

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 15 th December 2009	Meeting Name: Executive
Report title:		London Councils Grants Scheme 2010/2011	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Communities, Law and Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Executive approve Southwark Council's response to the London Council's Leaders Committee recommended budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme including a commitment of **£960,621** for 2010/2011.
2. That the Executive include the proposed levy of **£960,621** in budget proposals to be submitted to the Council Assembly in February 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. 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.
4. Constituent Councils are required to contribute to the London Councils Grants Scheme under Regulations 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992. Individual councils contributions should be proportionate to their populations. For 2010/11 the apportionment is based on the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid-year 2008 estimate of population.
5. 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 **01 February 2010**. If not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2009/10 which totalled **£30,118,000**. A total budget of **£30,116,000** for 2010/2011 has been recommended by the London Councils Grants Committee.
6. Southwark Council is required under Paragraph 7.5 of the Scheme to respond formally to the London Councils Leaders Committee recommended budget by no later than **Friday January 15th 2010**.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2010/2011 at its meeting on 09 November 2009. The Leaders' Committee concurred with the Grants Committee's recommendations on 10 November 2009. The following recommendation is now made to constituent councils.

	£
<u>OVERALL LEVEL OF EXPENDITURE</u>	30,116,000
Made up of:	
Grants	28,400,000
Administrative Expenditure	1,716,000
<u>Income would comprise:</u>	
Borough contributions	26,330,000
Bank Interest and balances	80,000
European Social Fund grant	2,070,000
Reserves	1,636,000

Community Impact Statement

8. For the financial year 2009/2010 the sum of £30,118,000 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 the Grants and Leaders Committees as a constituent council.
9. A list of organisations based in Southwark that are currently funded through the Scheme is attached as **Appendix 1**. This funding is based on levels of deprivation and need. Residents in Southwark benefit from a wider range of services from organisations than those simply based within the borough. Organisations based in Southwark also serve the populations of other London boroughs.
10. Given Southwark's demographics a number of these organisations are providing services which have a beneficial effect on the local community. Examples of these are Afro-Asian Advisory Service, Southwark Law Centre, Southwark Citizens Advice Bureaux Service, Southwark Refugee Project Limited, Age Concern London, Homeless Link and Victim Support. Under the 2007 Communities & Local Government Index of Multiple Deprivation Southwark is in the top 10% of most deprived boroughs, ranked 26th out of 354 local authorities in England in terms of average deprivation (where 1 is most deprived) and 9th in London. In the 2001 census, 37% of residents are categorised as coming from black and ethnic minority backgrounds. Pupils in Southwark schools speak over 100 languages and 43% of students speak English as an additional language. Southwark has also been a place of refuge for asylum seekers and refugees with an estimated 16,000 making their home here in the last few years. In the 2001 Census, over 38,000 of people defined themselves as having a disability.

Resource implications

11. Southwark Council's contribution to the 2009/2010 budget was £956,263 (based on a population of 274,400). If the proposed budget is approved the contribution in 2010/2011 will be **£960,621** (based on a population of 278,000). This represents an increase of £4,358 over 2009/2010 levy.

There are sufficient resources within the Community Support budget to meet the Council's required levy of **£960,621** for 2010/2011 based on last years resource allocation. However, this will need to be considered within the council's normal budget-setting process.

Consultation

12. 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 a budget. If this is not achieved then the budget will remain at 2009/2010 level.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

13. Officers from the Contracts Section of Legal Services have reviewed this report and confirm that it does not have any specific legal implications.

Department Finance Manager

14. Southwark's precise base budget for this programme has yet to be finalised, however the overall requirement as currently outlined in the report of £960,621, will be met from a combination of departmental and central resources.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Correspondence from London Councils	Communities, Law & Governance, Tooley Street, London SE1P 5LX	Triumphant Oghre 0207 525 7418

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Triumphant Oghre, Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	01 December 2009	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	1 st December 2009	