

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

KEY DECISION

Report Title: The Council's contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme – 2025/26

Date: 22 January 2025

Decision Maker	Leadership Team
Reporting Officer	Mike Curtis – Executive Director of Resources
Key Decision	KD1011056
Access to information	Public (Part A)
Wards	All

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Each year, the Council contributes to the London Borough Grants Scheme which is administered by London Councils through the Leaders' Committee.
- 1.2 Details of the budget for the 2025/26 and each council's contribution have now been confirmed.
- 1.3 The contribution for Kensington and Chelsea will be £110,628 and is subject to approval by the Council before the deadline of 17 January 2025. This is an increase of £708 from the 2024/25 allocation. This can be contained with existing financial plans.
- 1.4 In line with previous years, the Council's contribution has been calculated based on the borough's 2023 ONS mid-year population estimates of 147,460, which is the latest available data.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Leadership Team is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree to the recommendation of the London Councils' Leaders' Committee that the proposed overall level of expenditure for the London Boroughs Grants Scheme of £6.711m in 2025/26 to be shared by the relevant constituent councils.
- 2.2 Agree the Council's contribution to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2025/26 of £110,628.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1 Each year the Council contributes to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme which is administered by London Councils. The contribution for Kensington and Chelsea is subject to approval by the Leadership Team before the end of January each year. For the 2025/26 contribution, London Councils have asked for confirmation by 17 January 2025.
- 3.2 As the January Leadership Team is after 17 January 2025, the Council will send a copy of this report to London Councils once published and then follow up with formal confirmation if agreed.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2025/26 at its meeting on 27 November 2024. The Leaders' Committee considered a budget at its meeting on 10 December 2024 and the following recommendation is now made to constituent councils, including Kensington and Chelsea.
- 4.2 Overall, the level of expenditure will be £6,711,000 comprising:
- Payments to Commissions - £6,173,000
 - Administrative Expenditure - £478,000
 - London Funders Membership Fees - £60,000
- 4.3 The total contributions from constituent councils will be £6.711m in 2025/26.
- 4.4 The contribution from each of the London Boroughs is based on the latest official population estimates.
- 4.5 The Leaders' Committee sets the overall funding strategies, policies, and priorities for grants to voluntary organisations. Decisions on individual commissions, funding of applications and programme operation are made by the Grants Committee comprising members of each of the 32 London boroughs and the City of London.
- 4.6 The financial year 2025/26 represents the final year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2019.
- 4.7 Approval of the budget for the scheme is subject to at least 22 boroughs (two thirds) agreeing through their respective decision-making arrangements. Once 22 councils have given their approval, the overall level of expenditure and contributions to it are binding on all constituent councils.
- 4.8 The Council's contribution has been factored into the draft revenue budgets for 2025/26 and is recommended for approval. The Leadership Team is

asked to approve the total value of the scheme of £6.711m and the Council's contribution.

5. OPTIONS, ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS

5.1 The Leadership Team could choose to approve the Council's contribution to the scheme and agree the overall level of expenditure of £6.711m. For 2025/26 the contribution will be £110,628. **This option is recommended.** The Council's contribution is in line with 2024/25 and the scheme will continue to benefit a number of organisations in the borough.

5.2 The Leadership Team could choose not to approve the Council's contribution and not to approve the overall level of expenditure of £6.711m. **This option is not recommended.** It should also be noted that if the Council's contribution is not approved, the Council will continue to be bound by the contribution if 22 other London Boroughs give their approval. This is because, by law, the overall level of expenditure and borough contributions are binding on all constituent council's, including that for Kensington and Chelsea if two thirds of boroughs agree

6. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

6.1 The scheme is administered by London Councils on behalf of the 32 London Boroughs and the City of London.

6.2 Pan-London consultation on the new grants programme was undertaken in February/March of 2020 and January/February of 2021.

6.3 The findings from the consultation demonstrated strong support to continue to invest in tackling homelessness and combating domestic and sexual abuse (these priorities were agreed by Leaders' Committee). Grants Committee members were continuously consulted throughout the two-year development of the programme

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 enables schemes to be made in relation to Greater London and the metropolitan counties for the making of grants to voluntary organisations.

7.2 Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985 requires the relevant constituent councils to contribute to the scheme provided that at least two-thirds of the constituent Councils in Greater London approve the proposed overall level of expenditure on grants to voluntary organisations.

7.3 Regulation 6(8) of the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 states that the apportionment of each constituent council is to be proportionate to their population. As detailed in paragraph 1.4 above, for 2025/26, the apportionment is based on the ONS mid-year estimates for June 2023.

7.4 Pursuant to the Grants to Voluntary Organisations (Specified Date) Order 1992, the budget must be agreed by two-thirds of constituent councils before 1 February 2025. If it is not, the overall level of expenditure will be deemed to be the same as that approved for 2024/25 (i.e., £6.732m).

8. FINANCIAL, PROPERTY AND ANY OTHER RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The financial implications are set out in this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct human resources implications arising from this report.

11. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND IMPLICATIONS

11.1 In reaching decisions for the implementation of any future grants programme, the Grants Committee is required to have due regard to its obligations under the Equalities Act 2010, particularly the Public Sector Equalities Duty. London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and targets groups highlighted in the programme requirements as people who struggle to access services are often affected by the issues the programme aims to tackle.

11.2 Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this data annually.

Lisa Taylor
Director of Financial Management

Contact officer: Liam McCusker, Assistant Director Corporate Finance
Liam.McCusker@RBKC.gov.uk

Mandatory clearance process

Cleared by **Corporate** Finance (LM)
Cleared by Legal Services (KYC)
Cleared by Communications (JB)