



**Havering**  
LONDON BOROUGH

## Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2024/25
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Cllr Christopher Wilkins
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>SLT Lead:</b>	Kathy Freeman Strategic Director of Resources
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	Alison Umoh Extn: 2523
<b>Policy context:</b>	To approve the level of contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee for 2024/25 of £199,080.
<b>Financial summary:</b>	The Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee is proposed at £199,080 in 2024/25 (compared to £193,064 in 2023/24)
<b>Relevant OSC:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Board
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	Yes, it is a Non key Decision

**Non-key Executive Decision**

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

People - Things that matter for residents

Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy

Resources - A well run Council that delivers for People and Place. X

## Part A – Report seeking decision

### DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Transformation 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 £199,080 in 2024/25.

### 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 2024/25.

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 2024/25 represents the third year of the 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 current programme covers 2022 to 2026.

The contribution requested from the London Borough of Havering is £199k for 2024/25, which is a £6k increase on the 2023/24 level of contribution of £193k.

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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024.

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 2024/25 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 22 November 2023 and to the Leaders' Committee on 12 December 2023.

The reports ask the Committee to agree:

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.7m for the Grants Scheme in 2024/25

### **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 2024/25 budget at the current level of £6.7m, with Havering's contribution reverting to £193k.

### **PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

n/a.

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

Name: Alison Umoh

Designation: Corporate Management Accountant

Signature: *AD Umoh*

Date: 03/01/24

## Part B - Assessment of implications and risks

### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

The Report sets out the proposal to increase the Council's contribution to the Grants Scheme by approx. £6k from the contribution made in 2023/24.

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:

2023/24 Budget	£193k
2024/25 Proposed Budget	£199k

It is proposed that the overall level of 2024/25 contributions will increase by a minimal level of £6k when compared to the current year (£193k).

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.

## **Non-key Executive Decision**

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.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

n/a

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*London Council's circular dated 12/12/23 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2024/25 and Medium Term-Financial Strategy*

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A**      London Borough of Havering organisations that benefit from the Grant-Aid

Non-key Executive Decision

**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

Proposal NOT agreed because-

*CW*

**Details of decision maker**



Signed

Name: Cllr Christopher Wilkins

Cabinet Portfolio held: Finance

Date:

*18/01/2024*

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

**For use by Committee Administration**

This notice was lodged with me on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Projects delivering in Havering		
Priority	Project	Examples of activities undertaken
Combating Homelessness	Shelter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Star Partnership partner Stonewall Housing<sup>1</sup> has been part of The Outside Project offering advocacy and advice. Partner Thames Reach met with LB Havering rough sleeping coordinator to assist with a street count and to discuss joint working opportunities and hotspot referrals. Thames Reach have started attending multi-agency meetings in Havering which are hosted and facilitated by the Salvation Army in Romford and the monthly LB Havering outreach teams meeting to discuss outreach services across the borough.</li> <li>New Horizon<sup>2</sup> have met with borough leads and the East London Housing Partnership (ELHP) to share information on services and partners liaised with Youth Offending Services. They have also held a youth homelessness prevention and awareness raising stall at Havering College and set up referral pathways Housing Association Youth Network. In year 5, updates were also provided on 'Hotel 1824' emergency project referral for rough sleeping. Presentation to pan-London DWP Homeless Outreach Workers; Presentation to Pan-London Homeless Health Leads; attendance at the Havering Homeless Forum.</li> <li>STADV work intensively with the main RSLs<sup>3</sup> in the borough Swan, Hanover and Hyde to improve their response to domestic violence. STADV met with Havering for their first DAHA Steering Group led by their Housing Solutions Manager and staff attended DAHA Workshops including a DAHA Perpetrator management workshop. In year 4, borough plans to set up a steering group were initially paused due to Covid-19. When first group meeting took place with DAHA Havering stated they felt ready to commit to accreditation process. In year 5, contact has been made with the DAHA regional lead.</li> <li>St Mungo has delivered client assessments as part of its work to support people leaving prison at risk of homelessness and worked closely with Havering local authority to get client into settled accommodation.</li> <li>Havering was one of Homeless Link's priority boroughs in year one and received enhanced support including in-house and multi-agency training on the Homelessness Reduction Act, DV and Housing. Homeless Link regularly attends Havering Homelessness Forum and has supported locally based groups such as Hope for Havering and Family Mosaic. Homeless Link regularly liaise with borough staff through the East London Housing Partnership and attend Havering Homelessness Forum. Borough staff have attended various events such as the HRA call for evidence policy forum in November 2019. In year 4, borough officers attended the London PLUS Community of Practice on the new immigration rules.</li> </ul>
	St Mungo's	
	New Horizon Youth Centre	
	Standing Together Against Domestic Violence	
	Homeless Link	

<sup>1</sup> Stonewall Housing is a partner under the STAR Partnership Project led by Shelter.

<sup>2</sup> The London Youth Gateway Project is led by New Horizon Youth Centre.

<sup>3</sup> Registered Social Landlords

<b>Havering</b>					
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Number of people (target)</b>	<b>Number of people (actual)</b>	<b>Per cent of total pan-London (target)</b>	<b>Per cent of total pan-London (actual)</b>
<b>Combating Homelessness</b>	1.1 Prevention and targeted intervention	265	347	0.84%	1.04%
	1.2 Youth homelessness	850	241	2.52%	0.87%
	1.3 Supporting the response to homelessness in London through support to voluntary sector organisations	22	13	2.34%	1.64%
<b>Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence</b>	2.1 Prevention (working with children and young people)	2610	2746	3.53%	3.29%
	2.2 Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-IDVA and target groups not accessing generalist provision)	920	803	2.66%	2.00%
	2.3: Helpline, access to refuge provision/ support and advice, data gathering on refuge provision and supporting regional coordination of refuge provision	2410	2168	2.35%	1.93%
	2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups	150	53	3.77%	1.17%
	2.5: Strengthening support for frontline sexual and domestic violence (working with voluntary sector organisations, local authorities, and other agencies)	2	9	0.65%	1.35%
	2.6: Targeted services for those affected by harmful practices (FGM, Honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage and other harmful practices)	20	21	0.64%	0.69%

<b>Havering</b>		
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Lead organisation</b>	<b>Examples of activities undertaken</b>
<b>Combatting Homelessness</b>	St Mungo's Harp  Homeless Link  New Horizon Youth Centre  Shelter  St Mungo's Streetlink	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HARP Connect: Working closely with borough's rough sleeper/outreach and housing team. Service promoted with Havering probation and VCS.</li> <li>London PLUS: Regular attendance to borough's Homelessness Forum. Contributed to ongoing development of resources in the borough as well as presented good practice and training offered. Established links with RSI coordinator and housing options manager. Reached out to CYP services and VCS contacts to share information on the services.</li> <li>StreetLink London Advice Line: Established link with Havering Housing team to explain service and obtain escalation routes to be used if necessary. Connected client with Women's Aid in Havering.</li> </ul>
<b>Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence</b>	Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) Galop  Women and Girls Network (WGN)  SignHealth  Women's Aid  Refuge  Ashiana Network  Women's Resource Centre (WRC)  Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ascent Support Services to Organisations: Delivered training attended by borough officers and professionals, on Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and offences involving violent or abusive behaviour, Professional Resilience &amp; Self Care. Promoted training to Borough Officers and VCS</li> <li>Ascent Advice and Counselling Project: 1 to 1 counselling, medium-long term casework support and T.H.R.I.V.E sessions. New referral paths. Regular attendance to Havering VAWG Forum. Partners working with local services like IDVA, Havering Aspire CGL drug and alcohol service, Adult social care, Pioneer house probation centre, others.</li> <li>Ascent Ending Harmful Practices Partnership: Advocacy, advice, casework support and counselling services. Regular attendance to borough VAWG meeting. Presentation to borough's social services and housing teams which resulted in increased referrals.</li> <li>Healthy London, Healthy Relationships: Sessions delivered at Havering Sixth Form college reaching students and teachers.</li> <li>London Refuges Data Collection Project: Borough renewed UK Gold Book subscription. Delivered the London Refuges Data and Needs Assessment webinar attended by borough officer.</li> <li>Specialist Refuge Network: Training and awareness raising sessions to borough professionals on working with women experiencing multiple disadvantage and DV. Partner nia makes contact with relevant organisations to inform them about the outreach and refuge services.</li> </ul>

Projects delivering in Havering		
Priority	Project	Examples of activities undertaken
Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence	Tender Education and Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nia<sup>4</sup> delivered training to professionals: Links between Male Violence and Problematic Substance Use, working to support homeless women with multiple disadvantages in year one and on links between domestic violence and problematic substance use to local Rape Crisis. In year 5, the partnership delivered online training and outreach to borough professionals</li> <li>Tender delivered two-day Healthy Relationship projects in Saunders School, Frances Bardsley Academy and Rainham Village Primary. Champion School work was delivered in Frances Bardsley.</li> <li>GALOP attended Romford Pride Event and met VAWG and Equality and diversity teams; attended the DiversiTEA event in June 2019 run by Havering Volunteer Centre, Havering Older LGBT+ Community group and Queen's Hospital LGBT+ staff Network in November 2019. In year 5, GALOP attended Havering MARAC.</li> <li>Women's Resource Centre circulated training dates to the borough lead. Training sessions were delivered to one or more borough organisations that also received briefings and newsletters. Borough staff attended expert led training on better engagement with perpetrators and Child Adolescent Parent violence and abuse. In year 5 community safety officers attended training on working with male victims, working with women using violence and abuse and coercive control law</li> <li>The Ascent: Advice and Counselling project<sup>5</sup> delivered one to one counselling and a Moving Forward group at the Elm Park Children's Centre, counselling at MIND Havering and a specialist advice surgery at Norwood Children's Services in neighbouring borough Redbridge. The Moving Forward group also ran at Chippenham Road Children's Centre. Solace have also liaised with Chabad/ Romford Synagogue/ Essex DV Services/ IDVA's at Romford Police Station and delivered training to professionals on access to family law legal aid, child contact arrangements and domestic violence and evidencing domestic violence in the family courts. They attended Prevention and Community Engagement Working Group of Havering's Safeguarding Adults Board and worked closely with local police. In year 5, 1:1 counselling, advice and outreach were delivered remotely. Performance update newsletter was sent to the VAWG lead. The VAWG forum was attended. Family law legal training delivered.</li> <li>The EHP<sup>6</sup> practice project provided safety planning, risk assessments and 1:1 advocacy and counselling services to women in the borough (over secure online platform in year 4). In year 5, Ashiana is the delivery partner in the borough and have provided advocacy and casework support to a client.</li> <li>The Domestic Abuse Project led by SignHealth continues to be in contact with safeguarding team about their services.</li> <li>The Women's Aid partnership offered free helplines (including National Domestic Violence Helpline, rape and sexual violence helplines and Respect Men's Advice Line) in all London boroughs and quarterly updates were sent to borough officers. In year 5 it undertook desk-based promotion.</li> </ul>
	Solace Women's Aid	
	GALOP	
	SignHealth	
	Women's Aid	
	Ashiana	
	Women's Resource Centre	
	Asian Women's Resource Centre	

<sup>4</sup> NIA is a partner under the Ashiana Project

<sup>5</sup> The Ascent Advice and Counselling Project is led by Solace Women's Aid

<sup>6</sup> Ending Harmful Practises Project, led by Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/39753>