



Report of: Service Director Financial and Asset Management (Section 151 Officer)

	Date:	Ward(s):
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)	29 January 2019	
Officer Decision	25 th January 2019	All

SUBJECT: LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE – LEVY 2019-20

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This delegated decision report seeks approval for the London Boroughs Grants Committee (LBGC) 2019-20 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 (£6.909m in 2019-20) and the Council's levy (£178k in 2019-20).
- 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 £0.3m per annum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the LBGC proposed 2019-20 annual budget of £6.909m (paragraph 4.3).
- 2.2 To note Islington's estimated contribution of £178k in 2019-20, an increase of £1k on the 2018-19 contribution. (Paragraph 4.3).

3. Decision

London Councils notified Chief Executives of the recommended level of the London Borough Grants Scheme budget for 2019/20 and sought a formal response to that recommendation ideally by Friday 18 January 2019, but no later than Friday 25 January 2019.

As the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee was not due to meet until 29 January 2019, the decision was delegated to officers. The Service Director, Financial and Asset Management (S151 Officer) took the decision to agree recommendations 2.1 and 2.2 above on 19 December 2018.

4. Background

- 4.1 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
- 4.2 Islington currently benefits in two ways from being a member of the Committee:
- 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.
 - Secondly, it is estimated that more than £0.3m (about 5%) of the current funding benefits Islington residents
- 4.3 The total budget for the scheme will be £6.909m in 2019-20. This is a reduction of £1.759m from 2018-18 due to a reduction in European Social Fund (ESF) co financing costs and a commensurate reduction in ESF grant and one off contributions from reserves. However the costs of the grants programme and borough contributions to scheme costs remain unchanged. The Islington contribution to the scheme is expected to increase from £177k in 2018-19 to £178k in 2019-20.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial implications:

The 2019-20 levy is within the estimated budget. The budget is subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders Committee on 4th December 2018 and the agreement of two-thirds of London boroughs by the end of January 2019.

5.2 Legal Implications:

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 1st February 2019.

5.3 Environmental Implications

The services funded by the LBGC (some of which are based in Islington) have environmental impacts related to building occupation and office use; these include use of energy, water and resources (e.g. stationery), as well as waste generation. Some may also involve travel, which could contribute to vehicular emissions and congestion.

5.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

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 Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed because London Councils have confirmed in their grants programme monitoring reports that funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and in particular target groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The London Councils grants team reviews this annually.

3. Reason for the decision

- 3.1 The Council is required to confirm whether it approves the London Boroughs Grants Committee budget for 2019-20 and Islington contribution to the above by 1st February 2019. The budget requires the approval of two thirds of London boroughs for it to be approved, in the event of the budget not being approved the budget will remain unchanged from 2018-19.

Signed by:



Service Director, Financial and Asset
Management (Section 151 Officer)

Date

19.12.2018

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