

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2009**

Councillors *Amin (Chair), *Basu, *Canver, Dogus and *B. Harris

*Present

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
VSGC01.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)</p> <p>An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Dogus.</p>	
VSGC02.	<p>MINUTES (Agenda Item 5)</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27 April 2009 be confirmed and signed.</p>	HLDMS
VSGC03.	<p>REVIEW OF CORE GRANT FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY CENTRES, LEGAL AND ADVICE ORGANISATIONS 2010-2013, WITH A VIEW TO WORKING TOWARDS SOCIAL COHESION (Report of the Assistant Chief Executive Policy, Performance, Partnerships and Communications - Agenda Item 6)</p> <p>We endorsed the Council's commitment to creating a thriving environment for the third sector and noted that the organisations receiving core grant funding had been identified as key local agencies with a long standing association in supporting the Council and our statutory and voluntary partners. We also noted that the continuation of core funding was a vital funding stream for these organisation's strategic and policy development work and to the support the sustainability of a thriving third sector.</p> <p>In order to ensure that the Council's investment was spent wisely and for the purpose it was given, it was proposed that these organisations be independently evaluated and assessed. The review would inform decisions on whether to provide continuing financial support to these organisations for a further three-year period from 1 April 2010 - 31 March 2013 by independently assessing each organisation's ability to be best placed in continuing to help shape a better future for the people of Haringey.</p> <p>Clarification was sought of whether the proposed criterion for continued funding after 2010 organisations must be based in the Borough with at least 75% (and preferably 90%) of users living and/or working in Haringey would adversely impact on them being able to generate funding from other sources, and we asked that officers ensure that the eligibility criteria to be applied would enable core cost funding to be supported across various funding streams with particular regard to the requirements of match funding arrangements.</p>	ACE-PPPC

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	<p>Clarification was also sought of whether the activities of the organisations would be monitored to ensure that they were in accord with the Council's own strategic objectives and, with regard to community organisations, whether they related not just to their own communities but to the wider community. We were advised that as part of the review organisations would be assessed to determine whether, amongst other things, their activities met the needs of the local community and contributed to the Local Area Agreement. All organisations funded had an assigned monitoring officer whom, through contact with officers in other Directorates, checked activities for their compliance with Council strategies including the Haringey Community Strategy. We stressed that it was important that organisations were clear about what they were expected to deliver as part of their respective business plans to facilitate effective monitoring.</p> <p>Community organisations would be required as part of the proposed review to demonstrate how they had addressed equality, diversity, social inclusion, community cohesion and sustainability issues and how they worked with other community groups and organisations. We asked that as part of the review officers give consideration to the introduction of an additional eligibility criteria funding in relation to whether groups activities benefited the wider community.</p> <p>In response to a question about funding arrangements we were informed that some organisations were subject to a circular rent arrangement further details of which could be provided as part of the review. Reserves held by individual groups would be checked for compliance with the Council's Reserves Policy and the conditions of grant aid. It was suggested that the Council's Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Manager be asked to liaise with the consultant during the course of the review to ensure that adequate safeguards for business continuity were in place should a group having funding withheld or withdrawn.</p> <p>With regard to the possibility of capacity building for the voluntary sector, we were advised that the Haringey Strategic Partnership Board's Performance Management Group had commissioned a mapping exercise for submission in December and we asked that a report on the outcome of that exercise be brought back to our Committee if possible at the same time as the review.</p> <p>We were also advised that a number of groups or organisations funded by London Councils claimed that their activities benefited Haringey and we asked officers to arrange a meeting to exchange information about these groups and to discuss what added value they provided, to identify any gaps in services and how to make them more accountable for performance monitoring purposes through London Councils.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the 18 Voluntary Organisations listed below whose 3 years funding ended on the 31 March 2010 be reviewed by an 	<p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p>
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	<p>independent assessor to evaluate and assess the work that the organisations had carried out over the past 3 years and were proposing to undertake over the next three years -</p> <p>Legal and Advice Agencies</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Haringey Citizens Advice Bureaux 2. Haringey Law Centre 3. Angolan and Cabinda Community Organisation <p>Community Organisations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Asian Centre 5. African Caribbean Leadership Council 6. Alhijra Somali Community Association 7. Ethiopian Community Centre in the UK 8. Haringey Chinese Centre 9. Haringey Somali Community and Cultural Association 10. Haringey Irish Cultural and Community Centre 11. Hornsey Vale Community Association 12. Jan Trust (addition to this round) 13. Jackson Lane Community Centre 14. Cypriot Community Centre 15. Kurdish Advice Centre 16. Kurdish Community Centre 17. Selby Trust 18. Innovation and Community Education (formally Asian Action) <p>2. That, subject to a satisfactory review and budgetary constraints permitting, funding provision to the total funding available to the 15 community organisations be maintained for a further 3 years at the 2009-2010 level, but that the funding of legal and advice agencies continue to receive an annual inflation allowance in recognition of the continuing and increasing demand on the legal and advice services in the Borough due to the present economic downturn.</p> <p>3. That the review of legal and advice agencies be conducted having regard having regard to the decision of our Committee taken on 27 April 2009 (vide Minute VSGC15(2)) that the Council and Haringey's Legal Services Partnership explore with the Legal Services Commission the establishment of a Community Legal Advice Centre (CLAC) or a Community Legal Advice Network (CLAN) in Haringey.</p> <p>4. That a further report with the recommendations of the review be submitted to our Committee in November 2009 for approval.</p>	<p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p> <p>ACE-PPPC</p>
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The meeting ended at 19.45 hours.

KAUSHIKA AMIN
Chair