TRAFFORD COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

DATE OF DECISION	23rd February 2009	DECISION MAKER
DECISION REFERENCE	E/23.02.09-6	**Executive** (Councillors Colledge, Cornes, Coupe, Holden, J.R. Reilly, Tolhurst, A. Williams and M. Young)

RECORD OF THE DECISION

Voluntary Sector Grants Review – Earmarked Grants

(1) That the position in respect of the review of voluntary sector grants formerly known as "Earmarked Grants", be noted.

(2) That the 2009/10 budget revisions for the schemes detailed in paragraph 3 of the report, as agreed by the Council on 18th February 2009 and set out below, be noted:

Overall budget for grants to voluntary sector organisations - £191,000
Trafford Fund - £25,000
Voluntary Sector Grants Scheme - £166,000

(3) That, subject to the revised budget allocations referred to in (2) above, the criteria for grants to be appraised and awarded, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be approved for implementation with effect from 1st April 2009 to ensure that grant funding is aligned most effectively to enable the voluntary and community sector to maximise its contribution to delivering Trafford's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) vision, priorities and commitments.

(4) That the criteria be reviewed every three years or following each SCS review whichever is the sooner.

(5) That grant decisions be taken by the Executive in accordance with the timetable set out in section 4 of the report.

(6) That 3 year grant funding agreements be introduced in order to comply with the Trafford Compact to which the Council is a signatory and which is based on nationally recognised good practice guidance.

(7) That grant determination and allocation be phased in during the financial year 2009/10 in order to minimise any hardship to organisations currently in receipt of grant assistance which may not be successful under the new criteria and also to ensure minimum disruption to their client groups who may in some cases be vulnerable people.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To meet all the drivers of the review as set out in 1.1 of the report, achieve Medium Term Financial Plan savings and provide existing grant recipients with six months notice of loss of grant. Significantly it will also enable the Council to demonstrate that it is using its resources and working in partnership with the voluntary sector to contribute to the Sustainable Community Strategy priorities and commitments, which will be important for Comprehensive Area Assessment from April 2009. The Council has the power to carry out these activities under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED AT THE MEETING/BY MEMBERS

Retain the status quo.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED AND ANY DISPENSATION

None.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE	PUBLICATION DATE
5th March 2009 (Sixth working day after publication, unless called in).	25th February 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.