

# GRANTS TO HILLINGDON'S LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS - 2023/24

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<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Corporate Services
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<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix A: Voluntary Sector Core Grant Recommendations 2023/24 Appendix B: Assessment of Core Grant applications 2023/24 Appendix C: Equality Impact Assessments

## HEADLINES

<b>Summary</b>	<p>Cabinet is asked to agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council's direction and approach to support for the voluntary sector</li> <li>• The Council's Voluntary Sector Core Grant funding for 2023/24</li> <li>• The Council's Transport Grants funding for 2023/24</li> <li>• The Council's contribution to the London Boroughs' grants scheme 2023/24.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Putting our Residents First</b></p> <p><b>Delivering on the Council Strategy 2022-26</b></p>	<p>The grants budget is used to support a range of Voluntary Sector activity, which supports the Council in achieving the commitments in the Council Strategy (2022-2026) and which put residents first.</p> <p>The Transport grant is used to facilitate the transport needs of members of a number of smaller voluntary organisations.</p> <p>The London Boroughs' grant scheme supports pan-London organisations under its priorities of tackling sexual and domestic abuse and combatting homelessness.</p>
<b>Financial Cost</b>	<p>The report proposes:</p> <p>i) up to <b>£1,615,500</b> core funding grants for the 2023/24 financial year.</p>

	<p>ii) the allocation of <b>£17,500</b> for the provision of Transport for 2023/24.</p> <p>iii) a contribution to the London Boroughs' Grant scheme for 2023/24 of <b>£228,887</b> subject to agreement and update at the London Councils' Leaders committee on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.</p> <p>The total proposed allocation of <b>£1,861,887</b> is to be funded from available budget resource.</p>
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<b>Relevant Select Committee</b>	Finance and Corporate Services
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<b>Relevant Ward(s)</b>	N/A
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## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet agrees:

1. That the Council's support for the Voluntary Sector should move towards commissioning, aligned to service needs, required to support residents.
2. That the core grants programme for 2023/24 be considered as a transition year towards commissioning of services and that the grants programme will not run from April 2024 and that groups are advised accordingly, with due notice.
3. That officers are instructed to develop proposals for the commissioning of services from the voluntary sector, aligned to service needs, for Cabinet to consider at its meeting in September 2023.
4. To delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make any changes to the grants to local voluntary organisations for 2023/24, should they be required.
5. Having regard to the equality impact assessments at Appendix C, the overall allocation of grants to Voluntary Sector groups of up to £1,615,500 for the provision of core grant funding for the 2023/24 financial year with specific awards as set out in the schedule - Appendix A.
6. Grants totalling £17,500 to organisations to enable the provision of transport.
7. The Council's contribution of £228,887 to the London Councils' Grants scheme for 2023/24 (subject to London Councils' Leader's Committee meeting on 13th December 2022).

## Reasons for recommendations

1. The Council seeks to maximise the benefits from investment in the Borough's voluntary sector to encourage activity that supports residents, reduces demand on Council services and provides best value for money.

## Alternative options considered / risk management

2. The Cabinet has the following alternative options:
  - Agree the recommendations subject to any changes the Cabinet wishes to make or,
  - Reject one or more of the recommendations.
3. In respect of the Council's contribution to the London Council's Grant Scheme, the Council has the option of not approving its contribution. For the overall London grants scheme to be approved, however, at least two thirds of the 32 London Boroughs plus the City of London must approve their individual budget contribution. If there is no agreement, under the legislation governing the grants scheme, the overall level of expenditure for the Grants Committee reverts to the previous year's budget, for which the contribution from Hillingdon in 2022/23, was also £228,887.

## Comments of Select Committee

4. As part of the consultation on the Cabinet's budget proposals, the Finance and Corporate Services Select Committee will meet on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to consider them. This includes the financial support to the voluntary sector outlined in this report. Any comments on the budget agreed by the Committee will be presented in the usual way to Cabinet in February 2023.

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5. The Council has been a significant supporter of the local voluntary sector for a number of years and the core grants programme has developed to support established charities to thrive and to assist newer, smaller, groups to get started. The scheme has, however remained relatively unchanged for a number of years and does represent a significant financial commitment from the Council.
6. Earlier in 2022, through a series of on-line sessions and followed up with more detailed question and answer briefings, groups were advised that the Council now wishes to see

the grants programme move into a new direction. Overall, the Council's intention is to see changes which:

- Ensure better outcomes for residents
  - Achieve best value for money
  - Reduce dependency on grants
7. Groups were informed that the Council would move towards commissioning of services from the voluntary sector rather than awarding of grants, especially for larger awards of broadly £100k plus. This process would enable services to focus more directly on early intervention and prevention and over a more stable longer contract period. This process of commissioning services which support council operations will take time to come to fruition. It is anticipated that services that will be required to be commissioned will be in place by April 2024. It is not envisaged that the current grants programme should run again for 2024/25.
8. During the interim, it was agreed that the 2023/24 grants programme would run, with applications being considered on their merits against the stated criteria, with a particular need for groups to :
- demonstrate clear need
  - offer good value for money
  - be viable and sustainable
  - support Council services and approaches e.g. through early intervention
  - seek and lever-in external funding
  - explain excessive reserves
  - work in collaboration : not replicate
9. It was also stated that the Council wishes to phase out smaller grants, broadly £10k and below and to see self-sustaining business models developed by those groups, rather than reliance on Council support. Application packs were issued early in July 2022 with a deadline for applications of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

## **2023/24 Recommendations**

10. By the deadline we had received 32 applications. 6 previous recipients of grant did not apply. All of the applications have been assessed against the stated criteria to ensure that they are viable and sustainable and that their proposals are realistic and achievable. An analysis of each application, together with financial comments is attached at Appendix B and a summary of the recommended awards is at Appendix A.

## New Applications for 2023/24

11. The Council has received 2 new applications from organisations: Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations and The Daniella Logan Foundation.
12. **The Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations.** This is a new application from the HFCA and seeks £25,150 funding to cover staffing costs of a freelance Community Advisor to develop the Association's activities on behalf of its members. Whilst HFCA has existed for a number of years it has not directly employed anyone for over 10 years, working instead through volunteers and representatives of its membership. Additional costs are to cover administrative systems such as data collection and website. The HFCA does not directly serve residents. It works through its independent Community Association members who in turn offer space and help to community groups. Improving outcomes for residents would, therefore, be only indirect. In terms of value for money the proposal requires grant funding to become established with limited other income other than small membership contributions. There is no proposed additional external income which represents poor value for money for the investment. Lastly, given that the proposition requires grant funding and seeks no other income it would create a dependency on grant that the scheme is aiming to avoid. For these reasons a grant for 2023/24 is not recommended
13. **The Daniella Logan Foundation - DLF** (Daniella Logun Foundation) have requested a grant of £45k to cover salaries. They work supporting children with brain tumours and their families. They are a new charity and are delivering emotional and spiritual support, nutrition, and lifestyle support as well as other support. DLF are at the beginning of a journey to becoming established. An application presented during last grants round was not considered as it did not meet basic criteria. As presented, this application does not provide confidence that the business planning or financial strategy is in place to lead to becoming a viable and sustainable group. The figures do not represent value for money and no significant external funding is proposed so offers a poor return on social investment. It is not recommended that grant be awarded.

## Grant Reductions and declined applications

14. **Age UKHHB.** Request for £679,140 in 23/24, current year grant is £617,400. Given the additional pressures on the Council's budgets it is not recommended that the inflation uplift requested can be accommodated. It is recognised that this could result in revisions to activities proposed and to KPI's. A grant of £600k, (down from the £617,400 for 22/23) is recommended based on financial assessment that a reduction of this amount should be achievable. This is also subject to sight of satisfactory accounts for 2021/22 demonstrating Age UK's viability and need for continued grant support.

15. **Digital Inclusion (Age UKHHB & DASH).** This project was initially funded for £70k during 2022/23 to support access and skills for vulnerable residents in accessing digital services. £77k is requested for 23/24. The case to support wider work in the voluntary sector to promote digital inclusion remains and this project shows some promise in being able to support and deliver training for different cohorts based on the expertise and reach of both Age UK and DASH. It lacks, however, full analysis of the need locally or systematic review of opportunities to intervene and offer support. It is not recommended that the current programme is funded further for 2023/24. The existing project needs to be evaluated fully and considered as an option within commissioned services.
16. **Harlington Hospice Respite care.** As stated above the clear direction of travel for ongoing support for groups is to see services moved to commissioning for services. The Hillingdon Carers consortium contract is due to be retendered to start in September 2023. It is recommended that the grant to Harlington Hospice be awarded at the amount requested for 2022/23 but on a pro-rata basis until the contract commences as planned in September 2023. For 6 months this would be £45k (funding for 22/23 was £90k). Note also that the core support for Hillingdon Carers Trust is also to be considered in this way.
17. **Give Space CIC.** Request for £18,803 for 23/24. Award for current year is £10k. The operating model for Give Space is to provide affordable therapy workshops delivered by the two Directors and costs are for the professional fees and overheads with some fees charged. Council grant during 2022/23 has helped the CIC to become established. It is not within the grant schemes aims for the CIC to become dependent on Council support and now the group is established, with more of a track record of fundraising and delivery, the recommendation is not to fund further for 2023/24.
18. **Hillingdon Brain Tumour & Injury Support Group.** The grant application is similar to requests for recent years and the group is known for the support it offers to those experiencing brain injuries and their families. The request (same as current year) for staffing costs at £30k is significant in terms of unit cost and value for money and the group does now need to start to be able to support itself more through earned income, charges and fundraising and away from core grant. It is recommended that, with this in mind the grant be awarded at £15k for 2023/24, with the expectation that grant will not be awarded for subsequent years.
19. **Carers Trust Hillingdon** As stated above the clear direction of travel for ongoing support for groups is to see services moved to commissioning for services. The Hillingdon Carers consortium contract is due to be retendered to start in September 2023. It is recommended that the grant to Carers Trust Hillingdon be awarded at the amount requested for 2022/23 but on a pro-rata basis until the new contract commences as planned in September 2023. For 6 months this would be £52.5k (funding for current year is £105k). Note also that the core support for Harlington Hospice is also to be considered in this way.

- 20. H4All Capacity building** – The requested grant award of £92k is not recommended. Current year award is £70k. The priorities set for the current year of funding have not all been delivered and the proposal moving forward deviates from the key aims of that project (namely 1:1 turnaround infrastructure support and a legacy cohort of community health champions). The new schemes do not demonstrate value for money in terms of outcomes against a £92K grant investment.
- 21. Hillingdon Shopmobility (HS).** Request is for £15k for 23/24. Officers 2022/23 assessment of HS identified significant concerns regarding Shopmobility's sustainability, increasing reliance on Council grant funding to exist and poor levels of levered-in income from wider business beneficiaries in Uxbridge. As such that application represented poor value for money and Cabinet agreed to reduce the grant to £5k for 2022/23. That decision was later reviewed, and it was agreed to increase the award to £15k for 2022/23 to provide further fair warning of the Council's concerns and the need to seek alternative income streams over the extended 12 months. This application does not represent a significant improvement during the intervening period and the application still requires Council support to meet costs. For 2022/23 expenditure is forecast to be £13,213 higher than income. The recommendation is not to support Shopmobility for 2023/24. It is recognised that no Council funding will impact on the organisation but given the poor overall value for money it is not realistic to expect the organisation to be funded by the Council, especially in the absence of a viable and sustainable business model.
- 22. Hillingdon Somali Women's group.** The group is requesting £12,785 to cover their rent and utility costs. Current grant is £10k. Their income is limited to Council and London Trust grant with no predicted other income for 2022/23 or 2023/24. This is of particular concern as their operating model is becoming reliant on grant. It is not, therefore, recommended that a core grant for 2023/24 be awarded.
- 23. Hillingdon Women's Centre.** Request for £50k in 23/24 current grant £50k. Officers recognise the significant journey HWC has been on over recent years and how through wider networking, delivery of important services and willingness to seek wider funding the group has become less reliant on Council grant and this direction needs to continue. The future is not certain under a new approach of commissioned early intervention services. For 2023/24 it is recommended that the grant revert to £30k (as per 2021/22 award) in preparation for when support will only be available via commissioning of services.
- 24. MHA Communities West London.** Request for £29k including dining club. Current year £15k. Our concerns regarding the use of reserves established under the former Northwood Live at Home scheme to fund provision in Ealing remain. As such it is difficult to justify continued grant support in terms of value for money which has been diluted over recent years. The activities programme presented as part of the application sets out what will happen, where and how much participants are to be charged. Many of these should be self-sufficient in terms of delivery. Other activities are clearly targeted on Ealing

residents. Against our criteria, therefore it is not recommended that MHA receive grant for 2023/24 for the wider operation or the dining centre grant received previously.

- 25. Middlesex Association for the Blind (MAB)** were awarded a grant of £3k for 2022/23 for the first time to contribute towards the operation of their mobile resource unit and its visits to Hillingdon. The application for 2023/24 extends this request considerably to include the majority of costs related to operating in Hillingdon. At a cost of £57k and with significant beneficiaries totalling some 74 this does not represent good value. The Council's core grant programme is designed to assist groups to become established in the borough and to enable them to lever in wider external support. The application is not realistic in asking for the near total funding for Hillingdon to come from the Council. Officers do not recommend the grant is awarded.
- 26. Relate.** Request for £13k for 23/24. The core grant of £5k for 2022/23 subsidised the cost that clients have to pay for counselling in Hillingdon. Relate now covers a vast area after several mergers and only a few financially grant fund the organisation. Other than funding from the Council the only other income is client costs. Relate have now sought an increased grant to £13k to further subsidise counselling support. The current operating model is based on charged income topped up by ad hoc grants with no more forecast for next year. The grant has not led to Relate becoming more established in Hillingdon nor has it increased income to the borough to support services. Given the Council's stated intention to phase out smaller grants it is not recommended that a grant for 2023/24 is awarded.
- 27. Hillingdon Samaritans.** Request £6k, current grant £6k. As a volunteer run group, Samaritans provides excellent value for money. They are well run and deliver a vital service. As well as providing individuals with emotional support to reduce suicides by those in crisis, they also seek to prevent crisis by working with schools, colleges, businesses and community groups and services to increase understanding of emotional health and improve the quality of interventions provided for those in need. However, a grant for 2023/24 is not recommended as Hillingdon Samaritans has substantial reserves which would seem to cover about 3-4 years of operating costs. Last year unrestricted reserves grew by more than the core grant. In these circumstances and against the grant criteria it is difficult to justify further grant.
- 28. Bell Farm Christian Centre (BFCC).** BFCC was awarded an increase in funding for 2022/23 (total £98k) to provide the capacity to meet the challenges of re-designing services to respond to different and growing needs brought about by the pandemic and to embed a new performance recording system so they are better equipped to evidence outputs & outcomes to compete for external funding. £5k of this related to a CRM system which is now in place. BFCC have now sought the same grant this year but included a small inflationary uplift to help them deal with increased costs to £99,675. Given the pressures on Council budgets it is not recommended that any uplift be awarded. In

addition the CRM system is now in place so the additional payment awarded for that last year should enable a small saving this year. Moving forward the Council will need to consider how it wishes to engage with Bell Farm CC and other significant providers as part of early intervention commissioned services from April 2024. Bell Farm has started to ensure that grant applications take into account full overheads and this is welcome. For 2023/24 it is recommended that a grant of £90k be awarded.

- 29. Hillingdon Autistic Care and Support.** For 2022/23 HACS received £91,800 grants made up of the core grant (£40k) and a grant for Rural Activity Garden Centre Tea Rooms, Brookfield Café (£40k and £11.8k). The Brookfield centre is now closed and has been repurposed. The Council will need to consider how its new direction in core grants signalled earlier in the year and the move to commissioning of early intervention support should reflect work with people with autism and ADHD and what should be in place from April 2024. The employment support project at Brookfield is no longer needed. As an employment support programme benefitting 20 residents at £40k, the RAGC tea room project is expensive. The tearoom needs to become self-sustaining in some way. A grant of £40k for core costs is recommended again 2023/24. Funding of employment support programmes need to be supported by external funding routes such as ECHP or access to work support from DWP or even personal budgets rather than grant funded.
- 30. Uxbridge Child Contact Centre.** Request for £7,308. Current grant £3,355. The Centre provides twice monthly supervised contact for separated parents and their children with the aim of supporting families to manage their own arrangements in the long term. The overall unit costs of this service questions the value for money of this intervention. In addition, the application for next year increases costs and UCCC would become more dependent on Council funding. There has been no clear attempt to reduce costs or increase external income which is a part of the grant criteria. The recommendation, therefore, is that the application should not be supported for 2023/24.
- 31. Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust.** Request £2.5k, current grant £2.5k. Whilst the small grant to HMWT offers good value against the services delivered, it is hard to conclude that the “need for funding” case has been made given HMWT’s extensive financial reserves. It seems likely that their nature reserves could be maintained at these levels using financial reserves for a number of years. The recommendation, therefore, is that the application should not be supported for 2023/24.
- 32. Hillingdon Community Transport.** Request for £32k, current grant £20k. Hillingdon Community Transport has been a long-term Council partner and benefits from a base at the Council’s depot in Harlington Road. This partnership has worked well for number of years but has been reliant on core grant to subsidise the community groups’ access to transport. For the community groups work to become self-funding HCT needs to review its charges or to raise external funding. This was a factor in reducing the grant in 2022/23 from £32k to £20k. In addition, the group holds reserves which could be used to meet anticipated deficit next year of £17,550. It is not recommended that HCT receives further

core grant but be encouraged to establish its community arm as self-funding by looking at charges, potential income from groups through the Bus Service Operators Grant or to raise funds externally.

33. **Dovetail Community Outreach Dining Centre.** Request £20k, current grant £15k. Dovetail Community Outreach is based, at Hillingdon Park Baptist Church, Uxbridge. The club employs a Catering Manager which is the basis of the grant application. Volunteers help with food preparation and service, general kitchen duties and to have many conversations with clients. It is not clear if numbers will ever return to pre-pandemic levels and the future funding of Dovetail's provision has to be looked at in value for money terms. For the relatively small numbers of overall beneficiaries the grant is not achieving a cost-effective intervention. Dovetail are encouraged to consider seeking external funding and to review their operating model in light of reduced usage and to, perhaps, reduce costs. For 2023/24 to enable time to achieve this a grant of £10,000 is recommended.
34. **Ruislip Northwood Old Folks Association.** The grant application is for £90k, per annum for the two clubs to cover costs of staffing, food and utilities. Current grant is £50k. Numbers at both clubs have begun to increase towards pre-pandemic levels but still come in about two thirds of previous levels. The future funding of RNOFA's provision has to be looked at in value for money terms. For the relatively small numbers of overall beneficiaries the grant is not achieving a cost-effective intervention. RNOFA will need to continue to seek external funding and to review their operating model in light of reduced usage. It may prove necessary to consolidate into one club and operate that at maximum capacity, for example. For 2023/24 to enable some short time to redevelop the business model in a more self-sustaining way possibly on one site, a grant of £30,000 for 23/24 is recommended.

### Public Sector Equalities Duty

35. The Council recognises that under its Public Sector Equalities Duties it is required to consider and take into account how any changes in grants may impact on residents and to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and to foster good relations in communities. Where reductions are considered to have a potential impact on residents an assessment of that impact is included at Appendix C.

### Grant Increases

36. **Heathrow Travel Care (HTC).** For 2022/23 HTC grant was reduced to £20k recognising that during the pandemic period costs were saved and that reserves were healthy. Prior to this a core grant of £45k to cover staffing costs had been provided and this is the amount now sought as HTC is back to full operation. The case for support is well made and HTC clearly offers value for money and reduces burden on Council services. In line with the stated direction of the grant programme it will be necessary to consider how HTC should

be commissioned or supported beyond March 2024 but for the year to then it is recommended that funding reverts to the £45k awarded in previous years.

**37. For the remaining groups the recommendations are to support at the same levels as 2022/23 with assessments, again at Appendix B.**

**Transport Grants**

38. The Council also offers to support some of the Borough’s smaller voluntary groups to meet the transport needs of group members. This funding is provided via the Bus Service Operators Grant which is claimed from the Department of Transport. The organisations supported from this budget cater mainly for clients with disabilities who require specialist transport and that would find it challenging to travel by public transport.

39. Applications for Transport Grants have reduced over the last few years. On the basis of application received, it is recommended that spend of £17,500 is allocated to the groups at levels requested as below:

Name	Grant 23/24
Mencap Hillingdon South	£8,500
Shopmobility	£2,000
Mencap Hillingdon North	£7,000

**London Councils Grant Scheme**

40. The LCs Grant Scheme supports voluntary sector activity and specifically funds voluntary organisations across all 32 London authorities and the City of London. The London Councils Grants scheme for 2023/24 will total approximately £6,173k. Proposals are to be agreed at Leaders’ Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

41. Hillingdon's contribution for 2023/24 is proposed to be **£228,887** the same level as the Council's 2022/23 contribution.

42. Individual borough contributions are based on the Office of National Statistics (ONS) mid-year population estimates for June 2020, with Hillingdon's percentage of London's total calculated at 3.43%. ONS has not yet produced estimates for June 2021, should this information become available prior to Leader’s Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 then a further adjustment may be required.

43. It is anticipated that the individual boroughs will agree to accept the recommendations on their contributions.

## Financial Implications

44. The proposed funding allocations for 2023/24 include an allocation of £1,615,500 grant funding from the Voluntary Sector Grants budget. A further allocation of £17,500 awarded from Passenger Services to support the provision of transport grants is also proposed along with an award of £228,887 as a centrally funded contribution to the London Councils Grant Committee for 2023/24 taking the total proposed funding allocation £1,862,000.
45. The budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of award totalling.
46. A full review of the financial statements and application forms of each organisation has been undertaken and brief financial commentary has been included for each organisation in Appendix B to this report. Awards are subject to the receipt satisfactory financial statements.

## RESIDENT BENEFIT & CONSULTATION

### Consultation / What will be the effect of the recommendation?

47. The overall effect of these proposals will be to strengthen and support Hillingdon's voluntary sector with new growth and initiatives, which will directly benefit residents.

### Consultation Carried Out or Required

48. No formal consultation has been undertaken on the proposals for agreement at this Cabinet. All grant recipients were advised of the new approach to grants sought by the Council and offered assistance to show how their proposals may meet the grant criteria. Applications were made by groups following briefing meetings held in July 2022 on the future of the grants programme.

## CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS

### Corporate Finance

49. Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and concur with the financial implications set out above, noting that the draft 2023/24 budget presented to Cabinet on this agenda contains sufficient budgetary provision to fund the recommended level of awards to the Voluntary Sector in core grants, Transport organisations and the London Boroughs Grant Scheme totalling £1,862k. It is also noted that any award of grant monies is subject to the review of satisfactory accounts for the last financial year if they are yet to be received.

50. Corporate Finance also notes the recommendations that the core grants programme move towards commissioning aligned with the service needs to support residents and that 2023/24 be considered a transition year with the grants programme will not continue from April 2024.

## Legal

51. Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council to “incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants” provided that “ the direct benefit accruing to their area or any part of it or to all or some of the inhabitants of their area will be commensurate with the expenditure to be incurred”.

52. Appendices A & B contain a summary of each grant application, an assessment of whether it meets the grant criteria and a recommendation on the amount of grant to be awarded. A number of organisations are recommended to receive a reduced grant or no grant at all. In each case an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been compiled setting out the likely adverse impacts that a reduction or withdrawal of grant is likely to have and the alternative options that are available to residents to minimise these impacts. For example, in relation to clients of the Hillingdon Women’s Centre, alternative sources of support relating to domestic abuse.

53. In relation to each EIA, Cabinet should consider whether additional mitigation measures could also be put in place whilst ensuring that each application complies with the grant criteria.

54. As explained in the report, for future years the Council intends to commission services directly from the voluntary sector as opposed to making grants. This is a change in practice for Hillingdon and it is therefore recommended that Cabinet considers a report at a future meeting on how commissioning will operate in practice and how the Council considers that commissioning will help “improve the economic, social or environmental wellbeing of the Borough” in accordance with section 1 of the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

55. With regard to the London Councils Grant Scheme, this Scheme is established under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. As stated in the report, if two-thirds of the London Boroughs do not approve their individual budget contribution, the previous year’s budget will continue to apply to the Scheme.

## Relevant Service Groups

56. Relevant teams in Place Directorate, Finance, Social Care and Health and Children and Families Services have been consulted on the proposals.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Cabinet report / decision on grants to voluntary sector organisations 2022/23](#)