

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 14/01/03	MEETING NAME Executive
Report title:		London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2003/4	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Social Exclusion	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the budget of **£28,923,370** for 2003/2004, recommended by the London Boroughs Grants Committee be approved.
2. That the shortfall of £14,000 in the Council's contribution be met on a pro rata basis from other grant giving departments.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The London Boroughs Grants Scheme was established following the abolition of the Greater London Council as a means of maintaining support to voluntary organisations providing London-wide services. Organisations supported by the scheme are required to provide services across at least two London boroughs in order to qualify for support.
4. Constituent Councils are required to contribute to any London Boroughs Grants Scheme expenditure that 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 proportionate to constituent Councils' populations.
5. For 2003/2004, the apportionment is based on the OPCS mid-year estimates for 2001.
6. In accordance with the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Order 1992, which came into effect on November 1992, and remains in force, the required two-thirds of constituent Councils must agree the budget by 1 February 2003. If not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2002/2003 i.e. £28,974,340.
7. Southwark Council is required, under paragraph 7.5 of the Scheme to respond formally on the London Boroughs Grants Committee's recommended budget by no later than Friday, 17 January 2003.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. At its meeting on 30 October 2003, the London Boroughs Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2003/2004 and resolved to recommend the following to constituent Councils, representing a 1.08% decrease (compared to the current year) in the overall level of borough contributions.

<u>OVERALL LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE</u>	£ 28,923,370
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Made up of:

Grants 27,400,000

Administrative Expenditure 1,523,370

Income would comprise:

Borough contributions 27,573,370

Bank Interest and balances 1,350,000

Policy implications

9. For 2001/2002 financial year, the sum of £2,254,376 was awarded to 31 voluntary organisations based in Southwark to carry out various services/activities covering education, social, housing, community safety, civil liberty, employment, health, etc (see appendix A). The Council influences the pattern of LBGS support through its representation on the Committee as a constituent council. The borough's residents benefit from a wider range of organisations than those simply based within the borough. Those based in the borough also serve the populations of other London boroughs.

Resource implications

10. Southwark Council's contribution to the 2002/2003 budget was £902,190 (based on a population of 238,700). If the proposed budget is approved, the contribution in 2003/2004 will be **£941,374** (based on a population of 245,400).
11. Compared with last year's figure, the shortfall in the Council's budget to fund its contribution in 2003/4, after inflation is applied, is £14,000. No provision has been made to meet this shortfall. Although the budget for the contribution is held within the Strategic Services Division, the Scheme supports activity across a wide range of Council service areas. Benefiting service areas should therefore contribute financially on a pro rata basis to these costs. It is therefore proposed that the £14,000 shortfall should be found from other grant giving services on a pro rata basis to the size of their grants programmes. Because of the late notification of the LBGS budget arrangements it has not been possible to consult on this proposal with relevant service areas. A commitment will therefore have to be made to meet any shortfall from the Social Inclusion Division's budget.
12. The cost falling to other grant giving departments based on a pro rata share would be as follows:

	£
• Education	5,572
• Environment and Leisure	476
• Housing	70
• Regeneration	1,190
• Social Services	1,960
• Strategic Services	4,718

Consultation

13. The Council's contribution is based on decisions made by the London Boroughs Grants Committee. The Council is represented on the Committee. The Scheme requires two thirds of constituent Councils to support a budget. If this is not achieved then the budget will remain at last year's higher level with a correspondingly higher level of contribution from the Council.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Chief Finance Officer

14. The Council's contribution in 2003/4 can be met from within the budget of the Social Inclusion Division. However the additional shortfall of £14,000 has not been provided for within this budget. The Chief Finance Officer has advised that this will have to be found from elsewhere within the Division's budget if it cannot be recharged to grant giving departments on a pro rata basis.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<i>Title of document(s)</i>	<i>Title of department / unit Address</i>	<i>Name Phone number</i>
Correspondence from ALG on LBGS	Community Safety & Support Unit, Town Hall, Peckham Road SE5	Bonnie Royal 020 7525 7389

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	<i>Nathalie Hadjifotiou, Head of Social Inclusion</i>	
Report Author	<i>Bonnie Royal</i>	
Version	<i>Complete</i>	
Dated	<i>23rd December 2002</i>	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	No
Chief Finance Officer	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services		

APPENDIX A

ORGANISATIONS FUNDED BY LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS COMMITTEE (LBGC) IN SOUTHWARK - 2002

Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded (£)
Ist Framework	Intergenerational arts education project	9,000
Afro-Asian Advisory Service	Contribution towards salaries and running costs.	21,766
Alcohol Recovery Project	Contribution towards salaries and running costs	150,226
Association of British Credit Unions Ltd – London Office	Contribution towards salaries for a London business development manager and three part-time training and development officers and associated running costs.	58,286
Blackfriars Advice Centre	Provision of money advice, advocacy and representation service including co-ordination of an advice service at Lambeth Court.	40,080
Community Music	Contributes to the provision of community-based education and training in music and related activities with emphasis on working with socially excluded individuals and groups.	43,298
Equinox	Contribution towards care costs in the Crisis Centre.	37,000
Ghana Refugee Welfare Group (GHARWEG)	To fund a development administrator and two part-time caseworkers and a contribution to running costs.	45,248
Grove Housing	Top-up funding for two shared housing schemes and salary of a resettlement worker.	28,321
Independent Theatre Council	Contribution towards a scheme encouraging more black and Asian people into a career in arts management, including training and placements.	31,525
Lambeth & Southwark Refugee Training Partnership	Contributes to the enhancement of current services with two additional part-time posts, an information officer and a caseworker.	10,000
Latin American Co-op Development Project	Contribution to salaries and running costs.	48,583
Liberty (National Council for Civil Liberties)	To fund a legal advice service for the benefit of London residents.	49,101

Organisation	Purpose of Grant	Amount Awarded (£)
London Bubble Theatre Company	Contribution towards salaries and running costs	88,550
London Cycling Campaign	Contribution towards salaries and running costs	21,208
Look Ahead Housing & Care Ltd – Gateway Foyer	Contribution towards the costs of the Gateway Foyer Project and revenue costs of supported housing.	72,000
Multi-Lingual Community Rights Project	Contributes to salaries and running costs of a full-time co-ordinator, as well as employment costs of bi-lingual sessional advice workers.	39,976
Opendoor Housing Trust	Top-up grant for various housing schemes across London.	111,370
Pre-School Learning Alliance	Contribution towards salaries and running costs.	27,919
Prisoners Family and Friends Service	Contribution towards salaries and running costs	16,740
Safe in the City	Contribution towards core costs	100,000
Single Homeless Project	Contribution towards salaries and running costs	44,523
SITRA	Provision of a co-ordinating, training and consultancy service for voluntary organisations concerned with special needs housing in London	110,000
Sojourner Housing Association	Contribution towards salaries and running costs.	15,863
South East Employment Network	Contributes towards core costs in order to promote the development of the network	45,000
St. Giles Trust	Contribution towards salaries and running costs.	61,824