

Report of: Corporate Director of Resources

Meeting of: Voluntary and Community Sector Committee

Dates: 20 March 2023

Ward(s): All

# London Boroughs Grants Committee 2023/24

## 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 2023/24 was approved by the Executive on 12 January 2023 for reason of urgency, as London Councils had requested confirmation by 13 January 2023. Therefore, this is being notified to Voluntary and Community Sector Committee for information only.
- 1.2. The overall Grants Committee budget for 2023/24 is unchanged from 2022/23. Islington's contribution is also unchanged as the 2020 mid-year population estimate continues to be used to calculate this, pending confirmation of the 2021 mid-year population estimate that would be used otherwise.
- 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. Recommendations

- 2.1. To note the 2023/24 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget (£6.668m) and the annual contribution from the council (£0.184m). (Paragraph 4.2)

## 3. Background

- 3.1. Islington benefits from being a member of the London Boroughs Grants Committee in two main ways:
- 3.2. It is estimated that approximately 23% of the current year funding approved by the London Boroughs Grants Committee is allocated to commissioning organisations based in the borough (such as Shelter, GALOP and Womens Resource Centre).
- 3.3. Most commissioning organisations provide services across London and in many cases benefit Islington residents. It is estimated that approximately £0.213m (3.45%) of the current year funding benefits Islington residents.

#### **4. 2023/24 London Borough Grants Committee Budget**

4.1. The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2023/24 at its meeting on 30 November 2022. The London Councils Leaders' Committee considered the budget at its meeting on 13 December 2022 and the following recommendation is now made for constituent councils (including Islington) to agree an overall level of expenditure of £6,686,000 comprising:

- Payments to Commissions - £6,173,000
- Administrative Expenditure - £453,000
- London Funders Membership Fees - £60,000
- Borough contributions - £6,668,000 (Islington contribution £183,779)
- Use of reserves - £18,000

4.2. The annual contribution from Islington Council has been set at £0.184m for 2023/24. 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 2022/23.

#### **5. Implications**

##### **5.1. Financial Implications:**

The council's 2023/24 contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Committee (£0.184m) has been factored into the council's 2023/24 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 2022/23.

##### **5.2. Legal Implications:**

The council is required to inform the Committee of its approval or otherwise of the London Borough Grants Committee budget. The Council has a general duty under the *Local Government Act 1999* to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

##### **5.3. 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. Organisations providing services actively work with local authorities to minimise their carbon footprint and promote sustainable practices in line with our net zero carbon policy

##### **5.4. 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.

**6. Reason for Recommendations**

6.1. The council was asked to notify London Councils by 13 January 2023 whether it approves the 2023/24 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget and the council’s contribution. For reason of urgency, this approval was gained by the Executive on 12 January 2023 and is being notified to Voluntary and Community Sector Committee for information only.

Appendices: None

Background papers: None

<b>Signed by:</b>		
	Corporate Director of Resources	Date 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023

**Responsible Officers:**

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**Legal Implications:**

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