

**Committee:** Cabinet

**Date:** 15 January 2018

Wards: All

**Subject:** London Councils Grants Scheme  
Subscription for 2018/19

Lead officer: Roger Kershaw, Interim Assistant Director of Resources

Lead member: Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Engagement and Equalities

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**Recommendations:**

- A. That Cabinet approves the council's contribution to the London Councils Grants Scheme 2018/19 as per the subscription set by London Councils Leaders' Committee on 5 December 2017.

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**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The London Councils Leaders' Committee has set a revised budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme (LCGS) for 2018/19. The LCGS is governed by statute which requires the budget to be approved by two thirds of London boroughs by 19 January 2018.
- 1.2 This report seeks Cabinet's approval for Merton's contribution to the LCGS for 2018/19, which the London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined should be £155,574. This can be met within existing resources.

**2 DETAILS**

- 2.1 The LCGS funds a range of services across London with financial contributions from all London boroughs. The budget for the grants scheme is determined by the London Councils Leaders' Committee and boroughs are asked to confirm their contributions each year.
- 2.2 In 2017/18 the London Councils Leaders' Committee determined Merton's contribution to be £180,853. This reduction on the previous year followed the conclusion of the Grants Review during 2015/16, which included two public consultations and consideration of a wide range of evidence including equalities impact information.
- 2.3 For 2018/19 London Councils Leaders' Committee has determined Merton's contribution to be £155,574, which represents a £25,279 reduction compared to 2017/18.

### **3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 Merton could decide not to approve the proposed contribution. However, if at least two thirds of London boroughs approve the budget it will apply to all councils.
- 3.2 If at least two thirds of constituent councils do not agree the revised budget within the timescales, then the subscription levied for 2017/18 (£180,853) will apply in 2018/19.

### **4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1 The London Councils Leaders' Committee approved the overall revenue budget for London Councils for 2018/19 and the level of borough subscriptions and charges for the year on 5 December 2017, including those relating to the LCGS.
- 4.2 The LCGS borough subscriptions 2018-19 are attached to this report as Appendix I.

### **5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. The subscription for 2018/19 can be met within existing resources and a saving of £19k for 2018/19 was agreed in light of the known reductions in this area.

### **6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The LCGS is governed by statute which requires at least two thirds of London boroughs to approve the budget in order for the budget to apply to all councils. If at least two thirds of constituent councils do not agree the revised budget within the timescales, then the subscription levied for 2017/18 of £180,853 will apply for 2018/19.
- 7.2 The LCGS can only be revoked if a majority of the member councils so decide. In such circumstances the revocation would take effect from the end of any financial year after that in which the decision to revoke is made. The Council cannot, therefore, unilaterally withdraw from the scheme and is bound to make a contribution to the scheme in 2018/19.

### **7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. None for the purposes of this report.

### **10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT**

- Appendix I: London Councils Grants Scheme – Proposed Borough Subscriptions 2018-19

### **11 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 11.1. None.