



Report of: **Executive Member for Finance and Resources**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	19 th January 2015		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE – LEVY 2015-16

1. Background

- 1.1. This report seeks approval for the London Boroughs Grants Committee (LBGC) 2015-16 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 (£10.5m in 2015-16) and the Council's levy (£231k in 2015-16).
- 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 crime and providing decent and affordable housing. Islington residents and Islington-based organisations currently receive considerable benefit from the annual subscription. The net-benefit to Islington residents is estimated to be about £0.4m per annum.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the LBGC proposed 2015-16 annual budget of £10.5m (paragraph 3.3).
- 2.2. To agree, Islington's estimated contribution of £231k in 2015-16, an increase of 0.9% or £2k on the 2014-15 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
 - Tackling Poverty (through advice and training for employment)
 - Support for London's voluntary and community organisations
- 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 18% (£1.572m) of the current year funding approved by the LBGC is allocated to commissioning organisations based in the borough, although most commissioning organisations provide services across London and in many cases benefit Islington residents.

3.2.2. Secondly, it is estimated that up to £0.4m (4%) of the current funding benefits Islington residents. This has included funding to organisations subcontracted to provide services by commissioning organisations, including Alone in London Service and Hillside Clubhouse.

3.3. The total budget for the scheme will be £10.5m in 2015-16. Total borough contributions will be unchanged at £9m in 2015-16. Borough contributions towards administrative costs will be £0.4m in 2015-16, unchanged again from 2014-15. The remaining c£1m will be financed by European Social Fund grants.

3.4. The Islington contribution to the scheme is expected to increase from just under £229k in 2014-15 to just under £231k in 2015-16.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

4.1.1. The 2015-16 levy is in line with budget expectation.

4.1.2. The budget is subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders Committee on 9th December 2014 and the agreement of two-thirds of London boroughs by the end of January 2015.

4.2. Legal implications

4.2.1. 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 2015.

4.3. Equalities Impact Assessment

4.3.1. 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.

4.4. Environmental Implications

4.4.1. There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Final Report Clearance



06.01.2015

Signed by

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Executive Member for Finance and Resources

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Date

Received by

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Head of Democratic Services

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Date

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