

Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

Subject Heading:	London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2022/23
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Finance and Property
SLT Lead:	Jane West (Chief Operating Officer)
Report Author and contact details:	Alison Umoh Ext: 2523
Policy context:	To approve the level of contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee for 2022/23 of £193,064
Financial summary:	The Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee is proposed at £193,064 in 2022/23 (compared to £193,119 in 2021/22)
Relevant OSC:	Overview & Scrutiny Board
Is this decision exempt from being called-in?	No

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The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Places making Havering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Opportunities making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Connections making Havering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Part A – Report seeking decision

DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Property is asked to approve the proposed overall level of expenditure by the London Councils Grants Committee and agrees the London Borough of Havering's contribution of £193,064 in 2022/23.

AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE

Part 3, Section 2.5, Sub-section (q) To agree minor matters and urgent or routine policy matters.

STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION

This report sets out the proposed budget of the London Boroughs Grants Committee and the impact on individual borough contributions for 2022/23.

The London Councils Grants Scheme is the London-wide body created to make grant-aid available to voluntary organisations operating across more than one borough. Please see **Appendix A** that shows the London Borough of Havering organisations that benefit from the grant-aid.

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.

The financial year 2022/23 represents the first year of the new four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019. The original decision covered the period from 2021 to 2025, however, due to the extension to the current programme as a result of Covid-19 the new programme covers 2022 to 2026.

The contribution requested from the London Borough of Havering is £193,064 for 2022/23, which is a reduction of £55 in the contribution since 2021/22.

Further to an Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985, agreement by a two-thirds majority of the constituent Councils specified is required before 1st February 2022.

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.

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In the event that constituent Councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required the constituent Councils will be deemed, subject to any order made under section 48(4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, all to have given their approval to set the budget at the same level as the preceding year.

The overall level of base borough contributions to the Scheme 2022/23 is £6.7m, which is the same as the current year. The context in which this recommendation is made is set out in reports to the London Councils Grants Committee on 24 November 2021 and to the Leaders' Committee on 7 December 2021.

The reports ask the Committee to agree:

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.7m for the Grants Scheme in 2022/23

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The only other option is to refuse to agree the new budget and under an order made by the Secretary of State for the Environment, if the required two-thirds of the constituent Councils do not agree the budget, they shall be deemed to have approved the 2022/23 budget at the current level of £6.7m, which has not changed.

PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION

n/a.

NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER

Name: Alison Umoh

Designation: Corporate Management Accountant

Signature:



Date: 06/01/22

Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Report sets out the proposal to reduce the Council's contribution to the Grants Scheme by £55.

There are no apparent legal implications in taking the recommended decision.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee are as follows:

2021/22 Budget	£193,119
2022/23 Proposed Budget	£193,064

It is proposed that the overall level of 2022/23 contributions would be reduced as compared to the current year (£193,119) by a minimal reduction of £55.

The current general fund budget available is sufficient to meet the level of contributions.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)

There are no HR implications arising directly as a result of this report.

EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- (i) the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are: age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

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The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Havering residents in respect of socio-economics and health determinants.

There are no direct equalities implications arising from this decision.

Full Equality Impact Assessments were undertaken by London Councils on the principles and projects funded by the London Borough Grants Programme. The projects commissioned focus on four priority areas for London, agreed by the London Borough Grants Committee, which are: homelessness, sexual and domestic violence, poverty and capacity building.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

London Council's circular dated 07/12/21 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2022/23

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Part C – Record of decision

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

Decision

Proposal agreed

Details of decision maker

Signed: 

Name: **Councillor Roger Ramsey**

Cabinet Portfolio held: **Finance & Property**

Date: **13/01/2022**

Lodging this notice

The signed decision notice must be delivered to the proper officer, Debra Marlow, Principal Committee Officer in Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

For use by Committee Administration

This notice was lodged with me on _____

Signed _____