

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of	Date:	Ward(s):
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	25 January 2022	All
		Non-exempt

LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE 2022/23

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Approval of the London Borough Grants Committee budget comes under the Terms of Reference of Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. However, the London Boroughs Grants Committee budget and council contribution for 2022/23 was approved by the Executive on 13 January 2022 for reason of urgency, as London Councils had requested confirmation by 14 January 2022. Therefore, this is being notified to Voluntary and Community Sector Committee for information only.
- 1.2 The overall Grants Committee budget for 2022/23 is unchanged from 2021/22. There is a 2% increase in Islington's contribution due to a relatively higher population growth in the borough compared to the rest of London (the 2020 mid-year population being used to calculate individual borough contributions).
- 1.3 The London Boroughs Grants Committee 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 violence against women and girls and supporting people with no recourse to public funds.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the 2022/23 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget (£6.668m) and the annual contribution from the council (£0.184m). (**Paragraph 3.2**)

3. Background

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

- It estimated that approximately 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 £0.250m (4%) of the current year funding benefits Islington residents.

3.2 The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2022/23 at its meeting on 24 November 2021. The London Councils Leaders' Committee considered a budget at its meeting on 7 December 2021 and the following recommendation is now made for constituent councils (including Islington) to agree an overall level of expenditure of £6,668,000 comprising:

- Payments to Commissions - £6,173,000
- Administrative Expenditure - £435,000
- London Funders Membership Fees - £60,000
- Borough contributions - £6,668,000 (Islington contribution £183,779)

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The council's 2022/23 contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Committee (£0.184m) has been factored into the council's 2022/23 budget proposals.

The Grants Committee 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.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council is required to inform the Committee of its approval or otherwise of the London Borough Grants Committee budget.

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 recommendation

- 5.1 The council was asked to notify London Councils by 14 January 2022 whether it approves the 2022/23 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget and the council's contribution. For reason of urgency, this approval was gained by the Executive on 13 January 2022 and is being notified to Voluntary and Community Sector Committee for information only.

Appendices: none

Background papers: none

Signed by:

Corporate Director of Resources

Date 14 January 2022

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