

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2009**

Councillors: \*Amin (Chair), \*Basu, \*Canver, Bob Harris and \*Reith.

\*Present

<b>MINUTE NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT/DECISION</b>	<b>ACTION BY</b>
<b>VSGC04.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> (Agenda Item 1)</p> <p>An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bob Harris.</p>	
<b>VSGC05.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IS ANY IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA</b> (Agenda Item 3)</p> <p>Councillor Amin and Councillor Basu in respect of Agenda Item 6 - Review of Core Grant Funding for Community Centres, Legal and Advice Organisations 2010-2013.</p>	HLDMS
<b>VSGC06.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b> (Agenda Item 4)</p> <p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June, 2009 be approved and signed.</p>	HLDMS
<b>VSGC07.</b>	<p><b>THE LEGAL SERVICES COMMISSION (LSC) LEGAL ADVICE PROCUREMENT REFORMS</b> (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications - Agenda Item 5)</p> <p>We noted that the report provided us with an update on the feasibility of the Council entering into a joint funding relationship with the Legal Services Commission (LSC) for the procurement of social welfare legal advice in Haringey and made recommendations for a way forward.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council should not enter into a joint funding relationship to provide Social Welfare Law with the Legal Services Commission (LSC).</li> <li>2. That the Council work in partnership with the Haringey Community Legal Services Partnership (HCLSP) to explore the possibility of developing a Community Legal Advice Consortium in Haringey that could, if desired, bid for the LSC contract for the provision of Social Welfare Law (SWL) in Haringey when it goes out to tender.</li> </ol>	<p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p>
<b>VSGC08.</b>	<p><b>REVIEW OF CORE GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES, LEGAL AND ADVICE ORGANISATIONS 2010-2013</b> (Report of the</p>	

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Assistant Chief Executive Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications - Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Basu declared a personal interest in this item by virtue of being a member of the Council of Asian People. Councillor Amin declared a prejudicial interest by virtue of being one of the Council's representatives on the Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre and withdrew from the meeting. Councillor Canver took the Chair.

The report was the subject of a motion to exclude the press and public as it contained exempt information relating to the business or financial affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

We noted that the report set out the findings and recommendations of the independent review of 14 Community Centres, 3 Legal and Advice voluntary agencies for continuation of core funding for the financial years 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2013. Also, that the report set out the findings and recommendations in relation to a further organisation following an independent re-review at the request of that organisation and informed us of the budget provision available in 2010/11 and the financial constraints on varying funding arrangements due to budgetary considerations.

**RESOLVED**

1. That it be noted that following the independent review all the organisations recommended for funding met the grant funding criteria with the exception of one organisation and that the basis on which the funding was recommended was as follows:

- Community Organisations - The current level of funding allocation at a standstill over the period of the new funding agreement.
- Legal and Advice Organisations – The current level of funding with inflation over the period of the new funding agreement, the recommendation to award inflation to the advice agencies being in recognition of the continuing demand and pressures on the legal and advice services due to the economic downturn and being consistent with the funding agreement 2007-2010 agreed by the Committee on the 20 June 2006.

2. That continuation of funding be agreed for the nine organisations identified in paragraph 4.2 of the interleaved report for three years with standard conditions as they had demonstrated their ability to consistently provide a high standard of service to the community, the Council and the Council's statutory partners.

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3. That, having regard to concern about the levels of weakness identified in the independent review which were a significant

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	<p>cause for concern, funding be awarded to the four groups identified in paragraph 4.3 of the interleaved report for three years but with the added condition that within the first year there would need to be a marked improvement in performance against the areas of concern identified and that failure to meet this requirement would result in the withdrawal of grant in line with the Terms and Conditions of Revenue Grant Aid and that officers submit an update report in December 2010.</p> <p>4. That, following the findings of the independent review and in the light of serious concerns such that to continue to provide three year grant funding to the three organisations identified in paragraph 4.4.1 of the interleaved report would put the Council at risk, core funding be agreed for one year with the remaining two years conditional on satisfactory audited accounts and satisfactory bi-monthly monitoring reports that demonstrated significant improvements against the areas of serious concern and against the objective and outcomes of their respective Business Plans.</p> <p>5. That with regard to 4 above and in order to mitigate against the risk to the Council during the first year a formal quarterly letter be sent to the three organisations outlining progress to date against the areas of concern and highlighting any ongoing concerns which need to be addressed within a given time frame and a progress report be brought back to the Committee in September 2010 on the funding agreement outlining the progress made by the 3 organisations and giving recommendations for future funding arrangements in years 2 and 3.</p> <p>6. That the Council's Head of Audit and Risk Management be requested to undertake an audit of the three organisations with a view to minimising future financial risk both for the Council and the organisations and to make recommendations to improve their financial probity and viability.</p> <p>7. That it be noted that the foregoing recommendations had been made subject to satisfactory Audited Accounts for each organisation covering the period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 and that these accounts were required under the Terms and Conditions of Revenue Grant Aid in the quarter period 1 October to 31 December 2009 and subject to scrutiny by the Council's Finance Service.</p> <p>8. That the ongoing concerns already identified through the monitoring process having been fully confirmed through the independent review and the conclusion that continuing to fund the organisation identified in paragraph 4.6 of the interleaved report would put both the organisation and the Council at high risk, funding to the group be not renewed and they be asked not to take on any new cases and to provide details of the</p>	<p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC/ RIM</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p>
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	<p>handover arrangements for their existing caseload.</p> <p>9. That approval be given to the ring-fencing of the funding previously made to the organisation identified in paragraph 4.6 of the interleaved report for advice services and officers investigate and report back on whether this should be for generalist advice or specifically for immigration related advice work having regard to the needs of the community.</p> <p>10. That the independent re-review findings of the good work carried out by the organisation identified in paragraph 4.7 of the interleaved report be noted but that because of the financial constraints on the core grants budget, the limited scope to change funding allocation and the need to ensure a consistent and fair approach to the present process, their current core grant be maintained at its present level until the end of the organisation's current funding cycle to March 2012.</p>	<p>ACE- PPPC</p> <p>ACE- PPPC</p>
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The meeting ended at 20.25 hours.

KAUSHIKA AMIN  
Chair