



Full Council
24 January 2011

**Report from the Director of
Housing and Community Care**

Wards affected:
ALL

London Councils Grant Scheme 2011/12

REASON FOR URGENCY

London Councils have requested a response before 1st February 2011. Later responses will not be accepted.

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report informs members of the proposed level of contribution Brent will make to the London Councils Grant Scheme in 2011/12.
- 1.2 London Councils published their expenditure for 2011/12 on 17th December 2010 and are proposing a reduction in the contributions all councils make to the scheme in 2011/12. London Councils is asking all boroughs to approve the budget before 1st February 2011.
- 1.3 The contribution Brent is required to make will reduce to £436,346 which represents a 49.7% reduction. The proposed reduction follows the outcome of the Review of the Future Role and Scope of the Grants Scheme that was carried out in October 2010 by London Councils to which Brent contributed.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members accept the contribution recommended by London Councils to the grant scheme for 2011/12 and notify them of this decision no later than 31st January 201, which is the deadline set by London Councils.
- 2.2 To agree that Brent contributes £436,346 in 2011/12 a reduction of £498,705.

2.3 To agree a review of the funding of affected organisations to identify recommended criteria for applying for future funding should the Council wish to reinvest any or all of the £498,705 back into the voluntary sector.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The funding provided to London Councils for grants is used to support Pan-London and Sub-Regional projects. The aim of the scheme is to support projects and services that work across London or across a number of boroughs.

3.2 In 2010/11 Brent contributed £935,051 to the scheme and 182 organisations were funded to provide services in Brent.

3.3 London Councils recently reviewed the scheme, following concerns from boroughs that funding did not adequately address local needs and they did not feel they were benefiting from the contribution they made to the scheme. The aim was to have greater influence on how future funding is deployed.

3.4 As a result of the review London Councils decided to amend their funding criteria and agreed that the scheme would solely fund London wide services and would no longer commission projects that are provided on a sub-regional or local basis. The proposed changes will take effect from 30th June 2011.

3.5 The proposed reduction in contribution is as a direct result of the change in the funding process. Brent's contribution will reduce to £436,346 which will allow more funding to be controlled by the council and to have control over where money is spent in the borough.

3.6 Five local organisations receive direct funding from London Councils and of these four were awarded funding up to October 2012 and they will continue to receive funding, however one will have their funding terminated on 30th June 2011 which is before their agreed funding period. In addition there are 177 organisations funded from the scheme that provide services in the borough as well as elsewhere. However the number of Brent residents accessing services from these organisations is unclear.

3.7 By accepting the recommendations 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 ensure no organisation is disadvantaged by the decision and will take any adverse impact into consideration in deciding how to apply the reduction.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The London Councils Grants Committee published their budget for 2011/12 on 17th December 2010 and a Chief's Executives' Circular was issued by London Councils on 17th December 2010 (Appendix 1).

- 4.2 The overall level of Borough's contributions to the Scheme that is recommended for 2011/12 represents a 49.7% reduction compared with the current year. For Brent Council this represents a reduction of subscription from £935,051 in 2010/11 to £436,346, a net reduction of £498,705. The Council's budget has been reduced accordingly.
- 4.3 All London boroughs are asked to approve the expenditure set out in the circular by 1st February 2011. If approval is not received by at least two-thirds of constituent councils by the deadline the level of expenditure for each borough will be deemed the same as that approved in 2010/11 (i.e. £935,051). London Councils have asked that councils give their formal response to the recommendation by Friday 21st January 2011.
- 4.4 Details of all London Boroughs contributions for 2011/12 are attached as Appendix 2.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 In order for the proposed reductions to take place there is a requirement for the Council to agree the proposal as stated above.
- 5.2 There is a potential judicial challenge to the London Councils Grants scheme Budget which is currently due to be heard in the High Court on the 27th/28th January 2011.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken by London Councils. The assessment concludes that there is likely to be an adverse impact on all equality groups if currently funded services are terminated earlier than the original funding agreements.
- 6.2 At this stage it is difficult to assess the impact for equality groups in Brent as there is a lack of detailed information about the direct benefits of the London Boroughs Grants scheme on Brent's residents.
- 6.3 We will monitor the immediate impact of the change through complaints and/or correspondence received and will carry out a review to identify recommended criteria for future funding should the Council agreed to reinvestment of all or any of the £498,705.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 There are no staffing or accommodations implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

- London Councils Chief Executives' Circular 24/10 and related documents.
<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
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants/consultation.htm>

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MARTIN CHEESEMAN
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Chief Executives' Circular

To:	Borough Chief Executives	Cc:	Borough Treasurers
Date:	17 December 2010	Ref. no:	24/10
Contact:		Telephone:	020 7934 9700
Email:	Frank.smith@londoncouncils.gov.uk	Response Date:	21 st January 2011

London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2011/12 expenditure

Summary:

This circular informs borough Chief Executives of the recommended level of the London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2011/12, and seeks a formal response to that recommendation **ideally by Friday 21 January 2011, but no later than 31 January 2011.**

Background

The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2011/12 at its meeting on 25 November 2010. The Leaders' Committee concurred with the Grants Committee's recommendations on 14 December.

The following recommendation is now made to constituent councils.

Overall level of expenditure of £17,691,000 comprising:

Grants - £16,793,000

Administrative Expenditure - £838,000

London Funders Membership Fees - £60,000

Income would comprise:

European Social Fund grant - £2,070,000

Interest and balances - £2,380,000

Borough contributions - £13,241,000

This circular sets out in detail the requirements in respect of approving the Grants Scheme budget for 2011/12. It is issued alongside a further circular which sets out the overall London Councils Borough subscriptions and charges for 2011/12 – in which the Grants Scheme expenditure is summarised.

The context in which this recommendation is made is set out in the reports to Grants Committee on 25 November 2010 and to the Leaders' Committee on 14 December 2010, concerning The Review of the Future Role and Scope of the Grants Scheme, and consequent Budget Proposals for 2011/12. The overall level of borough contributions to the Scheme that is recommended for 2011/12 represents a 49.7% reduction compared with the current year. An outline of the budget, which was presented as Appendix 1 to the reports, is attached.

As you are aware, constituent Councils are required to contribute to any London Boroughs Grants Scheme expenditure, which has been incurred with the approval of at least two-thirds of the constituent Councils. Contributions are, under Regulation 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be proportionate to constituent Councils' populations. For 2011/12 the apportionment is based on the ONS mid-year estimates for 2009 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." The total contribution required from each constituent Council for 2011/12 is shown in the total column for the year 2011/12 of the attached schedule, which was presented as Appendix 2 to the Committee reports.

I would remind you that further to the Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992 (which came into effect on 2 November 1992 and remains in force), the budget must be agreed by two-thirds of constituent Councils before 1 February 2011. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2010/11 (i.e. £30,116,000). I would therefore be grateful if you would advise me of your authority's formal response to the recommendation as soon as possible; ideally by Friday 21 January 2011 (as required under section 7.5 of the Grants Scheme), but no later than 31 January 2011. If you are unable to meet the 21 January deadline, please let me know.

Equalities Impact

When your borough is deciding on whether or not to agree to the Leaders' Committee's recommendation, which will impact on your own level of

contribution to the Scheme, you will need to have regard to your equalities duties.

London Councils has produced papers concerning potential Equalities Impacts of changes to the Role and Scope of the Grants Scheme which are attached (and which formed Appendix 12 to the report on the Review considered by Leaders' Committee). In addition to this, boroughs will also need to have regard to the equalities impacts of plans they may have for continued funding for similar activities outside of the Scheme.

As many boroughs may not as yet have developed these future funding plans, it may not be possible to determine what the impact on particular equalities strands will be. If this is the case in your borough, in assessing the equalities impacts you will need to assume that the "worst case" scenario will happen i.e. that the funding will not continue in any other form.

Conclusion

I look forward to your responses, ideally by **Friday 21st January 2011** and no later than **31st January 2011**.

Thank you

John O'Brien
Chief Executive