

<b>Item No.</b> 16.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 11 December 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		London Councils Grants Scheme 2013/14	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Claire Hickson, Communities and Economic Wellbeing	

**FOREWORD, COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING**

The London Councils grants scheme funds voluntary and community sector organisations that are intended to address a range of social issues. This year the commissions will be focused on tackling homelessness, sexual and domestic violence, tackling poverty by promoting access to employment and training. It primarily funds organisations that work across more than one London borough.

The unprecedented cuts in government funding have led to London Councils making further reductions to the levy that London boroughs are required to pay to the scheme and ending the commissioning of a number of services across London.

For 2013/14 the levy that Southwark Council is required to pay is £316,707 a reduction of £105,065 on the previous financial year. We need to formally agree this new reduced levy.

It is crucial, particularly in the current context of government reductions in funding, the impact of the economic downturn and the forthcoming government changes to welfare, that we work with London Councils to ensure that this funding delivers clear outcomes and value for money for Southwark residents.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Cabinet approve Southwark Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme of £316,707 for 2013/14 subject to approval of the budget proposals to be submitted to the Council Assembly in February 2013.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. The London Councils 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.
3. Constituent Councils are required to contribute to the London Councils Grants Scheme under Regulations 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992. Individual council's contributions should be proportionate to their populations. For 2013/14 the apportionment is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) June 2011 estimate of population.

4. In accordance with the Grants to Voluntary Organisations Order 1992 which came into effect on 02 November 1992 and remains in force, two-thirds of constituent Councils must agree the budget before 1 February 2013. If not the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2012/13 which totalled £12,500,000.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **London Council's 2013/15 funding round**

5. In September 2012 the London Councils launched the 2013/15 commissioning round based on revised principles and priorities for the scheme.

The principles are:

- Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations
  - Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services
  - Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety
  - Commissioning services that can not reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level
  - Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.
6. Services which satisfy the principles outlined above are required to meet at least one of the following priority areas in order to be eligible for receipt of funding from the scheme:
    - Tackling homelessness amongst individuals and households through direct services and/or developing new ways of working with partners to generate housing and accommodation and access services
    - Sexual and domestic violence
    - Tackling poverty by promoting access to employment and training drawing on opportunities for match funding provided by boroughs working with London Councils and European Social Fund
    - Providing support to London's voluntary and community organisations enabling those organisations gain access to funds, skills and resources to provide effective services to communities.
  7. The timetable for the programme is as follows:

Launch	September 2012
Deadline for applications	26 October 2012
Assessment of applications	November – December 2012
Applicants informed of recommendations (applications that are not recommended for funding are presented with option to submit a right to reply)	January 2013
Grants Committee meets to agree funding	February 2013

8. Officers of the London Councils will assess the applications, and will seek the views of borough officers from 33 London boroughs. Recommendation will be sent to applicants in January 2013 and presented to Grants Committee in February 2013.

### London Councils Grants Scheme 2013/14 budget

9. The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure at its meeting on 5 November 2012. This was subject to agreement of the overall budget by London Councils Leaders' Committee, which met on 13 December 2012 and agreed the proposed budget. The budget being recommended to constituent councils is set out below.

<b>Overall Level of Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 10,000,000</b>
<b>Made up of:</b>	
• London Councils Grants Programme	7,540,000
• Membership Fees to London Funders	60,000
• ESF Co-Financing	1,880,000
• Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure	419,000
• Central Recharges	101,000
<b>Income would comprise:</b>	
• Borough contributions	9,000,000
• European Social Fund grant	1,000,000

### Community impact statement

10. For the financial year 2012/2013 the sum of £9,920,000 was awarded to voluntary organisations based throughout London to carry out various services and activities covering legal advice, health & social care, citizenship & human rights, support for women, support for children and young people, arts and culture, sustainable forms of transport, quality childcare provisions, support for the elderly, support for migrant communities, facilities for homeless persons, tackling homelessness, development of social enterprise across London, social cohesion, etc. Southwark Council influences the pattern of the London Councils support through its representation on both Grants and Leaders Committees as a constituent council.
11. 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.

### **Resource implications**

12. Southwark Council's contribution to the 2012/13 budget was £421,773 (based on a population of 287,000). If the proposed budget is approved the contribution in 2013/14 will be £316,707 (based on a population of 288,700). This represents a reduction of £105,065 over the 2012/13 levy.
13. There are sufficient resources within the Community Capacity budget to meet the Council's required levy of £316,707 for 2013/14. However, this will need to be considered within the council's normal budget-setting process.

### **Consultation**

14. 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 at the 2012/13 level.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Legal Services**

15. The Director of Legal Services notes the content of this report.
16. There are no specific legal implications relating to the recommendations made in this report, other than the requirement that the council shall in considering any actions it is to take have regard to the duties of Best Value introduced by the Local Government Act 1999.

### **Head of Specialist Housing Services**

17. The Head of Specialist Housing Services notes the contents of the report and concurs with the recommendation in paragraph 1.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

18. The council's current contribution to the London Councils Grant Scheme for 2012/13 is £421,773. This reduces to £316,707 in 2013/14 as the overall London Councils grants programme is subject to savings, and can therefore be contained within the existing budget provision. The council is committed to pay at least £316,707 per year over the next three years. The £105,065 reduction in commitment is currently assumed to contribute towards the Housing & Community Services departmental saving target for next year, subject to the wider corporate budget setting process and requirement for savings for 2013/14 following the grant settlement in December.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Correspondence from London Councils <a href="http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4249&amp;Ver=4">http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4249&amp;Ver=4</a>	Community Engagement, 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Triumphant Oghre 020 7525 7418
London Councils Grants Scheme 2013/14 – Report <a href="http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=5060">http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=5060</a>	Community Engagement, 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Triumphant Oghre 020 7525 7418

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Claire Hickson, Communities and Economic Wellbeing	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
<b>Report Author</b>	Triumphant Oghre, Commissioning Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	29 November 2012	
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Housing and Community Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	29 November 2012	