

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE - AGM
13 July 2016

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 13 July 2016

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Representative:

Barking and Dagenham
Bexley
Brent
Bromley
City of London
Ealing
Enfield
Greenwich
Hackney
Haringey
Harrow
Havering
Hillingdon
Hounslow
Islington
Kensington & Chelsea
Kingston upon Thames
Lambeth
Lewisham
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Richmond
Southwark
Sutton
Waltham Forest
Westminster

Cllr Saima Ashraf
Cllr Don Massey
Cllr Margaret McLennan
Cllr Stephen Carr
Cllr Alison Gowman
Cllr Ranjit Dheer
Cllr Yasemin Brett
Cllr David Gardner (sub)
Cllr Jonathan McShane
Cllr Eugene Ayisi
Cllr Sue Anderson
Cllr Osman Dervish (sub)
Cllr Douglas Mills
Cllr Richard Foote
Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
Cllr Julie Pickering
Cllr Paul McGlone (Chair)
Cllr Joan Millbank
Cllr Edith Macauley
Cllr Forhad Hussain
Cllr Bob Littlewood
Cllr David Marlow (sub)
Cllr Barrie Hargrove
Cllr Simon Wales
Cllr Liaquat Ali
Cllr David Harvey

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 Cllr Richard Cornelius (Barnet), Cllr Hamida Ali (Croydon), Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald (Greenwich), Cllr Sue Fennimore (Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Melvin Wallace (Havering), Cllr Meena Bond (Richmond), Cllr James Madden (Wandsworth), Cllr Nicki Aiken (Westminster)

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest made under this item but Cllr Joan Millbank (Lewisham) declared a pecuniary interest in item 12. *Leadership in the Third Sector : The Role of London Boroughs and London Councils* when the committee arrived at that item - as an employee of City Bridge Trust. She took no part in the decision.

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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 2016/17 Municipal Year

4.1 Cllr Paul McGlone was re-elected as Chair of the Grants Committee – nominated by Cllr Stephen Carr (Bromley) and seconded by Councillor Hargreaves (RB Kensington & Chelsea).

4.2 The Chair apologised to members for the size of today's agenda – he would devote as much time as possible to the key items – 13 and 14.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year

5.1 Cllr Forhad Hussain was elected as the Labour Vice-Chair. Nominated by Cllr Millbank

5.2 Cllr Stephen Carr was elected as the Conservative Vice-Chair. Nominated by Cllr Hargreaves

5.3 Cllr Simon Wales was elected as the Liberal Democrat Vice-Chair. Nominated by Cllr Gowman.

6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2016/17 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 Komer-Schwartz

6.2 The Chair recognised that a wider Executive membership may need to be considered, as that group may need to meet on several occasions throughout the year.

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 15th July 2015 (for noting – previously agreed)

7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2015 Grants AGM.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 9th March 2016

8.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 9th March 2016, subject to the removal of the reference to 'AGM' in the first line of the minutes.

9. Draft Minutes of the Grants Executive on 22 June 2016 (for noting)

9.1 Members noted the draft minutes of the Grants Executive which took place on 22 June 2016.

10. Operation of the Grants Committee

10.1 The Chair introduced the report.

10.2 Cllr Pickering felt that that the Terms of Reference for Grants Executive (item 9 of the report - page 20 of the paper) should be reviewed, in that their delegated powers from the Grants Committee seemed to conflict with the powers of delegation in Leaders' Committee to the Executive. Cllr McGlone asked officers to provide clarity on this issue.

Action: Officers to review wording of the Terms of Reference in respect of delegation to the Grants Executive.

10.3 Cllr Pickering asked if Officers could do more ‘intelligent reporting’ via Grants Executive to reduce the amount of paperwork being sent to Grants Committee, and that this be reflected in a review of the ToR. Cllr McGlone agreed that this approach could be explored. Cllr Carr agreed with the moves to rationalize paperwork and suggested that there may need to be extra Executive meetings as a result.

Action: Officers to prepare a discussion paper on this issues and report back.

The following dates of future meetings were agreed.

Grants Main Meeting		
Date	Time	Main Business
23 November 2016	11.00 am	
15 February 2017	11.00 am	
12 July 2017 (AGM)	11.00am	AGM
Grants Executive		
Date	Time	Main Business
13 September 2016	2:00 pm	Grants Executive
7 June 2017	2:00 pm	Grants Executive

10.4 The Committee noted the remainder of the report.

11. Constitutional Matters

11.1 London Councils’ officers introduced this report which covered:

- Minor variations to London Councils Governing Agreement
- Amendments to London Councils Standing Orders
- Approval of and amendment to London Councils Scheme of Delegation to Officers
- Terms of reference to Sub Committees

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

12. Leadership in the Third Sector : The Role of London Boroughs and London Councils

12.1 The Chair welcomed David Farnsworth from City Bridge Trust to the meeting. Mr Farnsworth addressed the Committee and made the following points:

- The City Bridge Trust's Grants budget was £20 million for about 600 organisations – an important theme was the support of the voluntary sector
- CBT had funded London Funders to produce ‘The Way Ahead’ report in collaboration with local communities
- Funding had been set for the next three years with an additional £1million a year – it was strategically important that boroughs have a role in co-design and CBT saw London Councils as vital in making this happen

12.2 Cllr Gowman (who was also Chair of CBT) added that she wanted to work collaboratively across London to ensure that the programme provided value for money.

12.3 In response to a question from Cllr Pickering about the role of Grants Committee in linking to the community, Mr Farnsworth confirmed that while the Committee is crucially important in giving strategic oversight, day to day work would be with officers and borough grants teams and London Councils would need to have some officer resource dedicated to this to be able to deliver this in a meaningful way.

12.4 Cllr Hargreaves asked about the resources required. The Corporate Director, Services confirmed that an additional full time resource would need to be recruited at some point, but the costs of this post and an indicative figure was included in the report for which provision could be included in the budget proposals considered by members in the autumn..

12.5 Cllr Carr was concerned that London Councils should look at options for funding the post, including looking at existing resources and underspends, and that the funding decision should be transparent. Also, in response to Cllr Carr's question, it was confirmed that a borough expert subgroup to co-ordinate ideas could be put together, led by the chair of the borough grants officer network (a borough officer from LB Southwark)

12.6 Members agreed that officers make provision in the 2017-18 budget proposals to be considered by the November meeting of the Grants Committee for resources to cover London Councils officer time in this role as set out in section three of the report. Mr Farnsworth was thanked for his presentation, and then left the meeting.

13. Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF Match Funded)

13.1 The Chair introduced the report, based on priorities agreed in March 2016 which cannot now be changed – the commissioning process began in May.

13.2 The Director, Services confirmed that there were still a small number of administrative issues to be sorted out with the GLA but was hopeful for these to be resolved soon so the agreement can be signed.

13.3 The Head of Grants and Community Services confirmed that bid funding was outcome related, and for the first time there are specific borough based targets for bidders to meet, based on population, unemployment and homelessness rates, which should lead to greater accountability. This has meant greater focus on boroughs with high unemployment and homelessness levels.

13.3 In answer to a question from the Chair on how the clusters had been arrived at, it was explained that the groupings were determined by the allocation of grant. There was a discussion around the issues of clustering, and the following points were made:

- Cllr Ashraf commented that Barking and Dagenham's allocation seemed low compared to its unemployment and homelessness levels, although it was pointed out that the borough had a relatively small population
- In response to a question from Cllr Anderson as to how much consultation had been carried out with local communities, the Head of Grants and Community Services replied that because of the short timescale and limited discussions with the boroughs, this hadn't been factored in to the process.
- Cllr Millbank expressed concern about potential pressure being placed on the voluntary sector because of the spread of resources to the boroughs. The Head of Grants and Community Services explained that a network of voluntary organisations had been involved with the main bidding partners.
- Cllrs Hargrove, Pickering and Dheer all felt that the clusters should be reviewed, as the correct grouping of boroughs was extremely important, and there seemed to be some unusual groupings e.g. Lambeth being grouped with south west London boroughs

- Cllr Littlewood felt that because there was no limit on the amount of bids that organisations could make, this may lead to capacity issues
- Cllr Anderson asked whether people on the autistic spectrum, who find it difficult to obtain work, were specifically targeted in the guidance. It was confirmed they were not.
- Cllr Gardner raised the issue of the London Living Wage, and asked whether bidders were required to be accredited. It was confirmed that this wasn't part of the ESF bidding requirements, and that it would be difficult to enforce because employers paid wages to their staff direct
- Cllr Pickering also felt that business rates need to be taken into account, as this had an effect of business being willing to offer employment opportunities

13.4 Cllr Carr expressed the opinion that the delay in signing the agreement with the GLA had made little difference to the target group, and that the Committee should postpone moving ahead until there was a full review of clusters and other issues. He also expressed concern that although no movement had been made on this target group, overall the programme was claiming success in resolving unemployment. The Head of Grants and Community Services confirmed that of the £44million for the programme (£22million match funded), only £6million related to the resources targeted at the long term unemployed. The Director, Services also confirmed that other complementary services for the long term unemployed were in operation outside of this grant allocation.

13.5 The Head of Grants and Community Services confirmed that there was a fixed end point for funding, and any delays in signing would reduce the 'window of opportunity' for committing the money, and place more pressure on organisations to deliver. Cllr Carr responded to ask whether any money allocated for the first year would be repaid if not spent? The Chair confirmed that payment of the grant was in arrears and paid based on delivery.

13.6 The Chair recognized the concerns of the Committee and felt that the delivery of the programme was all-important, and that robust tools were needed to keep the delivery under review. The Chair moved to a vote for approval of the recommendations of the report:

For: 19
Against: 7
Abstentions: 0

13.7 The recommendations 1 – 3 in the report were agreed.

Action: the Head of Grants and Community Services agreed to look at the clusters again based on the comments from the Committee.

14. Grants Programme 2017-21

14.1 The Chair introduced the report, and confirmed that the budget to be considered by members in autumn would be in the region of £8.7 million available (because the future programme did not have a fourth priority) but that there was flexibility to move money around. The Principal Programme Manager explained the options for indicative funding.

14.2 Cllr Comer-Schwartz asked whether there was a move away from 'family' homelessness to youth homelessness? The Principal Programme Manager confirmed that there had been a large rise in youth homelessness and that a statistic from a Homeless Link report was included in the report which stated that around 50% of people in homelessness accommodation were now from the 16 – 24 year age group, which boroughs were keen to see targeted, as it is important that

the Grants Programme complements local duties and delivery. Cllr Comer-Schwartz also felt that Government policy of requiring Councils to sell high value stock would also have an impact.

14.3 The Committee noted recommendations 1 and 4 and agreed

- the specifications in **Appendix One**, for services to be delivered from April 2017 to March 2021.
- Option Two from the potential indicative funding levels set out in **Appendix Two**,

15. Commissioning Monitoring Arrangements Framework – Review

15.1 The Chair introduced the report.

15.2 The following comments were made about the report:

- Cllr Millbank queried whether the leveraging in of resources on page 273 of the papers referred to additional resources for the project or the organisation?
- Cllr Hargreaves thought that the borough reports provided with the July – October 2016 Grants Review consultation were preferable to those provided in this one
- Cllr Pickering felt that there were now more sophisticated commissioning tools which should be utilised

15.3 In response to Cllr Millbank's question, The Principle Programme Manager confirmed this related to the organization. In response to Cllr Hargreaves' question about when the borough specific dashboards would be produced, The Head of Grants and Community Services confirmed that a full set would be ready by the next Grants Committee meeting in November.

15.4 The Committee noted the report.

16. Performance of Grants Programme 2015/16

16.1 The Chair introduced the report, commenting that progress was good excepting Priority 4, which had been covered elsewhere on the agenda. The Head of Grants and Community Services felt it would be more useful because of time to concentrate on areas of poor performance.

16.2 Cllr Anderson commented that some of the case studies seemed not to have changed. The Head of Grants and Community Services responded that case studies in Section 3.3. were updated on a rolling basis

16.3 Cllr Millbank noted on page 436 of the papers that some borough events with London Funders were not well attended by all boroughs, and encouraged all boroughs to take up the opportunity as the events were useful and were paid for by the boroughs.

16.4 The Committee noted all recommendations in the report and agreed that in relation to Women in Prison (2.2) that officers bring an update of this to the Grants Chair.

17. Grants Committee – Pre Audited Financial results 2015/16

17.1 The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report, and confirmed that he provided the information three times a year. He commented that the indicative surplus of £1,167million had increased from £1,041million in the previous report at the 9 month stage. This was a positive sign of the stability of the financial arrangements.

17.3 The Committee noted the report.

18. Report of Decision Taken under Urgency procedure

18.1 The Committee noted the decision.

Cllr Macauley wished to record her congratulations to Theresa May on her appointment as Prime Minister.

The meeting finished at 12:45pm