



**Executive  
10 December 2012**

**Report from the Director of  
Strategy, Partnerships and  
Improvement**

Wards Affected: All

**London Councils Grant Scheme 2013/2014**

**1.0 Summary**

This report seeks agreement to London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2013/14 and the associated reduction in the level of contribution by Brent Council to the London Borough Grants Scheme.

**2.0 Recommendations**

Members of the Executive are recommended by London Councils to:-

- 2.1 Agree the recommended budget for the London Councils Grant Scheme and the contribution of £342,487 to be paid by the Council towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2013/14.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The aim of the London Councils Grant Scheme is to provide funding for voluntary organisations delivering London-wide or cross London projects that support the London population.
- 3.2 The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2013/14 at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The Leaders' Committee agreed a budget at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and recommended constituent councils to agree to an overall level of expenditure of £10 million for the Grants Scheme in 2013/14 (inclusive of £2 million gross ESF programme – 50% funded by boroughs and 50% by ESF grant). The application of £1 million ESF grant results in net borough contributions for 2013/14 of £9 million. The break down of this budget is shown in appendix 1.
- 3.3 London Councils recommend an overall reduction in the level of borough contributions to the Scheme of £2.5million for 2013/14. This represents a 21.7% reduction compared with the current financial year of 2012/13. The proposed budget

includes a provision for grants administration of £520,000. This comprises of 5% of the boroughs grants budget of £8 million, amounting to £400,000, plus 5.99% of the £2 million gross ESF programme, amounting to £120,000. This represents a reduction in grants administration expenditure of £75,000 (12.6%) compared to £595,000 for 2012/13.

- 3.4 The context in which this recommendation is made is set out in reports to Grants Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and to the Leaders' Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012. These reports concern both the future London wide European Social Fund programme and the overall Grants Committee budget. London Councils notified Brent Council of this in a "Chief Executives' Circular" on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012, which is appended to this report. The London Councils Report seeks a decision from constituent London Boroughs by 13<sup>th</sup> January.
- 3.5 Members are asked to agree to a contribution of £342,487 to be paid by the Council towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2013/14. The total contribution required from each constituent Council for 2013/14 is shown at Appendix 2.
- 3.6 By accepting the revised recommendations of London Councils, the Council will need to consider the impact the reduced contribution will have on local organisations, residents and current funded organisations. The Council will need to take any potential adverse impact into consideration.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The London Councils Leaders Committee agreed a recommended budget on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the detail of which is set out in Appendix 1. The Chief Executives' Circular appended to this report summarises this.
- 4.2 The proposed budget consists of:
  - A core, pan-London scheme of services to meet agreed service priorities of £7.6 million, which includes the membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000;
  - An additional gross sum of £1.88 million relating to a continuance of the current ESF grants programme;
- 4.2 The indicative gross grant payments budget of £9.48 million, represents a reduction of £2.425 million (20%) compared to grants programme of £11.905 million for the current year. In addition to the indicative gross grant payments budget of £9.48 million, the proposal includes a provision for grants administration of £520,000. This comprises of 5% of the boroughs grants budget of £8 million, amounting to £400,000, plus 5.99% of the £2 million gross ESF programme, amounting to £120,000. This represents a reduction in grants administration expenditure of £75,000 (12.6%) compared to £595,000 for the current year.

4.3 The overall level of London Borough's contributions to the Grant Scheme that is recommended for 2013/14 represents a reduction 21.7% compared to 2012/13. For Brent Council the proposed 2013/14 of £342,487 represents a 9.2% reduction on the subscription of £377,097 in 2012/13. It should be noted that Brent's reduction in contribution is lower than average due to the ONS mid 2011 estimates of population which incorporate the 2011 Census figures. This higher population figure results in Brent paying a higher proportion to the scheme than in 2012/13.

4.4 Details of all London Boroughs contributions for 2013/14 are included in Appendix 2.

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

5.1 Constituent Councils of London Councils, which includes Brent Council, are required to contribute to any London Borough Grants Scheme expenditure, which has been incurred with the approval of at least two-thirds of the constituent Councils, pursuant to section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. Contributions are to be proportionate to constituent Councils' populations pursuant to Regulation 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992.

5.2 In October 1985, the London Borough Grants Scheme was set up in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. The purpose of this scheme is to provide funding for voluntary organisations offering London-wide services or operating in two or more London boroughs. The thirty two London Boroughs and the Corporation of London are required by statute to contribute to the London Boroughs Grant Scheme.

5.3 For 2013/14 the apportionment is based on the 2011 Census data, adjusted by the ONS to provide the mid-year population estimates for June 2011; in accordance with Section 48 (4) Local Government Act 1985, which states that "the population of any areas shall be taken to be the number estimated by the Registrar General and certified by him to the Secretary of State by reference to such date as the Secretary of State may from time to time determine."

5.4 Further to the Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992 (which came into effect on 2 November 1992 pursuant to section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985 and which remains in force), the London Borough Grants Scheme budget for 2013/14 must be agreed by two-thirds of constituent Councils before 1 February 2013. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure for the constituent councils for 2013/14 will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2012/13 (i.e. £12.5 million).

5.5 The Leaders' Committee of London Councils report (as provided at appendix 4) outlines the ways in which in reaching a decision regarding the 2013/14 London Grants Scheme, the committee had regard to the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 requires a public body, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the

need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic. A 'protected characteristic' is defined in the Equality Act 2010 as: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race (including ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership are also a protected characteristic for the purposes of the duty to eliminate discrimination.

- 5.6 Under section 149(3) of the Equality Act 2010, the requirement to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity includes having due regard to the need to:- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; and (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 In reaching its decision, Leaders' Committee of London Councils states the way in which its approach continues to respond to equality impact assessment undertaken with decisions already taken to agree the principles and priorities of the new Grants Programme, and to agree the service specifications and strands to deliver those outcomes, made with the intention of applying scarce resources to seek, where possible, to mitigate any adverse equality impacts arising from a re-focused Grants Programme operating with a reduced budget. The Chief Executive's Circular (appendix 3) states that the committee has given regard to the duties set out in the Equality Act 2010 and in particular the public sector equalities duty when making its decision regarding the budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme 2013/14. A copy of the report that was presented to the Leaders' Committee of London Councils on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in respect of the budget proposals for London Grants Scheme is set out in Appendix 4 and Members are referred to the content of that report. The recommended budget is intended to mitigate the effects on equalities groups receiving services.
- 6.2 It is difficult to assess the impact for groups with protected characteristics in Brent as there is a lack of detailed information about the direct benefits of the London Boroughs Grants scheme to Brent's residents.
- 6.3 Officers will monitor the immediate impact of the change through complaints and/or correspondence received.

## **Background Papers**

- London Councils Chief Executives Circular November 2012  
Not yet on line
- London Councils Leader's Committee November 2012  
[http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/meetings.htm?pk\\_meeting=936&comid=2](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/meetings.htm?pk_meeting=936&comid=2)
- London Councils Grants Committee November 2012  
[http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/meetings.htm?pk\\_meeting=974&comid=3](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/meetings.htm?pk_meeting=974&comid=3)  
Background to reaching the present grant scheme priorities and approach
- London Councils Chief Executives' Circular 16<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- London Councils Leaders' Committee 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk\\_agenda\\_items=4674](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=4674)
- London Councils Grants Committee 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 –  
[http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/aboutus/meetings.htm?pk\\_meeting=835&comid=3](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/aboutus/meetings.htm?pk_meeting=835&comid=3)
- London Councils Chief Executives' Circular 26<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/.../Circ411LCsGrantsSchemeLevy2011.pdf](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/.../Circ411LCsGrantsSchemeLevy2011.pdf)
- Further review of future role and scope of London Council's Grants Scheme  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk\\_agenda\\_items=4422](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=4422)
- London Councils Leaders' Committee 10<sup>th</sup> May 2011 – Future role and scope of grants scheme item  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk\\_agenda\\_items=4428](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=4428)
- London Councils Grants Committee May 6<sup>th</sup> 2011 Grants paper appendices including the additional equality impact assessment and outcomes of the second round of consultation  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk\\_agenda\\_items=4423](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=4423)
- Leaders' Committee future role and scope of London Councils Grants Scheme Item 14<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk\\_agenda\\_items=4306](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=4306)
- London Councils Chief Executives' Circular 24/10 and related documents  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/aboutus/corporatepublications/ceocirculars/24-10.htm](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/aboutus/corporatepublications/ceocirculars/24-10.htm)
- London Councils – Consultation on the Review of the future role and scope of the London Council's Grants Scheme.  
[www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/consultation.htm](http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/consultation.htm)

## Appendices

**Appendix 1:** Proposed London Councils Grant scheme Budget 2013/2014

**Appendix 2:** Proposed London Borough Contributions to London Councils Grant Scheme 2013/2014

**Appendix 3:** London Councils' Chief Executives' Circular

**Appendix 4:** Report to the Leaders' Committee dated 13 November 2012 in respect of the London Councils Grant Scheme Budget Proposals 2013/14

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