

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:	13 January 2010
Subject:	London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2011-12
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Myfanwy Barrett, Corporate Director of Finance Marianne Locke, Divisional Director, Community and Cultural Services
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Bill Stephenson, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Business Transformation Councillor Rekha Shah, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	London Council's Chief Executives Circular (24/10), 17 December 2010

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report informs Cabinet of the recommended level of the London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2011/12.

Recommendation: That Cabinet approves the London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2011/12.

Reason: (For recommendation) To ensure that the London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2011/12 is approved by 1 February 2011.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

1. The attached Chief Executives Circular was received from London Councils on 17 December 2010. It sets out the proposed budget for the London Councils Grants Committee for 2011-12. This is currently out for formal response by constituent boroughs until 31st January (although an earlier response date of 21st January is recommended.).

Options considered

2. It is important to note that the proposal is to significantly reduce (by 49.7% in total) the budget for the London Councils Grants Committee for 2011-12.
3. 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. It is therefore in Harrow's interests to approve the proposed budget and, assuming that two-thirds of Councils agree, capture the saving.
4. Harrow's contribution will reduce from £747k in 2010-11 to £390k in 2011-12, a reduction of £357k. It will be for the Council to decide how to apply this saving.

Financial Implications

5. As noted above the Council's contribution to the London councils Grants scheme will reduce by £357k next year. A proposal on how to apply this saving will be incorporated in the final budget report for Cabinet/Council in February.

Performance Issues

6. The funding provided to London Councils for grants is used to support Pan-London and Sub-Regional projects. The aim of the London Boroughs Grants Scheme is to support projects and services that work across London or across a number of Boroughs. The types of services supported include a London-wide telephone helpline for children at risk of abuse, second tier support for Councils for Voluntary Service, legal services and support for victims of domestic violence. Thus there is a benefit to the voluntary and community sector, although the extent to which this funding directly benefits Harrow organisations and residents is unclear. It will now be for the Council to decide how to apply the reduction.
7. Some Harrow organisations may be affected by this reduction, although as recipients of services delivered by other organisations to support activities rather than direct funding. Where services purport to be delivered on a pan-London basis, it is clear from boroughs' feedback to the initial consultation that delivery is patchy across London and particularly so for outer London boroughs.
8. During the consultation phase there was some discussion amongst Borough Grant Officers about what type of services could be considered genuinely pan-London as well as concern about the additional pressure on Borough's to fund sub-regional projects with the ceasing of the London Boroughs grants scheme.

Environmental Impact

9. There are no direct environmental implications.

Risk Management Implications

10. The Council will have to consider carefully the impact of the reduced funding provided via London Councils in Harrow.

Equalities implications

11. An equalities impact assessment has been undertaken by both London Councils and Harrow Council. The assessment by London Councils 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. It is difficult to assess the impact for equality groups in Harrow as there is a lack of detailed information about the direct benefits of the London Boroughs Grants scheme on Harrow's residents. Harrow Council will monitor the impact of changes to the grants scheme through complaints or correspondence received and analysis of grant applications received for funding in 2011/12.

Corporate Priorities

12. Support to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme indirectly contributes to two of the Council's draft priorities for 2011-12:

- United and involved communities: a Council that listens and leads
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Myfanwy Barrett Chief Financial Officer

Date: 30 December 2010

Name: Hugh Peart Monitoring Officer

Date: 6 January 2011

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Alex Dewsnap Divisional Director
Partnership,
Development and
Performance

Date: 4 January 2011

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: Andrew Baker On behalf of
Divisional Director
(Environmental
Services)

Date: 6 January 2011

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Myfanwy Barrett, Corporate Director Finance
Tel: 020 8420 9269

Background Papers:

None

**Call-In Waived by the
Chairman of Overview
and Scrutiny
Committee**

NOT APPLICABLE