

CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
Director – Caroline Holland



**Democracy Services
London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre
London Road
Morden SM4 5DX**

**Direct Line: 0208 545 3616
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democratic.services@merton.gov.uk**

Date: 14 January 2020

Dear Councillor

Notification of a Decision taken by the **Director of Corporate Services**

The attached **Non-Key decision** has been taken by the **Director of Corporate Services**, with regards to the **London Councils Grant Scheme Subscription for 2020/21** and will be implemented at **noon on Friday 17 January 2020** unless a call-in request is received.

The [call-in](#) form is attached for your use if needed and refers to the relevant sections of the constitution.

Yours sincerely

Democracy Services

NON-KEY DECISION TAKEN BY AN OFFICER UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

This form should be used to record and publish **non key delegated executive decisions**. Guidance is available on the intranet or from the democratic services team 0208 545 3616.

1. Subject

London Councils Grants Scheme Subscription for 2020/21

2. Reason for exemption (if any)

N/A

3. Decision maker

Director of Corporate Services

4. Date of Decision

14 January 2020

5. Decision

Approve the council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2020/21 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 3 December 2019

6. Reason for decision

Outlined in "Non Key Decision taken by an Officer" report

7. Alternative options considered and why rejected

Outlined in "Non Key Decision taken by an Officer" report

8. Documents relied on

Appendix I: London Councils' Grants scheme spending
Appendix II: London Councils Grants Scheme – Proposed Borough Subscriptions 2020-21

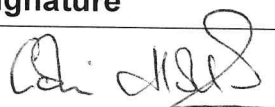
9. Declarations of Interest

If the decision maker has an interest it must be declared. Not all interests will preclude the decision maker from proceeding but failing to declare an interest could be a breach of the Staff Code of Conduct. Check with the Monitoring Officer for further advice. (Constitution Part 5B paragraph 7)

N/A

10. Signature

Signature



Date

~~13-1-20~~
14-1-20

11. Publication of this decision and call in provision

Send this form and any documents listed in section 8 to democratic.services@merton.gov.uk for publication. Publication will take place within two days. The call-in deadline will be at Noon on the third working day following publication.

IMPORTANT – this decision should not be implemented until the call-in period has elapsed.

Non Key Decision taken by an Officer

Chief Officers: Caroline Holland, Director of Corporate Services

Date: 14 January 2020

Agenda item: N/A

Wards: All

Subject: London Councils Grants Scheme
Subscription for 2020/21

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

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

Contact officer: Amanda Roberts, Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Officer
(020 8545 4685 / amanda.roberts@merton.gov.uk)

Recommendation:

- (1) That the Director approves the council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2020/21 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 3 December 2019.

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 2020/21. The LCGS is governed by statute which requires the budget to be approved by two thirds of London boroughs by 24 January 2020.
- 1.2 This report seeks the Director's approval for Merton's contribution to the LCGS for 2020/21, which the London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined should be £154,343 which is a slight decrease from 2019/20. This can be met within existing resources.
- 1.3 The formal decision about Merton's contribution to the LCGS is usually taken by Cabinet. However, as the January Cabinet meeting has been deferred to the 27th, Merton would not be in a position to confirm its decision by the statutory deadline. The consequences of two thirds of councils not approving the budget are outlined at 3.4. In Merton's case, we would be required to pay £1,348 more than the amount we were due to pay in 2020/21. To ensure that this year's deadline is met, it has been agreed that as a one-off for this year a non-key delegated chief officer decision is taken by the Director of Corporate Services on 14 January 2020. The authority for this non-key delegated chief officer decision is provided under Article 13 of

the Constitution and the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4B of the Constitution.

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 2019/20 the London Councils Leaders' Committee determined Merton's contribution to be £155,691. For 2020/21 the London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined that Merton's contribution should decrease by £1,348 to £154,343.

Grants Programme 2021-25

2.3 The current four-year Grants Programme is due to finish at the end of March 2021. The programme operates across three priority areas:

Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness

Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Priority 3 - Tackling Poverty through Employment

2.4 Grants Committee members, in July 2019, supported the idea of a 2021-25 Grants Programme. Grants Committee agreed that the current principles remained fit for purpose and that a review of the programme should take account of the priorities - the Pledges to Londoners - that Leaders had already committed to.

2.5 At its meeting on 13 November the Grants Committee agreed that the 2021-25 programme is established based broadly on the current programme Priorities and level of funding, subject to consultation and final approval of Leaders' Committee.

2.6 Subject to the high level Priorities remaining the same, a consultation exercise will be launched between November 2019 and January 2020, which all boroughs and wider stakeholders will be invited to take part in, to inform the 2021-25 programme.

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 2019/20 (£155,691) will apply for 2020/21.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1 The London Councils Leaders' Committee approved the overall revenue budget for London Councils for 2020/21 and the level of borough subscriptions and charges for the year on 3 December 2019, including those relating to the LCGS.

- 4.2 The LCGS borough subscriptions 2020-21 are attached to this report at Appendix II.
- 4.3 Subject to the high level Priorities remaining the same, a consultation exercise will be launched between November 2019 and January 2020, which all boroughs and wider stakeholders will be invited to take part in, to inform the Grants Programme 2021-25.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The subscription for 2020/21 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 2019/20 (£155,691) will apply for 2020/21.
- 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 2020/21.

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 2020-21

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

Appendix B

London Borough Grants Scheme - Contribution by Constituent Councils 2020/21

ONS Mid-2017 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2019/20 Base Borough Contribution (£)		ONS Mid-2018 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2020/21 Base Borough Contribution (£)	Base Difference from 2019/20 (£)
Inner London							
253.36	2.84%	191,438	Camden	262.23	2.94%	196,291	4,853
7.65	0.09%	5,780	City of London	8.71	0.10%	6,520	740
282.85	3.18%	213,721	Greenwich	286.19	3.21%	214,227	506
275.93	3.10%	208,492	Hackney	279.67	3.14%	209,346	854
183.00	2.05%	138,274	Hammersmith and Fulham	185.43	2.08%	138,803	529
235.00	2.64%	177,565	Islington	239.14	2.68%	179,007	1,442
155.74	1.75%	117,677	Kensington and Chelsea	156.20	1.75%	116,923	-754
324.05	3.64%	244,851	Lambeth	325.92	3.66%	243,966	-885
301.31	3.38%	227,669	Lewisham	303.54	3.41%	227,214	-455
314.23	3.53%	237,431	Southwark	317.26	3.56%	237,484	53
307.96	3.46%	232,694	Tower Hamlets	317.71	3.57%	237,821	5,127
323.26	3.63%	244,254	Wandsworth	326.47	3.66%	244,378	124
244.80	2.75%	184,970	Westminster	255.32	2.87%	191,119	6,149
3,209.14	36.02%	2,424,817		3,263.79	36.64%	2,443,099	18,283
Outer London							
210.71	2.37%	159,212	Barking and Dagenham	212.00	2.38%	158,692	-520
387.80	4.35%	293,021	Barnet	392.14	4.40%	293,535	515
246.12	2.76%	185,968	Bexley	247.26	2.78%	185,086	-882
329.10	3.69%	248,667	Brent	330.80	3.71%	247,619	-1,048
329.39	3.70%	248,886	Bromley	331.10	3.72%	247,844	-1,042
384.84	4.32%	290,784	Croydon	385.35	4.33%	288,453	-2,331
342.74	3.85%	258,973	Ealing	341.98	3.84%	255,988	-2,985
332.71	3.73%	251,395	Enfield	333.87	3.75%	249,917	-1,477
271.22	3.04%	204,933	Haringey	270.62	3.04%	202,572	-2,361
248.88	2.79%	188,053	Harrow	250.15	2.81%	187,249	-804
256.04	2.87%	193,463	Havering	257.81	2.89%	192,983	-480
302.34	3.39%	228,447	Hillingdon	304.82	3.42%	228,172	-275
269.10	3.02%	203,331	Hounslow	270.78	3.04%	202,691	-640
174.61	1.96%	131,935	Kingston upon Thames	175.47	1.97%	131,348	-587
206.05	2.31%	155,691	Merton	206.19	2.31%	154,343	-1,348
348.00	3.91%	262,948	Newham	352.01	3.95%	263,496	548
301.79	3.39%	228,032	Redbridge	303.86	3.41%	227,453	-578
195.68	2.20%	147,855	Richmond upon Thames	196.90	2.21%	147,389	-466
203.24	2.28%	153,568	Sutton	204.53	2.30%	153,100	-467
275.51	3.09%	208,175	Waltham Forest	276.70	3.11%	207,123	-1,052
5,615.87	63.04%	4,243,335		5,644.34	63.36%	4,225,053	-18,283
8,825.01	99.07%	6,668,152	Totals	8,908.13	100.00%	6,668,152	0

6,668,152

6,668,152

Merton Council - call-in request form

1. Decision to be called in: (required)

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2. Which of the principles of decision making in Article 13 of the constitution has not been applied? (required)

Required by part 4E Section 16(c)(a)(ii) of the constitution - tick all that apply:

(a) proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);	
(b) due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;	
(c) respect for human rights and equalities;	
(d) a presumption in favour of openness;	
(e) clarity of aims and desired outcomes;	
(f) consideration and evaluation of alternatives;	
(g) irrelevant matters must be ignored.	

3. Desired outcome

Part 4E Section 16(f) of the constitution- select one:

(a) The Panel/Commission to refer the decision back to the decision making person or body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns.	
(b) To refer the matter to full Council where the Commission/Panel determines that the decision is contrary to the Policy and/or Budget Framework	
(c) The Panel/Commission to decide not to refer the matter back to the decision making person or body *	
* If you select (c) please explain the purpose of calling in the decision.	

4. Evidence which demonstrates the alleged breach(es) indicated in 2 above (required)

Required by part 4E Section 16(c)(a)(ii) of the constitution:

5. Documents requested

6. Witnesses requested

7. Signed (not required if sent by email):

8. Notes – see part 4E section 16 of the constitution

Call-ins must be supported by at least three members of the Council.

The call in form and supporting requests must be received by 12 Noon on the third working day following the publication of the decision.

The form and/or supporting requests must be sent:

-) **EITHER** by email from a Councillor’s email account (no signature required) to democratic.services@merton.gov.uk
-) **OR** as a signed paper copy to the Head of Democracy Services, 7th floor, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden SM4 5DX.

For further information or advice contact the Head of Democracy Services on
020 8545 3864