

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 14 January 2019

Wards: All

Subject: London Councils Grants Scheme
Subscription for 2019/20

Lead officer: John Dimmer, Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships

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 2019/20 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 4 December 2018.

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 2019/20. The LCGS is governed by statute which requires the budget to be approved by two thirds of London boroughs by 18 January 2019.
- 1.2 This report seeks Cabinet's approval for Merton's contribution to the LCGS for 2019/20, which the London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined should be £155,691. 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. See Appendix I for a further breakdown. 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 2018/19 the London Councils Leaders' Committee determined Merton's contribution to be £155,574. For 2019/20 the London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined that Merton's contribution should increase very slightly to £155,691.

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 2018/19 (£155,574) will apply for 2019/20.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1 The London Councils Leaders' Committee approved the overall revenue budget for London Councils for 2019/20 and the level of borough subscriptions and charges for the year on 4 December 2018, including those relating to the LCGS.
- 4.2 The LCGS borough subscriptions 2019-20 are attached to this report as Appendix II.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The subscription for 2019/20 can be met within existing resources.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 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 2018/19 (£155,574) will apply for 2019/20.
- 7.2 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 2019/20.

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 scheme spending
- Appendix II: London Councils Grants Scheme – Proposed Borough Subscriptions 2019-20

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1. None.

London Councils' Grants scheme spending

The London Councils grants scheme was originally set up on abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC). Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 enabled London boroughs to fund voluntary action in the capital through a joint scheme provided by London Councils.

All 32 London boroughs and the City of London contribute to the grants programme which is run on their behalf by London Councils and aims to meet key areas of need in the capital.

Applicants to the programme must be non-profit organisations that are able to work across more than one borough and able to demonstrate they provide services in at least one of the following 2017 to 2021 Grants Programme priorities identified by London Councils following a 2015/16 Grants Review:

Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness

Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Priority 3 - Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF match funded).

Table One: London Councils Grants Programme 2017-21 (Priority 1 and 2)

The 2017-21 grants programme has seen £6,173,132 split between 13 different projects dedicated to tackling some of the most serious issues affecting the capital.

Service Area	Organisation	Annual Grant Amount
1.1	Shelter - London Advice Services	£1,003,495
	St Mungo Community Housing Association	£251,378
1.2	New Horizon Youth Centre	£1,008,338
1.3	Homeless Link	£120,239
	Standing Together Against Domestic Violence	£88,977
Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness		£2,472,427
2.1	Tender Education and Arts	£265,000
2.2	Solace Women's Aid	£1,425,238
	Galop	£146,318
	SignHealth	£148,444
2.3	Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)	£314,922

2.4	Ashiana Network	£840,000
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	£240,783
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	£320,000
Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence		£3,700,705
Total		£6,173,132

Table Two: London Councils Grants Programme 2017-2021 (Priority 3)

Priority 3 is funded by boroughs' contributions to the Grants Programme of £3 million and matched by £3 million from the London Councils European Social Fund (ESF) Programme, under an agreement with the Greater London Authority (GLA).

Organisation and Cluster	Grant Amount
Citizens Trust (Brent, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond-upon-Thames)	£448,114
London Training and Employment Network (Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Lambeth, Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth)	£483,211
MI ComputSolutions (Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark)	£463,156
Paddington Development Trust (Barnet, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster)	£464,409
Redbridge Council for Voluntary Service (Enfield, City of London, Hackney, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Camden)	£469,423
Redbridge Council for Voluntary Service (Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest)	£491,985
Priority 3: Tackling Poverty through Employment Total Programme	£5,640,601
London Councils Management and Administration (6 percent)	£359,399
Priority 3: Grant Funding	£3,000,000
Priority 3: European Social Funding	£3,000,000
Total	£6,000,000