

## Notice of Non-key Executive Decision

<b>Subject Heading:</b>	<b>London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2025/26</b>
<b>Decision Maker:</b>	<b>Cllr Christopher Wilkins</b>
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	<b>Cabinet Member for Finance</b>
<b>SLT Lead:</b>	<b>Kathy Freeman Strategic Director of Resources</b>
<b>Report Author and contact details:</b>	<b>Alison Umoh Extn: 2523</b>
<b>Policy context:</b>	To approve the level of contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee for 2025/26 of £201,173.
<b>Financial summary:</b>	The Council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Committee is proposed at £201,173 in 2025/26 (compared to £199,080 in 2024/25)
<b>Relevant OSC:</b>	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Board</b>
<b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**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 £201,173 in 2025/26.

### 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 2025/26.

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 2025/26 represents the final 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 this programme covers 2022 to 2026.

The contribution requested from the London Borough of Havering is £201k for 2025/26, which is a £2k increase on the 2024/25 level of contribution of £199k.

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 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

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.

### Non-key Executive Decision

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 2025/26 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 27 November 2024 and to the Leaders' Committee on 10 December 2024.

The reports ask the Committee to agree:

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.7m for the Grants Scheme in 2025/26

### **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 £199k.

### **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: 10/01/25

## 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. £2k from the contribution made in 2024/25.

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:

2024/25 Budget	£199k
2025/26 Proposed Budget	£201k

It is proposed that the overall level of 2025/26 contributions will increase by a minimal level of £2k when compared to the current year (£199k).

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 10/12/24 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2025/26 and Medium Term-Financial Strategy*

### **APPENDICIES**

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

**Appendix B**

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

**Details of decision maker**

Signed



Name: Cllr Christopher Wilkins

Cabinet Portfolio held: Finance

Date: 22.02.2025

**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 \_\_\_\_\_