

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE - AGM
15 July 2015

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 15 July 2015

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Representative:

Barking and Dagenham
Bexley
Bromley
Camden
Ealing
Enfield
Greenwich
Hackney
Hammersmith and Fulham
Harrow
Havering
Kensington & Chelsea
Lambeth
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Southwark
Waltham Forest

Cllr Darren Rodwell
Cllr Don Massey
Cllr Stephen Carr
Cllr Abdul Hai
Cllr Ranjit Dheer
Cllr Yasmin Brett
Cllr Jackie Smith (Dep)
Cllr Jonathan McShane
Cllr Sue Fennimore
Cllr Sue Anderson
Cllr Melvin Wallace
Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
Cllr Paul McGlone (Chair)
Cllr Edith Macauley
Cllr Forhad Hussain
Cllr Dev Sharma
Cllr Michael Situ
Cllr Liaquat Ali

London Councils officers were in attendance.

Nick Lester, Director, Services at London Councils chaired items 1-4.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Jeremy Mayhew (City of London), Denise Scott-McDonald (LB Greenwich – Cllr Jackie Smith deputising), Cllr Peter Morton (LB Haringey), Cllr Asima Shaikh (LB Islington), Cllr Julie Pickering (RB Kingston), Cllr Joan Millbank (LB Lewisham), Cllr Meena Bond (LB Richmond), Cllr Simon Wales (LB Sutton) and Cllr James Maddan (LB Wandsworth).

2. Declaration of Interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Acknowledgement of new members of the Grants Committee

- 3.1 New members were welcomed to the Grants Committee.

4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2015/6 Municipal Year

- 4.1 Cllr Paul McGlone was re-elected as Chair of the Grants Committee.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

- 5.1 Cllr Forhad Hussain was elected as the Labour Vice-Chair.
5.2 Cllr Stephen Carr was elected as the Conservative Vice-Chair.
5.3 Cllr Simon Wales was elected as the Liberal Democrat Vice-Chair.

6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

- 6.1 The following members were appointed to the Grants Executive:

- Cllr Paul McGlone
- Cllr Joan Millbank
- Cllr Forhad Hussain
- Cllr Stephen Carr
- Cllr Simon Wales
- Cllr James Maddan
- Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
- Cllr. Asima Shaikh

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 16th July 2014 (for noting – previously agreed)

7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2014 Grants AGM. Cllr Abdul Hai said that his apologies were not recorded in the minutes for that meeting, and that he did not receive the papers for the meeting in November 2014, so was unable to send his apologies. Cllr Yasmin Brett said she also sent her apologies for the July 2014 Grants AGM.

Action: Apologies to be added to the minutes of the July 2014 AGM.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 25th March 2015

8.1 The minutes were agreed as the accurate record of the meeting which took place on 25 March 2015.

9. Draft Minutes of the Grants Executive on 22 June 2015 (for noting)

9.1 Members noted the draft minutes of the Grants Executive which took place on 22 June 2015.

10. Operation of the Grants Committee

10.1 The Chair introduced this report, which informed members of the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and the programme of Grants Committee meetings, below:

Grants Main Meeting		
Date	Time	Main Business
18 November 2015	11.00 am	
23 March 2016	11.00 am	
6 July 2016 (AGM)	11.00am	AGM
Grants Executive		
Date	Time	Main Business
16 September 2015	2:00 pm	Grants Executive
2 March 2016	2:00 pm	Grants Executive

10.2 Members also requested that draft meeting dates are sent to them by email in advance of the meetings.

10.3 Members noted the report.

Action: All the future meeting dates to be sent to members separately in an email. In addition, members would like to receive (unconfirmed) dates of future meetings in advance for better planning.

Draft meeting dates to be sent to all members in advance of the meetings.

11. Constitutional Matters

11.1 London Councils' officers introduced this report which covered:

- Minor Variation to London Councils Governing Agreement
- Amendments to London Councils' Standing Orders
- Approval of, and Amendment to London Councils' Scheme of Delegation to Officers
- Revised Financial Regulations

11.2 Members noted the changes to London Councils' constitutional documents.

11.3 Cllr Carr suggested that the Scheme of Delegation document (Appendix 3) should contain a reference to 'in consultation with the Chair of the Grants Committee' in the appropriate section. London Councils' officers said that as this is a London Councils-wide scheme of delegation, this suggestion would have to be approved by Leaders.

Action: London Councils' officers to consult Leaders and bring this to the next Grants Committee meeting.

12. Grants Programme Performance Report – Year 2

12.1 The Head of Grants introduced this report and said that:

- London Councils' grants programme is in year three of a four-year cycle, 2013/14 to 2016/17.
- In terms of performance against profile:
 - priority 1: Homelessness, was 39% above target
 - priority 2: Sexual and domestic violence, was 21% above target
 - priority 3: ESF tackling poverty through employment, was 4% below target priority. However, this quarter's performance has been adversely affected by the on-going delays in the new UK-ESF programme. London Councils believes that this uncertainty is causing high staff turnover and capacity issues. Members were also asked to note that ESF payment is directly performance related, so under-performance means less money is paid to the providers (on a quarterly basis), and that the London Councils ESF programme continues to perform well compared to other ESF programmes in London.
 - priority 4: Capacity building, was 17% above target
- 34 of the 35 existing projects have a Green RAG rating. Only one project, St Mungo Community Housing Association, is rated Amber.
- Officers have completed 52 monitoring visits against a target of 70 for the year. Officers have not been able to complete all the planned visits because of a lack of capacity in the team.
- During the fourth quarter of 2014/15, all projects have submitted quarterly monitoring reports and all have been paid the correct amount on time, within four weeks of approving quarterly returns.

- London Councils officers set up a task group with borough officers to identify ways of strengthening the relationship between the programme and boroughs. This has met once. Further work on this has been limited due to resource constraints in the London Councils team.
- London Councils pays an annual subscription to London Funders of £60,000 on behalf of London boroughs. This saves a total of £14,800 per year.

12.2 Members were informed that there was an error on two of the tables in Item 12 Annex A. This was due to way that the data was pulled from individual sources to a programme level database. Correct copies were sent in advance by email, and were tabled at the meeting.

12.3 Members commented that not all boroughs appeared to have even provision. The Head of Grants explained that this was due in part to historic events, for example (in terms of wider provision) some boroughs have several refuges, and others have none; nevertheless, the boroughs with no refuges still benefit as their residents can use the facilities in the neighboring borough.

12.4 Members said they would like more detailed information on how each individual borough was benefitting from the programme, which would perhaps involve combining the information on individual boroughs (Annex A) and the information on individual projects.

12.5 London Councils officers said that the different sources of information could be used to create a profile for each borough; however, caveats will be needed as some information was potentially incorrect – for example, people presenting as homeless in a borough often come from elsewhere, also not all users are aware of/are willing to disclose which borough they live in.

Action: London Councils officers to create borough profiles.

12.6 Cllr Carr wanted it recorded that he thought the ESF programme and the St Mungo's project did not deliver good value for money.

12.7 Members agreed to the continuation of London Councils' subscription to London Funders.

13. Proposal for Review of Grants Programme – post 2017

13.1 The Chair pointed out two typos in the report:

- Paragraph 1 in section 1.1: The correct date was 1 April 2013, not 1 April 2014.
- Question 12.b in the consultation: This should say 'you may skip question 13', not 'you may skip question 11'.

13.2 Members said that the consultation should include an executive summary of the programme and its achievements.

Action: Grants team to add an executive summary to the consultation.

13.2 Stephen Car wanted it recorded that he believes that recommendation 1 - *that the purpose of the review should be to establish what the future of the programme should be beyond the end of the current four years of the programme in March 2017* - should be split into two parts: 1i - *should the Grants programme continue*; and 1ii - *what the future of the programme should be beyond the end of the current four years of the programme*.

The meeting finished at 12:00