

GRANTS TO HILLINGDON'S LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2020/21 FINANCIAL YEAR

Cabinet Member	Councillor Douglas Mills
Cabinet Portfolio	Community, Commerce and Regeneration
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Papers with report	Appendix A : Voluntary Sector Core Grant Recommendations 2020/21 Appendix B : Assessment of Core Grant applications 2020/21 Appendix C : Equalities Impact Assessment (EACH Pukaar) Appendix D : Transport grant recommendations 2020/21

HEADLINES

Summary	Cabinet is asked to agree the Council's Voluntary Sector core funding Grants for 2020/21, funding grants for Transport 2020/21 and the Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants scheme 2020/21.
Putting our Residents First	<p>This report contributes to the Council's objectives of: <i>Our People; Our Natural Environment; Financial Management.</i></p> <p>The grants budget is used to support a range of Voluntary Sector activity, which supports the Council in achieving its priorities and objectives.</p> <p>The Dining Centres grant is used to provide funding to 7 dining centres across the Borough that focus on providing a meals service and socialising opportunities for older residents.</p> <p>The Transport grant is used to facilitate the transport needs of members of a number of small voluntary organisations.</p> <p>The London Boroughs grant scheme supports pan-London organisations under its priorities of tackling sexual and domestic abuse and combatting homelessness.</p>
Financial Cost	<p>The report proposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) up to £1,979,605 core funding grants for the 2020/21 financial year. ii) confirms funding of £169,700 to support the provision of Dining Centres for 2020/21. iii) the allocation of £46,675 for the provision of Transport for 2020/21. iv) a contribution to the London Councils Grant scheme for 2020/21 of £228,172.

**Policy Overview
Committee**

Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities

Ward(s) affected

All.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet agrees:

- 1. The overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector of up to £1,979,605 for the provision of core grant funding for the 2020/21 financial year with specific awards as set out in the schedule - Appendix A.**
- 2. Notes its previous decision (13 December 2018) to award a 3 year dining centre grants to Voluntary Sector of up to £169,700 for the provision of dining centres grant funding for three years : 2019/20, 2020/21 to 2021/22 with specific awards as set out in the paper.**
- 3. Grants totalling £46,675 to organisations to enable the provision of transport as set out in Appendix D.**
- 4. The Council's contribution of £228,172 to the London Councils' Grants scheme for 2020/21 (subject to London Council's Leader's Committee meeting on 3rd December 2019).**

Reasons for recommendation

1. Hillingdon Council has been an established financial supporter of the Borough's voluntary sector for many years. The core grant programme ensures that Hillingdon has a vibrant and thriving voluntary sector providing support, guidance and services for local residents.
2. The Council seeks to maximise the benefits from investment in the Borough's voluntary sector to encourage activity that supports residents, reduces demand on Council services and provides value for money.
3. The ongoing commitment of significant financial support to the Borough's voluntary sector has served to sustain a wide range of voluntary sector activity. The certainty of core funding provides a platform for many groups to expand activity, diversify to meet new demands, to pursue new initiatives and to bid for additional external funding.
4. The provision of dining centre grants and transport grants ensures funding directly benefits priority groups (the elderly and the disabled) and enables, often smaller groups, to provide valuable front line support for residents.

Alternative options considered / risk management

5. The Cabinet has the following alternative options:
 - Agree the recommendations subject to any changes the Cabinet wishes to make or;
 - Reject one or more of the recommendations.
6. In respect of the Council's contribution to the London Council's Grant Scheme, the Council has the option of not approving its contribution. For the overall London grants scheme to be approved, however, at least two thirds of the 32 London Boroughs plus the City of London must approve their individual budget contribution. If there is no agreement, under the legislation governing the grants scheme, the overall level of expenditure for the Grants Committee reverts back to the previous year's budget, which for Hillingdon in 2019/20 was £228,447.

Comments of Policy Overview Committee

7. As part of the consultation on the Cabinet's budget proposals, the Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities Policy Overview Committee will meet in January 2020 to consider them. This includes the financial support to the voluntary sector outlined in this report. Any comments agreed by the Committee will be presented to Cabinet in February 2020.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

8. The voluntary sector core grants budget is unique in offering core funding to organisations that are key partners and provide services that contribute to the Council's priorities and support the wellbeing of residents. Recipients with stable core support are often able to attract additional income either via other funders or by securing contracts. Outline details of the funding secured by each organisation is contained in the assessment of applications at Appendix B.

Current funding climate

9. The environment for voluntary and community groups continues to be challenging. In particular, groups are reporting;
 - Organisations continue to experience more competition in accessing funds as funders look to fund innovative or alternative projects that do not cover the day to day needs of individuals / groups. This is resulting in either less external funding being secured or, in some cases, larger charities being able to secure more funding as they have the resources to devote to funding applications. Smaller charities are having to put more effort into fundraising and this is placing pressure on capability and capacity. More social enterprise type initiatives are being developed and charges are being made to clients, where appropriate and affordable.

- In response, the H4All consortium has gone from strength to strength and won funding from City Bridge Trust to roll out its Community Development project, which complements its successful wellbeing service in neighbourhoods.
- Groups have also restructured to gain efficiencies and some have relied on reserves to cover shortfalls. For some, especially smaller groups, this has all given rise to cash flow issues. Officers continue to work with organisations to see what strategies might assist them and how the organisations may implement them.

10. The forthcoming closure of Hillingdon Community Trust (HCT) whose last grant round will be December 2019/20 and has invested over £1m a year into Hillingdon's voluntary sector for over fifteen years, means that there will be further need for groups to be innovative, to share resources and to reduce costs. HCT is hosting a "Meet the Funders" event in December for third sector groups but it is expected that some services provided by third sector groups may be curtailed once funding has ceased.

2020/21 Recommendations

11. Whilst the majority of the recommendations on the level of funding to be offered to organisations are consistent with those offered for the 2019/20 financial year, there are a number of exceptions and recommendations concerning those and three new bids are highlighted below.
12. An analysis of each application, together with financial comments is attached at Appendix B. Where applicable, in the individual assessment of applications, reference is made to issues that the organisation is asked to address in respect of the funding offered.

NEW APPLICATIONS

13. The Council has received 3 new applications from organisations: Hillingdon Brain Tumour & Injury Support Group, United Support Project and Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch. A detailed assessment of the applications is also included in Appendix B (except for Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch - see below). The comments are summarised below.

14.1. Hillingdon Brain Tumour & Injury Support Group (HBTISG)

HBTISG provides a wrap around advice and support service for adults and children living with cancerous and non cancerous brain tumours and brain injuries.

HBTISG assist those newly diagnosed to better understand their diagnosis, choices for treatment, benefits available and understanding impact on their own, and their families, lives. They also run education programmes for the public and health care professionals on diagnosis and the benefit of early intervention with the assistance of leading neurosurgeons.

The main focus of their work is early intervention as diagnosis is currently often undertaken late, with consequential costs of treatment being excessive and impact on families and all concerned is high as the survival rate is low on late diagnosis.

HBTISG run the Centre of Hope in Hillingdon, helping people regain the skills needed following diagnosis by offering complementary treatments, buddying support and volunteer opportunities through their charity shop to regain skills that may have been lost following treatment. The centre also provides counselling for those affected by diagnosis and support groups.

This group is now established in Hillingdon and has attracted additional funding from the National Lottery, Hillingdon Community Trust and through local fund raising. They are seeking funding for contribution towards paid staff posts to support the work they do and to help them bring a wider awareness of the impact of Brain Tumour / Injury and to reduce the costs and distress in late diagnosis. The organisation has asked for a grant of £30k to cover salaries. There are some external funding streams the organisation can consider to meet these costs, however funding them the full grant award will allow them the opportunity to tap into other funding streams. It is recommended to award a grant of £30k to help towards the staffing costs to seek further external funding.

14.2. US Project (United Support)

US is a new group formed earlier this year that works with Somali born mothers whose traditional values may risk them becoming disconnected with their westernised children and young adults, thus impacting on their children's education and health and their broader mental health and wellbeing.

US have requested a grant of £9000 have been running sessions out of the YMCA in Hayes and have now relocated to Townfield Community Centre. They are seeking to expand on the work they currently do by:-

- Running Somali - specific parenting classes
- Working with local schools using the learning from the parenting classes to help identify and support struggling students
- Run Health promotional activities to undertake preventative work in the Somali community
- Tackle Cultural barriers to health services. Helping those born in Somalia to access health services so treatment becomes proactive rather than reactive.
- Tackling social isolation and loneliness through social activities.

US has identified the Somali community as feeling quite isolated and aims to build a better connected and stronger more resilient community through the above. As a new group they have applied for £9k to cover rent and administration. They have been supported by the Council to help them in their journey to becoming established and properly constituted. The move to Townfield from the YMCA reduces costs. It is recommended that an award of £5600 is given, reflecting current needs as the group is in its infancy and that their new accommodation does not come with a rental fee. The Voluntary Sector Partnerships team will continue to support the new group to develop and look at funding streams and future planning.

14.3. Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch

HNW applied for a grant of £800 to cover rental costs and some administration. Since then, in November 2019, Cabinet agreed a license for a room at Manor Farm Library with a nil license fee. It is also felt that HNW's administration costs can be met within their current MOPAC funding or from reserves. A grant is, therefore, now no longer required.

GRANT REDUCTIONS

15. Recommendations for levels of funding for the 2020/21 financial year are at the same amounts as those for the 2019/20 as set out in Appendix B, except where applications are for reduced grant and for the following changes to awards:

15.1. Harlington Hospice (HH, respite care - previously delivered by Carers Trust Thames)

Harlington Hospice is delivering the respite care service previously awarded through the grants programme to Carers Trust Thames and took this over early in the 2019/20 programme (as agreed by Cabinet in April 2019). At that stage HH did not have time to review the operating model as the continuation of the service was the main priority. HH has since developed its approach as "Harlington Care" and has managed to reduce this cost to £100k by aligning the contract with the following measures:-

- Carers working closer to home so reducing travelling time
- Introduction of electronic call monitoring
- Combined ICT structures within H4All structure

This has demonstrated sound financial planning by looking at efficiency savings without any service reduction to service users.

15.2. Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support (Rural Activities Garden Centre & Brookfield Tea Rooms)

HACS have identified savings through the use of marketing initiatives to generate more income through the Rural Tea rooms meaning a reduction in grant required from £61.5k to £58.5k. Their intention is to grow and diversify this area to decrease this dependence going forward.

15.3. Hillingdon AIDS Response Trust

HART has not been successful in bids for the delivery of service contracts which have been awarded to organisations such as THT (Terrence Higgins Trust). This has meant that HART has become a "host" for these organisations as they are run through subletting of their premises. Their current client numbers in residual activities are low and access for the advice services they need can be found locally at CAB, THT and other local groups. It is therefore recommended to reduce their grant from £15k to £7.5k and work with HART to explore their future options. They have considerable assets in the premises they own and exploring their options may allow them to review current services.

15.4. EACH: Pukaar project

EACH through their Pukaar project, delivers counselling in mother tongue languages at 3 satellite sites in Hillingdon for women aged over 18 who are affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse. EACH has received core grant for £30k a year to support this project. Monitoring reports over the last year have highlighted inconsistencies in the data EACH has provided and this has led to us being unable to judge value for money or determine unit costs for the funding they receive. We estimate that the service reaches some 85 women but have no confidence in the data provided. Officers do not support the application for funding in 2020/21 as they have insufficient evidence that grant has been used entirely for the purpose sought or offers value for money.

Withdrawal of core grant would be mitigated by other services being available from borough based organisations, including Hillingdon Women's Centre and Hillingdon MIND and these services are available in more mother tongue languages also taking into account women from European countries. In addition EACH receives funding via the London Councils grant scheme under the ASCENT project (£18,150 in 2019/20 for delivery in Hillingdon). This pan-london programme offers counselling and support services to women and girls affected by violence and abuse as part of a London wide consortium. It is proposed not to continue to fund this service going forward and an Equalities Impact Assessment is provided at Appendix C setting out anticipated impact and mitigating actions.

15.5 Friends of No11(F) Group Operations Room

The Friends of the No11 (F) group operations room are a valued partner in the operation of the Borough's Battle of Britain bunker. The organisation has been funded by our grants programme for several years. The grant was reduced from £6k to £2k in 2019/20 to reflect changing needs now that the bunker is fully open and the opportunity the group had to generate income through their running of the gift shop. The grant awarded for 2019/20 has not been able to be released as we have yet to receive satisfactory signed accounts. As required financial information has not been forthcoming (and we expect that the turnover from shop sales may well mean the grant is no longer required - though this has not been verified), it is not recommended to continue with the requested grant of £2k for 2020/21.

15.6. Victim Support

The Victim Support grant awarded in 2019/20 has not been paid in full as monitoring information implied that the grant had not been used for the purposes intended. Since then Victim Support has received an annual application form and dialogue with officers led us to believe that an application would be received, however, no application has been received so there is no proposal for 2020/21.

GRANT INCREASES

15.7. Northwood Live at Home

Northwood Live at Home MHA provides support to elderly people in Northwood Hills and Northwood to enable them to live independently in their own homes.

Activities are aimed at promoting friendship, socialising, health and wellbeing and are all provided with the assistance of trained volunteers.

The increasing demand and the number of referrals are stretching staff, who are required to manage activities and volunteers. This year and last has seen both an increase in activities and numbers of clients with new members being referred from Ruislip, Eastcote, and Harefield. In order for the scheme to continue to meet this new demand, they have requested an increase of £10.5k. It is recommended that an increase of £4k be considered, recognising the growth in MHA activity away from Northwood.

15.8. Hillingdon Samaritans

Samaritans provide individuals with emotional support to reduce suicides by those in crisis. They also seek to prevent suicide by working with schools, colleges, businesses and community groups and services to increase understanding of emotional health and improve the quality of interventions provided for those in need.

The corporate grant is the only statutory income Hillingdon Samaritans receive. The rest of their local funding comes from local fundraising efforts, church groups and businesses and small trusts. They own their premises and have designated reserves for property maintenance. Hillingdon Samaritans is an entirely volunteer run organisation. The organisation continues to experience deficits but has reserves.

The small increase requested supports the Council's partnership approach to suicide prevention and will directly increase provision through training more volunteers and promoting the service in the Borough. Officers, therefore, recommend the grant is increased as requested by £1k to £6k for 2020/21.

15.9. Hillingdon MIND

MIND has been through a transitional period over the last 2 years for which it has shown sound financial management and prudent planning to sustain services to residents. Where efficiencies have been possible they have been made and they are now entering a new phase which is seeing growth in demand and restored confidence.

They are requesting an additional £10k as needs identified have shown an increase in footfall of those in need of counselling and they have invested in attracting counsellors that are able to offer specialisms in identified themes, cultural, language and religious barriers. There is potential to explore further work with the organisation and mitigate any risks arising from those experiencing domestic violence and currently accessing the EACH/Pukaar project.

15.10. Hillingdon Womens Centre

A period of uncertainty was experienced by the Women's centre and this has led them to take the opportunity to recruit a new manager late last year and to plan a wide consultation event to look at and refresh the work they do to reflect the needs of Hillingdon Women.

The trustees are keen that they review the work the centre does and continues to deliver in the areas of demand but also bring to fruition the realisation of any changing needs identified in the consultation. They have had static funding from the Council since 2014/15 despite increasing services and costs.

They are requesting an additional £5k to undertake the support work for the Afghani's Women's project which is currently supported by EACH/Pukaar. The project is well attended and demand is high. This increase will allow the group to continue by meeting the costs of a creche worker. Support for an increase of £5k for this purpose is recommended.

15.11. RELATE London North West & Herts

Relate have been static in £12k grant funding for a number of years. They have identified the need for another young person's counsellor and training of a counsellor in Psycho Sexual Therapy (PST) due to the waiting list of clients needing specialist PST counselling. Therefore, they need increased funding this financial year for two training programmes at £2,200 each so they can meet demand, prevent increase in social care needs and promote well-being of the young people. The cost of £4,400 course fees is needed for this year only. They have asked for £18.6k and it is recommended that a one-off increase of £3.5k to £15.5k be awarded.

15.12. Home Start Hillingdon

The increase request of £5k is for new software and is needed to allow for the better recording of outcomes. This is a one off cost. They provide invaluable services to families with children under 5 in the borough and are well regarded for the work they do with Children's services. The one-off increase is, therefore, supported.

15.13. Uxbridge Child Contact Centre

The Contact Centre is asking for an additional £355 for increased costs in the delivery of this service. They have been static at £3k for a number of years and this reflects those incurred increases.

OLDER PEOPLE'S DINING CENTRE PROGRAMME

16. In December 2018, Cabinet agreed a three year grant programme for the seven older people's dining centres across the Borough. 2020/21 is the second year for which this applies. The grant award agreed for 2020/21 amounts to £169,700.
17. Dining centres continue to provide a welcoming place for older residents to meet people, relax and eat healthy meals. Our monitoring information confirms that the centres are well used and popular. The awards are set out in the table below :

Organisations	Grant Recommended per annum 2019-20 / 2021-22
DINING CENTRES	£
Age UK Hillingdon	38,700
Bell Farm Christian Centre	18,000
Dovetail Community Centre	20,000
Northwood Live at Home Scheme	7,000
Ruislip Northwood Old Folks Association (RNOFA) x2 clubs (Elm Park Club & Tudor Club)	84,000
Yiewsley Methodist Church	2,000
Grand total	169,700

TRANSPORT GRANTS

18. In addition to the funding the Council offers to support the core costs of organisations, it has traditionally awarded grants to support some of the Borough's smaller voluntary groups to meet the transport needs of group members. The organisations supported from this budget cater mainly for clients with disabilities who require specialist transport and that would find it challenging to travel by public transport. The proposed grants budget to support these organisations for 2020/21 is £46,675. Details of the organisations and the level of grant recommended are attached as Appendix D.

LONDON COUNCILS GRANT SCHEME

19. The LCs Grant Scheme supports voluntary sector activity and specifically funds voluntary organisations across all 32 London authorities and the City of London. The London Councils Grants Committee proposes that its overall budget for the London Councils Grants scheme for 2020/21 should total £6,668,152. Proposals were discussed at the Leaders Committee meeting on 13th November 2019 and are likely to be agreed at the next meeting on 3rd December 2019.

20. Hillingdon's contribution for 2020/21 is proposed to be £228,172 a decrease of £275 over the Council's 2019/20 contribution of £228,447.

21. Individual borough contributions are based on the Office of National Statistics mid-year population estimates for June 2016, with Hillingdon's percentage of London's total calculated at 3.42%.

22. It is anticipated that the individual boroughs will agree to accept the recommendations on their contributions.

Financial Implications

23. This report proposes an allocation of £1,979,605 grant funding from the Voluntary Sector Grants budget for the 2020/21 financial year and notes the agreed award of £169,700 to support the provision of Dining Centres. A further allocation of £46,675 funded from Passenger Services to support the provision of transport is also proposed.

24. Recommendations also include a centrally funded contribution to the London Councils Grant Committee of £228,172. This is a reduction of £275 relating to planned use of balances by the grants committee and funding included within the draft 2020/21 budget.

25. The draft 2020/21 budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of award totalling £2,424,152. A full review of the financial statements and application forms of each organisation has been undertaken and brief financial commentary has been included for each organisation in Appendix B to this report.

RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

The benefit or impact upon residents, service users and communities?

26. The overall effect of these proposals will be to strengthen and support Hillingdon's voluntary sector with new growth and initiatives, which will directly benefit residents.

Consultation Carried Out or Required

27. No formal consultation has been undertaken on the proposals for agreement at this Cabinet.

CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate Finance

28. Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concur with the financial implications set out above, noting that the draft 2020/21 budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of awards to the Voluntary Sector in core grants, Dining Centres, Transport organisations and the London Boroughs Grant Scheme. It is also noted that any award of grant monies is subject to the review of satisfactory accounts for the last financial year if they are yet to be received.

Legal

29. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a power of general competence which provides local authorities with the power to do anything that individuals may

generally do. It includes the power for Council to make grant payments to voluntary organisations.

30. With regard to the London Councils Grant Scheme, this Scheme is established under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. As stated in the report, if two-thirds of the London boroughs do not approve their individual budget contribution, the previous year's budget will continue to apply to the Scheme.

Relevant Service Groups

31. Relevant teams in Residents Services, Finance, Adult Social Care and Children and Young People's Services have been consulted on the proposals.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

Appendix A

Organisations	Grant Award 2019-20	Grant Requested 2020-21	Grant Recommended 2020-21
ADULT SOCIAL CARE	£	£	£
Age UK Hillingdon, Harrow & Brent	582,400	582,400	582,400
Harlington Hospice (Community Cancer Service)	20,000	25,000	20,000
Harlington Hospice (Respite Care - previously delivered by Carers Trust Thames)	135,000	100,000	100,000
Crown Centre for the Deaf	10,000	10,000	10,000
DASH	98,000	120,000	98,000
EACH - Pukaar	30,000	30,000	0
Heathrow Travel Care	45,000	45,000	45,000
Hillingdon Aids Response Trust	15,000	15,000	7,500
Hillingdon Carers	105,000	105,000	105,000
H4All Dementia befriending	30,000	30,000	30,000
Hillingdon Citizens Advice	280,000	280,000	280,000
Hillingdon MIND	80,000	90,000	90,000
Hillingdon Shopmobility	22,000	22,000	22,000
Hillingdon Women's Centre	25,000	30,000	30,000
Mencap Jubilee Pool	5,000	5,000	5,000
MHA - Northwood Live at Home Scheme	18,000	28,500	22,000
RELATE London North West & Herts	12,000	18,600	15,500
Samaritans of Hillingdon	5,000	6,000	6,000
Victim Support Hillingdon	10,000	0	0
Recycle-A-Bike	10,000	15,000	10,000
CHILDREN & FAMILIES SERVICES			
Bell Farm Christian Centre	50,000	55,000	50,000
Centre for ADHD and Autism Support	15,000	23,377	15,000
HALO Children's Foundation	7,000	34,000	7,000
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support	40,000	40,000	40,000
Hillingdon Autistic Care & Support (Rural Activities Garden Centre & Brookfield Cafes)*	61,500	58,500	58,500
Hillingdon Outdoor Activities Centre	54,500	54,500	54,500
Home-Start Hillingdon	120,000	125,000	125,000
P3	42,000	42,000	42,000

Uxbridge Child Contact Centre	3,000	3,355	3,355
RESIDENTS SERVICES			
Friends of No 11(F) Group Operations Room	2,000	2,000	0
Groundwork South - Healing Gardens	7,000	7,000	7,000
Green Corridor (Crane Valley Partnership)	10,000	10,000	10,000
Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust	2,500	2,500	2,500
Hillingdon Community Transport	32,000	32,000	32,000
Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations	7,000	10,000	7,000
Hillingdon Natural History Society	1,000	1,000	1,000
London Wildlife Trust (Hillingdon)	10,000	10,000	10,000
Pinner & Ruislip Beekeepers Association	750	750	750
NEW APPLICATIONS 2020/21			
United Support Project (Us Project)	0	9,000	5,600
Hillingdon Brain Tumour & Injury Support Group	0	30,000	30,000
Hillingdon Neighbourhood Watch	0	800	0
Subtotal	2,002,650	2,108,282	1,979,605
* agreed by March Cabinet 2019			
Grand total	2,002,650	2,108,282	1,979,605