unannounced inspection of services. Officers will work closely with organisations to ensure links with the statutory organisations providing services within the proposed themes are established and that the services continue to support the council's priorities.
- 3.20 By awarding funding from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010 a saving of £92,891 has been made. This saving has been allocated to previously funded organisations in order that they can continue providing services until a decision about this grant process has been taken. This funding was paid on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and will be the equivalent of three month's funding (£86,803).
- 3.21 With regard to the 15 groups that re-applied 6 have been recommended. All were currently funded organisations and were eligible to apply however, African Women's Care did not fall under this theme but their application met the funding criteria and has been recommended. If they are approved for the 3 year funding, they have agreed that their one year funding is withdrawn.
- 3.22 With regard to Brent Arts Council, the Voluntary Sector team is currently working with the Creative Development Team in Libraries, Arts and Heritage to set up a capacity building programme specifically for arts organisations in Brent. The project will be delivered by Brent Business Ventures and Brent Arts Council will be invited to take part in this programme. This programme will provide one to one support enabling them to improve their business and respond to the needs of the community they serve.
- 3.23 Members should note that of the 11 organisations that will have their funding withdrawn only 9 have re-applied and therefore eligible for an exit fund. Middlesex ITEC and Samaritans of Brent did not re-apply for funding.
- 3.24 Due to the large number of eligible applications only £28,908 is available as an exit fund and for capacity building projects for the sector. This amount is significantly less than required and the Service Development and Commissioning team will allocate approximately £20,000 from existing resources to Voluntary Sector budget to create an appropriate fund. Funding to the 9 groups will be allocated on a pro-rata basis, as there is insufficient funding to award the usual 3 months exit fund. Those organisations that are eligible for this fund are listed in Appendix F.

3.25 It is proposed that where an organisation declines their grant or the grant is withdrawn for performance reasons during the period of the grant; this funding is re-allocated to an appropriate organisation providing similar services. In order for the re-allocation to take place as quickly as possible it is recommended that the Director of Housing and Community Care is given delegated powers to make this decision. The delegation of powers would be for the period of the funding programme.

#### 4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The budget will be £1,970,749. We estimate that a payment of £929,051 will be made from this budget to the London Councils Grant Programme. This represents a saving of £6,000 from previous years that has been deducted from the budget that was reported to Executive in October 2009.

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

<b>Main Programme Grant Budget 10/11</b>	<b>£1,970,749</b>	
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. <b>Crime/Community Safety and Regeneration (20 organisations)</b>	Rollover £86,803  Allocation for 9 months £278,676	£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	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,970,749</b>	

4.3 It is proposed that the balance of £28,908 from the voluntary sector budget will contribute to funding initiatives that will 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 by not recommended for this programme.

4.4 As stated above there is insufficient monies in the MPG to create the usual exit fund, to affected organisations. To meet this budget shortfall £20,000 will be allocated from the Service Development and Commissioning budget for this purpose.



4.5 The recommendations made in this report can be implemented within the available budget.

## 5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The Council has powers under s137 Local Government Act 1972 and s2 Local Government Act 2000 to make grants to voluntary organisations.

5.2 The decision to award a grant is discretionary. The Council's discretion must not be fettered by previous commitments they may have given and it should make its decision in the light of present circumstances.

5.3 The Council is bound to act reasonably and must take into account relevant considerations and to ignore irrelevant considerations and should consider its fiduciary duty towards local taxpayers.

5.4 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.

5.5 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 favorably than others.

5.6 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.

5.7 The core general duties are similar for race and gender i.e.:

- To promote equality of opportunity; and
- To eliminate harassment and unlawful discrimination.

5.8 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

5.9 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 The Scrutiny Task Group supported by a widespread consensus had identified a need to change the allocation of the MPG. The changes mean that
- All community and voluntary organisations are entitled to bid, and this has resulted in a widening of access to Council funding across the sector
  - Successful bidding organisations have much more funding stability as the grants are paid for over three years. This also increases their chances of accessing external funding and ensures that they can run projects that can deliver greater benefits over a longer period
  - Council expenditure is focused on areas of greatest need and in line with corporate and departmental priorities.

Overall there was a consensus that there was a need to change the process for allocating the Main Programme Grant.

- 6.3 Following the first phase of the new process, a Predictive Equality Impact Needs Assessment was carried out and the outcome showed that:
- The new process is likely to affect some organisations in the short to medium term but will have a positive impact on promoting equality for both service users and voluntary organisations
  - No adverse impact on people from diverse background will be affected by the new process
  - Will ensure information relating to all seven equality strand are collected within the community
- 6.4 With regard to the four organisations that had their funding discontinued last year under the theme of Children and Young people services, officers have worked closely with these groups and have supported them to obtain alternative funding.
- 6.5 Projects recommended in this round will reflect the diverse needs of service users that live in deprived neighborhoods. Funding crime community safety and regeneration services will provide additional resources to areas where the council has identified that significant improvements are needed. Funding from the MPG will directly contribute and support our existing priorities, and our strategic plans for crime and regeneration.
- 6.6 It will strengthen our commitment to develop safer and stronger communities and will provide opportunities for the voluntary sector to work in partnership with the statutory sector. This funding round will also support the new local performance framework (CAA) which is primarily about two things; improving quality of life in places and better public services (DCLG).
- 6.7 With regard to this programme 17 previous funded organisations applied and six were recommended. To address any adverse impact loss of funding may have on these groups officers will ensure additional support is provided to enable them to access alternative sources of funding. The work with Brent Business Venture will commence in July 2010 and art organisations that have applied for the MPG will be invited to take part in this programme.

## **7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)**

7.1 There will be no staffing or accommodation implications resulting from this report.

### **Background Papers**

- Voluntary Sector Funding – a report of the Overview and Scrutiny Task Group – May 2007
- Theme for Main Programme Grant funding 2010/13 - 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

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