



Report of: Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	16 March 2015		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use 2015/16

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Each year, local community organisations are invited 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 2015/16 to the following:

- Cubitt Artists
- Ethiopian Diaspora Forum
- Holborn Dance Club
- Islington Faiths Forum
- Islington Foster Carers Association
- Islington People's Rights
- Islington University of the Third Age
- Islington Veterans Association
- Peabody Trust
- Sport Islington

3. Background

- 3.1 The scheme was oversubscribed, receiving 25 applications from a variety of organisations supporting a wide range of events.

- 3.2 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 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 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.

Cubitt Artists	Annual Spring Ball (part of Islington Word Festival) Arts event and dance showcase for local older people.
Ethiopian Diaspora Forum	Employability and Enterprise Summit Employment, jobs and careers fair for younger people.
Holborn Dance Club	Tea Dance Event for older users of Islington community centres.
Islington Faiths Forum	Community Conference Interfaith showcase and dialogue.
Islington Foster Carers Association	Christmas Party For children in care and their carers.
Islington People's Rights	Advising Islington Conference Speakers and workshops for all voluntary organisations.
Islington University of the Third Age	Open Day To promote activities and engage more residents.
Islington Veterans Association	VE/VJ Day Lunch and entertainment for war veterans.
Peabody Trust	Jobs Fair Major event involving RSLs, job centre and employers.
Sport Islington	Sport Islington and School Sports Awards Celebrating the achievements of local young people.

4.2 We 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 ten 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. Equality Impact Assessment

The organisations identified meet the needs and priorities of a wide range of Islington's communities 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 Economic and Community Development 2 March 2015

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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