Harrow Council Consultation
Voluntary and Community Sector Funding
Proposals 2016/17

22 September 2016 – 31 October 2016

Asking for Voluntary and Community Sector views on proposed changes to the following services:

1. Overall Voluntary Sector Funding

2. Voluntary and Community Sector Review Action Plan

3. Adults Social Care – Service Level Agreements

4. Community Grants - Outcome Based Grants and Small Grants

5. Emergency Relief Scheme

This consultation is available to fill out online at www.harrow.gov.uk/vcsfunding

Or you can send a paper response to:
Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Consultation, Third floor, West Wing, Civic Centre 1, Station Road, Harrow HA1 2XY
What is this consultation?

This consultation presents a joined up proposal from a number of areas in the Council (Adult Social Care, Revenues and Benefits and Community Grants) about the future relationship and funding arrangements for the Voluntary and Community Sector over the next three years alongside recommendations from the Voluntary and Community Sector Review.

The funding proposals, review and on-going financial challenges faced by the Council set the context for a strategic shift in the Council’s relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector to focus on statutory service delivery, the provision of general information & advice and working in partnership with the sector to support it to access and generate alternative sources of funding and build strong local consortia.

The proposals in this consultation build on the pre-consultation and co-production work carried out with the Voluntary and Community Sector during the spring and summer of 2016 principally around the creation of a new Information, Advice and Advocacy Strategy. More detail on each element of the proposal can be found in section A.

The proposal is to:

1. Continue funding statutory Care Act and advocacy service provision.
2. Tender for a generalist advice service for 3 years
3. Introduce a tapered fund allocated via a grants process for specialist and non-statutory information and advice that the Voluntary and Community Sector could access over the next two years and would reduce incrementally to zero by year 3.
4. Provide support through officer capacity and other initiatives such as crowdfunding to assist the sector and the community to bring in additional income.
5. Arrange a Harrow Crowdfunding platform with a specialist provider to support access to this alternative funding option and a Council Top Up Fund which would be used to contribute towards Crowdfunding initiatives.
6. Continue to fund a Voluntary and Community Sector infrastructure organisation on the same or similar specification as now.
Why are you making savings?

Harrow is one of the lowest funded councils in London and a recent review identified that in 2015/16 Harrow’s revenue spending power per head is projected to be £159 (or 17.3%) lower than the London average which ranks Harrow 26th out of the 32 London Boroughs. The amount of Government funding we receive continues to reduce from a total of £86.9m in 2013/14 to £42.7m in 2018/19 as a result of the national public sector austerity measures. Harrow Council will therefore have £83 million less to spend in 2018 compared with 2014. In order to be responsible and balance our books, Harrow Council has to make further savings.

Why cut public services? Aren’t there better ways to save money?

Harrow Council is trying every way it can think of to protect public services – especially those needed by the most vulnerable people in our borough. In the past year, we have increased our efficiency, cut back on waste, raised taxes, created new companies to earn commercial income and begun an ambitious regeneration programme to help our borough grow.

Haven’t you done enough already?

Harrow Council’s total budget is £589m, but most of that must be spent on housing benefit, schools and other services that cannot be cut. The Council controls how to spend about £141m. This is where we need to find all our savings from.

How much are you taking from the Voluntary Sector Funding Streams?

The Council currently spends around £1.45m per year on the services included in this proposal from a variety of different sources within the Council. We will continue to fund statutory service provision around Adults social care including Statutory Adults Care Act support (in three contracts for carers, information and advice and advocacy) within the budget of £379,000, and statutory advocacy for Children’s Social Care, Mental Health and Independent Health Complaints Advocacy (approx. £130,000). There will therefore be no direct savings from these budgets within these proposals and we intend to let new contracts lasting 3 years for these services in 2018.
The proposed savings will come from the following areas:

1. **Service Level Agreements.** The Council’s Adults Division is consulting on a proposal to reduce the £799,000 representing the total VCS spend for Adult Social Care by £420,000 through a reduction in the SLAs. The proposal from April 2017 would see the funding from Adult Social Services reduced to statutory funding only. (These contracts were commissioned as part of the Care Act 2014 implementation programme and total £379,000).

2. **Community Grants and the Harrow Emergency Relief Scheme** – together the Council spends £600,000 on Community Grants and the Emergency Relief Scheme (£330,000 and £270,000 respectively). There is a further contribution from the Housing budget of £26,000. In order to fund this proposal the Council will need to spend the following in 2017/18:

   - £200,000 for the General Advice provider, which will include within it £10,000 for a Hardship Scheme (with the additional £26,000 for Housing Advice.) Making a total of £226,000;
   - £100,000 for the tapered grants fund for non-statutory, specialist information and advice service;
   - £60,000 for the infrastructure organisation, starting from 1st October 2017 (currently funded at £75,000 per year so there will be a part year effect of £7,500);
   - £25,000 Top-Up fund for crowdfunding projects.

In total we will need £419,000 to support this proposal in 2017/18 which will lead to a saving of £207,000 and because of the taper there will be further savings in subsequent years. So by 2019/20 the total saving will be £314,000.

We believe there are synergies with the Emergency Relief Scheme and how it is delivered and the holistic work that the Voluntary and Community sector does. Whilst it has been necessary to reduce the programme funding to the Emergency Relief Scheme, the Council is proposing integrating the delivery of this service with the Generalist Advice contract which ensures the most efficient use of funds by delivering a smaller Hardship Scheme at the first point of contact.

A £10,000 Hardship Fund has been allocated for this service and we are consulting on the integration of the service within the Generalist Advice contract which will be expected to be delivered by the Voluntary & Community Sector from 1st July 2017. In addition to this consultation there is a specific public
consultation being carried out which deals with the changes to the current Emergency Relief Scheme and the type of awards that the scheme will make in future.

Where did these proposals come from?

These proposals are a result of continuous engagement with the Voluntary and Community Sector in the spring and summer of this year on the development of Information, Advice & Advocacy strategy and the lessons we have learned from previous consultation exercises including Take Part in 2014/15 and the recent consultation surrounding a proposal not to retender for mental health services provided at The Bridge.

We have considered the consultation findings from interviews with service providers and users as well as consultation events held in May of this year. In July we also engaged with the Voluntary and Community Sector within an Open Discussion meeting to listen and respond to key questions. In July a further co-production event for the Information, Advice and Advocacy strategy assisted us in designing key principles for a future service and a vision of what this service would look like and how we can work together to implement this vision.

Secondly, we have taken into account the current challenges we face as a borough and the recommendations around the review of the Voluntary and Community Sector carried out by Councillor Barry Kendler. This report and recommendations are attached in Appendix 1. The recommendations support the principles of continued co-production and building a stronger Voluntary and Community Sector emphasising the need to attract alternative areas of external funding.

As a result of all this you have said to us:

- **You welcome more co-production** - We are co-producing the Information, Advice and Advocacy strategy with you providing flexible and clear ways of communicating with us and working with you in designing outcomes and future services.

- **You appreciate clarity and certainty** – The proposal is intended to give the voluntary and community sector clarity on the Council’s direction of
travel over the next 3 years and certainty with regard to the priorities we will continue to fund with the award of 3 year contracts for statutory advocacy, general advice and an infrastructure organisation.

- **You appreciate openness and transparency** – We are being open and honest about the challenges the Council faces and why we have to make changes to the way we fund and work with the VCS. Openness and transparency have been key principles behind the approach to pre-consultation and co-production up till now and will continue into the future. We are being open and honest in this consultation that as a result of the situation we find ourselves in and the engagement work to date, we do not have a range of options open to us which we can consult on, so have instead put our best proposal forward.

- **It is helpful to clearly define the roles and relationship between the Council & Voluntary Community Organisations** – This proposal provides you with the basis for a new relationship with the Council moving forward defining roles and expectations on both sides.

- **You would like partnership working to be more incentivised to enable further collaboration** – We will be providing further information and good practice around collaborative models and alliancing, and exploring with you whether these options are feasible going forwards.

- **It is better if the Council can join up more and consider the cumulative impact of proposals on the sector** – We have worked to produce a consultation on a joint proposal from three different council services. We will continue to explore further areas of synergy internally and use the joint consultation process to understand and assess the cumulative impact on voluntary and community organisations.

- **We should look at pooled budgets** – We have pooled some of our internal budgets as part of this proposal and will continue to look further at our departments as well as working with our strategic partners.

- **You would like us to look at alternative options to procurement** – We have begun by offering flexibility around a dual process of contracts and grants within this proposal.
• You would like to explore philanthropic funding/social investment and be enabled to build further infrastructure – We have included this in the proposal with a proposal to set up a crowdfunding partnership and officer capacity to help broker relationships between social investors and service providers.

• We should ensure the independence and specialisms of information & advice service provision are maintained – We have included in the proposal provision through the tapered fund to provide specialist, non-statutory information and advice services and we will work with you to co-produce the criteria for these and the specification for the general information and advice provider.

• We should eliminate areas of duplication in service delivery – The strategy will highlight areas of strengths and weaknesses of our current approach which we will work with you to address

As a result of both the findings from our consultation and engagement and the recent review recommendations the council has developed a clearer vision of its role and relationship with the Voluntary and Community Sector moving forward over the next 3 years which we are articulating through the proposals outlined in this consultation.

Why are you consulting me? Hasn’t the Council already made up its mind?

The proposals in this consultation have not been decided on. We will take a report to Cabinet in December with the outcomes of this consultation and a recommendation for the way forward. However, we think this proposal is the best way forward considering the financial challenges facing the Council and the feedback and information that we have received to date. Our proposals can always be shaped and made better, and we want to get it right, so we now need to understand how this proposal might affect you as organisations, and find out if you know or can suggest any better or fairer ways to deliver these community needs as well as make these essential savings.

Thank you for taking the time to help us.
How to participate in this consultation

Online
You may answer as many questions as you choose in Sections B, C, D, and E.

This consultation is available to fill out online at www.harrow.gov.uk/vcsfunding

Open Discussion meetings
These meetings provide a Forum for Voluntary and Community Sector representatives to bring any questions to a meeting and receive clarity around the consultation.

- 26th September 9.30am – 11.30am Members Lounge
- 6th October 6.00pm – 8.00pm Members Lounge

Consultation events
We have arranged 4 events over 3 days to provide opportunities for people to let us know their views and implications of our proposals. Places will be limited to 25 at each event so to book your place please email: community.development@harrow.gov.uk

The events will involve:

- A general introduction
- Rotating consultation sessions on each theme
- An opportunity to provide us with feedback from the sessions

- 10th October 6pm – 9pm Members Lounge
- 12th October 9.30am – 12.30pm Committee Rooms 1 & 2
- 13th October 9.30am – 12.30pm Members Lounge
- 13th October 6pm – 9pm Members Lounge
Co-production event

The third event in the co-production of the Information, Advice and Advocacy Strategy will take place on:

- 17th October 9.00am – 5.00pm Members Lounge, Civic Centre

Further details on this event will be circulated nearer the time, but if you are interested in attending please let us know.

We very much hope you can answer as many questions as possible, as we are relying on your views, ideas and experience to ensure we make the right decisions. All data will be treated equally and confidentially by the Council.

If you have any questions please email us at community.development@harrow.gov.uk
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Section A: Proposals for Voluntary Sector Funding and the Voluntary and Community Sector Action Plan

As a result of discussions with the Voluntary and Community Sector, taking into account challenges around growing demand and continued budget pressures we cannot afford to continue funding discretionary services at the levels that we were, but remain committed to meeting our statutory obligations and maintaining a strong partnership with the VCS. The Council is therefore proposing to:

1. Advocacy, we will continue to provide statutory advocacy services. This means; Care Act advocacy, Mental Health advocacy (IMCA/IMHA), Children’s Social Care advocacy and Independent Health Complaints advocacy. We are aware that there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding budgets and the availability of funding streams for many organisations, and would like to be able to provide some certainty around the on-going requirement for these services and our commitment to procure them. As a result, we are intending to extend the current statutory advocacy contracts due to end in March 2017 for a further 12 months. This would bring all the Council’s advocacy contracts in line with each other and enable us to re-procure them together in 2017 for 3 years with a 1st April 2018 start.

2. Tender for a generalist advice service, the specific specification of which we will co-produce with the Voluntary and Community Sector, but to include a budget specifically for the award of small cash emergency payments to people of approx. £10k and specialist housing advice.

3. Introduce a tapered fund allocated via a grants process for specialist and non-statutory information and advice that the Voluntary and Community Sector could access over the next 3 years which would reduce incrementally to zero by year 3. The idea of the 3 year taper is to give time to organisations to consider their future financial model. We would work with you to co-produce the investment options and criteria and provide support for bringing in further external funding as this funding ceases.

4. Provide support through officer capacity and other initiatives such as crowdfunding to assist you in bringing in additional income.

5. Arrange a Harrow Crowdfunding platform with a specialist provider to support access to this alternative funding option and a Council Top Up
Fund which would be used to contribute towards Crowdfunding initiatives that align with Council priorities.

6. Continue to fund a Voluntary and Community Sector infrastructure organisation.

To facilitate the funding available for the measures above we intend to pool the budget from Adults Social Care, Outcome Based Grants/Small Grants and the Harrow Emergency Relief Scheme.

In order to help us to understand the implications of this proposal we would like to hear your views.

**Voluntary and Community Sector Review Action Plan**

Following the completion of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) review by Councillor Barry Kendler, the Council is keen to get the views of the VCS on the next steps and specifically the initial response from the Administration to the recommendations Councillor Kendler has put forward.

Some of these will be more relevant to the sector than others, but things like: other Council areas the VCS could be more involved in; the focus of an infrastructure organisation in the future; considering how the relationship between the Council and the VCS needs to evolve; and the overall development of a VCS strategy, all have a clear interest for the sector to engage and offer comment on.
Section B: Adults Social Care Service Level Agreements Consultation

About this Consultation

We are consulting on proposals to reduce funding provided to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Harrow, by way of reducing the £799,000 representing the total VCS spend for Adult Social Care by £420,000 through a reduction in the SLAs. The proposal from April 2017 would see the funding from Adult Social Services reduced to statutory funding only. (These Contracts were commissioned as part of the Care Act 2014 implementation programme and total £379,000)

At present, there are 13 organisations receiving £420,000 of funding and 6 organisations receiving funding through the Statutory Care Act funding totalling £379,000. This Statutory Care Act funding supports the Council to meet new responsibilities following the implementation of the Act and provides; Information and Advice, Independent Care Act Advocacy, and Carers Services.

Why we are consulting?

One of the proposals is to reduce the funding to the voluntary sector down to the statutory provision. The purpose of this consultation is to understand fully the impact this proposal will have on; the voluntary organisations in Harrow, the vulnerable service users and carers and in turn the impact this will have on the Council as a whole.

Funding Pressures for Adult Social Care

While the funding for Adult Social Care has reduced, the expectations on local authorities to provide support has not reduced and some would argue has increased. In particular, nationally the population is living longer it is expected that by 2020 in Harrow there will be a 14% increase in people over 65 and a 26% increase in over 85s\(^1\) this increase in age has also contributed to many clients presenting with multiple and more complex needs. In addition there have been some statutory changes which require the Council to provide different and often

\(^1\) Source: Figures taken from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) subnational population projections, May 2014.
more services for people; examples of this includes the Care Act 2014, the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards procedures, as well as significant pressures on the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) which causes further impact for the Council.

In addition to the pressures felt by the Council and statutory bodies there is also pressure on providers in relation to for example the National Living Wage, Auto-enrolment pension, rent increases, and the cost of CQC regulation. This combined impact not only impacts care service providers but has a knock-on effect causing additional pressures on our budgets meaning that Adult Social Care is now at tipping point, being expected to provide more services with a smaller budget and as a result difficult proposals need to be put forward.

**New Opportunities & Potential Sustainability**

The Council highly values the role of the voluntary sector and has fostered and benefited from a strong working relationship with the sector over many years. In order to limit the impact these proposals have on the individual organisations, the wider sector and the people they support we have been coming up with alternative proposals and alternative mechanisms for organisations to receive support. Many of these are cross Council and are included within the main body of this consultation pack, however in addition Adults have been working with the sector to think creatively about other options and ways around the funding pressures. One of the most recent examples of this is the new ‘community model’ where existing assets available to the community once run by the Council are being tendered out to the community and voluntary sector. This model has been designed following suggestions put forward by the VCS to promote sustainability and a more long term solution to immediate funding pressures. The community model is a pioneering model, and is the first of its kind; this has attracted a lot of interest nationally.

The usual running of these services is not to be funded by the Council directly but to receive an indirect benefit in the sense that they do not have to pay rent (often being one of the highest overheads for a charitable organisation). The community model benefits service users and organisations in the sense that services can be delivered in a more flexible and non-traditional way while the VCS organisation is able to access funding specific to client group or project with the added security that their premises is secured for a specific number of years. This is being worked through at the Bridge Day centre for mental health clients and Kenmore NRC supporting clients with learning and physical disabilities.
Adults have also worked closely with the VCS to design MCep, a platform where VCS and private organisations can list the services they provide in a commercial and attractive way which allows service users to choose where they would like to spend their personal budget. This was an opportunity to work with the VCS in an innovative and creative way to manage personal budgets and reduce provider back office costs. This idea and programme has now expanded and will continue to expand with the recent finalising of a contract between Harrow Council and IBM to develop Watson Care Manager for the UK Health and Social Care Market.

In addition, recently Adults began to explore the funding processes operating internally on the back of concerns raised by the VCS about the time it takes for payments to be processed. This piece of work is now being reviewed cross department to assess where the payments process can be streamlined to benefit the VCS. This piece of work further evidences the commitment of the Council to work better with the VCS and cross department to improve the support provided.

**Have your say**

We understand that the proposal to reduce the Adults SLAs by £420,000 may raise concerns and we will be taking into consideration your views on the proposal and any concerns or suggestions raised, we are committed to working with the VCS on the proposals to fully understand and where possible mitigate the negative impact caused. We would like to hear your thoughts on our potential mitigations and any suggestions or recommendations you might have that would benefit your organisation, it should be stressed that while the proposal deals with the reduction in adults funding the budget potentials should be viewed across the Council, with opportunities for additional funding and support available.
Section B: Adults Social Care Service Level Agreements Consultation

1. Please provide the name of your organisation:

2. Have you ever been a recipient of an Adults SLA?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Are you currently in receipt of an Adults SLA?
   Yes ☐ No ☐

4. What other sources of funding/income does your organisation currently access?
   ☐ Grants
   ☐ Lottery funding
   ☐ Harrow Council contracts/SLAs (not from Adults)
   ☐ Funding for Statutory Services
   ☐ Personal Budget, either through MyCep or other mechanisms
   ☐ Other council contracts/SLAs
   ☐ Fundraising
   ☐ Crowdfunding
   ☐ Social Investment
   ☐ Fees and charges for services
   ☐ Other (Please specify)
5. Do you use any of the following to help or support you apply for funding?

☐ A grant finding website

☐ A designated fundraising team/ individual

☐ Harrow Community Action

☐ Harrow Council

☐ None

☐ Other (please specify)

6. Please answer questions a) to e) below. If you tick Very Likely/ Quite Likely to any of these questions, please provide additional information to qualify your response in the free text boxes provided.

a) How likely would the reduction of the Adults SLAs impact the financial viability of your organisation?

Very Likely ☐  Quite Likely ☐  Quite Unlikely ☐  Very Unlikely ☐  Not Applicable ☐

b) How likely would the proposal to reduce Adults SLAS significantly impact on the clients you support?

Very Likely ☐  Quite Likely ☐  Quite Unlikely ☐  Very Unlikely ☐  Not Applicable ☐
c) How likely is it that you will be able to source external funding at a level to partially replace the funding you currently receive from the Adults SLAs?

Very Likely ☐  Quite Likely ☐  Quite Unlikely ☐  Very Unlikely ☐  Not Applicable ☐


d) How likely is it that you will be able to source external funding at a level to fully replace the funding you currently receive from the Adults SLAs?

Very Likely ☐  Quite Likely ☐  Quite Unlikely ☐  Very Unlikely ☐  Not Applicable ☐


e) As a direct impact of the proposal to reduce the Adult SLAs how likely is it that your organisation will not be able to continue operating in Harrow?

Very Likely ☐  Quite Likely ☐  Quite Unlikely ☐  Very Unlikely ☐  Not Applicable ☐


7.  The Council is looking at other ways in which it could support voluntary and community groups bring in additional income, which of the following would be most helpful to you? (Please rank them in order of importance)

☐ A Harrow crowdfunding platform

☐ Support to access to social investment

☐ A tapered fund to support organisations providing non-statutory specialist advice that would reduce to zero in year 3

☐ A discretionary top-up fund linked to crowdfunding that would support initiatives that have already generated funding
☐ Increasing volunteering
☐ Other (please specify)

Are you aware of any other proposals from the Council that might help you to mitigate some of these impacts?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you feel the reduction in funding would put a pressure on any statutory services you provide?

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ My organisation does not provide any statutory services to the Council
Section C: Outcome Based Grants and Small Grants consultation

Harrow Council offers discretionary funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations through an open and competitive grants application process. The Council’s Community Grants budget was reduced in April 2015 by £270k (45%) to £330k. The Community Grants budget funds 3 year Outcome Based Grants (£180k budget, maximum award £40k) an annual Small Grants process (£75k budget, maximum award £4k) and an infrastructure organisation (£75K).

Since 2013/14, approximately 25 organisations have received an annual small grant award and 15 organisations were awarded a 3 year Outcome Based Grant (subject to the delivery of the Service Level Agreement). Harrow Community Action was awarded the contract for the delivery of Third Sector Support Services (the infrastructure organisation).

The cabinet paper of March 2015 on funding arrangements for 2015/16 also committed the Council to: “…work with the voluntary and community sector organisations to identify the principles for the application of the Community Grants budget for 2016/17 onwards with a view to bringing a proposal back to cabinet as part of the budget setting process.” In December 2015 a decision was taken to extend all Outcomes Based Grants, Small Grant awards and the Infrastructure SLA for a further 6 months to 30th September 2016 in order to allow the Council more time to consider future options and start engagement work on new Information, Advice & Advocacy strategy. In August 2016 the Outcome Based Grant awards were extended again for a further 6 months – until 31st March 2017 in order to allow for this consultation to take place and conclude. The Infrastructure organisation was extended for a further 12 months until 30th September 2017 during which time a new procurement exercise will take place and small grants were not extended.

Currently 90% of Outcome Based Grants and Small Grants are awarded in the area of Information and Advice which is why we have included in this proposal a tapered fund to continue to support organisations who provide non statutory specialist information and advice services whilst giving them time and support to mitigate the impact of the loss of council funding over the next 3 years.

Part of the offer included in this proposal is the establishment of a crowdfunding platform. Crowdfunding is a form of finance where projects are funded through many small donations or investments from a large group of people (‘the crowd’) – rather than a few large donations or investments from one or a few traditional
funders. Although this approach is not new, the use of the internet to promote the scheme and capture the donations/investments is. Crowdfunding is in most cases enabled by crowdfunding platforms. A crowdfunding platform is a website which works as an online marketplace where those interested in crowdfunding can pitch their project to a crowd of potential funders and make donations.

The proposal also includes support to assist in bringing in additional income through avenues like Social Investment, which is a new approach to managing money which delivers a social dividend and an economic return. Social Investment is often used to describe the lending and investment into social enterprises, charities, co-operatives, and other impact-focused organisations. The term can include community investing, microfinance, social impact bonds and philanthropic grant making.

This proposal will bring about clarity and certainty over the future relationship and funding arrangements for the VCS over the next 3 years, rather than the annual reviews of late. We need to understand how these proposals will affect you, and find out if you know any better or fairer ways to deliver these community needs and these essential savings.
Section C: Outcome Based Grants and Small Grants consultation

1. Have you ever been a recipient of a Council outcome based grant or small grant?
   
   Yes ☐   No ☐

2. Are you currently in receipt of a Council outcome based grant or small grant?
   
   Yes ☐   No ☐

3. What other sources of funding/income does your organisation currently access? (tick all relevant answers)
   
   ☐ Grants from local Harrow based organisations
   ☐ Grants from London based organisations
   ☐ Grants from national organisations
   ☐ Lottery funding
   ☐ Harrow Council contracts/SLAs
   ☐ Other council contracts/SLAs
   ☐ Fundraising
   ☐ Crowdfunding
   ☐ Social Investment
   ☐ Fees and charges for services
   ☐ Other (Please specify)
4. Do you use any of the following to help or support you apply for funding? (tick all relevant answers)

☐ A grant finding website
☐ Harrow Community Action
☐ Harrow Council
☐ None
☐ Other (please specify)

5. The Council is looking at other ways in which it could support voluntary and community groups bring in additional income, which of the following would be most helpful to you? (Please rank the following by entering a number with 1 being the highest priority and 5 being the lowest priority)

☐ A Harrow crowdfunding platform
☐ Support to access social investment
☐ A tapered fund to support organisations providing non-statutory specialist advice that would reduce to zero in year 3
☐ A discretionary top-up fund linked to crowdfunding that would support initiatives that have already generated funding
☐ Increasing volunteering
☐ What else could be helpful for us to consider?
6. If the Council introduced a 3 year tapered fund for non-statutory, specialist information and advice services, which option would you prefer?

☐ A grants process that awards on an annual basis

☐ A grants process that awards for 2 years, but with funding in year 2 half of what it would be in year 1

☐ Other (please specify)

7. Please answer questions a) to d) below. If you tick Very Likely/Quite Likely to any of these questions, please provide additional information to qualify your response in the free text boxes provided.

a) Would the proposal to stop outcome based grants impact on the financial viability of your organisation and the ability to secure funding from other sources? If yes how?

Very Likely ☐ Quite Likely ☐ Quite Unlikely ☐ Very Unlikely ☐ Not Applicable ☐

b) Would the cessation of small grants impact on the financial viability of your organisation and the ability to secure funding from other sources? If yes how?

Very Likely ☐ Quite Likely ☐ Quite Unlikely ☐ Very Unlikely ☐ Not Applicable ☐

c) Would the proposal to stop outcome based grants impact on the clients you support? If yes how?

Very Likely ☐ Quite Likely ☐ Quite Unlikely ☐ Very Unlikely ☐ Not Applicable ☐
d) Would the proposal to stop small grants impact on the clients you support? If yes how?

Very Likely ☐ Quite Likely ☐ Quite Unlikely ☐ Very Unlikely ☐ Not Applicable ☐
Section D: Proposals for Emergency Relief Scheme consultation

Proposal: Replace the Emergency Relief Scheme with a Hardship Scheme which will stop awarding “white goods & furniture” but continue small awards for food and fuel in extreme situations requiring immediate short term help and where there is danger to health & safety.

The existing Emergency Relief Scheme provides assistance to residents both through financial awards for emergency items such as food, fuel and furniture but also by referring people to advice services for support with matters such as financial advice. We have to reduce funding for Emergency Relief to enable savings to be made across the Council, but by incorporating the work into the Voluntary and Community sector contract a more holistic service can be offered by bringing together a reduced level of financial assistance along with provision of advice, often through the same organisation, thus removing the need to refer.

In order to reduce cost we are proposing stopping funding white goods, furniture and carpets, and retaining awards in emergency situations only – supporting short term those in extreme financial hardship and with very severe short term need. This will mean that awards would be a maximum of £100 (higher in exceptional circumstances) and would cater mainly for emergency electricity or gas meter top ups, clothes, travel costs or food supplies where no other assistance is available.

In order to implement this option the Council would revise the current scheme policy. Attached to this consultation document you will find our proposed revised Hardship Scheme policy which removes the award of white goods, furniture and carpets as options of support. White goods, furniture and carpets accounted for 97.4% of historical spend and 66% of all applications in the last financial year.

In 2015/16 £3,000 was spent on food, fuel and clothing from the Emergency Relief Scheme. £10,000 will be made available under the new Hardship Fund, allowing for discreional items to be awarded in exceptional circumstances.
Section D Proposals for Emergency Relief Scheme consultation

Additional information relating to the scheme itself and the changes to the scheme policy can be accessed by looking at the consultation links on Harrow’s website where the public consultation documents are available.

a) Is your organisation aware of the existing Emergency Relief Scheme?
   
   Yes ☐  No ☐

b) Do you agree that the scheme should continue to provide emergency support for food, fuel, clothing and emergency travel?

   Strongly Agree ☐  Agree ☐  Disagree ☐  Strongly Disagree ☐

c) Are there any other items that you think should be included in the revised scheme?

   

d) Should the revised policy have a cap on the amount of financial support that can be given in a single award, for example of £100 maximum award?

   Strongly Agree ☐  Agree ☐  Disagree ☐  Strongly Disagree ☐

e) Should the revised policy continue to limit the number of awards that can be paid to two a year?

   Strongly Agree ☐  Agree ☐  Disagree ☐  Strongly Disagree ☐
f) What do you think the impact will be on people who cannot access items that are currently available from the Emergency Relief Scheme such as fridges, washing machines, cookers, beds?


g) Are there any groups of people that you think will be particularly impacted by the proposed changes to the Emergency Relief Scheme?


h) If you or someone you know would lose access to the Emergency Relief Scheme, how would they cope and what alternatives could they find?


i) As the funding is only able to support a much reduced alternative scheme, who should the scheme support as a priority?
Section E: Overall questions about:

- Proposal for Voluntary Sector Funding
- Voluntary and Community Sector Action Plan

1. After reading our proposals, can you think of other, better options for delivering savings from the Community Grants scheme, Emergency Relief Scheme and Adults Service Level Agreements whilst still delivering on the commitment to statutory advocacy and Care Act services and our ambitions around Information & Advice provision in the borough?

2. What are the areas that you think the Voluntary and Community Sector could deliver more effectively than the Council and how should these be explored, bearing in mind the focus on a co-production relationship?
3. In developing a Voluntary and Community Sector strategy, what are the key areas that should be focused on, taking account of other recommendations in the review and any other challenges/opportunities within Harrow?

4. After reading the Voluntary and Community Sector Review and Action Plan please let us know any other views on the Action Plan?

5. Do you agree with the proposal to continue to commission a VCS infrastructure organisation for Harrow? Please explain your reasons.

   Yes ☐  No ☐

   [Blank space]
Section F: Contact Details and Equality Monitoring Form

1. Please provide the name and address of the organisation you are responding on behalf of.
   
   This information will be kept confidential. We will not contact you.

2. Equalities Monitoring

Why do we monitor?

Harrow Council has a legal responsibility to promote and advance equality. To help us to do this, it is important that we have a good understanding of our communities, how our services are being accessed and who is using or would like to use our services. With up-to-date and accurate information we are able to:

- Better understand our service users / residents and shape services to meet their specific needs
- Identify and address any barriers / issues individuals may experience when accessing our services (including information about our services)
- Ensure our policies and services are accessible to everyone who uses them

The information will also enable us to monitor our progress with regards to addressing inequality and allow our employees and service users see how we are performing on equality.

Data Protection – it is your choice whether you provide this information. Your replies will not be used in a way that identifies you. However they will help us to understand how community needs may vary and help us to make informed decisions on how we develop our services and target resources.
Age - How many people are you currently supporting in your services that are within the following age ranges?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 – 44 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 &amp; over</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 – 24 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 64 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disability – How many people are you currently supporting in your services that are disabled?

What type of disabilities do the people you support in your service have? Please list how many?

- Hearing Disability
- Visual Disability
- Learning Disability
- Other (please give details)

Ethnic origin – How many people in your service do you currently support that are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic Origin</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian or Asian British</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other Asian background – please specify</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black or Black British</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>African</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somali</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other Black background – please specify</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed background</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and Black African</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>White and Black Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other mixed background - please specify</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>White and Asian</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other mixed background - please specify</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other ethnic background</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other Ethnic group – please specify</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Iranian</td>
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<tr>
<td>White or White British</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albanian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsy / Irish Traveller</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Scottish</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Any other White background - please specify</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanian</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welsh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marriage or Civil Partnership
How many service users who you are currently supporting in your service are married?

How many service users who you are currently supporting in your service are in a civil partnership?

Are you married? Yes ☐ No ☐
Are you in a Civil Partnership? Yes ☐ No ☐

Pregnancy or Maternity
How many service users who you are currently supporting in your service are pregnant and/or have been on maternity leave during the past 2 years?

Have you been pregnant and/or on maternity leave during the past 2 years? Yes ☐ No ☐

Religion and belief - How many service users who you are currently supporting in your service have the following Religions/Beliefs?

Buddhism ☐ Judaism ☐
Christianity (all denominations) ☐ Sikh ☐
Hinduism ☐ Zoroastrian ☐
Islam ☐ No religion / Atheist ☐
Jainism ☐ Other -please specify ☐

Sex – How many service users who you are currently supporting in your service are male and female?

Male ☐ Female ☐

How many service users who you are currently supporting have the gender that they were assigned at birth?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Sexual orientation - How many service users who you are currently supporting in your service have the following sexual orientations?

Bisexual ☐ Gay Man ☐
Gay Woman / Lesbian ☐ Heterosexual ☐
Other – Please specify ☐
Thank you for completing the
Harrow Council
Voluntary and Community Sector Funding
Proposals 2016/17

Find them at www.harrow.gov.uk/vcsfunding

Or you can request a paper form from
Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Consultation, Third floor, West Wing,
Civic Centre 1, Station Road, Harrow HA1 2XY