



City of Westminster

# Cabinet Member Report

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| <b>Decision Maker:</b>    | Cabinet Member for Environment, Sports and Community   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 29 December 2017   |
| <b>Classification:</b>    | For General Release  |
| <b>Title:</b>             | Westminster City Council's contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2018-19   |
| <b>Wards Affected:</b>    | All  |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>      | No   |
| <b>Financial Summary:</b> | Westminster City Council's contribution to London Councils for 2018-2019 will be £187,883 - this is a decrease from the contribution in 2017-2018 which was £214,209. The cost of this contribution can be met from 2018-19 overall budget provision of £1.652m. |
| <b>Report of:</b>         | Yacoba Godwyll, Voluntary Sector Commissioning Officer<br><br>020 7641 8024<br><br>ygodwyll@westminster.gov.uk   |

## 1. Executive Summary

1.1 It was considered at the London Councils Grants Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016, and agreed at the Leaders' Committee of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 that the overall level of expenditure for the London Borough Grants Scheme for 2018-2019 will be £8,668,000. Borough contributions will make up £6,668,152, a decrease by £1 million from 2017-18. The European Social Fund grant will contribute £1,000,000, which is the same amount as for 2017-18 and the Grants Committee will transfer £1,000,000 from uncommitted Grants Committee reserves.

This report presents the Cabinet Member for Environment, Sports and Community with the London Councils proposal for budgets and the constituent Councils' contributions, including the City Council's contribution, to the London Borough Grants Scheme for 2018-2019. Westminster City Council's contribution for 2018-2019 will be £187,884. This is a decrease by £26,326 from the contribution in 2017-18.

- 1.2 Westminster City Council's contribution is based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for 2016.
- 1.3 London Councils is requesting formal responses from each constituent Council regarding the proposed budget and contributions by 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The budget must be agreed by two-thirds (22) of constituent Councils before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018. If not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2017-2018 (i.e. £8,899,000).

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member endorses the proposed overall level of expenditure by the London Councils Grants Committee and agrees the City Council's contribution of £187, 883 for 2018-19.

## **3. Reasons for Decision**

- 3.1 The London Councils London Boroughs Grants Scheme is the London-wide body created to make grant-aid available to voluntary organisations operating across more than one borough. Each year the London Councils Grants Committee proposes an overall level of expenditure for the Scheme which is recommended to the London Boroughs and the Cities of London and Westminster for agreement.
- 3.2 The City Council's proportion of the borough contributions, based on the 2016 ONS mid-year estimates for population is £187,883 for 2018-19.
- 3.3 Further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, agreement by a two-thirds majority of the constituent Councils specified is required by 1<sup>st</sup> February in any year. The Scheme approved by the boroughs provides (in section 7.5) that constituent Councils shall be asked to agree to the Committee's recommended level of overall expenditure not later than the third Friday in January. This year London Council's has set a deadline of 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 (with an absolute deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018). If at least two-thirds of the constituent Councils pass the resolution in their own Councils to ratify and give effect to that overall level of expenditure, the overall level of expenditure and contributions become binding on all the constituent Councils.

- 3.4 In the event that constituent Councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required before 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the constituent Councils will be deemed, subject to any order made under section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1985, all to have given their approval to total expenditure of an amount equal to that which was approved in 2017-18, i.e. £8,899 million.
- 3.5 It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet member for Environment, Sports and Community agrees the recommendation and proposed contributions for 2018-19.

#### **4. Background, including Policy Context**

- 4.1 London Councils undertook a consultation in 2015 which all boroughs were invited to participate in, the purpose of which was to review the scope and priorities of the programme for 2017-2021. The findings highlighted that the overall view is that the programme should continue and support the existing priorities around tackling homelessness, sexual and domestic violence and poverty (by promoting access to employment and training).
- 4.2 The apportionment of contributions for 2018-19 is based on ONS mid-year estimates for population for 2016. For Westminster the June 2016 figures show an increase from the June 2015 ONS mid-year estimates of £242,30 to 247,61.
- 4.3 Appendix A shows the profiled income and expenditure for the grants committee for 2018-19.
- 4.4 Appendix B provides details of the proposed Borough Subscriptions to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2018-19.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The proposed contribution from the City Council for 2018-19 is £187,883 which is a decrease by £26,326 on the contribution for 2017-18. The decreased amount is due to the decision to make a one-off repayment from the reserves of the Grants Committee to reduce overall borough contributions.
- 5.2 Provision for this contribution exists within 2018-19 budget projections which has an overall budget of £1,652 million.

#### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The legal implications are set out in the report.

#### **7. Equalities Implications**

- 7.1 As part of the re-focussing of the future Grants Programme, to reflect the reduced resources available in the context of significant spending constraints facing local

authorities, London Councils determined that the proposals will have an impact upon groups protected under Equalities Legislation.

- 7.2 Non-budgetary decisions regarding the Grants Programme, were taken with the intention of applying scarce resources whilst mitigating any adverse equality impacts arising from a re-focused Grants Programme operating with a reduced budget.

## **8. Consultation**

- 8.1 London Councils has completed extensive consultation concerning the content of its proposed Grants Programme. The budget proposals enable London Councils to complete the delivery of the new programme and provide grants to voluntary organisations in 2018-19.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:**

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For completion by the **Cabinet Member for Environment, Sports and Community**

**Declaration of Interest**

I have <no interest to declare / to declare an interest> in respect of this report

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

State nature of interest if any .....

.....  
*(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)*

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Westminster City Council's contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2018-19** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed .....

Cabinet Member for **Environment, Sports and Community**

Date .....

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment: .....  
.....  
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If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Strategic Director Finance and Performance and, if there are resources implications, the Strategic Director of Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.

