

MEETING: 16/07/2014

Ref: 12201

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**

**Panathlon Foundation**

**Adv: Tim Wilson**

**Amount requested: £66,126**

**Base: Outside London**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**The Charity:**

Panathlon is a disability sports organisation providing competitive events for children from mainstream as well as special schools. Most work is delivered for secondary school-age children, but there is a growing programme of activities with primary schools.

**The Application:**

Panathlon seeks £66,126 over three years to expand its sporting activities to deaf, visually impaired and power-chair using children in Greater London. The total cost of the proposed work is £99,876 and several other funders are considering applications to provide the balance of funding that would be required if you agree this request.

**The Recommendation:**

The charity is well-regarded and there has been high-demand for its services since it was established in 1995. There is currently no statutory requirement to provide accessible sports in either mainstream or special schools, and for many of the children participating in Panathlon it is the first time that they have engaged in a sporting competition. The organisation provides opportunities for children to embark on the Paralympic pathway, and the proposed expansion of Panathlon activities to a wider-range of disabled children not only benefits new users, but also helps the charity develop its offer.

***£66,300 over three years (£21,100; £22,600; £22,600) towards the expansion of Panathlon's work with deaf, visually impaired and power-chair children on the condition that the balance of funding be raised from other sources.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
November 2004	Panathlon submitted, but then withdrew, an application for the provision of sports activities in special schools. This work fell outside the Trust's criteria at that time.

**Background and detail of proposal**

Established in 1995, Panathlon works to address the shortage of accessible sports activities for disabled children in mainstream and special schools. By offering team-based activities, Panathlon runs regular competitions for school pupils. The charity also hosts conferences for teachers to discuss ways of extending sports provision for disabled children, and through these meetings, examines ways in which it might extend its offer to children with different accessibility needs.

A typical Panathlon event will involve pupils from several schools coming together for a sporting programme lasting anywhere between 2 – 4 hours (duration normally

depending on the age of the children). For many participants, it can be the first time they take part in a sporting event as there is no statutory requirement for schools to provide accessible sports. The charity believes that many teachers working with disabled children also currently lack the specialist skills to run accessible sporting events, thereby increasing the likelihood that little or no sporting activities will take place for these pupils.

Participation in the Panathlon programme generates several benefits for the children including increased confidence, improved behaviour, a better understanding of rules, improved ability to interact with others, and increased physical ability. The charity also reports that in many instances events help parents to see what their children are capable of and to look beyond the disability.

### Financial Information

Panathlon is a growing organisation and in a good financial position with all 2013/14 income and 48% of 2014/15 income confirmed at 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014.

Members will note that whilst Panathlon's free reserve gradually increases over the three years as shown in the table below, it simultaneously falls increasingly below the charity's own reserve target. The charity's reserve target is based on holding funds equivalent to six months' total expenditure, and expenditure is forecast to grow strongly between 2012 and 2015. However, most of this growth is expected to be on restricted funds. As a result, and despite an overall improvement in the charity's finances, there is a widening gap between the free reserve holding and the target reserve position. Your officer has discussed the reserve target with the charity and suggested that it may consider amending this if it expects further growth to occur on restricted funds.

Year-end at 31 August	2012/13 Examined	2013/14 Current Year Budget	2014/15 Following Year Forecast
	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	355,231	375,931	395,318
Expenditure	312,969	375,523	394,338
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	33,895	86	225
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	8,367	322	755
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	42,262	408	980
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	11.9%	0.1%	0.2%
Generating funds as % of income	9.6%	-	-
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	42,307	42,393	42,618
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.6	1.4	1.3
Reserves Policy target	156,486	187,762	197,169
How many months' worth of expenditure	6	6	6
Free reserves over target / (under target)	(114,179)	(145,369)	(154,551)