



**Report of:** Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety

<b>Meeting of</b> Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	<b>Date</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b> All
<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt	

## **LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE – LEVY 2018-19**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the London Boroughs Grants Committee (LBGC) 2018-19 provisional budget, and the payment by the Council of its annual subscription. The Council, together with other London boroughs, is a member of the LBGC. Accordingly, the Council is required to approve the annual committee budget (£8.668m in 2018-19) and the Council's levy (£177k in 2018-19).
- 1.2. The Council's annual subscription currently contributes towards the funding of many London-wide organisations providing a wide range of services. These services are accessible by Islington residents and contribute towards the Council's priorities including tackling homelessness and dealing with violence against women and girls. Islington residents and Islington-based organisations currently receive considerable benefit from the annual subscription. The net-benefit to Islington residents is estimated to be over £0.2m per annum.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To note the LBGC proposed 2018-19 annual budget of £8.668m (**paragraph 3.3**).
- 2.2. To agree, Islington's estimated contribution of £177k in 2018-19, a decrease of £24k on the 2017-18 contribution. (**Paragraph 3.4**).

### **3. London Boroughs Grants Committee Levy - Analysis**

- 3.1. The London Councils Grants Committee has agreed the following priorities; these reflect some of the Council's priorities and historically the funding has been of benefit to both Islington residents and Islington based voluntary organizations:
  - Homelessness
  - Sexual and Domestic Violence
- 3.2. Islington currently benefits in two ways from being a member of the Committee:
  - 3.2.1. Firstly, it is currently estimated that about 50% (£3.13m) of the current year funding approved by the LBGC is allocated to commissioning organisations based in the borough (such as Women's Aid Federation of England, Solace Women's Aid, Galop, Women's Resource Centre and

Shelter). However most commissioning organisations provide services across London and in many cases benefit Islington residents.

3.2.2. Secondly, it is estimated that more than £0.2m (nearly 4%) of the current funding benefits Islington residents.

3.3. The total budget for the scheme will be £8.688m in 2018-19. Total borough contributions will be reduced by £1m to £6.668m in 2018-19, as a result of matching of £1m funding from the European Social Fund with a one off contribution of £1m from reserves in 2018-19. This reduction will be ongoing in future years. Borough contributions towards administrative costs included in the above will be £0.4m in 2018-19, unchanged from 2017-18. The remainder of the budget will be financed by European Social Fund grants (£1m) and from Grants Committee reserves (£1m).

3.4. The Islington contribution to the scheme is expected to decrease from £201k in 2017-18 to £177k in 2018-19.

## **4. Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

4.1. The 2018-19 levy is within the estimated budget.

4.2. The budget is subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and the agreement of two-thirds of London boroughs by the end of January 2018.

### **Legal Implications**

4.3. Under the constitution of the LBGC, the Council is required to confirm the Committee's budget and its own contribution. The Council is required to inform the Committee of its approval or otherwise by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.

### **Residents Impact Assessment**

4.4. 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.

A significant proportion of the grants made by the Committee are to organisations meeting the needs and priorities of a wide range of Islington's community, and in particular aimed at improving equality within the borough.

## **Final Report Clearance**



16 January 2018

Signed by

Executive Member for Finance, Performance and  
Community Safety

Date

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Received by

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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