

Women's Committee

Finance and General Purposes Committee -
Grants Sub-Committee

Report (17.2.82) by the

Director-General

Item	
9	W 6
CRITERIA FOR MAKING GRANTS TO WOMEN'S GROUPS	

Introduction

1 One of the most effective ways in which the Council can make an immediate contribution towards the special needs of women and the elimination of practices that discriminate against women is through making grants to voluntary and community groups working to promote the welfare and interests of women in Greater London.

2 The Council's Housing, Industry and Employment, Arts and Recreation, Planning, Transport, Police and Ethnic Minorities Committees currently make grants to voluntary and community groups. The Grants Sub-Committee of the Finance and General Purposes Committee grant-aids those groups falling outside the remit of these service committees. The Grants Sub-Committee has already made funding commitments to a number of women's groups in 1982/83 and the Grants Panel funded a number of similar groups in 1981/82. Details of these are given in Appendix A.

3 This report deals with the Council's legal powers, identifies the financial considerations that need to be taken into account by the Council in exercising its grant-making powers in this area and suggests a set of criteria and priorities that the Committee could adopt in making grants to women's groups.

Legal Powers

4 The principle, relevant, statutory powers under which the Council may make grants to women's groups and the main legal principles applying to their exercise are set out in Appendix B. To date the majority of grants approved by the former Grants Panel and by the Grants Sub-Committee have been made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Financial Considerations

5 The Finance and General Purposes Committee on 29 April 1982 agreed that the Women's Committee should have an initial budget of £200,000 to make grants to voluntary and community groups. It will be important that those groups receiving grants should be able to demonstrate a proper conduct of their affairs both in a general and financial sense. Applicants should have clearly defined objectives and be able to indicate the benefits for women which could be derived from their operations. The form used by applications for consideration by the Finance and General Purposes Grants Sub-Committee requires organisations to submit, where available, copies of their constitutions, standing orders, memoranda and articles of association, details of their management committees, annual reports and any other documents that will provide evidence that their affairs are properly conducted. Applicants have also been

asked to provide copies of their previous two years' audited accounts, their current year's budget, details of any fundraising activities they are engaged in, and to state what other sources of financial assistance they have explored. From the Council's point of view it is clearly preferable if their accounts are audited by a qualified accountant, although where the Comptroller of Finance advises, this has not been made mandatory.

Suggested Criteria

6 To date applications from women's groups have been considered against the criteria approved by the Finance and General Purposes Committee in June 1981 and the additional criteria approved by the Grants Panel on 9 March 1982. These criteria are set out in Appendix C, but have been adapted to meet the needs of the Women's Committee. Whilst the Women's Committee may like to confirm these criteria as amended it may wish to consider adopting the more specific criteria set out below. Organisations will need to be able to demonstrate that they are:-

- (i) promoting the welfare and interests of women in Greater London;
- (ii) working to promote equal opportunity available to women in Greater London; and
- (iii) working towards the abolition of practices that discriminate against women on the grounds of sex.

Suggested Priorities

7 It is also suggested that the Committee might wish to give priority to the following types of application:-

- (i) projects increasing public awareness of, and campaigning against, practices that discriminate against women;
- (ii) organisations campaigning on behalf of women's rights;
- (iii) projects enabling women with young children to go out to work and lead a full and active public and social life, eg, creche facilities;
- (iv) proposals which will benefit black women and women within other ethnic minorities, who are likely to be doubly disadvantaged by prejudicial or unequal treatment of women;
- (v) projects of a new and innovative nature representing unmet needs;
- (vi) organisations dealing with women who are socially deprived or disadvantaged or other types of organisations catering for unmet needs or located in areas of recognised deprivation; and
- (vii) organisations providing resources such as meeting rooms, libraries, access to equipment, etc.

8 It is proposed that all applications would be accorded a priority rating initially by the Women's Unit in conjunction with the Chairperson of the Committee and that informal meetings would be held with some of the groups, especially those likely to be on the borderline of being offered a grant. Once all applications have been

prioritized, the high priority applications will be considered by the full Women's Committee, the groups would not usually be interviewed by the Committee unless this was felt appropriate by the Chairperson. Applications for emergency funding will be considered as soon as possible after they are received. It is proposed to process those applications accorded low priority ratings by Chairperson's Action, with a brief report being prepared in each case explaining why the application is not appropriate for funding. These applications will then be reported to the subsequent full Committee meeting for information and the applicants will be informed that the Council is unable to offer them grant aid. Where groups consider that their application has been unfairly treated provision will be made for the Committee to reconsider it, if requested to do so by the local GLC constituency member, or by the Chairperson of the Committee.

9 It is envisaged that a contingency fund of £30,000 should be set aside to deal with applications for emergency funding which are submitted after 31 July 1982.

10 The criteria for making longer term funding commitments will be the subject of a subsequent paper.

For decision

The Committee are invited:-

- (i) to confirm the general criteria for grants set out in Appendix C and approve the additional criteria set out in paragraph 6;
- (ii) to adopt the statement of priorities set out in paragraph 7; and
- (iii) to confirm the method of processing applications set out in paragraphs 8 and 9.

APPENDIX A

CATEGORY: WOMEN'S GROUPS

COMMITMENTS ALREADY GIVEN IN 1982/83

	<u>Title of Scheme</u>	<u>Area of operation</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Amount 82/83</u>
1.	Women's Research and Resources Centre	Greater London	Salary costs of two full-time workers	15,375
2.	Rights of Women	Greater London	Salary costs of part-time worker and resource materials	6,380
3.	The Women's Therapy Centre	Greater London	Salary costs of a clinical supervisor post	10,165
4.	Rape Counselling and Research Project	Greater London	Salary costs of 2 part-time counsellors, a counsellor/co-ordinator and a counsellor/educator, money for research purposes, and a contribution towards telephone costs.	26,250

DETAILS OF GRANTS AWARDED IN 1981/82

TITLE OF SCHEME	AREA OF OPERATION	PURPOSE OF GRANT	NATURE OF SERVICE	AMOUNT OF MONEY	
				1981/82	1982/83
1 Womens Research and Resources Centre	Greater London	Towards the cost of employing two full-time workers.	Library, information service and meeting place	7,130	
2 Women Against Rape	Greater London branch of national organisation.	To pay the salary cost of a worker employed on a survey.	Survey on assaults on women.	8,000	
3 Rape Counselling and Research Project	Mainly in Greater London	To pay salaries of counsellors.	Counselling service and public education.	3,000	
4 A Woman's Place	Greater London	Towards the cost of a duplicator and office equipment.	Information	3,000	
5 Rights of Women	Greater London	Towards the salary of a full-time worker and resource materials.	Legal advice, campaigning	1,500	
6 Women's Therapy Centre	Greater London	To employ a full-time worker to enable the Centre to run extra sessions.	Mental health service	2,500	
7 Kentish Town Women's	Kentish Town	Towards the costs of a worker.	Play group and after school service.	1,020	
8 English Collective of Prostitutes (Prostitution Inquiry)	London area	Towards a nine month survey into prostitution.	Research project	7,600	
9 Lesbian Line	Greater London (some actions are nationwide)	Towards the cost of the telephone counselling service	Help, social gatherings	750	

SCHEDULE

Powers of the Council to assist voluntary and community groups

1 The Council has a variety of powers under which it may give financial assistance to voluntary and community groups. The appropriate power in each case will depend upon the purpose for which a proposed grant is intended to be used and the nature of the recipient body. The principle powers relevant to grant applications falling within the purview of the Women's committee are:-

- (i) Section 137(3) of the Local Government Act 1972, which empowers the Council to incur expenditure on contributions to:
 - (a) the funds of any charitable body in furtherance of its work in the United Kingdom; or
 - (b) the funds of any body which provides any public service in the United Kingdom otherwise than for the purposes of gain;
- (ii) Section 65(1) of the Health Service and Public Health Act 1968 which empower the Council to make grants or loans to a voluntary organisation whose activities include the provision of certain health, welfare or child-care services or the publicising or promotion of such services.
- (iii) Section 19(3)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 which empowers the Council to contribute towards the expenses of any voluntary organisation in providing a wide range of recreational facilities and assistance;
- (iv) Section 145(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 which empowers the Council to contribute towards the expenses of the doing of, anything necessary or expedient for the provision of entertainments or certain cultural activities carried on inside or outside the Greater London area; and
- (v) Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 which empowers the Council, where no other power is available, to incur expenditure which in its opinion is in the interests of Greater London or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.

(N.B The total expenditure of the Council under Section 137(1) and (3) of the 1972 Act in any financial year must not exceed the product of a rate of 2p in the pound for Greater London.)

2 There are several legal principles which apply to the exercise of the Council's powers, including the following:-

- (i) The Council must have regard to all relevant considerations (including, for example, the Council's fiduciary duty to its ratepayers) and disregard irrelevant ones and, having done so, not reach a decision which no reasonable authority could have taken. Relevant considerations must be given appropriate weight;

- (ii) A power must be exercised for the purposes evinced by its wording;
- (iii) The benefit to London expected to be derived from the making of a grant should be reasonably commensurate with the amount of the grant;
- (iv) The Council must act in a financially prudent manner. Accordingly, it should satisfy itself that public funds will be used for the purpose for which they are given (which includes the question of whether the recipient body is properly organised and conducted);
- (v) A grant of a capital nature will require suitable provision in the Council's Money Act; and
- (vi) Where Section 137(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 is relied upon, the Council must, in satisfying itself that any grant would be in the interests of Greater London or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants, be of the opinion that the class of persons likely to benefit from a grant is sufficiently large to warrant the expenditure.

3 Each report by officers on applications for grant aid will contain where necessary, the advice of the Director of Administration and Solicitor to the Council on the legal powers available and on the principles relating to their exercise.

APPENDIX C

Greater London Council

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (GRANTS PANEL) - CRITERIA FOR GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY BODIES

CRITERIA - OVERALL

- 1 Within the limits of its legal powers, and financial resources, the Council may offer assistance to bodies operating to the benefit of London or its inhabitants with aims and objectives which can be demonstrated to be of real benefit to the community.
- 2 The Council would not wish to confuse existing relationships by offering finance where there is already a clear responsibility and an established funding source from a public sector body or another GLC committee.
- 3 Where boroughs or other agencies are unwilling or unable to provide support, the Council will consider applications for assistance.
- 4 Special consideration will be given on an emergency basis where urgent interim support is required.

CRITERIA - SPECIFIC

- 5 An organisation will need to be able to demonstrate:-
 - (a) that its objectives can be justified as in the interests of women in London;
 - (b) that the granting of assistance will enable its operations to continue on a viable basis for the foreseeable future, in a way which achieves its stated objectives;
 - (c) where appropriate that self help and voluntary assistance is being maximised;
 - (d) a proper conduct of its affairs both general and financial;
 - (e) that there should be a proven need for any activity or good local grounds for believing that such need exists and that it is not otherwise provided for;
 - (f) that projects provide value for money for both the Council and the community, e.g, large sums spent providing buildings would be wasted unless it is known they will be used by an adequate number of people; and
 - (g) that it does not seek to present party political views.

N.B. The adaptations that have been made to meet the needs of the Women's Committee are underlined.

Criteria for making grants to Women's Groups

Comptroller of Finance (17th June, 1982)

1. The Committee is asked to confirm the criteria, adopt the statement of priorities and confirm the procedures to apply to applications for grants from women's groups.

2. Of the initial provision of £200,000 made available to the Committee for grants in 1982-83 some £74,400 has already been committed as follows:-

	£
grants originally expected to fall in 1981-82	16,100
grants to Women's Groups approved by the grants sub committee	58,300
	74,400

In addition it is now proposed that £30,000 be set aside to deal with applications for emergency funding leaving £95,600 available for new grant initiatives.

Other applications have already been received and advertisements for further applications, closing on 31 July, have been agreed.

3. Paragraph 5 of the main report outlines the general financial considerations that apply and for each application submitted to the Committee, I shall undertake a rigorous financial appraisal, appropriate to each case and in line with/that applied to similar grants for other committees.

4. As a general point, the Committee will, in each case, need to give due regard to the legal advice submitted and will need to weigh and test the expected benefits of each proposal against the full cost to ratepayers, after allowing for the effects of Block Grant. In 1982-83, the effects of Block Grant cause each £1 of additional expenditure to cost ratepayers £1.60.

5. A full and proper financial appraisal of each application is of paramount importance in the Committee's decision-making process. Each appraisal must rely on the amount and quality of information provided. It is crucially important, therefore, that applicants are not only fully appraised of the requirements in this respect, but also that sufficient time is allowed for the completion of each examination.

AMMCC
FN/B