



**Executive
13 January 2014**

**Report from the Assistant
Chief Executive**

For Action

Wards Affected: All

London Councils Grant Scheme 2014/2015

1.0 Summary

This report seeks agreement to London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2014/15 and the associated level of contribution by Brent Council to the London Borough Grants Scheme. It recommends reinvesting the small one off payment to Brent from London Councils Grants Committee reserves to support work with CVS delivering further capacity building for the voluntary sector in Brent.

2.0 Recommendations

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

- 2.1 Note the recommendations made by the London Councils Leaders Committee summarised in section 3 and attached at appendix 3
- 2.2 Agree the recommended budget for the London Councils Grant Scheme and the contribution of £340,854 to be paid by the Council towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2014/15
- 2.3 Agree to reinvest a total of £31,931 in work with CVS to deliver further capacity building for the voluntary sector in Brent. This is made up of the following:
 - I. the small sum of £1,633, which is the difference between the proposed Brent Council contribution for 2014/2015 and that paid in 2013/14
 - II. the one off payment of £30,298 from London Councils Grants Committee reserves

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 6th November 2013. The Leaders' Committee agreed a budget at its meeting on 12th November 2013 and recommended constituent councils to agree to an overall level of expenditure of £10 million for the Grants Scheme in 2014/15 (inclusive of £2 million gross ESF programme). 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 the same overall level of borough contributions to the Scheme 2014/15, with some variances in the contributions of individual London Boroughs reflecting updated census figures. The proposed budget includes a provision for grants administration of £520,000 including ESF administration of £120,000. This is the same as the provision for administration as in 2013/2014.
- 3.4 London Councils also recommends the transfer from Grants Committee reserves of £800,000 be made and returned to boroughs in the form of a one-off payment. Brent's share of this one off payment is £30,298. It is recommended £31,931 is used to support work with CVS delivering further capacity building for the voluntary sector in Brent. This is made up of the one off payment of £30,398 and the small sum of £1,633, which is the difference between the proposed Brent Council contribution for 2014/2015 and that paid in 2013/14.
- 3.5 The context in which this recommendation is made is set out in reports to Grants Committee on 6th November 2013 and to the Leaders' Committee on 12th November 2013. These reports concern both the 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 21st November 2013, which is appended to this report. The London Councils Report seeks a decision from constituent London Boroughs no later than 17th January 2014.
- 3.6 Members are asked to agree to a contribution of £340,854 to be paid by Brent Council towards the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2014/15. The total contribution required from each constituent Council for 2014/15 is shown at Appendix 2.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The London Councils Leaders Committee agreed a recommended budget on 12th November 2013 the detail of which is set out in Appendix 1. The Chief Executives' Circular summarises this (appendix 3).
- 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
- 4.3 For 2014/15 only, the Leaders' Committee recommend the transfer from Grants Committee reserves of £800,000 be made and returned to boroughs in the form of a one-off repayment. Brent's share of this one off payment is £30,298.
- 4.4 The overall level of London Borough's contributions to the Grant Scheme that is recommended for 2014/15 is the same as 2013/14. For Brent Council the proposed 2013/14 of £340,854 represents slight reduction on the subscription of £342,487 in 2013/14 due to the application of updated Census figures in the calculation of the contribution. The small difference is £1,633.
- 4.5 The Leader's Committee recommendations for the Grants programme result in a total of £31,931 additional resources being available to the borough in 2014/2015. This report recommends reinvesting this money to support work with CVS delivering further capacity building for the voluntary sector in Brent.
- 4.6 Details of all London Boroughs contributions for 2014/15 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 2014/15 the apportionment is based on the 2011 Census data, adjusted by the ONS to provide the mid-year population estimates for June 2012. This is 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 2014. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure for the constituent councils for 2014/15 will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2013/14.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 The Leaders' Committee of London Councils does not set out any specific equality implications arising from the recommendations. However, it should be noted that the overall level of expenditure of £10 million for the London Councils Grants Scheme in 2014/15 (inclusive of the sum of £2 million funding from the European Social Fund programme) will be at the same level as for the current 2013/14 financial year.

6.2 The Leader's Committee decided in 2013/2014 to agree proposals for a refocused Grants Programme operating with a reduced budget. The Chief Executive's Circular November 2012 stated that the Leader's Committee had 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

6.3 Officers have reviewed the recommendations for 2014/15 noting that they do not seek to reduce funding to the agreed 2013/14 programme. Officers have not identified any equality implications in addition to those already identified and responded to in the design of the present grants programme. It should be noted that it is difficult to assess impact of the grants programme for groups with protected characteristics in Brent as there is a lack of detailed information about the direct benefits to Brent's residents. Officers will monitor any impact through complaints and/or correspondence received.

Background Papers

- London Councils Chief Executives Circular November 2013
- London Councils Leader's Committee November 2013
http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/agenda.htm?pk_agenda_items=5465
- London Councils Grants Committee November 2013
http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/committees/meetings.htm?pk_meeting=1153&comid=3

Background to reaching the present grant scheme priorities and approach

- London Councils Chief Executives Circular November 2012
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/aboutus/corporatepublications/ceocirculars/1211grants.htm>
- London Councils Leader's Committee November 2012
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

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Proposed London Councils Grant Scheme Budget 2014/2015
- Appendix 2: Proposed London Borough Contributions to London Councils Grant Scheme 2014/2015
- Appendix 3: London Councils' Chief Executives' Circular November 2013
- Appendix 4: Report to the Leaders' Committee dated 12th November 2013 in respect of the London Councils Grant Scheme Budget Proposals 2014/15

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BEN SPINKS
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