



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	23 January 2017		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use Summer 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. 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 July-September 2016, one of the allocated free hires was not been taken up by any applicant, and in January-March 2017, two applicants cancelled their bookings, making a total of 5 free hires granted in that year. The Assembly Hall has agreed to carry over an additional three free hires to this round January-March 2017, making a total of seven slots available in this round from July-September 2017.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To allocate one free hire for Summer 2017 to each of the following:
- MoveMe Dance
 - Breakin' Convention
 - Solace Women's Aid
 - Cubitt Education
 - IMECE Women's Centre
 - Baluji Music Foundation
 - Body & Soul

2.2 To hold the following two applicants in reserve, in case of inability of the above applicants to negotiate appropriate dates and timings:

- North London Cares
- Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group

3. Background

3.1 The first round of the 2017-18 scheme was launched in October 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 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 30 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.

Moveme Dance	Moveme Islington - Borough wide participatory dance event bringing together young people and elders
Breakin Convention	Breakin Convention - Hiphop/street dance event involving art exhibition, videos and performance workshops
Solace Women's Aid	Young Women and Girls Celebration of Empowerment Event - Celebration of borough wide Young Women and Girls Initiative with awards and performances

Cubitt Education	Summer Ball 2017: Journeys - Arts event and dance showcase bringing together local elders and younger generations
IMECE Women's Centre	Celebrating International Women's Day - Conference focusing on issues affecting Islington BAMER women, involving variety of stakeholders and policy makers
Baluji Music Foundation	Inner Vision Orchestra - Performance of orchestra of blind musicians and community participants
Body & Soul	Body & Soul Summer Festival - Community festival by HIV support agency with music, face painting and cakes

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.

North London Cares	North London Cares 6th Birthday Party - Community celebration and tea dance with live music, bringing together several generations of local people
Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group	Celebrating Arachne's 33 Years of Service To The Community - Celebration event with Greek music workshops and performance

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

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 – All Applicants Summer 2017

APPLICATION DETAILS			
Organisation	Estimated Attendance	Event Description	Recommended
MoveMe Dance	170	MoveMe Islington - a borough wide participatory dance event bringing together young people and elders	Y
Breakin' Convention	Unspecified	Breakin Convention - Hiphop/street dance event involving art exhibition, videos and performance workshops	Y
Solace Women's Aid	500	Young Women and Girls Celebration of Empowerment Event for borough wide Young Women and Girls Initiative with awards and performances	Y
Cubitt Education	230	Summer Ball 2017: Journeys - arts event and dance showcase bringing together local elders and younger generations	Y
IMECE WOMEN'S CENTRE	200	Celebrating International Women's Day - conference focusing on issues affecting Islington BAMER women, involving variety of stakeholders and policy makers	Y
BALUJI MUSIC FOUNDATION	300	Inner Vision Orchestra - community music workshop and performance event with orchestra of blind musicians	Y
Body & Soul	300	Body & Soul Summer Festival - community festival by HIV support agency with music, face painting and cakes	Y
Arachne Greek Cypriot women's Group	250	Celebrating Arachne's 33 Years of Service To The Community - music workshop and performance event celebrating Greek Cypriot community women's group	R
North London Cares	150	North London Cares 6th Birthday Party - community celebration and tea dance with live music, bringing together several generations of local people	R
Sport Islington	150-200	Sport Islington and School Sports Awards - award ceremony celebrating sporting achievements of clubs, organisations and schools in Islington	N
City Year UK	200	City Year London Graduation 2017 - graduation ceremony celebrating work done with disadvantaged 18-25 year olds from across London	N
Islington PE and School Sport Team	100	Primary School Dance Festival involving competitors from all schools in Islington	N
London Village Network	150	Celebration of Youth: Connecting Professionals with Young People - networking event bringing young people together with local businesses	N

The BIG Alliance	300	Year 10 Mentoring Works Recognition Event - celebration of mentoring programme between adult business mentors and Year 10 students from across Islington	N
Islington Children and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum	200	Children and Young People's Conference: Celebrating Childhood in Islington	N
Victim Support	Unspecified	Victim Support: Engaging and Supporting Diverse Communities - national conference targeting diverse communities	N
Islington Play Association	Unspecified	Islington Play's Big Fat Fundraising Quiz of the Year - fundraising event for applicant	N
Mind Yourself	300	Surviving Post-Brexit Britain - discussion event targeting diverse communities	N
Family Plus Team	100-200	Special Guardianship Family Event to support families and carers	N
Humming in Harmony	60	HUM - immersive concert of piano music for active listening	N
Islington People's Rights	120	Islington Advice Conference 2017 - conference aimed at Islington VCS organisations	N
Remembering Srebrenica	Unspecified	Silenced Voices: Stories from Srebrenica & Sarajevo - exhibition of photography and film screening	N
Family Action	200	Islington On Trend - charity fashion show event raising funds for applicant	N
YOUNG ACTORS THEATRE ISLINGTON	Unspecified	Young Actors FUN-DRAZER - fundraising event for YATI with performances by YATI students	N
Laamiga Women's Mentoring and Training	80-100	Celebration of Women - presentations by inspiring women, local businesses and FE colleges plus pamper sessions	N
Ghana Union	Unspecified	Black Star Community Youth Awards celebrating local young people's achievements	N
Islington Pensioners Forum	500	Summer Festival	N
Islington Council Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Forum	170	Islington Council Black & Minority Ethnic Staff Forum Indian Summer Ball	N
Family & Staff Association, William Tyndale School	180	Leaving Party for Year 6 students at William Tyndale PS	N
Camden and Islington Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre	100-150	Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Disorders Patient Conference	N