

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**Voluntary Action Harrow****Adv: Lily Brandhorst****Amount requested: £158,943****Base: Harrow****Benefit: Harrow****Amount recommended: £158,940****The Applicant**

Voluntary Action Harrow (VAH) is a Company Limited by Guarantee (7554530) and worker-owned Co-operative. It aims to foster a thriving not-for-profit sector in Harrow by providing essential information, training and guidance to local voluntary sector (VCS) organisations, that in turn support the local community. VAH is firmly rooted in Harrow. All staff are local residents and have a wealth of charity sector experience, specialising in capacity building. Its collaborative working with Harrow's other infrastructure support organisations (including Young Harrow Foundation) is impressive, enabling a strategic approach to VCS support in the borough. VAH currently holds a grant from the Trust towards work to strengthen monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting practices in Harrow's Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector; it has performed very well in delivering it. Although it already holds a grant, it is eligible to apply for a grant on behalf of Harrow Giving. The latter is not yet a legal charitable entity in its own right, and VAH has therefore agreed to host it – a model followed by a number of other place-based giving schemes in other boroughs.

The Application

VAH seeks funding for a full-time Development Co-ordinator over three years to develop the Harrow Giving scheme. Using the London's Giving model, Harrow Giving exists to leverage financial support and resources in kind to provide essential funding and support to local voluntary organisations and the community. The Development Co-ordinator will be responsible for: establishing a steering group of local organisations; drawing up a sustainability plan; generating income and resources; and co-ordinating the distribution of grants. The aim is to grow Harrow Giving into a fully-fledged local giving scheme that brings together local people, communities, charities and businesses to raise funds, help themselves and use lived experience to make things better for their neighbourhoods and communities.

The Recommendation

Harrow Giving is aligned with the community-led principles of London's Giving and by extension with the Trust's priority of enabling place-based giving schemes to develop and become more sustainable. VAH has been the main co-ordinator of Harrow Giving's activity to date and is experienced in working with local voluntary organisations. As such it is well placed to take the project forward and to employ and support a Development Co-ordinator. A grant from the City Bridge Trust would provide funding for an essential role at a key point in the scheme's development and is likely to leverage further funding through the Development Co-ordinator's activity. Any grant should be conditional on Harrow Giving be part of the London's Giving network (which it plans to do) and that it uses the London's Giving metrics as part of its monitoring and evaluation framework, in line with requirements made of all CBT funded giving schemes.

£158,940 over three years (£52,176; £52,570; £54,194) towards the costs of employing a full-time Development Co-ordinator to develop the Harrow Giving scheme, associated project costs and a contribution to core costs, on condition that it is part of the London's Giving network and that it uses the London's Giving metrics for the purposes of monitoring and evaluation..

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
24/05/2016	£85,200 (£27,200; £28,200; £29,800) towards the salary of a part-time (21 h/p/w) Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Development Manager and project running costs.
27/11/2014	£3,400 (8.5 days) to provide an eco-audit.
13/03/2014	Despite a follow-up request, the applicant has been unable to provide the level of financial information required to meet your requirements.
03/10/2013	Application withdrawn. Plan to submit an application later in the year after changes have been made to their governing instrument.

Background and detail of proposal

Harrow Giving has been set up under the umbrella of Harrow Community Action (HCA), a consortium of local charities (registered charity no. 1167770). Voluntary Action Harrow (VAH) Co-operative co-ordinates HCA as well as the grants currently being administered under Harrow Giving, with a decision-making panel made up of members of Harrow Community Action, Young Harrow Foundation, Harrow Voluntary & Community Sector Forum and Harrow Council. All those involved in decision making have not been applying for funding. It is envisaged that this would also be the model for Harrow Giving going forwards, but that the panel would also include representatives of additional community organisations based in Harrow. The scheme has the support of Harrow Council and will draw on its knowledge of the local area, but at assessment your Officer was satisfied that it is independent from it. VAH will draw on its existing experience of bringing a wide range of local voluntary sector organisations together on grant making decisions to place emphasis on being led by the local community. It is also keen for the Development Co-ordinator to find ways to involve local residents and businesses more involved in decision making if/where appropriate. Harrow Giving has already managed to leverage some funds: 10% of Harrow Lottery ticket sales now go to Harrow Giving for distribution to local causes.

Financial Information

The Company is in a stable financial condition. Free reserves are below target but still represent over six months' operating expenditure. A modest surplus is anticipated at the end of 2019/20.

Year end as at 31st March	2018	2019	2020
	Signed Accounts	Draft accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	150,271	151,952	161,728
- % of Income confirmed as at 19/7/19	N/A	N/A	70%
Expenditure	(148,364)	(143,112)	(154,177)
Total surplus/(deficit)	1,907	8,840	7,551
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	12,651	4,642	7,428
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(10,744)	4,198	123
	1,907	8,840	7,551
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0
- % of Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	45,140	44,059	48,117
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	19,260	23,458	23,581
No of months of operating expenditure	5.1	6.4	5.9
Reserves policy target	42,076	42,547	45,284
No of months of operating expenditure	11.2	11.6	11.3
Free reserves over/(under) target	(22,816)	(19,089)	(21,703)