

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 18 January 2016

Wards: All

Subject: London Councils Grants Scheme
Subscription for 2016/17

Lead officer: Paul Dale, AD Resources

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Community
Safety, Engagement and Equalities

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Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet approves the council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2016/17 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 8 December 2015;
- B. That Cabinet agrees to allocate the balance in the 2016/17 subscriptions budget to the Merton Partnership Voluntary Sector Grant Scheme.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The London Councils Leaders' Committee has set a revised budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme (LCGS) for 2016/17. The LCGS is governed by statute which requires the budget to be approved by two thirds of London boroughs by 29 January 2016.
- 1.2 This report seeks Cabinet's approval for Merton's contribution to the LCGS for 2016/17, which the London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined should be £202,931. This can be met within existing resources.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1 The LCGS funds a range of services across London with financial contributions from all London boroughs. The budget for the grants scheme is determined by the London Councils Leaders' Committee and boroughs are asked to confirm their contributions each year.
- 2.2 In 2015/16 the London Councils Leaders' Committee determined Merton's contribution to be £217,275. Merton's contribution increased by £17,693 in 2015/16, compared with 2014/15 because it was not offset by a one-off injection of funds from London Councils' grants reserves as in 2014/15.
- 2.3 For 2016/17 London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined Merton's contribution to be £202,931. A one-off payment has been apportioned to the borough's base line subscription of £214,515 reducing the borough's contribution to £202,931.

- 2.4 Due to the one-off payment from London Councils, Merton's contribution for 2016/17 has reduced by £14,344 compared to £217,275 in 2015/16. With this in mind, the £202,931 subscription for 2016/17 can be met within existing resources, and Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve Merton's contribution in line with the decision of the London Councils Leaders' Committee.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1 Merton could decide not to approve the proposed contribution. However, if at least two thirds of London boroughs approve the budget it will apply to all councils.
- 3.2 If at least two thirds of constituent councils do not agree the revised budget within the timescales, then the subscription levied for 2015/16 (£217,275) will apply in 2016/17.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 The London Councils Leaders' Committee approved the overall revenue budget for London Councils for 2016/17 and the level of borough subscriptions and charges for the year on 8 December 2015, including those relating to the LCGS.
- 4.2 A circular setting out individual borough subscriptions and charges to be levied in 2016/17 was sent to Chief Executives on 11 December 2015, and is attached to this report as Appendix I.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The subscription for 2016/17 can be met within existing resources.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The LCGS is governed by statute which requires at least two thirds of London boroughs to approve the budget in order for the budget to apply to all councils. If at least two thirds of constituent councils do not agree the revised budget within the timescales, then the subscription levied for 2015/16, £217,275 will apply for 2016/17.
- 6.1. The LCGS can only be revoked if a majority of the member councils so decide. In such circumstances the revocation would take effect from the end of any financial year after that in which the decision to revoke is made. The Council cannot, therefore, unilaterally withdraw from the scheme and is bound to make a contribution to the scheme in 2016/17.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

**10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE
PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Appendix I: London Councils Grants Budget – Borough Contributions 2016-17

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. None.

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