

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

<b>Meeting of</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Ward(s):</b>	<b>Item</b>
Executive	16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	All	<b>HI</b>
		Non-exempt	

**SUBJECT: LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE – LEVY  
2020/21****1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the London Boroughs Grants Committee (LBGC) 2020/21 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 (£6.668m in 2020/21) and the Council's levy (£179k in 2020/21).
- 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. The Committee is also planning to allocate resources in 2020-21 to support people with no recourse to public funds, and to continue the grants scheme from 2021 to 2025 focusing on existing priorities plus tackling youth poverty. 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 agree the LBGC proposed 2020/21 annual budget of £6.668m. (paragraph 3.3).
- 2.2 To agree, Islington's estimated contribution of £179k in 2020/21, an increase of £1k on the 2019/20 contribution. (Paragraph 3.3).

### **3 Background**

- 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
  - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
  - Tackling poverty through employment
- 3.2 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
- 3.3 The total budget for the scheme will be £6.668m in 2020/21. This is a reduction of £0.241m from 2019/20 due to a reduction in European Social Fund (ESF) co-financing costs, administration costs and central recharges 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 £178k in 2019/20 to £179k in 2020/21.

### **4 Implications**

#### **4.1 Financial implications:**

The 2019-20 levy is within the estimated budget. The budget was agreed by London Councils Leaders Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 and is subject to the agreement of two-thirds of London boroughs by the end of January 2020.

#### **4.2 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 2020.

#### **4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

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.

#### **4.4 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.

## 5 Reason for recommendations

- 5.1 The Council is required to confirm whether it approves the London Boroughs Grants Committee budget for 2020/21 and Islington contribution to the above by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020 (VCS Committee will approve these retrospectively at their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020). 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 2019/20.

**Appendices:** none

**Background papers:** none

### Signed by:



Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety      Date 14 January 2020

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