

Item No. N/A	Classification: Open	Date: 17 January 2017	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety
Report title:		London Councils Grants Scheme 2017-2018	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

The London Councils Grants Review established that there should be a Grants Programme beyond 2017. The Grants Programme 2017-21 will deliver services in three priority areas: Combatting Homelessness, Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence and Tackling Poverty through Employment.

The programme plays a valuable role in providing services to people in need across London as a whole. This pan-London approach to grant making adds value to the outcomes that each borough's commissioning programme achieves. In addition, it improves access to services and the personal safety of clients e.g. for victims of sexual and domestic violence where mobility is critically important. These needs are consistent with our own Fairer Future vision and strategic priorities for residents.

The individual borough contributions are based on population estimates and grants are awarded to tackle deprivation and meet needs. Southwark residents are net beneficiaries of this programme due to the relative poverty and deprivation in the borough. The budget has been reduced as a consequence of the decision to have a programme that does not contain a priority solely focused on capacity building. For 2017-18 only there is a transfer from reserves to be made and returned to the boroughs in the form of a repayment.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member approves Southwark Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme of £273,088 for 2017-18, subject to approval of the council budget by the Council Assembly in February 2017.

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 Regulation 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992. Individual council's contributions should be proportionate to their populations. For 2017-18, the apportionment is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) June 2015 estimate of population.

4. In accordance with the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, two thirds of constituent councils must agree the budget before 1 February 2017. If not then the overall level of expenditure will be deemed the same as that approved for 2016-17 that totalled £10,000,000.
5. The current Grants Programme 2013-17 comes to an end in March 2017. The Grants Programme for 2017-21 follows the conclusion of the Grants Review during 2015-16.
6. The principles and priorities of the new programme have been set by the London Councils Leaders' Committee following consultation over whether the programme should continue and what its principles and priorities should be. A clear majority of boroughs were in favour of continuing the grants programme and focused on three priorities instead of the previous four.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

London Councils Grants Scheme 2017-21

7. The financial year 2017-18 is the first year of the new four year programme of commissions.
8. The Leaders' Committee agreed in March 2016 that there should be a Grants Programme from April 2017 to March 2021, operating in accordance with the current principles:
 - That deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations
 - Where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver 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
 - That can not reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level
 - That work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.
9. The three remaining priorities are:
 - Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
 - Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
 - Priority 3: Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF match funded)
10. It was also agreed that Priority 1 and 3 needs to be more closely aligned and there needs to be greater focus on the different needs of inner and outer London (particularly in relation to Priority 1). In addition there will be a strengthened focus on robust outcomes and borough involvement in the development of

specifications to ensure the best fit with local services.

11. The services to be delivered as part of the new grants scheme do not include a priority solely based focused on capacity building in the voluntary and community sector (VCS). In 2015 City Bridge Trust commissioned London Funders, London Voluntary Services Council and Greater London Volunteering to produce a report on the future of VCS support in London.
12. The final report, The Way Ahead – Civil Society at the Heart of London focuses on key themes including:
 - The changing role of the state, VCS and funders of VCS
 - The need to provide strategic leadership and the role of pan-London resourcing
13. The Grants Committee has agreed a proposal for London Councils to work with City Bridge Trust on the implementation of this review. The resources for taking this forward will include the allocation of a central pot of funding of £1.5m from City Bridge Trust for VCS infrastructure and support.
14. In order to ensure that there is consistent commissioning/funding of local support London Councils will play a key part in representing borough interests in influencing the roll-out of the model of support. This approach will enable a co-ordinated approach to be taken and ensure that London boroughs have a voice in the implementation of the findings.
15. London Councils will provide some additional resources in the form of officer time but there are no financial resource implications for London boroughs.
16. Performance monitoring visits will continue to be carried out to check on the delivery of activities and provider visited at least twice a year. Officers will continue to address issues raised at monitoring visits with project staff to ensure that the robust nature of programme oversight is maintained. London Councils staff report on performance at quarterly borough grants officers meeting.

London Councils Grants Scheme 2017-18 budget

17. The overall budget of £8.899 million for the Grants Scheme in 2017-18 is £1.587m less than that of the previous year. There is a £46k reduction in Southwark's base contribution from £319k in 2016-17 to £273k in 2017-18 due to the ending of the capacity building priority.
18. There has been a significant reduction in the cost of the grants programme and in Southwark's share in recent years. In 2010/11 the Southwark levy was £960,621 so the current year's contribution is just over a third of that amount. The figures in the table below set out the base contribution not including any share of repayment returned to boroughs from reserves.

2012-13	£421k
2013-14	£317k
2014-15	£290k
2015-16	£319k
2016-17	£319k

19. The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure at its meeting on 23 November 2016 and these will be ratified by London Councils Leaders' Committee in December 2016.

20. The budget being recommended to constituent councils is set out below.

Overall Level of Expenditure **£8,899,000**

Made up of:

• London Councils Grants programme	6,173,000
• Membership Fees to London Funders	60,000
• ESF Co-Financing	1,880,000
• Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure	556,000
• Central Recharges	155,000
• City Bridge Trust liaison	75,000

Income will comprise of:

• Borough contributions	7,668,000
• European Social Fund grant	1,000,000
• Transfer from reserves	231,000

Community impact statement

21. The London Councils Grants Scheme commissions services for activities within the three priority areas:

- Homelessness
- Sexual and domestic violence
- Poverty.

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and in particular targets groups

highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be 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 recent review of the grants programme included information on the equalities effects of the current programme that enabled decisions to be made on the future of the scheme, informed by the equalities impact of the current priorities.

Financial Implications

25. Southwark Council has a current budget of £316k set aside on cost centre CE411 to fund annual contributions to the London Councils grant scheme. This is sufficient for the amount of £273k proposed for 2017-18.

Consultation

26. 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 2016-17. Following consultation within Southwark Council, the borough responded that it will support the continuation of the grants programme from 1 April 2017 as well as wanting improved coordination and communication at borough level.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

27. Not requested.

Director of Law and Democracy

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. The council is required under section 48 (3) of the Act to contribute to any expenditure that has been incurred with the approval of two-thirds of the constituent councils. The council's contribution is determined by reference to the size of the council's population.
30. By virtue of section 48 (4)(A) of the Act and The Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992, it is provided that where a scheme which relates to Greater London requires expenditure under the scheme to be approved by some or all of the constituent councils but the total expenditure in relation to a financial year beginning on or after 1st April 1993 is not so approved before 1st February immediately preceding that financial year 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.

31. When making such determinations the council must have due regard to the public sector equality duty contained within section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. That is 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.
32. Paragraphs 21 to 24 of the report which note the community impact statement, demonstrate how the council has had due regard to PSED and the cabinet member should satisfy themselves that this duty has been complied with when considering the recommendation.
33. The cabinet member is also referred to paragraph 26 of this report, which sets out the consultation that has taken place. The cabinet member must conscientiously take into account the outcome of consultation when taking a decision on the recommendation in this report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FIN0927 - JB)

34. This report seeks cabinet member approval for Southwark Council’s contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme of £273,088 for 2017-18. The financial implications are detailed in paragraph 25.
35. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the commitment set out in this report. There are no plans to reduce the budget noted in paragraph 25 in the current budget setting process for 2017-18. The final budget figure will be agreed in February.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
London Councils Grants Scheme Budget Proposals 2017-2018 Committee Report	Housing & Modernisation, 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Angus Lyon 020 7525 4069
http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/30714		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Grants Committee Income and Expenditure Budget 2017-18
Appendix B	Borough Subscriptions 2017-18

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety	
Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Andy Matheson, Senior Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 January 2017	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		16 January 2017