TRAFFORD COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

DATE OF DECISION	24th July 2009	DECISION MAKER
DECISION REFERENCE	M/24.07.09/TR	Executive Member for Transformation & Resources (Councillor A. Williams)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme

1. That option 5 is approved which will provide VCAT, the Borough's umbrella voluntary sector organisation with an above inflation increase in order to support and develop capacity across the voluntary sector and extend the funding to the greatest number of groups. This option supports residents with disabilities, mental health problems, families, children and those seeking assistance with skills development and access to work.

2. That an additional £40,570 be allocated to provide continuation of funding until 31st March 2010 to current grant recipients that have been unsuccessful in order to mitigate the effects of loss of grant and assist with transitional arrangements, to be met from the General Reserve.

3. That any overspend/under-spend at the end of 2009/10 be carried forward into 2010/11 to meet the Council's commitment to provide 18 months funding as progression towards full compliance with the Trafford Compact Agreement.

4. That, should any group decide not to accept the offer of funding at a maximum £30,000, this funding is then reallocated to the other highest scoring bids (only those meeting the satisfactory threshold).

5. That Trafford Law Centre be provided with £15,000 as 2 years funding support as part of the Council's package of support announced for responses to the recession. This will provide valuable advice and support to local residents in a time of recession and complement the support available over the same period to the Trafford United Credit Union; to be met from the General Reserve.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The recommended option provides the Borough's umbrella voluntary sector organisation with an above inflation increase to support and develop capacity across the sector. It also extends the funding to the greatest number of groups and supports residents with disabilities, mental health problems, families, children and those seeking support for skills development and access to work. This is important in the current difficult economic times.
The transitional fund proposed will mitigate the effect of loss of grant for those organisations affected and enable the Council to support the transitional arrangements and manage associated risks as smoothly as possible.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Four other principal options considered, as set out in detail in the report.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY DISPENSATION

None.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE	PUBLICATION DATE
5th August 2009 (Sixth working day after publication, unless called in).	28th July 2009
	RECORDED BY: Director of Legal and Democratic Services

RETURN TO DEMOCRATIC SERVICES DIVISION, ROOM 123, TRAFFORD TOWN HALL, TALBOT ROAD, STRETFORD, M32 0TH, AS SOON AS A DECISION IS MADE OR AS REASONABLY PRACTICABLE THEREAFTER.