

Leaders' Committee

Urgency Report

Item no: 11

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Date: 8 February 2022
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Summary	London Councils' urgency procedure was used to approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Decisions taken following the Meeting of Members of London Councils Leaders' Committee on 7 December 2021
Recommendations	Leaders' Committee is asked to note the decisions taken under the urgency procedure.

1.0 Decisions taken following Leaders' Committee held on 7 December 2021

1.1 Summary and Reason for Urgency

The modifications introduced by the emergency Regulations (SI 2020/392), made under section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020, 2020 Regulations expired on 6 May 2021 meaning that formal meetings may not take place virtually. This means that in order to participate in discussions and vote on decisions or recommendations, Members must again be present physically at the meeting at which business is considered.

In considering the implication of this in the current circumstances, London Councils' Executive Members agreed on 11 May 2021 that until the legislation is changed, formal committee business is to be dealt with by holding an informal virtual meeting in the first instance to ascertain the general view of a committee or sub-committee with a formal decision to be then taken under delegated authority by way of London Councils' Urgency Procedure.

1.2 Items agreed following the meeting of Leaders on 7 December 2021

Item 6 – Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2022/23

This report proposed the level of boroughs subscriptions and charges to be levied in 2022/23, together with the consolidated revenue income and expenditure budget for 2022/23. The report also updated Leaders' Committee on the current level of London Councils reserves after considering all current and proposed commitments and the timetable for the overall budget approval process. These proposals were considered by London Councils Executive at its meeting on 9 November and were agreed for submission to this Committee for final consideration and approval.

Members of Leaders' Committee were asked to note and discuss the recommendations set out in this report with all decisions being made following the meeting under the Committee's urgency procedure. Leaders'

Committee was asked to approve the following borough subscription and charges:

- The proposed Joint Committee subscription for boroughs of £161,958 per borough for 2022/23, no change from 2021/22 (paragraph 19);
- The proposed Joint Committee subscription for MOPAC of £15,410 for 2022/23, no change from 2021/22 (paragraph 20);
- An overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2022/23, no change from 2021/22; and
- Borough contributions for 2022/23 to fully cover the Grants scheme of £6.668 million, the same level as for 2021/22 (paragraphs 21-23).

Leaders' Committee was also asked to endorse the following subscription and charges for 2021/22 for TEC, which were considered by the TEC Executive Sub-Committee on 17 November, before being presented to the main meeting of TEC on 9 December for final approval:

- The Parking Core Administration Charge of £1,500 per borough and for TfL (2021/22 - £1,500) (paragraph 24);
- No charge to boroughs in respect of the Freedom Pass Administration Charge, which is covered by replacement Freedom Pass income (2021/22 – no charge) (paragraph 26);
- The net Taxicard Administration Charge to boroughs of £338,000 in total (2021/22 - £338,000); (paragraph 27);
- No charge to boroughs and TfL in respect of the Lorry Control Administration Charge, which is fully covered by estimated PCN income (2021/22 – no charge) (paragraph 28);
- The Parking Enforcement Service Charge of £0.3751 per PCN, which will be distributed to boroughs and TfL in accordance with the number of PCNs issued in 2020/21 (2021/22 - £0.3596 per PCN; paragraphs 29-30);
- The Parking and Traffic Appeals Charge of £29.36 per appeal or £25.55 per appeal where electronic evidence is provided by the enforcing authority (2021/22 - £27.84/£24.06 per appeal). For hearing Statutory Declarations, a charge of £23.64 for hard copy submissions

and £22.88 for electronic submissions (2021/22 - £22.15/£21.40 per SD) (paragraphs 33-34);

- Congestion Charging Appeals including the ULEZ scheme – to be recovered on a full cost recovery basis, as for 2021/22, under the current contract arrangement with the GLA (paragraph 35);
- The TRACE (Electronic) Charge of £7.53 per transaction (2021/22 - £7.53) (paragraphs 31-33);
- The TRACE (Fax/Email) Charge of £7.70 per transaction, which is levied in addition to the electronic charge of £7.53 per transaction, making a total of £15.23 (2021/22 - £15.23) (paragraphs 36-37); and
- The TEC Charge of £0.175 per transaction (2021/22 - £0.175) (paragraphs 36-37).

On the basis of the above proposed level of subscriptions and charges, the Leaders' Committee was asked to note the following recommendations:

- The provisional consolidated revenue expenditure budget for 2022/23 for London Councils of £254.846 million, as per Table 4 at paragraph 39 and Appendix A of this report;
- The provisional consolidated revenue income budget for 2022/23 for London Councils of £252.967 million, also as per Table 4 at paragraph 39 and Appendix B;
- Agree the shared ambitions for London Councils as set out in paragraph 2;
- Create a one-off Digital Enablement Fund of £100,000 from uncommitted joint committee reserves; and
- Within the total income requirement, the use of London Councils reserves of £1.879 million in 2022/23, as detailed in paragraph 58.

The Leaders' Committee was also asked to note:

- The position in respect of forecast uncommitted London Councils reserves as at 31 March 2022, as detailed at paragraphs 56-62; and

- The positive statement on the adequacy of the residual London Councils reserves issued by the Acting Director of Corporate Resources, as detailed in paragraphs 63-64 of the report.

Item 7 – London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2022/23

This report considered the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2022/23 and made a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval. These proposals were considered by the Grants Committee at its meeting on 24 November. The Grants Committee agreed to recommend that Leaders' Committee approve these proposals.

Members of Leaders' Committee were asked to note and discuss the recommendations set out in this report. All decisions to be made following the meeting under the Committee's urgency procedure. These recommendations were to agree:

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2022/23;
- borough contributions for 2022/23 to fully cover the scheme should be £6.668 million;
- that further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2022 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £6.668 million);
- that constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2022/23 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2020; and

- that subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £435,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities.

The Urgency was approved on 16th December 2021

2.0 Recommendation

Leaders' Committee is asked to note the above decisions taken under the urgency procedure.

Financial Implications for London Councils

There are no financial implications for London Councils.

Legal Implications for London Councils

There are no legal implications for London Councils

Equalities Implications for London Councils

There are no equalities implications for London Councils