



City of Westminster

Cabinet Member Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community
Date:	14 January 2019
Classification:	For General Release
Title:	Westminster City Council's (WCC) contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2019-20
Wards Affected:	All
Key Decision:	No
Financial Summary:	WCC contribution for 2019-20 will be £0.185m. The contribution in 2018-19 is £0.188m. The contribution will be met from the overall budget provision of £1.652m within the Voluntary Sector Support service.
Report of:	Yacoba Godwyll, Voluntary Sector Commissioning Officer 020 7641 8024 ygodwyll@westminster.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It was considered at the London Councils Grants Committee on 21st November 2018 and agreed at the Leaders' Committee of 4th December 2018 that the overall level of expenditure for the London Borough Grants Scheme for 2019-20 will be £6.909m. Borough contributions will make up £6.668m which is the same as the current year. The European Social Fund grant will contribute £0.058m, which is a reduction from 2018-19 and the Grants Committee will transfer £0.183m from uncommitted Grants Committee reserves.

This report presents the Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community with the London Councils proposal for budgets and the constituent Councils' contributions, including WCC contribution, to the London Borough Grants Scheme for 2019-20.

- 1.2 WCC contribution will be £0.185m. This is a decrease by £2,914 from the contribution in 2018-19. The contribution is based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for 2017.
- 1.3 The London Councils is requesting formal responses from each constituent Council regarding the proposed budget and contributions by 18th January 2018. The budget must be agreed by two-thirds (22) of constituent Councils before 1st February 2019. If not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2018-19 (i.e. £6.668m).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member endorses the proposed overall level of expenditure by the London Councils Grants Committee and agrees the WCC contribution of £0.185m for 2019-20.

3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1 The 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 Constituent councils are required to contribute to any London Boroughs Grants schemes expenditure, which has been incurred with the approval of at least two-thirds of the constituent councils. Contributions are, under Regulations 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be proportional to constituent council's populations. For 2019-20, the apportionment is based on the ONS mid-year estimates for June 2017 in accordance with Section 48 (4) of the Local Government Act 1985, which states that "the population of any areas shall be taken to be the number estimated by the Registrar General and certified by him to the Secretary of State by reference of such a date as the secretary of State may from time to time determine" This year London Council's has set a deadline of 18th January 2019 (with an absolute deadline of 25th January 2019). 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.
- 3.3 If constituent Councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required before 25th January 2019, 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 2018-19, i.e. £6.668m.

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 2019-20 is based on ONS mid-year estimates for population for 2017. For WCC the 2017 figures show a decrease from the June 2016 ONS mid-year estimates of £247,610 to £244,800.
- 4.3 Appendix A shows the profiled income and expenditure for the grants committee for 2019-20.
- 4.4 Appendix B provides details of the proposed Borough Subscriptions to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2019-20.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 WCC's proposed contribution for 2019-20 is £0.185m which is a slight decrease by £2,914 on the contribution for 2018-19.
- 5.2 The provision for this contribution exists within the overall Voluntary Sector Support budget of £1.652m.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 WCC's legal obligation to make the recommended contribution is set out in paragraph 3.3 above.

(A. Jaskowiak, Shared Legal Services, 31/12/2018 (T: 020 7361 2756))

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 continued delivery of the programme and provide grants to voluntary organisations in 2019-20

9. Background Papers

Chief Executive's Grants Circular – 03/18

Appendix A - Grants Committee Income and Expenditure Budget 2019/20

Appendix B - Borough Contributions towards the Grants Scheme 2019/20

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 Sports, Culture 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

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(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 (WCC) contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2019-20** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed

Cabinet Member Sports, Culture 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.