

<b>Item No.</b> 2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 02/09/03	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Standards
<b>Report title:</b>		Individual Decision Making – Addendum Report	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Head of Corporate Strategy)	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That Standards Committee recommends to Council Assembly changes to the Constitution to provide for individual decision-making, in light of the recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) and the Executive, and specifically:

1. as to the appropriate financial ranges, for individual decision making, for approving grants, set out in paragraph 5 of this report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Executive, on the 29th July 2003, considered the Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Funding. The Executive agreed Option B – “Policy led Option” for future decision-making.
3. Environment and Community Support Overview & Scrutiny Sub Committee also considered the Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Funding and supported the adoption of Option B – “Policy led Option”.
4. Under this model, decisions on the programmes with a direct link to service needs would be made by individual Members or Chief Officers. In the case of the current Community Support programme, which has a cross cutting corporate set of policy drivers, the funding decisions would be made by the Executive. There would no longer be an annual grant allocation round, as not all grants would need to be allocated at the start of the financial year.
5. The decision relates to the 1<sup>st</sup> row of the table at paragraph 23 of the main report. The Executive did not make a specific recommendation on the financial threshold, however, advice from the Head of Social Inclusion is that the recommended financial limits be:
  - Over £25,000 decision by individual member
  - Under £25,000 decision by Chief Officer
6. The threshold of £25,000 is in line with Option C of the Fast Track Review of Voluntary Sector Funding. A table showing how many decisions would be taken by members using this threshold is included in appendix 2 of this report.
7. If this financial limit is recommended Part 3D: Matters Reserved to Individual Executive Members for Decision, (a) Budget, 6<sup>th</sup> Bullet Point, in Appendix 3 of the main report will be amended accordingly.

### Reasons for Urgency

8. This report is urgent, as it needs to meet the timetable for decision by Council Assembly.

### Reasons for Lateness

9. The report is late due to the need for further consultation and problems with the Council’s IT

systems.

## APPENDIX 1

### Audit Trail

<b>Lead Officer</b>	<i>Ian Hughes, Head of Corporate Strategy</i>	
<b>Report Author</b>	<i>Jonathan Horne, Corporate Strategy Assistant</i>	
<b>Version</b>	<i>Final</i>	
<b>Dated</b>	<i>29/8/03</i>	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	<i>No</i>	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	Yes
Chief Finance Officer	Yes	No
<i>List other Officers here</i>		
<b>Executive Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services</b>	29/8/03	

## APPENDIX 2

The table below is indicative of the number of decisions to be made and would not be the same each year, but gives an indication of the volume of the shift in the number of decisions.

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Current number of funding decisions taken by the Executive i.e. over £2,500</b>	<b>Number of decisions for 2003/4 that would have been taken by Members if decisions under £25,000 (other than Community Support) are delegated to Chief Officers</b>
Arts	20	5
Early years	19 (moving to contracts)	Moving to contracts for 2004/05 so decisions covered by CSO
Play	8	4
After school	8	2
Supp Ed	28	1
Youth	27	12
Parks	4	4
Sports Devpt	13	None
Regeneration	5 grants Moving to contract	May be moving to contract None
Planning	5	None
Environment	2	None
SS adults	14	2
SS children	1	1
Advice	7	Moving to contracts so decisions covered by CSO
Community Support	45	45 (All Community Support grants would go to the full Executive)
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>76</b>