

## **Benchmarking Data - Decision making thresholds in other authorities**

### **London Borough of Brent**

No general financial limit but there are the following limits on specific officer powers:

#### **Procurement:**

£2m supplies and services and £5m works.

#### **Property:**

The Strategic Director Resources may dispose of or acquire freehold land or buildings up to a value, in his or her view, of £1m. The Strategic Director Resources may acquire or dispose of leases, licences, and easements in respect of land or buildings except where

- i. the annual rental value (excluding other outgoings) exceeds £250k
- ii. if acquired or disposed of at a premium the value would, in his or her view, exceed £1m in value or
- iii. where the leasehold term exceeds 125 years

Where any disposal or acquisition of an interest in land or buildings is, in the view of the Strategic Director Resources, of a value over £250k and below £1m, where any leasehold interest has an annual value over £100k or below £250k, or where the lease length is between 50 and 125 years he or she shall consult with the Lead Member.

#### **Grants:**

no grant shall be made by officers if it amounts to more than £5k per annum except in the case of the Edward Harvist Trust where a grant not exceeding £7k per annum may be made and in the case of the Brent Advice Fund Grant where a grant not exceeding £20k per annum may be made.

## London Borough of Camden

<b>REVENUE CONTRACTS</b>	<b>Procurement strategy Approval</b>	<b>Contract Award Approval</b>
EU threshold up to £500k	Chief Officer(s)	Chief Officer(s)
£500k - £1m	Executive Director	Chief officer(s)
£1m - £2m	Executive Director(s) in consultation with Cabinet Member(s)	Chief Officer(s)
£2m - £5m (or less than £2m per annum)	Cabinet Member(s)	
£5m - £10m	Cabinet	Cabinet Member(s)
Greater than £10m (or greater than £2m per annum)	Cabinet	Cabinet

And

<b>CAPITAL CONTRACTS</b>	<b>Procurement strategy Approval</b>	<b>Contract Award Approval</b>
EU threshold up to £500k	Chief Officer(s)	Chief Officer(s)
£500k - £1m	Chief Officer(s)	Chief officer(s)
£2m - £5m (or less than £2m per annum)	Executive director(s) in consultation with Cabinet Member(s)	Executive Director(s)
£5m - £10m	Cabinet	Cabinet Member(s)
Greater than £10m (or greater than £2m per annum)	Cabinet	Cabinet

### City of London

Officers – below £2 million

COL does not have a Cabinet, therefore unable to provide specific figures, however a comparison will be provided as below:

#### Contract letting threshold

Sub Committee: £2 million - £4 million

Financial Committee: £4 million and above

### London Borough of Ealing

Thresholds vary depending upon the type of decision. Set out in [part 8](#) of the constitution for officers and [part 3](#) for members, some broad delegations include:

- Our key decision threshold is £500k, but key decisions can be taken by cabinet or by an individual portfolio holder or officer
- Individual portfolio holders:
  - o Acquisition or disposal of land up to estimated value of £1m
  - o Award of contracts for supply of goods or services, up to an estimated value of £1m pa
  - o Bids for external funds, up to £2m
- Officers: powers are delegated to particular officers, but the following powers are delegated to all directors (subject in some cases to prior consultation with a specified officer or portfolio holder):
  - o Funding for charitable organisations, up to £10k pa (higher threshold for our Adults' Services director)
  - o Cancellation of debt – up to £500k
  - o Disposal of surplus asset: up to £500k value
  - o Delete vacant posts
  - o Executive Directors may delete filled posts
  - o Settlement of legal claims: up to £500k, Head of Law can settle without £ limit
  - o Invite/ evaluate / award tenders for works, supplies, services, up to a value of £500k pa

- Enter into contracts to provide services, works, supplies, up to a value of £500k pa
- One specified director has power to acquire property up to a value of £250k, though this is under review as value was fixed over 10 years ago and now very out of date.

### **London Fire Brigade**

The Commissioner's budget is set by the Mayor and thereafter new financial commitments of over £150,000 require the approval of the Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience. Deputy Commissioners and the Director of Corporate Services can approve expenditure up to this figure and heads of service up to £50,000 or £150,000 if the expenditure is recurring. Head of Legal Services can settle claims up to £150,000.

### **London Borough of Hillingdon**

- (1) Officers - up to £ 9,999. Plus Informal written approval of Cabinet Member needed for £10k - £50k
- (2) Cabinet Members - £50,000 - £499,999 - joint decision of Cabinet Member and Leader of the Council. Formal written decision required.
- (3) Cabinet - £500,000 or greater. Formal Report required.

### **London Borough of Islington**

Corporate Directors, the Director of Public Health and the Chief Executive may make key decisions relating to procurement (the award of contracts) up to the value of £2M revenue and £5M capital.

Above these values, the decision must be made by the Executive unless, in the case of capital spend, the contract is being let to a pre-existing framework established by the council, and this was detailed in the capital programme agreed by Council at its budget setting meeting, in which case there is no upper financial threshold and the relevant officers may make the decision.

Executive Members do not take individual decisions.

Decisions at Islington are Key if they are over £500K (revenue) or £1M (capital).

## oneSource (the shared back office support service for Havering, Newham and Bexley Councils)

Designated Level of Authority		Posts				
1	Chief Executive, Executive Directors, Managing Director oneSource					
2	Directors and officers reporting to tier 1 posts (excluding officers in support/clerical roles) including oneSource Directors.					
3	Officers reporting to tier 2 posts (excluding administrative or clerical posts) or oneSource directors					
4	Officers reporting to tier 3 posts (excluding administrative or clerical posts) or Tier 3 oneSource officers					
COUNCIL FUNCTION		OFFICER LEVEL OF AUTHORITY & POWERS <i>All thresholds include decisions up to the value stated</i>				SOURCES (where relevant) & GUIDANCE
		1	2	3	4	
1.	To approve new expenditure relating to the functions of the Directorate and / or services for which the Officer is responsible	1,000,000*	500,000	250,000	50,000 / director to set level of delegation	*decisions above £500,000 are key decisions
2.	To authorise <u>payments</u> where there is a <b>legal obligation</b> to make the payment e.g. a contractual payment, legal settlement or damages award.	Chief Executive and section 151 Officer = Unlimited All others = £10M	£5M	£1M	Delegated to Director to set level of delegation	(n.b. this authorises payments for extant contracts for sums lawfully due to contractors and not the commitment of new expenditure)

**Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea**

- Lead (Cabinet) Members or Leadership Team (Cabinet) - only contracts, capital expenditure and/ or property disposals of £1.5 million or more, other revenue spending of £500k or more and grants of £50k or more.
- Executive Directors - over £100k to the above levels.

**Westminster City Council**

Officers decision to £1,499,999 and then everything from £1.5m to Cabinet Member.