

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer)

Meeting of	Date:	Ward(s):
Officer Decision Voluntary and Community Sector Committee (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)	19 January 2021 30 March 2021	All
		Non-exempt

SUBJECT: LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE 2021/22

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This officer decision report approves the 2021/22 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget and annual contribution from the council, both of which are broadly unchanged from 2020/21.
- 1.2 The London Boroughs Grants Committee 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, dealing with violence against women and girls and support people with no recourse to public funds.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the 2021/22 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget (£6.668m) and the annual contribution from the council (£0.180m). (**Paragraph 3.3**)

3. Background

- 3.1 Islington benefits from being a member of the London Boroughs Grants Committee in two main ways:

- It estimated that about 50% of the current year funding approved by the London Boroughs Grants Committee 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)
- Most commissioning organisations provide services across London and in many cases benefit Islington residents. It is estimated that approximately £0.2m (about 3%) of the current funding benefits Islington residents.

3.2 The total London Boroughs Grants Committee budget will be £6.668m in 2021/22, unchanged from 2020/21. The council’s annual contribution will increase from £0.179m in 2020/21 to £0.180m in 2021/22 (i.e. broadly unchanged).

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The council’s 2021/22 contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Committee is factored into the council’s 2021/22 budget assumptions.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council is required to approve the London Boroughs Grants Committee budget and the council’s contribution to it. The council is required to inform the Committee of its approval or otherwise by 1 February 2021.

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

The services funded by the London Boroughs Grants Committee, some of which are based in Islington, have environmental impacts related to building occupation and office use. Some may also involve travel, which could contribute to vehicular emissions and congestion.

4.4 Equality 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. London Councils has 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 by 1 February 2021 whether it approves the 2021/22 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget and the council's contribution. 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 2021/22.

Appendices: none

Background papers: none

Signed by:



Corporate Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) Date: 19 January 2021

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