

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 6 January 2022	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure
Report title:		London Councils pan London grants programme 2022-2023: Southwark levy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure agrees to the recommendation of the London Councils' Leaders' Committee that the proposed overall level of expenditure of the London Councils' Grants Scheme for 2022-23 be £6.668 million to be shared by all London Councils and approves Southwark Council's contribution of £237,037 to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2022-23, subject to approval of the council budget by Council Assembly in February 2022.

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 2022-23 the apportionment is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) June 2020 estimate of population.
4. The financial year 2022/23 represents the first year of the new four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019. The original decision covered the period from 2021 to 2025, however, due to the extension to the current programme as a result of Covid-19 the new programme covers 2022 to 2026.

5. 2021/22 was an extension year to 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).
6. The Priority 3 strand 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

7. The two priorities of the new four-year Grants Programme 2022-2026 continue those in place since July 2019:
 - Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness
 - Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
8. In December 2019, Leaders Committee agreed that £1million Priority 3 Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF match funded underspend) could be used to increase Priority 1 and 2 grants to expand immigration advice for service users with no recourse to public funds. Grants Committee (through Urgency Procedures) approved three projects to take forward this work. This additional delivery concludes at the end of 2021. The new grants will include provision for the needs of people with no recourse to public funds and this is covered in para. 13.
9. 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 2021 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 7 per cent above profile for quarters between April 2017 and September 2021
- ii) Priority Two, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is above profile at 8% for the quarters above

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

- i) Priority One, combatting homelessness: 98,465
- ii) Priority Two, tackling sexual and domestic violence: 549,314

10. To develop the new programme starting in April 2022, London Councils has:

- Carried out consultation with boroughs (elected members and officers) and stakeholders engagement plans
- Ensured that Grants Committee members remained involved throughout the process, 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 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. Ensuring the needs of people with no recourse to public funds did feature in the consultation findings for the new programme. The recommendations for the new programme included two organisations that will be working with a specialist advice organisation (Praxis) throughout the life of the programme. Additionally, there are a number of specialist organisations across Priority 2, Domestic and Sexual Abuse that are connected to specialist immigration support.

14. Detailed information about service provision including all the delivery partners is available at [Grants Committee \(Informal\) | London Councils](#)
This lists service providers and performance in Item 5, Appendix

London Councils Grants Scheme 2022-23 budget

15. The London Council Grants Committee agreed at its meeting on 24 November 2021:

- An overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2022-23
- That borough contributions for 2021-22 should be £6.668 million;
- That constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2022-23 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2020; 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.

16. London Councils Leaders' Committee ratified the London Councils Grants Committee proposals for expenditure on 7 December 2021.

17. 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 290,000
- Central Recharges 145,000

Income will comprise:

- Borough contributions 6,668,000

Policy framework implications

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

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

- Homelessness
- Sexual and domestic violence

19. 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.

20. 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.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

21. 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.
22. 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.

Health impact statement

23. These services have a positive impact on clients' health and wellbeing in terms of:
- Supporting clients to avoid homelessness, or to be rehoused
 - Supporting victims of sexual and domestic violence to be safe and to access services reduce the risk of abuse and poor physical and mental health

For both sets of clients these services support them to access services, including health services, and move on positively with their lives.

Climate change implications

24. No particular climate change impacts have been identified.

Resource implications

25. The commissioning team within the Communities Division is responsible for oversight of Southwark's contribution and administration of the budget.

Legal implications

26. Please see paragraph 28 below.

Financial Implications

27. Funding of £237,037 is available for London Councils Grants Scheme 2022-23 and there are no planned efficiencies applied to this budget for the 2022-23 financial year.

Consultation

28. 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 2021-22.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

29. Not requested

Director of Law and Democracy

30. 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.
31. 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".
32. 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.
33. 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. .
34. 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 2022-23 this has been calculated as £237,037.
35. 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 2022/23. 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.

36. 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 18-23 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FIN1288 – JB)

37. The report recommends cabinet member agreement of the London Councils Leaders Committee funding proposals for the 2022-23 grants programme and Southwark Council's calculated contribution using ONS mid-year population estimates from June 2020.

38. Paragraph 27 notes the contribution figure of £237,037 and mentions there are no efficiency saving proposals for this expenditure area within the development of the 2022-23 budget. The existing budget is sufficient for the proposed 2022-23 contribution.

Other officers

39. N / A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
London Councils Grants Scheme Budget Proposals 2022-2023 Committee Report	Environment & Leisure, 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew.Matheson @southwark.gov. uk
https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/37803		

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Alice Macdonald, Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure
Lead Officer	Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure
Report Author	Andy Matheson, Senior Commissioning Officer
Version	Final
Dated	22 December 2021

Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
List other officers here	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services / Scrutiny team		6 January 2022