

Item No. N/a	Classification: Open	Date: 22 January 2020	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health
Report title:		London Councils pan London grants programme 2020-21 Southwark levy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health approves Southwark Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme of £237,484 for 2020-21, subject to approval of the council budget by Council Assembly in February 2020.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The London Councils Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done at pan-London level. The programme commissions third sector organisations to work with disadvantaged Londoners to make real improvements in their lives. All 32 London boroughs and the City of London contribute to the grants programme which is run on their behalf by London Councils.
3. Constituent Councils are required to contribute to the London Councils Grants Scheme under Regulation 6(8) of the Levy Bodies (General) Regulations 1992. Individual council's contributions should be proportionate to their populations. For 2020-21, the apportionment is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) June 2018 estimate of population (see Appendix A).
4. In accordance with the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, two thirds of constituent councils must agree the budget for 2020/21 before 1 February 2020. If not then the overall level of expenditure will be deemed the same as that approved for 2019-20 that totalled £6.909 million.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

London Council's Grants Scheme 2017-21

5. The financial year 2020/21 is the fourth year of the four year programme of commissions.

6. The three priorities are:
 - Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
 - Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
 - Priority 3: Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF match funded).
7. London Councils officers report quarterly to the Grants Committee on the performance of the grants programme, based on the Commissioning Performance Management Framework agreed by Grants Committee in February 2017. London Councils has reported on performance during quarters one to six April 2017 to September 2019 of the grants programme at Grants Committee in November 2019.

The Grants Committee was asked to note service delivery, performance management and outcomes which are in line with profile for priorities 1 and 2 as set out below:

a) Outcomes at priority level:

 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is 15 per cent above profile
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is marginally below profile
 - iii) Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment, overall is 30 per cent below profile

b) The number of interventions delivered in the relevant periods:

 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness: 58,267
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence: 319,329
 - iii) Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment: 7,611.
8. The Priority 3 strand of the 2017-21 Grants Programme completed delivery at the end of June 2019 and under-delivered against the original targets set. The programme is expected to create an underspend of £1,019,000 which will be returned to the Grants Programme.
9. During 2019 Grants Committee members asked for information about the supply and demand for immigration advice following a discussion about options for redeploying the Priority 3 underspend to reduce the impact of No Recourse to Public Funds on individuals and boroughs. November Grants Committee agreed to allocate the underspend of £1,019,000 to increase Priority 1 and 2 grants for the sole purpose of increasing immigration advice for service users with No Recourse to Public Funds.
10. Grants Committee agreed that the terms of the funding agreements with current Priority 1 and Priority 2 partners are re-negotiated to include the provision of the immigration advice services. It also agreed that the grant values are increased to enable the provision of immigration advice services to uses with No Recourse to Public Funds.
11. Grants Committee members supported the idea of a 2021-25 Grants Programme and also that the current principles remain 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.

12. A consultation process to inform the 2021-2025 programme will also focus on whether Priority 3 should be refocussed on youth poverty. A further proposal is that reserves be used flexibly as a response fund throughout the 2021-2025 programme.

London Councils Grants Scheme 2020-21 budget

13. The London Council Grants Committee agreed at its meeting on 13 November 2019:
 - An overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2020-21
 - That borough contributions for 2020-21 should be £6.668 million;
 - That further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2020 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £6.909 million);
 - That constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2020-21 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2018; and
 - That subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £435,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services.
14. The London Councils Grants Committee proposals for expenditure were ratified by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 3 December 2019.
15. The budget being recommended to constituent councils is set out below.

Overall Level of Expenditure	£6,668,000
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Made up of:

• London Councils Grants programme	6,173,000
• Membership Fees to London Funders	60,000
• Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure	276,000
• Central Recharges	159,000

Income will comprise:

• Borough contributions	6,668,000
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Community impact statement

16. The London Councils Grants Scheme commissions services for activities within the three priority areas:

- Homelessness
 - Sexual and domestic violence
 - Poverty (until June 2019)
17. Southwark contributes to the provision of these London wide services, meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable communities within Southwark and across London experiencing barriers to economic and social wellbeing. Southwark Council influences the pattern of the London Councils support through its representation on both Grants and Leaders Committees as a constituent council.
18. The provision of immigration advice for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds is expected to have a beneficial impact for some of the most vulnerable residents. Southwark has a significant number of residents who fall within the category some of whom are directly supported by the council.
19. This funding is based on levels of deprivation and need. Residents in Southwark benefit from a wider range of services from organisations other than those simply based within the borough. Organisations based in Southwark also serve the populations of other London boroughs.
20. London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (as set out in the Equality Act 2010), and in particular targets groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. Their grants team reviews this annually. The recent review of the grants programme included information on the equalities effects of the current programme that enabled decisions to be made on the future of the scheme, informed by the equalities impact of the current priorities.

Financial Implications

21. Funding of £245,607 is available for London Councils Grants Scheme 2020-21 and there are no planned efficiencies applied to this budget for the 2020-21 financial year.

Consultation

22. Southwark Council is represented on the London Councils Grants and Leaders Committee. In addition, officers attend the London Councils Grants officers meetings. The Scheme requires two third of constituent councils to support the recommended budget. If this is not achieved then the budget will remain the same as that approved for 2019-20.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

23. Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 ('the Act') enables schemes to be made in relation to Greater London and the metropolitan counties for the making of grants to voluntary organisations. In each such area, one constituent council is

designated in the scheme for purpose of making the grants, with the other councils contributing financially. In Greater London the constituent councils are the councils of the London boroughs and the Common Council of the City of London. The London Councils Grants Scheme is governed by section 48 of the Act.

24. The council is required under section 48 (3) of the Act to contribute to any expenditure that has been incurred with the approval of two-thirds of the constituent councils. The council's contribution is determined by reference to the size of the council's population.
25. By virtue of section 48 (4)(A) of the Act and The Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992, it is provided that where a scheme which relates to Greater London requires expenditure under the scheme to be approved by some or all of the constituent councils but the total expenditure in relation to a financial year beginning on or after 1st April 1993 is not so approved before 1st February immediately preceding that financial year the constituent councils shall be deemed to have given their approval to the amount approved or deemed to have been approved for the preceding financial year.
26. The making of a financial contribution to the London Councils grants programme is an executive function, though (as this report points out) one that is subject to the approval by council assembly of the council's budget for 2020/21. The council's constitution (part 3D) delegates to cabinet members executive functions relating the agreement of significant programmes in their areas of responsibility and grants to voluntary organisations. The cabinet member is therefore empowered to take this decision.
27. In the exercise of all its functions, the council must comply with section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This requires the council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. In this regard the cabinet member's attention is drawn to paragraph 16-20 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (PW19/051)

28. This report is requesting approval from the Cabinet member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities of Southwark Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme of £237,484 for 2020-21.
29. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that there is sufficient budget available to fund this proposal.
30. Staffing and any other costs connected with this recommendation is to be contained within existing departmental revenue resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
London Councils Grants Scheme Budget Proposals 2020-2021 Committee Report	Place and Wellbeing Department, 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Angus Lyon 020 7525 4069
https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/35461		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Contribution by Constituent Councils 2020/21

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health	
Lead Officer	Kevin Fenton, Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing	
Report Author	Andy Matheson, Senior Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	22 January 2020	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	22 January 2020	