

MPA Response to the Review of the Future Role and Scope of the London Councils Grants Scheme

Overarching views on the proposal for changes to the grants scheme

London Councils is proposing in the future that its grants scheme be limited to funding genuinely London-wide services as described in the introduction and the accompanying background document. To what extent do you support or oppose this proposal as described at point 1.5 in the background document?

PLEASE SELECT ONE ANSWER

1. Strongly support
2. Tend to support
3. Neither support nor oppose
4. Tend to oppose
5. Strongly oppose
6. Don't know
7. No opinion

The challenging funding climate and the localism agenda naturally mean that authorities will want to retain as much funding locally to ensure delivery at that level, rather than contributing to schemes, which may not deliver a direct benefit to their area. It is therefore appropriate to restructure the London Councils Grants Scheme (The Scheme) in this way. There are, however, some considerations which would support an argument for pooling resources to deliver benefits, which may not directly accrue to the contributor, but are for the greater good. Having said that, both the financial pressures and the localism agenda would suggest that whether at pan-London or borough level authorities should focus on the areas of greatest need.

The retention of a scheme focussed on London-wide issues will clearly provide an opportunity to pool resources and target common issues at a strategic level. In addition, the refocusing of The Scheme in this way would mirror and complement the Metropolitan Police Authority's intentions to work with partners to deliver strategic direction on common issues through the London Crime Reduction Board.

The key questions are how we identify the London-wide services versus the local and how we prioritise the options. In response to section 3, for example, we have suggested re-categorisation of some of those activities, taking them from a borough activity to London-wide. E.g. the hate crime reduction work stream. The MPA considers this a strategic priority for the whole of London and would wish to see this work taken forward in a more cohesive way across the capital. This could help provide a more effective response to hate crime, through for example the development of a London-wide third party reporting phone line, and would achieve economies of scale.

Regardless of which option is taken forward, there is likely to be considerable impact London-wide and at the local level. The MPA would, therefore, expect there to be a full

equality impact assessment (EIA) considering the impact on both service users and providers.

There are currently 69 services funded by the London Councils' Grants Scheme. Each service has been categorised as either being a London-wide service (Category A), a service that is delivered across more than one London borough (Category B), or a local service which could be commissioned and delivered within a single borough (Category C). This section seeks your views on this categorisation of these services.

Each of the services funded by the London Councils' Grants Scheme has been assigned a category (either A, or B or C) as described above. On the following pages we have listed each of the services as currently categorised.

If you feel that each service has been categorised correctly, please click next. However, if you feel that one or more of the services has been incorrectly categorised, please tick the box that you think the service should be in. You will be asked to summarise your reasons for each service you think should be re-categorised.

	Assigned Category	A	B	C
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE				
Improve educational attainment of disadvantaged children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce bullying and its impact	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced involvement of young people (aged 11-24) in violent crime - with an emphasis on the prevention of involvement in gang culture, knife and gun crime	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Child Help line	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline Children's services: 19 , 30 , 68 and 71	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier support to promote play	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier support to enable increased access to affordable, quality childcare through supporting organisations working with employers, childcare providers and children and parents to enable them to engage with local authorities and share best practice across London	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interventions to improve outcomes for children and young people who have witnessed domestic violence	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier service to promote and develop effective approaches to Muslim youth engagement	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Service to tackle child poverty - Targeting families with multiple barriers to accessing employment	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Assigned Category	A	B	C
Interventions for children and young people involved in or at risk of sexual exploitation	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Treatment service for children and young people who have been abused through sexual exploitation (FUNDED BY MPS)	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Support to children and young people who have experienced sexual abuse	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CRIME REDUCTION				
Reduce the incidence and impact of hate crime through information campaigns, policy and good practice development work, community cohesion initiatives, and the provision of support services for with a particular emphasis on race and faith hate crime and homophobic crime.	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Engagement and involvement of disadvantaged groups that experience high victimisation levels, to reduce crime and its impact	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce youth offending and anti-social behaviour among young people (aged 11-24) through diversionary activities	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline Crime Reduction services:67,79aand 80	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier support for local victim support services	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Next

	Assigned Category	A	B	C
CULTURE, TOURISM AND LONDON 2012				
Enhance Londoners' involvement in cultural activity linked to the themes of the Cultural Olympiad to ensure that communities across London benefit from the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enhance Londoners ability to engage with volunteering opportunities in the lead up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote access to cultural activities across London	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide educational and participatory programmes/ activities in all art and culture forms for disadvantaged children and young people	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline services:1a,1b,6and7	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier support to increase sporting opportunities for disabled people	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier support to improve access to cultural activities for disabled people	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote tourism across London	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote access and participation in carnival activities and regionally important outdoor events	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Support a pan-London programme of competitive sporting and physical activities for children and young people, linking with London boroughs' sports participation programmes	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT, PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY				
Second tier support to increase community engagement and participation in local and regional planning and policy development	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Second tier support to improve accessible transport services	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote more sustainable forms of transport, including cycling and walking	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote energy efficiency, use of renewable energy and water conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Facilitate green procurement, waste minimisation, reuse and recycling	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Assigned Category	A	B	C
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE				
Support advocacy schemes and legal advice services to promote take up of direct payments and benefit entitlements for people with disabilities and carers	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enable improvements in health, working with disadvantaged communities to support local action	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enable people aged 50 and above and carers to access good quality care through direct payments, individual budgets, advocacy and discretionary care services	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promote mental health and emotional well-being through access to counselling and support services for BAMER groups and vulnerable adults	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline services:18,24,73and75	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HEALTH AND SAFETY				
Improve health and safety in the workplace and communities through information, advice and training, focusing on women, black, Asian and minority ethnic individuals and trade unions	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HOMELESSNESS				
Increase access to refuge-based services and appropriate gender-specific hostel and supported housing options for women and children	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Day centre and drop-in facilities for homeless people and people at risk of homelessness	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialist support and access to permanent or temporary accommodation	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduce youth homelessness through targeted prevention activities with at risk groups	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline homelessness services:42,44,47and52	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Assigned Category	A	B	C
LEGAL AND ADVICE SERVICES				
Improve access to advice for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and refugee and migrant communities, in the fields of welfare rights, housing, immigration and asylum, health, education and employment	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide an advice and representation service relating to discrimination and tribunal cases, and inquests	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide legal advice and representation across the various areas of social welfare law	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline Legal & Advice services:38,50and the combined services 46, 48 and 51	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
POLICY AND VOICE				
Support and develop existing and emerging social and community enterprises working across London.	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal and advice second tier policy and voice	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability second tier policy and voice	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people second tier policy and voice	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertake policy work and campaign/lobby for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and Refugee and Migrant voluntary sector	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertake policy work and campaign/lobby for the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Undertake policy work and campaign/lobby for the women's sector	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-ordinate engagement of London's voluntary sector with city-wide policy, governance and funding structures	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Assigned Category	A	B	C
POVERTY				
European Social Fund programme to improve employability and labour market entry: annually £4,000,000 gross including ESF grant	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline services:4and53	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
VIOLENT CRIME				
Increase access to services for women with no recourse to public funds to enable them to exit domestic violence or prostitution	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Counselling and psychotherapy support for those affected by domestic violence, rape or sexual abuse to improve safety, confidence, emotional health and well-being and promotion of safe choices	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advice, outreach, referral and drop-in services for those affected by domestic violence or rape and sexual abuse to improve access to services and knowledge of rights and promotion of safe choices, emotional health and well-being.	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide routes out of prostitution and associated violence and abuse through outreach, counselling and support and advice for women	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduction of violent behaviour through second tier support to domestic violence perpetrator programmes	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide domestic violence education and preventative initiatives to help children and young people to defuse conflict and reduce violence, particularly gender-based violence	<input type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sector Specific Second Tier Services to the following frontline services:43,59,60, the combined 61 and 63,62,65,69,70and72	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GENERIC SECOND-TIER				
Provide community accountancy services for voluntary organisations across London	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sub-regional co-ordination and network management of the London network of local CVSs.	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the knowledge and skills of the voluntary sector in premises management through second tier support	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the use of information and communication technology by frontline organisations through second tier support.	<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

You said that the services below should be re-categorised. Please summarise your key reasons why in the boxes provided.

Please type in your answers in the space provided

Outcome	Assigned Category	Reason
Reduced involvement of young people (aged 11-24) in violent crime - with an emphasis on the prevention of involvement in gang culture, knife and gun crime	C to A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth violence and the prevention of youth violence is a London-wide issue, so it is therefore appropriate to provide services across boroughs. • Brings the added benefits of aligning borough-level processes to those being developed pan-London, i.e. through the London Crime Reduction Board, which will support the development of cross-borough work on this agenda, and delivering better value for money for all of London.
Interventions for children and young people involved in or at risk of sexual exploitation	C to B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better value for money and sharing of good practice could be achieved through the delivery of cross-borough services. • It is good practice/more appropriate for an individual to be able to access services away from their place of residence and cross-borough provision would facilitate this.
Reduce the incidence and impact of hate crime through information campaigns, policy and good practice development work, community cohesion initiatives, and the provision of support services for with a particular emphasis on race and faith hate crime and homophobic crime.	C to A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse communities may live in small pockets across borough boundaries, so the provision of cross-borough services can facilitate the provision of, and access to, appropriately targeted services. • It is sometimes preferable for people in these communities to be able to access services away from their place of residence and cross-borough provision would facilitate this. • Better value for money and sharing of good practice could be achieved through the delivery of cross-borough services.
Engagement and involvement of disadvantaged groups that experience high victimisation levels, to reduce crime and its impact	C to B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above
Increase access to services for women with no recourse to public funds to enable them to exit domestic violence or prostitution.	C to B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better value for money and sharing of good practice could be achieved through the delivery of cross-borough services. • It is good practice/more appropriate for an individual to be able to access services away from their place of residence and

		<p>cross-borough provision would facilitate this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuge access for women escaping domestic violence should never be in their own borough for obvious safety reasons.
Provide routes out of prostitution and associated violence and abuse through outreach, counselling and support and advice for women.	C to B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See above

SECTION 4: Timescales for change

Assuming that a decision is taken on the future scope and scale of the Grants Scheme in November and December 2010, there are four main options for implementing a new approach. The following questions seek your views on the most appropriate timing to effect change, and on the reasons for your preferred approach.

ASK ALL. ALTERNATE OPTIONS

Q4A.

Please rank the following options on a scale of one to four, where one is your most preferred option and four is your least preferred option.

Ranked 1: All funding under category A continues to be funded through London Councils for the remainder of the term of the original approval (even if this is beyond 31st March 2011) and services in categories B & C end on 31st March 2011.

Ranked 2. All current funding continues for the remainder of the term of the funding agreement, under London Councils administration.

Ranked 3. All funding under category A, and some of categories B and C continue to be funded through London Councils for the remainder of the term of the original approval with funding for the remainder ending on 31st March 2011.

Ranked 4: All current funding ends on 31st March 2011 (whether or not the term of the original approval has been completed).

Q4B(I).

You said that is your most preferred option is for *All funding under category A continues to be funded through London Councils for the remainder of the term of the original approval (even if this is beyond 31st March 2011) and services in categories B & C end on 31st March 2011.* Please explain your answer in the box below.

Although the principle that local authorities should be able to determine and target local priorities is accepted, it is difficult to rank these options without full Equality Impact and risk assessments. Such autonomy needs to take into account that some crime and disorder issues by their very nature are hidden/less likely to be reported – e.g. domestic violence and hate crime and these issues should therefore remain a priority for the whole of London.

Q4B(II).

You said that your least preferred option is for *All current funding ends on 31st March 2011 (whether or not the term of the original approval has been completed).* Please explain your answer in the box below.

The timescale for decisions is unlikely to provide sufficient time for organisations to enact other options or to respond appropriately to increased demand. It would be difficult /unfair on those organisations in receipt of grants to withdraw funding, which they should

reasonably be able to expect to be honoured, so abruptly. As a signatory to the London Compact, London Councils has made a commitment to 3 year funding and withdrawing that on 31.03.11 would go against the Compact principles.

SECTION 5: The wider impacts of change

Any changes that take place could cause impacts wider than just to the Grants Schemes commissioned services. This might particularly impact on co-financing arrangements. The following section includes questions which, amongst others, specifically seek the views of funders and of currently commissioned organisations on if changes might impact upon them.

No direct relevance to MPA.

SECTION 6: Final comments

Q6.

Is there anything else you wish to add that has not been covered already?

PLEASE WRITE IN THE BOX BELOW

Before reaching a final decision, further consideration should be given to two issues.

Firstly, given that some boroughs generate more wealth than others and different boroughs have different needs, what system will be put in place to ensure the 'repatriation' of local grants is fair? For example, will large poor boroughs disproportionately suffer under the new system?

Secondly, there is a question as to how those released monies might be recycled at the local level. E.g. would local authorities continue with the same services, but at the local level? If not, what gaps would that create in overall provision? Also if there were an intention to continue those services, the transition would need to be well-managed to ensure seamless transfer and avoid service failure through that process.

Without specifically knowing where funding will be withdrawn and reallocated it's impossible to assess the full impact, including in relation to equality and diversity. The Authority cannot state strongly enough the need for a full Equality Impact assessment to assure partners that the potential for the proposed plans to have a disproportionate impact has been fully considered, risk assessed and mitigated.

We would further suggest that, particularly for those areas of greatest risk (as will be identified though the EIA), some consideration be given as to whether repatriated funds could be ring-fenced or partly protected for their original areas of priority for an agreed period of time? This would ensure that sectors such as those which provide services for some of the most vulnerable in our society, including women who have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence and some Black and minority ethnic communities, which have mostly been categorised as Level B or C in the present scheme, are not completely lost through the withdrawal of planned funding.