

**Report of: Executive Member for Community Development**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	29 January 2018		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

**SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use Round Two: July to September 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 round all free hires were allocated and none were carried forward. Therefore four slots are available in this round from July to September 2018.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To allocate one free hire between July and September 2018 to each of the following:
- Sadler's Wells
  - Octopus Communities – Stay Well, Live Well
  - MoveMe Dance
  - Islington People's Rights
- 2.2 To hold the following two applicants in reserve, in case of inability of the above applicants to negotiate appropriate dates and timings:
- Islington Council Choir
  - Breakin Convention

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The second round of the 2017-18 scheme was launched in November 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, directly to Housing Estates and Community Centres, 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 (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.

<b>Sadler's Wells</b>	<b>Rub-a-dub: A Sadler's Wells and All Change Event</b> - A Caribbean inspired social complete for over 55s with reggae music and ska dance workshop.
<b>Octopus Communities - Stay Well, Live Well</b>	<b>Stay Well, Live Well Summer Special</b> - Summer party with a series of mind & body wellbeing activity-tasters.
<b>MoveMe Dance</b>	<b>MoveMe Islington 2018</b> - Participants from different social and ethnic backgrounds will perform an intergenerational dance routine.
<b>Islington People's Rights</b>	<b>Welfare Reform 2018</b> - A conference to highlight the recent welfare reforms and their impact on the most vulnerable residents of 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.

<b>Islington Council Choir</b>	<b>Islington Sings</b> - Concert for the community by amateur choirs in the borough to raise money for charity.
<b>Breakin Convention</b>	<b>Breakin Convention Community Jam</b> – An afternoon of performances of live music, poetry and dance, and free workshop activities.

- 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.

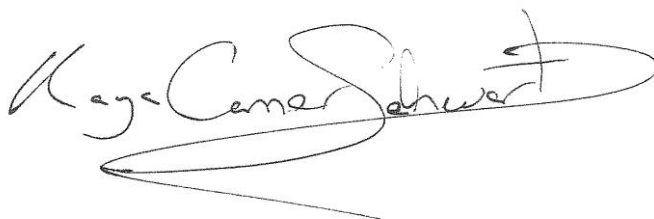
## 9. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

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:**

Date: 9 January 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kaye Ceme Schuett', with a large, sweeping flourish underneath.

Executive Member for Community Development

**Received by:**

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author: Angeles Gordo

Tel: 020 7527 5243

Email: [angeles.gordo@islington.gov.uk](mailto:angeles.gordo@islington.gov.uk)

**APPENDIX 1: Islington Assembly Community Free Hire Scheme – All Applicants VCS Committee 29 January 2018**

Organisation	Expected Audience	Event Description	Recommended
Sadler's Wells	200	'Rub-a-dub' organised by Sadler's Wells and All Change: a Caribbean inspired social complete for over 55s with reggae music and ska dance workshop.	<b>YES</b>
Octopus Communities – Stay Well, Live Well	200	Summer party with a series of mind & body wellbeing activity-tasters.	<b>YES</b>
MoveMe Dance	100	Participants from different social and ethnic backgrounds will perform an intergenerational dance routine.	<b>YES</b>
Islington People's Rights	100	A conference about the latest changes and developments in terms of welfare benefits.	<b>YES</b>
Islington Choirs	400 (200 audience and 200 choir)	To perform the second Islington Sings concert for the community / amateur choirs in the borough to raise money for charity.	<b>RESERVE</b>
Breakin Convention	150	An afternoon of performances of live music, poetry and dance.	<b>RESERVE</b>
Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation	80	Conference to raise awareness about Muslim Marriage and the law in the UK for people living in Islington and neighbouring boroughs.	<b>NO</b>
One Housing Group	175	Youth Conference to promote opportunities for young people in Islington and beyond and celebrate their achievements in education, training and employment.	<b>NO</b>
Network of Eritrean Women UK	100	Conference with different guest speakers specialised in women to discuss a series of topics that Eritrean women.	<b>NO</b>
SGI-UK	200	Public talk given by the General Director of SGI-UK.	<b>NO</b>
Islington Chamber of Commerce	50+	Workshop about marketing techniques and strategies for Islington businesses.	<b>NO</b>
Mentor UK	20-30 stakeholders	A roundtable for the Community of Evidence Practitioners - the Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Information Service (ADEPIS), to share information and resources.	<b>NO</b>

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



## 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 for five hours on selected dates. You will need to have budget available to fund other aspects of the event, including those set out by Islington Assembly Hall in [their terms and conditions](#) and conditions. Islington Assembly Hall is suitable for fairs, conferences and networking events with an audience of over 100, musical performances with a small number of performers, and other simple performances. Please note that Islington Assembly Hall is not a theatre and if you're looking to put on a stage performance with multiple acts, props, sets or other complex lighting or audio-visual effects within a limited budget, the scheme is not suitable and other venues might provide a better and cost-effective alternative.

The free hire scheme will be offered on selected **Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays between 2 July and 12 September 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.

### 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.

In addition, to be shortlisted for the scheme, your event must be suitable for use of Islington Assembly Hall and you must be able to cover any associated costs, as the free hire scheme gives you use of the venue for free for up to five hours, but other costs must be covered by your orga

The scheme is limited to eight organisations in a 12-month period from applications made in the previous round (for events to be held in early 2018) and this round. 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](http://www.islingtonassemblyhall.co.uk/community-hire) by Friday 1 December 2017. The Arts team will contact all applicants by 2 February 2018 to offer available dates and issue terms and conditions of the booking, which must be completed to guarantee the free use of the venue.