



City of Westminster

# Cabinet Member Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure
<b>Date:</b>	9 January 2017
<b>Classification:</b>	For General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Westminster City Council's contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2017-18
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	Westminster City Council's contribution to London Councils for 2017-2018 will be £214,209 - this is a decrease from the contribution in 2016-2017 which was £232,615. The cost of this contribution can be met from 2017-18 overall budget provision of £1,851,325.
<b>Report of:</b>	Yacoba Godwyll, Voluntary Sector Commissioning Officer  020 7641 8024  ygodwyll@westminster.gov.uk

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 It was considered at the London Councils Grants Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016, and agreed at the Leaders' Committee of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 that the overall level of expenditure for the London Borough Grants Scheme for 2017-2018 will be £7,668,000, a decrease by £14,000 from 2016-17. Borough contributions will make up £9,000,000, the same level as 2016-17. The European Social Fund grant will contribute £1,000,000, which is the same amount as for 2016-17 and the Grants Committee will transfer £231,000 from uncommitted Grants Committee reserves.

This report presents the Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure with the London Councils proposal for budgets and the constituent Councils' contributions, including the City Council's contribution, to the London Borough Grants Scheme for 2017-2018. Westminster City Council's contribution for 2017-2018 will be £214,209. This has decreased from the contribution in 2016-17 from £232,615 to £214,209. The level of decrease is notably more than previous years due to the cessation of Priority 4.

- 1.2 Westminster City Council's contribution is based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for 2015.
- 1.3 In 2016-17, Westminster City Council's contribution to London Councils was £245,893. A decision to make a one-off repayment from the reserves of the Grants Committee to reduce overall borough contributions for 2016-2017 reduced the contribution from £245,893 to £214,209. Therefore the actual outgoing funds would have increased by £31,684 if London Councils had not decided to make a one-off payment from the reserves and the 4 Priority had not ceased.
- 1.4 London Councils is requesting formal responses from each constituent Council regarding the proposed budget and contributions by 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017. The budget must be agreed by two-thirds (22) of constituent Councils before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. If not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2016-2017 (i.e. £10,486,000).

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member endorses the proposed overall level of expenditure by the London Councils Grants Committee and agrees the City Council's contribution of £214,207 for 2017-18.

## **3. Reasons for Decision**

- 3.1 The London Councils London Boroughs Grants Scheme is the London-wide body created to make grant-aid available to voluntary organisations operating across more than one borough. Each year the London Councils Grants Committee proposes an overall level of expenditure for the Scheme which is recommended to the London Boroughs and the Cities of London and Westminster for agreement.
- 3.2 The City Council's proportion of the borough contributions, based on the 2015 ONS mid-year estimates for population is £214,209 for 2017-18.
- 3.3 Further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, agreement by a two-thirds majority of the constituent Councils specified is required by 1<sup>st</sup> February in any year. The Scheme approved by the boroughs provides (in section 7.5) that constituent Councils shall be asked to agree to the Committee's recommended

level of overall expenditure not later than the third Friday in January. This year London Council's has set a deadline of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (with an absolute deadline of 27 January 2017). If at least two-thirds of the constituent Councils pass the resolution in their own Councils to ratify and give effect to that overall level of expenditure, the overall level of expenditure and contributions become binding on all the constituent Councils.

- 3.4 In the event that constituent Councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required before 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the constituent Councils will be deemed, subject to any order made under section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1985, all to have given their approval to total expenditure of an amount equal to that which was approved in 2016-17, i.e. £10,486,000.
- 3.5 It is therefore recommended that the Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure agrees the recommendation and proposed contributions for 2017-18.

#### **4. Background, including Policy Context**

- 4.1 London Councils undertook a consultation in 2015 which all boroughs were invited to participate in, the purpose of which was to review the scope and priorities of the programme for 2017-2021. The findings highlighted that the overall view is that the programme should continue and support the existing priorities around tackling homelessness, sexual and domestic violence and poverty (by promoting access to employment and training). It was agreed that the fourth priority - capacity building to support London's voluntary & community organisations would be ceased and the contribution to this priority returned to boroughs, as a result that contribution is less for 2017/18.
- 4.2 The apportionment of contributions for 2017-18 is based on ONS mid-year (June) estimates for population for 2015. For Westminster the June 2015 figures show an increase from the June 2014 ONS mid-year estimates of £233,290 to 242,300.
- 4.3 Appendix A shows the profiled income and expenditure for the grants committee for 2017-18.
- 4.4 Appendix B provides details of the proposed Borough Subscriptions to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2017-18.

#### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The proposed contribution from the City Council for 2017-18 is £214,209 which is a decrease by £31,684 on the contribution for 2016-17. The decreased amount is due to the decision to make a one-off repayment from the reserves of the Grants Committee to reduce overall borough contributions, and a decision that the future programme will not contract a priority solely focused on capacity building (the current Priority 4).

5.2 Provision for this contribution exists within 2017-18 budget projections which has an overall budget of £1,851,325.

## **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 The legal implications are set out in the report. (A.Jaskowiak, Shared Legal Services, (T: 020 7361 2756)

## **7. Equalities Implications**

7.1 As part of the re-focussing of the future Grants Programme, to reflect the reduced resources available in the context of significant spending constraints facing local authorities, London Councils determined that the proposals will have an impact upon groups protected under Equalities Legislation.

7.2 Non-budgetary decisions regarding the Grants Programme, were taken with the intention of applying scarce resources whilst mitigating any adverse equality impacts arising from a re-focused Grants Programme operating with a reduced budget.

## **8. Consultation**

8.1 London Councils has completed extensive consultation concerning the content of its proposed Grants Programme. The budget proposals enable London Councils to complete the delivery of the new programme and provide grants to voluntary organisations in 2017-18.

8.2 When consulting on the Grants Programme for 2013-15 (extended to 2017), London Councils undertook an extensive consultation and assessment of the equalities impacts upon protected groups in setting the principles and priorities to be delivered under the Programme. This is still valid and the current 2016 consultation will inform a new equalities impact assessment which will be carried out in relation to the Programme for 2017-21.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact:**

**Yacoba Godwyll, Voluntary Sector Commissioning Officer,  
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For completion by the **Cabinet Member for Sports & Leisure**

**Declaration of Interest**

I have <no interest to declare / to declare an interest> in respect of this report

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

State nature of interest if any .....

.....  
*(N.B: If you have an interest you should seek advice as to whether it is appropriate to make a decision in relation to this matter)*

For the reasons set out above, I agree the recommendation(s) in the report entitled **Westminster City Council's contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2017-18** and reject any alternative options which are referred to but not recommended.

Signed .....

Cabinet Member for Sports and Leisure

Date .....

If you have any additional comment which you would want actioned in connection with your decision you should discuss this with the report author and then set out your comment below before the report and this pro-forma is returned to the Secretariat for processing.

Additional comment: .....  
.....  
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If you do not wish to approve the recommendations, or wish to make an alternative decision, it is important that you consult the report author, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Strategic Director Finance and Performance and, if there are resources implications, the Strategic Director of Resources (or their representatives) so that (1) you can be made aware of any further relevant considerations that you should take into account before making the decision and (2) your reasons for the decision can be properly identified and recorded, as required by law.

Note to Cabinet Member: Your decision will now be published and copied to the Members of the relevant Policy & Scrutiny Committee. If the decision falls within the

criteria for call-in, it will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed from publication to allow the Policy and Scrutiny Committee to decide whether it wishes to call the matter in.