

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date:	19 January 2012
Subject:	London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2012/13
Key Decision:	Yes
Responsible Officer:	Brendon Hills, Corporate Director Community and Environment
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor David Perry, Portfolio Holder for Community and Cultural Services
Exempt:	No
Decision subject to Call-in:	Yes
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the recommended level of the London Borough Grants Scheme budget for 2012/13.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to consider the proposals for expenditure provided by London Councils and provide a formal response to the recommendation.

Reason: (For recommendation)

London Councils informed the Borough through a circular dated 16th December 2011 of the recommended level of budget for the 2012/13 London Borough Grants Scheme. London Councils is seeking a formal response to this recommendation.

Section 2 – Report

2. Introductory paragraph

- 2.1 The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2011/12 at its meeting on 9th November 2011. The Leaders' Committee agreed a budget at its meeting on 13th December and made the following recommendation to constituent Councils:

Overall level of expenditure of £12,500,000 comprising:

Grants:	£11,845,000
Administrative Expenditure	£ 595,000
London Funders membership fees:	£ 60,000

Income would comprise:

European Social fund Grant	£ 1,000,000
Borough Contributions:	£11,500,000

- 2.2 The budget must be agreed by two-thirds of constituent Councils by Friday 20th January 2012. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2010/11. This would mean the Council foregoing any savings it could make in its contribution for 2012/13.

2.2 Options considered

- 2.2.1 The following options have been considered;

- 1) The Council approves the contribution to the LBGS as set out in the Chief Executives' Circular dated 16th December 2011.
- 2) The Council agrees not to approve its contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme (LBGS) as set out in the Chief Executives Circular dated 16th December 2011. If the Council agrees not to make its contribution to the LBGS, but two-thirds of constituent Council agree, the budget will be approved regardless of any decision taken by Harrow Council. If two-thirds of boroughs do not agree the budget the default position by law is for a budget at the level of the previous year to be introduced. This would mean boroughs foregoing any savings in 2012/13.

It is recommended that the Council approves the contribution to the LBGS as set out in this report.

2.3 Background

- 2.3.1 Harrow Council received a circular from the Chief Executive of London Councils dated 16th December 2011. The circular set out the recommended level of the LBGS budget for 2012/13. The circular also

set out the requirements in respect of approving the budget and was issued with a further circular setting out the overall London Councils Borough Subscriptions and Charges for 2012/13 which summarised the grants scheme expenditure.

2.4 Current situation

2.4.1 The draft budget set by London Councils includes provision for funding organisations until the end of their agreement with London Councils. It also provides funding to extend a number of commissions until March 2012, pending decisions to be made on the 2013/14 budget and programme going forward. Those decisions will be taken in 2012 and will be informed by consultation on the principles and priorities of the Scheme going forward and an assessment of impacts on equalities groups.

2.5 Implications of the Recommendation

2.5.1 Staffing/Workforce

There are no staffing or workforce implications associated with this report.

2.6 Legal Comments

2.6.1 All constituent London Councils are required to contribute to any London Boroughs Grants Scheme expenditure, which has been incurred with the approval of at least two-thirds of the constituent Councils. Contributions are, under Regulation 6 (8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be proportionate to constituent Councils' populations. For 2012/13 the apportionment is based on the ONS (Office for National Statistics) mid-year estimates for 2010 in accordance with Section 48 (4) Local Government Act 1985, which states that "the population of any areas shall be taken to be the number estimated by the Registrar General and certified by him to the Secretary of State by reference to such date as the Secretary of State may from time to time determine."

2.7 Financial Implications

2.7.1 Harrow Council's contribution for 2012/13 is set at £338,153. This represents a reduction of £73,346 compared to last year's contribution. The annual contribution to the LBGS is an anticipated item of expenditure from the General Fund and this reduction is therefore included within the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2012/13.

2.8 Performance Issues

2.8.1 The funding provided to London Councils is used to support pan-London and sub-regional projects and services working across London. The types of services supported include for example, 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. The funding benefits a range of projects delivered

by the Third Sector, although the extent to which this funding directly benefits Harrow organisations and residents is unclear.

2.9 Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impact considerations associated with this report.

2.10 Risk Management Implications

2.10.1 Harrow Council is required to make the contribution to the LBGS as outlined in this report. Risks associated with the distribution of this funding to Third Sector organisations are managed by London Councils.

2.11 Equalities Implications

2.11.1 In reaching its decision, the Leaders' Committee has paid due regard to its duties under the Equality Act 2010. The recommended budget is intended to mitigate the effects on equalities groups receiving services and will enable an assessment to be made of the equalities effects in making further specific recommendations to members about the future direction of the Programme.

2.12 Corporate Priorities

Harrow Council's contribution to the LBGS has the potential to support the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities in particular;

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.
- 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: Steve Tingle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 21 December 2011		
Name: Jessica Farmer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 22 December 2011		

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Liz Defries



on behalf of the
Divisional Director
Partnership,
Development and
Performance

Date: 23 December 2011

Section 5 – Environmental Impact Officer Clearance

Name: John Edwards



Divisional Director
(Environmental
Services)

Date: 21 December 2011

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kashmir Takhar, Head of Service Community Development, 020 8420 9331

Background Papers: London Councils Chief Executives' Circular, 16th December 2011

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

NOT APPLICABLE

[Call-in applies]