



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Cabinet

11 JANUARY 2010

LEADER

*Councillor Stephen
Geenhalgh*

**LONDON COUNCILS (LC) GRANTS SCHEME
2010/11**

**Wards
All**

This report gives the background to the LC London Boroughs Grant Scheme and seeks agreement to London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham's continuing contribution to it.

CONTRIBUTORS

CSD
FD
ADLDS
DFCS

Recommendation:

That the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham formally approves the overall London Boroughs Grant Scheme standstill budget of £28,400,000 and this Authority's contribution of £595,032.

<p>HAS A PEIA BEEN COMPLETED? YES*</p>

* UNDERTAKEN BY LONDON COUNCILS

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 All London boroughs are currently required via a Section 101 agreement made between the boroughs and London Councils (LC) (formerly the Association of London Government (ALG)) to contribute to the budget of the London Boroughs Grants Scheme. The Scheme is run by the LC Grants Committee, and seeks to fund London-wide voluntary organisations and those which operate in more than two boroughs.
- 1.2 Each London borough has a representative on the Grants Committee. The London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham representation was previously undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Community & Children's Services, but is currently undertaken by Cllr Adronie Alford.
- 1.3 Calculation of borough contributions is on a "per head of population" basis, as required by the governing statute (LGA 1985, S48). London Councils is required to use the population figures as determined by the Secretary of State, which in effect means the latest mid-year estimates of population (2006). The calculation is then relatively straightforward, with the Hammersmith & Fulham population representing 2.26% of the whole of London, so therefore the LBHF contribution is 2.26% of the figure required from the boroughs for 2009/10.

2. PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR 2010-11

- 2.1 The LC Leader's Committee agreed a LBGS budget, with an overall level of expenditure of £30,116,000 comprising: grants - £28,400,000 and administrative expenditure - £1,716,000.
- 2.2 Income for the scheme would comprise: European Social Fund grant: £2,070,000, Interest and balances: £1,716,000 and borough contributions: £26,330,000.
- 2.3 The overall level of borough contributions to the Scheme that is recommended for 2010/11 is the same as for 2009/10.
- 2.4 Constituent 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.
- 2.5 This Council's contribution has been calculated as £595,032, a slight reduction from the 09-10 contribution of £601,150 (see appendix 1).
- 2.6 The Corporation of London continues to act as the lead borough.

3. BENEFITS TO HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM FROM THE LONDON COUNCILS GRANT

- 3.1 London Councils undertook a commissioning process for the services from the voluntary sector which they fund across London, with final commissioned services online since December 2008.
- 3.2 The commissioned services deliver a London Councils targeted pattern of service, based on established need which LC Leaders' Committee agreed in June 2007. On the whole, boroughs in outer London will get increased benefit, offset by a reduction in benefit in inner London. The most significant change is that London Councils have used need figures, which reflect the distribution in need across the whole of London rather than just those boroughs where need is most concentrated (those regarded as "the most deprived").
- 3.3 As anticipated, Hammersmith & Fulham receives a decrease in the targeted benefit from the London Councils Grant, in terms of funding allocated to LBHF based organisations; however the overall investment in services of benefit to LBHF residents far exceeds the level of contribution from the Council.
- 3.4 The scheme agreed grants totalling £557,467 to 6 Hammersmith & Fulham-based organisations in 2010/11, with services provided predominantly serving local people. Those organisations are:

LBHF based organisation	Total LC grant 10-11
St Mungo Community Housing Association	£206,734
The London Centre for Personal Safety	£53,597
Women and Girls Network	£236,132
Active Planet	£15,249
Connections Communications Centre Ltd	£30,952
Confidential and Local Mediation	£14,803
total	£557,467

- 3.5 In addition, a further £443,967.83 is invested in services to be delivered to Hammersmith & Fulham residents by organisations based in other boroughs across London. This brings the total investment which benefits Hammersmith & Fulham to £1,001,435.

4. MONITORING AND EVALUATION – STRATEGIC MONITORING ZONES

- 4.1 London Councils support the monitoring and evaluation of LBGS funded provision, through 10 London Councils Strategic Monitoring Zones covering the Capital. LBHF is grouped with RBKC, LB Brent, LB Camden, LB Islington and City of Westminster (see appendix 2).
- 4.2 The purpose of the Strategic Monitoring Zones is to:

- Help monitor London Councils' Commissioning funding at a sub-regional level, by reviewing actual levels of benefit accruing locally within a Zone – targeted towards those areas where delivery is c.20% tolerance bands set by Leaders' Committee. This will be kept under revision with lower tolerance bands introduced for services where felt appropriate (possibly 5-10%);
- Ensure that services funded on a London-wide or sub-regional basis become properly engaged with those who require access to those services at a local level;
- Establish where there are barriers, gaps and overlaps to effective delivery and addressing these where possible through information exchanges by steering group members to improve decision making;
- Identify strategic outcomes of services and ensure that these are reflected in local planning;
- Enable the voluntary and community sector, and other major stakeholders, to reflect and respond to the cultural, social, environmental and economic needs of London and secure resources to enable these to be addressed.

4.3 The benefits of this approach are:

- The development of local strategies will be informed by linking in with London Councils' commissioned services which are intended to complement, not replace, local services;
- The arrangements will be a vehicle for identifying good practice and models of service delivery;
- The process will serve as an 'early warning system' for organisations which are not delivering as expected so that issues around service provision can be solved early, rather than at a later stage;
- In addition to London Councils' monitoring of networking and engagement of organisations with other partners, SMZs will be able to identify appropriate networking opportunities within their boroughs thus ensuring that organisations, particularly those which are based externally, have the best insight into how best to deliver their services appropriately regardless of geographical location. Networks should be strengthened by increasing their relevance.
- Local authority measurements of engagement with the third sector.
- Join up borough funding with London Councils funding.
- The process can help, for example, advocacy and voice groups influence how local authorities are working locally.

- 4.4 Each borough represented at the SMZ meeting has the following core membership:
- The London Councils Grants Committee Member
 - Local funding/grants services (LBHF Community Liaison)
 - Local CVS (Community and Voluntary Sector Association (CAVSA)).
- 4.5 In addition, a lead officer from London Councils for the SMZ is a member of the Steering Group. Also, the SMZ may decide to expand their membership beyond the above, and/or invite colleagues to meetings if they consider their input would be valuable.
- 4.6 London Councils are producing a Directory of London Councils commissioned organisations delivering services for each borough within a Zone. This will be available electronically and an abridged version is also available in hard copy. This information will be linked with LBHF information sources, e.g. H&F Advice and H&F Direct.
- 4.7 London Councils will also compile data on actual service delivery, from all commissioned groups working in the SMZ, for each service specification, and include information where delivery of service has varied near to or outside the 20% tolerance levels from expected delivery for borough benefit.

5. LBGS PRIORITIES 2011-2015 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 London's borough leaders have agreed an overall vision for London Councils' commissioning programme over the coming years that can be expressed as: *"Londoners enabled to live better and healthier lives, enjoying economic, housing, educational and cultural opportunities in a safer and more sustainable environment; through improved services delivered by the voluntary sector working in partnership with London's local authorities."*
- 5.2 To help deliver this vision, London Councils is in the process of setting out what the priorities for the 2011-15 funding programme should be and are consulting on:
- The challenges in London that the funding should tackle;
 - Whether the services funded currently are the right ones and if not how they should be updated;
 - The differences the funding makes to local people, the voluntary sector and other organisations working to support Londoners like the Health Service and the Police;
 - How the funding can help local people and organisations get through the recession.
- 5.3 The consultation runs until the end of January 2010 and is being undertaken within the context of prospective cuts in public sector expenditure at the same

time as the effects of the current recession have brought increased need for service.

- 5.4 Consultation is focussed on six challenges reflected in “The London Narrative”, which draws together the key priorities of all London Boroughs as set out in their Local Area Agreements:

Challenge 1:	Helping Londoners live longer, healthier, more independent lives
Challenge 2:	Reducing the impact of crime – including violence against women and children, supporting preventative approaches, and helping victims to rebuild their lives
Challenge 3:	Creating an environmentally sustainable London
Challenge 4:	Increasing prosperity and helping the poorest Londoners lift their lives out of poverty
Challenge 5:	Ensuring everyone especially young people achieve their full potential
Challenge 6:	Promoting stronger more empowered and cohesive communities; and increasing levels of participation in London’s public life and cultural activities

- 5.5 Community Liaison will circulate the consultation to key Members and officers, and draw together a corporate response during January 2010.

6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

- 6.1 The London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham contribution of £595,032, will be met from within the existing LBGS budget of £637,200.
- 6.2. The LBGS budget of £637,200 for 2010/11 is net of a £40,000 efficiency saving made as part of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy.

7. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

- 7.1 The Council is bound by a legal agreement entered into by the constituent Councils of the LC which governs the LC’s activities including the London Borough’s Grant’s Scheme. The Grants Budget must be approved by at least two-thirds of the member authorities.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext. of Holder of File/Copy	Department/ Location
1.	LC Leader’s Committee papers	Sue Spiller Ext. 2483	Community Services Dept. 77 Glenthorne Road