



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	11 July 2016		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use Spring 2017

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. From 2016, the scheme has amended criteria and application process.

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. In the previous round July-September 2016, one of the allocated free hires has not been taken up by any applicant. Assembly Hall has agreed to carry over an additional free hire to this round January-March 2017, making a total of five slots this round.

2. Recommendation

To allocate one free hire for Spring 2017 to each of the following:

- Islington Children's and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum
- Islington Council Choir
- Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
- Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
- Little Angel Theatre

3. Background

- 3.1 The second round of the scheme was launched in May 2016 and was promoted through LBI Communications on the council external website, the izzi rotator, and the IC Bulletin, as well as through Creative Islington's newsletter, to wider sector via LBI departments (Youth Services, Housing, VCS Team, BME Forum, School Improvement Service, Libraries) direct mailings to previous applicants and arts sector organisation.

The scheme received 6 applications from eligible organisations supporting a wide range of events, (see Appendix 1).

3.2 Applications have been assessed against the published criteria 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.

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.

Islington Childrens and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	Childhood in Islington - a Ted Talk style conference empowering local VCS organisations to deliver innovations in services for children in Islington
Islington Council Choir	Islington Choirs Concert - Concert involving 15+ community/amateur/school choirs from across Islington
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Winter Wellbeing Festival - indoor festival celebrating and promoting Wellbeing targeting those who are isolated.
Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants	Music, poetry and art from the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants - artistic work and performance created by refugees and asylum seekers
Little Angel Theatre	Community Fundraising Event - high profile fundraising event to highlight and support Little Angel's local community activities.

4.2 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. The 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 27th June 2016

Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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APPENDIX 1: Islington Assembly Hall Free Community Use - Applicants Spring 2017

APPLICATION DETAILS			SCORE	RECOMMENDATIONS	
Organisation	Expected Audience	Event Description	Total Score	Recommended	Comments
Islington Childrens and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	150	Childhood in Islington A Ted Talk style conference empowering local Voluntary Sector organisations to deliver innovations in services for children in Islington to prevent problems developing and enable children to achieve their potential.	56	Yes	Brings together a wide ranging group of voluntary sector organizations with a strategic focus on delivery for children and young people. Talks will include focus on working with children with a disability. It is likely that the organizations will represent a diversity of ethnicities and have a borough wide impact. The TED Talk format is likely to engage residents more creatively with the content. Applicant supplies a timetable and has organizational support for the event.
Islington Council Choir	300-500	Islington Choirs Concert A concert involving 15+ community/amateur choirs from across Islington. Fundraising project for a local charity.	55	Yes	Event is unusual, because a large number of Islington choirs across several age groups have been brought together. Wide variety of choirs, including men's choirs, elders choirs, gospel choirs and potentially school choirs. It is unclear how diverse the demographic will be. Links with choirs are borough wide. Applicant has relevant expertise and a strong reputation for event management. Event is likely to use the full technical facilities of the hall.
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	1,000	Winter Wellbeing Festival Indoor festival celebrating and promoting Wellbeing, with stalls, entertainment, and taster sessions in dancing, singing, cooking, drama and crafts targeting those who are isolated.	54	Yes	The applicant provides services for individuals from a wide range of communities in Islington, including work with early years children and isolated older people. Applicant's extensive work with migrant communities and links with voluntary and statutory services suggest that there will be borough wide impact. Creative activities include a variety of artistic, cooking and craft sessions. Event schedule and details suggest that planning will be well thought through with good staff support.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants	250	Music, poetry and art from the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants An evening of song, poetry and art created by refugees and asylum seekers, including art from Amnesty International exhibition curated by Sita Brahmachari and Jane Ray. Opening presentation by Patron Juliet Stevenson.	44	Yes	Event will bring together refugees, migrants and native resident communities, helping to build confidence in migrants and reduce the feeling of isolation. Focus on children and young people is not clear. Diversity of audience is not explicitly stated, but is likely to involve diverse ethnicities due to focus on migrants. Creative activities include music, poetry and art. Borough wide impact is not explicit, but the reach of the organisation is across the borough. Applicant will provide staffing support for the event.
Little Angel Theatre	150	Community Fundraising Event High profile fundraising event to highlight and support Little Angel's local community activities.	33	Yes	Event will have limited community cohesion or diversity outcomes and is not likely to have borough wide impact. However, the aim of the event is to raise funds for community focused activities in Little Angel Creative Learning Centre which is situated in Sebbon Street Community Centre. Little Angel are a key LBI strategic partner, a leading provider of arts for families and children. Event management is likely to be extremely high quality and they are likely to use the facilities effectively. This use of Assembly Hall as a charity fundraising venue is likely to raise its profile and attract similar high profile events.
Love Eco	Not listed	LovEco Pop Up Event Event promoting sustainable fashion and highlighting environmental issues, including fashion show, clothing sales, film screening and opportunity for local artists.	26	No	Applicant is a private company specialising in eco-friendly fashion. Event is a promotional event for the company's brands and will have limited community cohesion outcomes or borough wide impact. There is no evidence of marketing strategies to attract an audience that will reflect the cultural diversity of the borough. Target audience is 18-30, so there may be some impact for young people aged 18-25. Creative activities are limited to a fashion show and DJs. It is not clear how volunteer staff will be managed at the event. Officer will support the applicant with advice about other potentially appropriate venues, such as Platform or LIFT.