

SUMMARY OF URGENT DECISION TAKEN BY THE LEADER REPORTED TO CABINET FOR INFORMATION

The following reports were considered in accordance with paragraph 1.21 of the Leader's Portfolio.

ITEM

17.1 LONDON BOROUGH'S GRANT SCHEME BUDGET 2012/13

1. The London Councils Leaders Committee, on which LBHF is represented, met in December 2011 and reached agreement about the Grant Scheme budget for 2012/13. The LBHF contribution will be £249,390.
2. A formal decision is required because London Councils need a two thirds majority approval from the boroughs, otherwise legal provisions come into effect that would force it to set the budget at 2011/12 levels. This would have the highly undesirable effect of increasing LBHF's contribution to more than £500,000.
3. The savings programme for 2012/13 anticipated that a reduction in spend of £195,000 would be achieved. The notification from London Councils that LBHF's contribution will be £249,390 means that the saving will be only £56,754.
4. This reduction is less than the Council would like, but given the background of the judicial review which successfully challenged the budget in 2011/12, is moving in the right direction. Further reductions must be sought for 2013/14.
5. The Adult Social Care Department (CSD) can cover the 2012/13 £138,000 shortfall from its projected £1.8m underspend against budget in 2011/12.

Reasons for Urgency:

A Leader's Urgent Decision is requested because London Councils notified LBHF of its contribution on 17 December 2011, with a request for formal approval by 20th January 2012.

Decision taken by the Leader on: 13 January 2012

Recommendations:

1. That the London Boroughs Grant Scheme budget for 2012/12 be approved.
2. That the LBHF contribution of £249,390 be approved to be paid in 2012/13.
3. That ASC (CSD) carries forward £138,000 of its 2011/12 underspend into 2012/13.

Wards: Not applicable