

Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	10 July 2017		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use Round One - January to March 2018**1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 Each year, local community and arts organisations have the opportunity to apply for free hires of Islington 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. In 2015, the scheme criteria and application process were evaluated and amended in response to feedback from the sector and Assembly Hall staff.

There are two application rounds each year, one for the period July-September and one for January-March, amounting to a total of eight free hires. If, at any time, a successful applicant cancels their booking, the free hires for the subsequent round is increased in order to ensure that eight free hires per year are granted.

In the previous year all free hires were allocated and none were carried forward. Therefore four slots are available in this round from January-March 2018.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To allocate one free hire for Jan-March 2018 to each of the following:
- Samuel Rhodes School
 - Centre 404
 - Gain Ctrl
 - Voluntary Action Islington
- 2.2 To hold the following two applicants in reserve, in case of inability of the above applicants to negotiate appropriate dates and timings:
- Friends of Ambler
 - Islington People's Rights

3. Background

- 3.1 The first round of the 2017-18 scheme was launched in May 2017 and was promoted through LBI Communications on the council external website, the izzi rotator, and the IC Bulletin, as well as through Voluntary Action Islington news group, to the wider sector via LBI departments (Youth Services, Housing, VCS Team, BME Forum, School Improvement Service, Libraries), direct mailings to previous applicants and arts sector organisations.

The scheme received 12 applications from organisations supporting a wide range of events. Out of the 12 applications, two applications were ineligible for the fund due to the organisations having secured free hire in previous rounds inside of the 12 month period making them ineligible for support on this occasion (see Appendix 1).

- 3.2 Applications have been assessed against the published criteria (see Appendix 2) which requires 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:
 - Community cohesion
 - Children and young people
 - Diversity
 - Creative ways of engaging local residents
 - 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, making best use of the high quality facilities available in the venue.

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.
- Applications from departments of Islington Council.

- 3.3 Wherever possible, unsuccessful applicants will be supported, 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.

Samuel Rhodes School	Samuel Rhodes Annual Show - School musical performance by pupils for their families, governors, staff, and various partner organisations.
Centre 404	Centre 404 Annual Quiz Fundraiser - Raffle fundraiser event to support people with learning disabilities and their families.
Gain Ctrl	Gain Ctrl Presents: Islington's Hotlist For 2018 - Celebration of four years of Gain Ctrl supporting young people in Islington aged 13-25 through music and spoken word.
Voluntary Action Islington	Supersized Volunteer Recruitment Fair - A recruitment event to raise the profile of volunteering in Islington.

- 4.2 The following organisations and events met the criteria and are recommended to be held in reserve, in case of inability of organisations recommended for free hires listed in 4.1 to negotiate dates and timings with Assembly Hall management.

Friends of Ambler	Ambler Beat Blue Monday! - A family fun evening for Ambler school families on the most depressing day of the year - Blue Monday!
Islington People's Rights	Welfare Reforms 2018 - A conference to highlight the recent welfare reforms and their impact on the most vulnerable residents of Islington.

- 4.3 Officers will prepare a press release announcing the free hires. Organisations will have to submit information about their events to the Council's events diary.

5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications other than the loss of income as a result of waiving the fees for the eight hires which has been built into the business plan for the Assembly Hall.

6. Legal Implications

The Council can support voluntary and community sector organisations under the wellbeing power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. This gives the Council the 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.

8. Resident Impact Assessment:

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The proposed events serve a wide range of communities and support the Council and Arts Services priorities, targeting young people, refugees, elderly people with activities that support health and well being.

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:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaye Comer', with a large, stylized flourish underneath.

Date: 27 June 2017

Executive Member for Community Development

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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APPENDIX 1: Islington Assembly Community Free Hire Scheme – All Applicants VCS Committee 10 July 2018

Organisation	Expected Audience	Event Description	Recommended
Samuel Rhodes School	At least 500	Samuel Rhodes Annual Show (working Title) - School musical performance by pupils for their families, governors, staff, and various partner organisations.	YES
Centre 404	up to 200	Centre 404 Annual Quiz Fundraiser - Raffle fundraiser event to support people with learning disabilities and their families.	YES
Gain Ctrl	600+	Celebration of four years of <i>Gain Ctrl</i> supporting young people in Islington aged 13-25 through music and spoken word.	YES
Voluntary Action Islington	400 total (150 at any one time)	Supersized Volunteer Recruitment Fair - A recruitment event to raise the profile of volunteering in Islington.	YES
Friends of Ambler	150	Ambler Beat Blue Monday! - A family fun evening for Ambler school families on the most depressing day of the year - Blue Monday!	RESERVE
Islington People's Rights	100	Welfare Reforms 2018 - A conference to highlight the recent welfare reforms and their impact on the most vulnerable residents of Islington.	RESERVE
Performing Production	50-100	A Play in a Day - Event tester on dramatic improvisation techniques open to all in the local community.	NO
Talk for Health	100	Talk For Health Special - Free talk on mental health topics, with presentations and interactive workshops where people engage in effective therapeutic talk with each other.	NO
The Evelyn Oldfield Unit	200	e3 Graduation - Graduation event for refugee and migrants learners.	NO
One Housing	100 to 120	Mental Health Division Staff Conference - A staff conference event with a number of team building activities.	NO
Baluji Music Foundation	100+	Addictive TV and Inner Vision - Featuring blind musicians and dancers from UK and India as part of Orchestra of Samples created by Addictive TV.	INELEGIBLE (ON THIS ROUND)
Islington Council Choir	400 (200 audience members and 200 choir members)	Islington Sings - Second Islington Sings concert.	INELEGIBLE (ON THIS ROUND)

APPENDIX 2: Islington Assembly Community Free Hire Scheme – Eligibility Criteria and Guidance notes



COMMUNITY FREE HIRE SCHEME ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND GUIDANCE NOTES

Please read this information before completing an application form.

Islington Council is pleased to offer four community groups, schools and colleges, arts organisations and cultural organisations based in Islington the chance to have free use of Islington Assembly Hall on selected dates.

The free hire scheme will be offered on selected **Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 2 January and 14 March 2018**. Successful applicants will get free hire of the main hall **for a maximum of five hours**. All other items and services – such as hire of the hall for additional hours, use of the venue's balcony, refreshments, security, equipment, table linen and technical support – will incur additional costs, which your organisation will need to meet.

Please note that another application window is planned for later in the year for a further four events to be held on selected dates in July, August and September 2018. Events planned to take place outside of these two time periods will not be eligible for free hire of the venue.

Criteria

Organisations must demonstrate a commitment to provide events and activities that:

- have a strategic value, and in particular a focus on at least one of the following four areas:
 - community cohesion
 - children and young people
 - diversity
 - creative ways of engaging local residents
- have a borough-wide impact
- demonstrate a commitment to good practice (events that are viable, of high quality, well managed and evaluated).
- promote Islington Assembly Hall as a focus for high quality events, making best use of the high quality facilities available in the venue.

The scheme is limited to eight organisations in a 12-month period. As a result, the council cannot guarantee that all applications meeting the criteria will be successful, so please give as much information as possible on your application form.

The scheme will not support:

- groups that are not based in the borough of Islington
- events or activities from commercial organisations
- more than one usage per applicant in any 12-month period
- applications from departments of Islington Council

How to apply

If your group would like to apply to the current window of the scheme, please complete the online form at www.islingtonassemblyhall.co.uk/community-hire by Monday 5 June 2017. Or to receive a hard copy of the form, please contact the Islington Assembly Hall team on 020 7527 8900.

The Islington Assembly Hall team will contact successful applicants by the end of July 2017 to offer available dates and issue terms and conditions of the booking, which must be completed to guarantee the free use of the venue.