

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 19 January 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Equalities and Communities
Report title:		London Councils Grants Scheme 2021-22	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Equalities and Communities agrees to the recommendation of the London Councils' Leaders' Committee that the proposed overall level of expenditure of the London Councils' Grants Scheme for 2021-22 be £6.668 million to be shared by all London Councils and approves Southwark Council's contribution of £237,225 to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2021-22, subject to approval of the council budget by Council Assembly in February 2021.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The London Councils Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done at a 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 by London Councils. The Leaders' Committee sets the overall funding strategies, policies and priorities for funding to voluntary organisations
3. Individual council's contributions are calculated on an annual basis and are proportionate to their populations. For 2021-22 the apportionment is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) June 2019 estimate of population.
4. 2020/21 was the fourth year of the four year grants programme that began in March 2017. There were three priorities of the programme.
 - Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness
 - Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
 - Priority 3 Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF match funded).
5. The Priority 3 strand of the 2017-21 Grants Programme completed delivery at the end of June 2019. This priority was funded by boroughs' contribution to the Grants Programme of £3 million and matched by £3

million from the London Councils European Social Fund Programme under an agreement with the Greater London Authority.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. As 2020/21 is the final year of the four year programme of commissions, this report recommends the Southwark contribution to an extension to the programme to March 2022.
7. The two priorities of the Grants Programme during the 2021-22 extension are:
 - Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness
 - Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
8. 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. Reports on performance have covered all quarters from April 2017 to September 2020 at Grants Committee.

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

a) Outcomes at priority level:

- i) Priority One, combatting homelessness, overall is 10 per cent above profile for quarters
- ii) Priority Two, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is marginally below profile at -4%

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

- i) Priority One, combatting homelessness: 78,521
- ii) Priority Two, tackling sexual and domestic violence: 442,238

9. In July 2020, Grants Committee agreed that the current 2017-2021 Grants Programme is extended to March 2022, to allow time to develop a new programme for 2022-2026 that reflects a different London taking account of the impacts of the pandemic. The new programme will be based on the two current priorities.
10. To develop the new programme starting in April 2022, Committee members agreed that:
 - a timetable of activity is undertaken
 - consultation is undertaken with boroughs (elected members and officers) and stakeholders engagement plans and the more detailed plans for achieving a new programme
 - to ensure that Grants Committee members remain involved throughout the process, Grants Committee members 'sponsor' (provide support and challenge) aspects of work leading to a

new programme, e.g. consultation and stakeholder engagement;
emerging best practice for grant making, equity and inclusion
work

11. Organisations delivering London wide services under the combatting homelessness priority include Shelter, Homeless Link, London Youth Gateway and New Horizon Youth Centre. Lead organisations work with a range of partner organisations to ensure that there is a delivery network across London and so that diversity and inclusion service needs are addressed.
12. Organisations tackling sexual and domestic violence include Solace, SignHealth and Asian Women's Resource Centre and again delivery partnerships are in place to increase reach and maximise partnership working.
13. Detailed information about service provision including all the delivery partners is available at <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/37803>. This lists service providers and performance in Item 12, Appendix 3. There is also detailed information about issues arising in 2020. These include the specific impacts of the pandemic on groups of people such as young people, homeless people and those with No Recourse to Public Funds.

London Councils Grants Scheme 2021-22 budget

14. The London Council Grants Committee agreed at its meeting on 11 November 2020:
 - An overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2021-22
 - That borough contributions for 2021-22 should be £6.668 million;
 - That constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2021-22 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2019; 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.
15. London Councils Leaders' Committee ratified the London Councils Grants Committee proposals for expenditure on 8 December 2020.
16. The budget recommended to constituent councils (which then need to be agreed by each of the councils) is set out below.

Overall Level of Expenditure **£6,668,000**

Made up of:

- London Councils Grants programme 6,173,000
- Membership Fees to London Funders 60,000
- Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure 266,000
- Central Recharges 169,000

Income will comprise:

- Borough contributions 6,668,000

Policy implications

Community impact statement

17. The London Councils Grants Scheme commissions services for activities within the two priority areas:

- Homelessness
- Sexual and domestic violence

18. 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.

19. 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.

21. Funded organisations are required to submit equalities monitoring data, 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 current consultation of the future grants programme asks respondents for their view on the equalities impacts of the current programme so that these can inform the development of future priorities.

Resource implications

22. The commissioning team within the Communities Division is responsible

for oversight of Southwark's contribution and administration of the budget.

Legal implications

23. Please see paragraph 28 below.

Financial Implications

24. Funding of £237,225 is available for London Councils Grants Scheme 2021-22 and there are no planned efficiencies applied to this budget for the 2021-22 financial year.

Consultation

25. 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 2020-21.

26. A consultation process on the future of the grants scheme is taking place. Officers within the Communities Division will facilitate broad engagement with this process by sharing the information with stakeholders in the voluntary and community sector and council officers who lead on delivery of borough specific priority services tackling homelessness and reducing sexual and domestic violence.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

27. Not requested

Director of Law and Governance

28. 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.

29. Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985 requires that at least two-thirds of the constituent councils in Greater London must approve the proposed overall level of expenditure on grants to voluntary organisations and other costs incurred in "the making of grants".

30. The overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in

2021-22 was agreed by the London Councils Leaders' Committee on 8 December 2020 and recommended to the constituent councils for approval.

31. Section 48 (4)(A) of the Act and The Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992 provides for a situation where the overall level expenditure in relation to a financial year is not approved before 1st February immediately preceding that financial year by at least a two-thirds majority of the constituent councils. If this approval has not been obtained, 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 that was also £6.668 million. .
32. The council's contribution to this amount is determined by reference to the size of the council's population as provided for in Regulation 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992. For 2021-22 this has been calculated as £237,225.
33. The approval of the overall level of expenditure of the scheme and 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 2021/22. The council's constitution (part 3D) delegates to cabinet members executive functions relating to 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.
34. In the exercise of all its functions, the cabinet member must comply with section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This requires the cabinet member 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 17-21 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

35. The report recommends the agreement of the London Councils Leaders Committee funding proposals for the 2021-22 grants programme and Southwark Council's calculated contribution using ONS population data.
36. Paragraph 22 notes the contribution figure of £237,225 and that there are no efficiency saving proposals for this expenditure area within the development of the 2021-22 budget. The existing budget is sufficient for the proposed 2021-22 contribution.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
London Councils Grants Scheme Budget Proposals 2021-2022 Committee Report	Environment & Leisure, 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew.Matheson @southwark.gov. uk
https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/37803		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Communities	
Lead Officer	Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Andy Matheson, Senior Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 January 2021	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Team	15 January 2021	