

Report of: Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	17 March 2014	B4	All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use 2014/15

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Each year, local community organisations are given the opportunity to apply for one of up to ten free hires of Islington's Assembly Hall. Applicants are assessed against published criteria and, if successful, have to meet any additional costs (e.g. equipment or technical), which are not covered by the scheme.

2. Recommendation

To allocate the ten free hires for 2014/15 to the following applicants:

- Cubitt Artists
- Freightliners Farm
- Islington Carers Hub
- Islington Mental Health Forum
- London Sinfonietta
- Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
- Mind Yourself
- Oxjam Islington
- Rowan Arts
- Sport Islington

3. Background

- 3.1 The scheme was oversubscribed, receiving 26 applications from a variety of organisations supporting a wide range of events.
- 3.2 The applications have been assessed against the published criteria which asks applicants to demonstrate a commitment to provide events and activities that:

- a) Have a strategic value, and in particular a focus on at least one of the following four areas:
- Arts and regeneration
 - Children and young people
 - Diversity
 - Arts and older people
- b) Have a borough-wide impact.
- c) Demonstrate a commitment to good practice (events that are viable, of high quality, well managed and evaluated).
- d) Promote the Islington Assembly Hall as a focus for high quality events.

The scheme does **not** support:

- Groups that are not based in the borough.
- Events or activities from commercial organisations
- More than one use of the Assembly Hall per applicant in any 12 months.

3.3 Given the capacity of the Assembly Hall and the nature of some of the event proposals that we received it was considered that some would be better staged in smaller and more appropriate venues such as the Platform or White Lion Youth hubs. This would also help them to develop mutually beneficial partnerships.

3.4 Unsuccessful applicants will be supported, wherever possible, to secure alternative premises for their work.

4. Free Hire

4.1 The following organisations and events most closely meet the criteria and are recommended for free use of the Assembly Hall.

Cubitt Artists	Annual Spring Ball (part of Islington Word Festival) Arts event and dance showcase for local older people.
Freightliners Farm	Halloween Pumpkin and Squash Festival Aimed at families and young people.
Islington Carers Hub	Carers Week Information Day: Advice, information and support for carers in the borough.
Islington Mental Health Forum	World Day for Older People 2014: Multi-generational event with bands.
London Sinfonietta	Musical Snapshots Performance and recording of new music written by school pupils.
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Manor Gardens Benefit in aid of FGM Workshops and fundraising to support prevention work.
Mind Yourself	St Patrick's Ceili Choir, sing-along, storytelling etc. for older isolated Irish residents.
Oxjam Islington	Oxjam Islington Music and arts events encouraging community involvement.
Rowan Arts	Connecting Conversations Public discussion Q & A event with leading psychoanalysis and artists.
Sport Islington	Sport Islington and School Sports Awards Celebrating the achievements of local children and young people.

4.2 We will prepare a press release announcing the free hires. Organisations will be required to submit information about their events to the Council's events diary.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the proposals other than the loss of income as a result of waiving the fees for the ten hirings, which has been built into the business plan for the Assembly Hall.

6. Legal Implications

The Council has power to give support to organisations for the provision of support services for the voluntary and community sector under the well being power in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. The well being power provides the Council with power to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole or part of its area or all or any of the persons resident or present in that area.

7. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising from this proposal.

8. Equality Impact Assessment

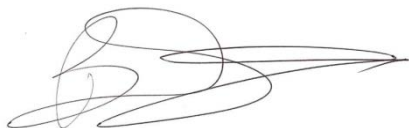
The organisations identified meet the needs and priorities of a wide range of Islington's community and help to improve equality within the borough.

9. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

The scheme provides an opportunity for the Council to support local organisations through free use of the Assembly Hall. Applications have been assessed through a clear and transparent process.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities 3 March 2014

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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