

# MUNICIPAL YEAR 2010/2011 REPORT NO. 159

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE:**

Cabinet 19 January 2011

Council 26 January 2011

**REPORT OF:**

Chief Executive and Director of  
Finance and Corporate Resources.

Contact officer and telephone number:  
Shaun Rogan 0208 379 3836

**Agenda - Part:** 1

**Item:** 10

**Subject: London Boroughs Grants  
Scheme 2011-2012**

**Wards: ALL**

**Cabinet Member consulted:  
Councillor Chaudhury Anwar**

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 London Councils have made a series of proposals to restructure their subscriptions framework for Borough contributions to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2011/2012. A main impact of their proposals would be to reduce the subscription paid by Enfield Council from £993,794 in 2010/11 to a new level of £496,479 in 2011/12. A net reduction of £497,315. The overall level of Borough contributions to the Scheme that is recommended for 2011/12 represents a 49.7% reduction compared with the current year.
- 1.2 This would in effect allow more funding to be controlled by the Council which has been a historical 'net contributor' to the scheme and give it greater control over where money is spent in the Borough on community services.
- 1.3 All contributing Councils have been asked to approve the proposal to reduce subscriptions to the Fund in 2011/12.
- 1.4 The Council needs to consider the impacts of accepting the recommendations in terms of continued support for Enfield specific activities currently funded through the scheme (see Appendix 2). London Councils have agreed to support all projects until June 2011 under the current terms and conditions of Grant. It is recommended that a full evaluation of these projects is carried out between January 2011 and March 2011, involving suitable sub-regional discussions where applicable to decide if the projects are delivering as specified and shall be supported to their conclusion beyond June 2011. This would include a process of Equalities Impact Assessment on each of the projects outlined in Appendix 2.
- 1.5 The proposals and implications flowing from them have been tested from perspectives of risk, finance and legal positions as outlined in the main report.
- 1.6 If the Council is in agreement with the recommendations set out by London Councils it needs to notify them by no later than 31 January 2011 or they shall have deemed the Council to be content with current the subscription

arrangement.

- 1.7 It should be noted that for this change in subscription to be approved by London Councils a majority of contributing local authorities agree to the proposal by the deadline of January 31 2011 otherwise the subscriptions will remain as previously set.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following recommendations are made:

- 2.1 a) That the Council agrees to formally accept the recommendations contained in London Councils Circular 24/10.
- 2.2 b) That the Council agrees to the proposed revision of Enfield's subscription to the London Council's Grants Scheme in 2011/12 of £496,479
- c) That the Council notifies London Council's of this decision within the deadline for the decision of no later than 31 January 2011.
- d) That the Council ensures via its Equalities Impact Assessment framework that a review is carried out to ensure that no organisations in receipt of funding through London Councils in the previous arrangement are disadvantaged by the decision to agree the new subscription arrangements for 2011/12 (subject to review and impact assessment) and that this is taken into account.
- e) That the Council devolve the decision on continuing to support projects currently funded through the Grants Scheme serving Enfield to the lead Cabinet Member subject to the completion of our own equality impact assessments and performance management evaluations of these projects that will conclude by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2011/2012 at its meeting on 25 November 2010. The Leaders' Committee concurred with the Grants Committee's recommendations on 14 December 2010 and a Chief's Executives' Circular was issued by London Councils on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010 (Appendix 1).
- 3.2 The Circular (ref no.24/10) made the following recommendations to its constituent councils.

Overall level of expenditure would total £17,691,000 comprising:

Grants - £16,793,000

Administrative Expenditure - £838,000

London Funders Membership Fees - £60,000

Income would comprise:

European Social Fund grant -	£2,070,000
Interest and balances -	£2,380,000
Borough contributions -	£13,241,000

- 3.3 The overall level of Borough's contributions to the Scheme that is recommended for 2011/12 represents a 49.7% reduction compared with the current year. For Enfield Council this represents a reduction of subscription from £993,794 in 2010/11 to £497,315. A net reduction of £496,479.
- 3.4 In order to comply with the Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992 (which came into effect on 2 November 1992 and remains in force), the budget must be agreed by two-thirds of constituent Councils before 1 February 2011. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2010/11 (i.e. £30,116,000). Therefore, a decision needs to be agreed by the Council as soon as possible.

The complete circular is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The alternative option considered would be to not support the recommendations from London Councils and to proceed with the status quo. This would mean a contribution of £993,794 being made again by the Council in 2011/2012 with Enfield once more being a net contributor to the scheme.

#### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 The recommendations are based on financial analysis of the new subscription proposals from London Councils where it is clear that Enfield Council would benefit from being able to retain more control of its funding for working with the Third Sector and would provide greater value for money as the Council has been a net contributor to the Grants Scheme as a result of their subscriptions formula.
- 5.2 By accepting the recommendations the Council would also be enabled to test the impacts of the projects being funded and consider whether to continue funding them in the light of evaluation reports on each.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

##### **6.1 Financial Implications**

- 6.1.1 The £497k reduction in contributions has been built into the medium term financial plan. If funds are required to 'top up' the voluntary organisations in 2011/12 a pressure will need to be built into the plan to cover this.

## **6.2 Legal Implications**

- 6.2.1 Under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 London Councils can set up schemes for the making of grants to eligible voluntary organisations. The Secretary of State made an Order (The Grants Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992) clarifying that the London Councils involved in the scheme will pay a sum equal to that approved the previous year unless the London Councils agree to reduce/increase the sum.
- 6.2.2 By carrying out Equalities Impact Assessment the Council may also ensure that its provision fulfils requirements of anti-discrimination and equalities legislation.
- 6.2.3 Where the Council deems that certain schemes may not continue or reduce, the Council must ensure such is in line with the Funding Agreement terms.
- 6.2.4 Any allocation of the funding to individual organisations must be robust and transparent, ensuring compliance with the Contract Procedure Rules where applicable and to be aware of State Aid/EU procurement rules.
- 6.2.5 Legal Services can advise on any variation/termination of Funding Agreements and with regards procurement/state aid rules.

## **6.3 Property Implications**

- 6.3.1 No property implications identified.

## **7. KEY RISKS**

- 7.1 If the Council were not to exercise its right to contribute to the consultation a significant opportunity would be lost to gain greater influence over how funding is deployed in Enfield and to help redress the balance from being a net contributor to the London Councils Grant Scheme. Subject to ensuring no organisations are disadvantaged by the new subscription arrangements, this initiative provides an opportunity both to reduce the Council's subscriptions by almost 50% whilst at the same time allowing more funding to be controlled by the Council".
- 7.2 The Council will need to carry out equality impact assessments against commitments currently funded to ensure any changes in funding are not to the detriment of service delivery in the Borough.

7.3 The Council is reliant on a majority of London local authorities agreeing to the recommendations made within the deadline, otherwise the subscription arrangements will not be changed.

## **8. IMPACT ON COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

### **8.1 Fairness for All**

London Councils' proposals will enable the Council to retain greater control of its funding for working with the third sector. Through its Equalities Impact Assessment framework, the Council will ensure that funding is allocated fairly and targeted at locally identified needs.

### **8.2 Growth and Sustainability**

Having greater control will enable the Council to effectively manage the funding and enable the third sector to continue to make a positive contribution to improving opportunities for Enfield's residents

### **8.3 Strong Communities**

The Council recognises that the third sector is key to developing and maintaining strong communities in Enfield. The London Councils' proposals will enable the Council to be pro-active in targeting funding to meet local needs.

## **9. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

Retaining greater control over funding for the third sector will enable the Council to ensure that funding is targeted at locally identified need; effectively monitor and evaluate the funded projects; and provide better value for money as to date the Council has been a net contributor to the Grants Scheme

## **10. HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

Health and safety implications will be picked up via impact assessments of the outstanding projects contained at Appendix 2.

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### **Background Papers**

All background papers are available from the Corporate Improvement Division in the Chief Executives' Unit.

#### **Contact:**

Shaun Rogan

Head of Communities Partnerships and External Relations.

Tel 0208 379 3836.

Email: [shaun.rogan@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:shaun.rogan@enfield.gov.uk)

# Chief Executives' Circular

<b>To:</b>	Borough Chief Executives	<b>Cc:</b>	Borough Treasurers
<b>Date:</b>	17 December 2010	<b>Ref. no:</b>	24/10
<b>Contact:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>	020 7934 9700
<b>Email:</b>	Frank.smith@londoncouncils.gov.uk	<b>Response Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2011

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## London Boroughs Grants Scheme 2011/12 expenditure

### Summary:

This circular informs borough Chief Executives of the recommended level of the London Councils Grants Committee budget for 2011/12, and seeks a formal response to that recommendation **ideally by Friday 21 January 2011, but no later than 31 January 2011**.

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### Background

The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2011/12 at its meeting on 25 November 2010. The Leaders' Committee concurred with the Grants Committee's recommendations on 14 December.

The following recommendation is now made to constituent councils.

Overall level of expenditure of £17,691,000 comprising:

Grants - £16,793,000

Administrative Expenditure - £838,000

London Funders Membership Fees - £60,000

Income would comprise:

European Social Fund grant - £2,070,000

Interest and balances - £2,380,000

Borough contributions - £13,241,000

This circular sets out in detail the requirements in respect of approving the Grants Scheme budget for 2011/12. It is issued alongside a further circular which sets out the overall London Councils Borough subscriptions and charges for 2011/12 – in which the Grants Scheme expenditure is summarised.

The context in which this recommendation is made is set out in the reports to Grants Committee on 25 November 2010 and to the Leaders' Committee on 14 December 2010, concerning The Review of the Future Role and Scope of the Grants Scheme, and consequent Budget Proposals for 2011/12. The overall level of borough contributions to the Scheme that is recommended for 2011/12 represents a 49.7% reduction compared with the current year. An outline of the budget, which was presented as Appendix 1 to the reports, is attached.

As you are aware, 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. Contributions are, under Regulation 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, to be proportionate to constituent Councils' populations. For 2011/12 the apportionment is based on the ONS mid-year estimates for 2009 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." The total contribution required from each constituent Council for 2011/12 is shown in the total column for the year 2011/12 of the attached schedule, which was presented as Appendix 2 to the Committee reports.

I would remind you that further to the Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992 (which came into effect on 2 November 1992 and remains in force), the budget must be agreed by two-thirds of constituent Councils before 1 February 2011. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2010/11 (i.e. £30,116,000). I would therefore be grateful if you would advise me of your authority's formal response to the recommendation as soon as possible; ideally by Friday 21 January 2011 (as required under section 7.5 of the Grants Scheme), but no later than 31 January 2011. If you are unable to meet the 21 January deadline, please let me know.

## **Equalities Impact**

When your borough is deciding on whether or not to agree to the Leaders' Committee's recommendation, which will impact on your own level of contribution to the Scheme, you will need to have regard to your equalities duties.

London Councils has produced papers concerning potential Equalities Impacts of changes to the Role and Scope of the Grants Scheme which are attached (and

which formed Appendix 12 to the report on the Review considered by Leaders' Committee). In addition to this, boroughs will also need to have regard to the equalities impacts of plans they may have for continued funding for similar activities outside of the Scheme.

As many boroughs may not as yet have developed these future funding plans, it may not be possible to determine what the impact on particular equalities strands will be. If this is the case in your borough, in assessing the equalities impacts you will need to assume that the "worst case" scenario will happen i.e. that the funding will not continue in any other form.

## **Conclusion**

I look forward to your responses, ideally by **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011** and no later than **31<sup>st</sup> January 2011**.

Thank you

John O'Brien  
**Chief Executive**



**London Councils Grants – Identified Enfield Specific Sponsored Activity**

**Action for Social Integration**

*Contact details:* 1st Floor, 36 The Market Square, Edmonton N9 0TZ  
Tel: 020 8803 6161 - email: [ernest@afsi.org.uk](mailto:ernest@afsi.org.uk)

*Total London Councils Grant:* £191,180

*Funding Period:* 01/11/2008 to 31/10/2012

*Service:* Improve educational attainment of disadvantaged children and young people

*Theme:* Children & Young People

*Description:* Project targets African and Caribbean parents/carers, and school children aged 6-19 in Barnet, Enfield and Haringey. Delivered by a project co-ordinator and tutors and up to 30 volunteer mentors each year

The project delivers:

- Homework clubs, mentoring and advice: The project organises and facilitates after school and Saturday homework clubs to help pupils undertake their school work (homework/coursework), and provide supplementary classes in basic skills. Face-to-face and online mentoring and advice are provided by local university volunteer students, teachers and African and Caribbean mentors
- Parenting workshops: The project organises education and parenting workshops to increase parents' skills and knowledge about support of their children's education including awareness about the UK education system

**Action for Social Integration**

*Total London Councils Grant:* £174,232

*Funding Period:* 01/11/2008 to 31/10/2012

*Service:* Improve educational attainment of disadvantaged children and young people

*Theme:* Legal & Advice

*Description:*

- ASI provides one-to-one advice, online and printed information, signposting and referral services for older people to have access to their rights and entitlements. The advice is offered through a drop-in service, telephone helpline, appointments, correspondences, outreach work and website.

Support sessions are offered in English, Somali, Swahili, French and Lingala. ASI organises seminars, publishes a newsletter to raise awareness about rights and entitlements. It participates in boroughs' forums, local authority meetings/panels to raise issues and concerns from older people, to ensure better services for them

### **Community Barnet**

*Contact details:* 52 Moxon Street, Barnet EN5 5TS

Tel: 020 8364-8400 - email: karenhart@communitybarnet.org.uk

*Total London Councils Grant:* £238,546

*Funding Period:* 01/11/2007 to 31/10/2011

*Service:* Sub-Regionally/Regionally Co-ordinate Local Councils for Voluntary Service

*Theme:* Generic Second Tier

#### *Description:*

- NLCVSP hosts various sub-regional networks including, Change Up Steering Group, Local Authority Funders and Commissioners, and various second tier networks, as well as supporting the development of new networks to support infrastructure development between Voluntary and Community Organisations and with other sector agencies. It aims to facilitate general collaboration, income generation and a stronger voluntary sector voice
- NLCVSP works with a wide variety of other sub-regional and London wide networks/agencies from both the voluntary and statutory sectors
- It aims to engage stakeholders in consultations, events, capacity building, income generation, equality, quality, good practice and partnership development
- Support the development of new networks to support infrastructure development between Voluntary and Community Organisations and with other sector agencies

### **Community Barnet**

*Total London Councils Grant:* £286,064

*Funding Period:* 01/07/2008 to 30/06/2012

*Service:* Provide community accountancy services for voluntary orgs across London

*Theme:* Generic Second Tier

#### *Description:*

- NLCAP provides community accountancy services across four boroughs, providing:

- 121 support and advice to front-line organisations, through individual training and induction sessions in bookkeeping, finance management and administration, and making funding applications
- Briefings and information on financial matters, including regular updates on new legislation, regulations and reporting requirements via newsletters, mailings, e-communications, websites
- Training courses and workshops in accounting, financial systems
- Advice and support with payroll systems
- NLCAP facilitates internal referrals of front-line groups, approaches organisations with identified support needs, devising training programmes, and marketing the service to groups. Regular sub-regional meetings are held to share best practice and develop the service

### **Face Front Inclusive Theatre**

*Contact details:* 52 Market Square, Edmonton Green Shopping Centre, Edmonton N9 0TZ

Tel: 020 8350-3461 - email: facefront@hotmail.com

*Total London Councils Grant:* £83,067

*Funding Period:* 01/02/2009 to 31/01/2012

*Service:* 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games - support cultural activities

*Theme:* Culture, Tourism and London 2012

*Description:*

- Face Front want to create innovative multi-accessible high quality inclusive theatre with a team of deaf, disabled and non disabled artists developing new disabled audiences in theatre venues in outer London boroughs as part of the cultural Olympiad
- Face Front would create 3 new multi accessible productions including: Edward Albee's 'Counting the Ways' previewed in February 09 tour in September 09 for adults and AS level students. Presented bilingually with sign language and English and integrated description. A new play aimed at young disabled and non disabled people written and directed by disabled artists. A new play about a couple with learning disabilities. All productions would tour to small venues in Barking, Croydon, Redbridge, Haringey, Enfield, Barnet, Newham and Lambeth. The project would: Develop the skills of deaf and disabled artists, writers and theatre-makers including people with sensory or physical disabilities, learning disabilities or mental health issues. Develop new audiences of deaf and disabled young people and adults through a programme of outreach activities
- Produce accessible information and publicity
- Train front of house, box office staff in access support. Work with deaf and disabled volunteers and professional advisors when creating new work