

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE - AGM
12 July 2017

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 12 July 2017

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Representative:

Bexley	Cllr Don Massey
Barnet	Cllr Sury Khatri (sub)
Bexley	Cllr Don Massey
Brent	Cllr Margaret McLennan
Bromley	Cllr Stephen Carr
City of London	Cllr Alison Gowman
Ealing	Cllr Ranjit Dheer
Hackney	Cllr Jonathan McShane
Haringey	Cllr Eugene Ayisi
Harrow	Cllr Sue Anderson
Hillingdon	Cllr Douglas Mills
Hounslow	Cllr Theo Dennison
Islington	Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Hugh Scantlebury
Lambeth	Cllr Paul McGlone (Chair)
Lewisham	Cllr Joan Millbank
Merton	Cllr Edith Macauley
Newham	Cllr Forhad Hussain
Redbridge	Cllr Bob Littlewood
Southwark	Cllr Barrie Hargrove
Sutton	Cllr Simon Wales
Wandsworth	Cllr Paul Ellis
Waltham Forest	Cllr Liaquat Ali
Westminster	Cllr David Harvey

London Councils officers were in attendance.

Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources at London Councils chaired items 1-4. Mr Smith was chairing in place of Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, who was absent because of a family bereavement. Members of the Committee extended their sympathies to her.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Saima Ashraf (Barking and Dagenham), Cllr Richard Cornelius (Barnet), Cllr Jonathan Simpson (Camden), Cllr Denise Scott-McDonald (Greenwich), Cllr Sue Fennimore (Hammersmith & Fulham), Cllr Melvin Wallace (Havering), Cllr Gerard Hargreaves (Kensington & Chelsea) and Cllr Meena Bond (Richmond)

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Alison Gowman (City of London) and Cllr Joan Millbank (Lewisham) both declared an interest in relation to City Bridge Trust, as Chairman and employee respectively.

3. Acknowledgement of new members of the Grants Committee

3.1 New members were welcomed to the Grants Committee, namely Cllr Theo Dennison (Hounslow), Cllr Hugh Scantlebury (Kingston upon Thames), Cllr Abdul Mukit MBE (Tower Hamlets) and Cllr Paul Ellis (Wandsworth)

4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2017/18 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 Cllr Hussain (Newham).

4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair Mr Smith declared Cllr McGlone Chair of the Grants Committee, and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2017/18 Municipal Year

5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2017/18. The following were nominated by Cllr Millbank (Lewisham) and seconded by Cllr Ellis (Wandsworth), namely:

Cllr Forhad Hussain as the Labour Vice-Chair.
Cllr Stephen Carr as the Conservative Vice-Chair.
Cllr Simon Wales as the Liberal Democrat Vice-Chair

5.2 There being no other nominees the chair declared Cllrs Hussain, Carr and Wales as the Vice Chairs.

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 Paul Ellis
- Cllr Don Massey
- Cllr Comer-Schwartz

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 13th July 2016 (for noting – previously agreed)

7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2016 Grants AGM.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 8th February 2017

8.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 8th February 2017.

8.2 Cllr Millbank asked about the progress of item 4.6 regarding a list of borough officers involved in the scoring of grants applications. Katy Makepeace-Gray, Principal Programme Manager, confirmed that this action was still outstanding.

9. Constitutional Matters

9.1 Members noted the changes to the constitutional documents previously agreed at Leaders' Committee on 11 July 2017, namely Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation to Officers and Financial Regulations.

10. Operation of the Grants Committee

10.1 Grants Committee noted:

- The Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee

- The programme of Grants Committee meetings

Grants Main Meeting		
Date	Time	Main Business
22 November 2017	11.00 am	Grants Committee
21 March 2018	11.00 am	Grants Committee
11 July 2018	11.00am	Grants Committee AGM
Grants Executive		
Date	Time	Main Business
12 September 2017	2:00 pm	Grants Executive
27 February 2018	2:00 pm	Grants Executive

10.2 Grants Committee agreed:

- The Terms of Reference for the Grants Executive
- The Terms of Reference for the Grants Sub Committee: Third Sector Leadership

11. Presentation by Priority Two Provider: Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)

11.1 The Principal Programme Manager introduced Sarbjit Ganger, Director of the Asian Women's Resource Centre. The AWRC are funded under Priority 2.6 of the current grants programme (Harmful Practices). Ms Ganger talked about the work of the organisation, and then introduced someone who had benefitted from the project to explain how they had been assisted.

11.2 Cllr Comer-Schwartz asked Ms Ganger whether statistics were available about numbers relating to the various harmful practices? Ms Ganger said that she would be happy to supply information to the Committee, but pointed out that their services were provided because there was a missing link in service provision, so statistics would not necessarily be representative.

11.3 Cllr Millbank asked what challenges were faced in developing the partnership and service, and also what more the Committee could do to assist partnerships? In response to the first question Ms Ganger said that the partnership established to deliver the harmful practices service for London Councils was the first of the six Ascent partnerships. It is now well established and this current London Councils Grants programme is the third that it has been funded under. The partnership experienced some initial issues with finances and power dynamics, but this was dealt with through discussion and debate and the development of an equitable model of working, which had been successful for 12 years. In response to the second question, Ms Ganger hoped that the Committee could help raise the profile of the 'Ascent' project by cascading information about their work and sharing via social media channels. The priority two providers would be holding an event in September to which the Committee would be invited.

11.4 Cllr Hargrove asked about the Partnership's work with West African communities, in particular the issue of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)?. Ms Ganger mentioned that one of the project's partners, FORWARD, offered a pan London service via workshops, community engagement around the issue of FGM, and work with schools. The FGM work was about mainly about raising consciousness – Ms Ganger agreed to email Cllr Hargrove with more information.

11.5 Cllr Mills asked about the extent of information sharing with the police across London in relation to the fact that the organisation had been involved in the pilot funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. Ms Ganger confirmed as part of the pilot a delivery partnership was in place in Kensington & Chelsea with MOPAC. Also in Brent AWRC chair the Domestic

Violence Forum and police were involved. However she agreed that she would raise this with the Partnership to ensure greater awareness.

11.6 Cllr Carr asked how the referral process to the service was publicised, and also in that there were cases of domestic violence against men, how the service dealt with that need? Ms Ganger informed the Committee that the details for the referral process in each borough were contained on their website, and that there was a 24 hour turnaround time in responding to enquiries. In terms of the issue of male domestic violence the RESPECT element of the wider Ascent partnership dealt with male cases and AWRC had a signposting role when dealing with such referrals.

11.7 Cllr Ayisi asked whether the Partnership engaged in work to deal with the behavioural issues leading to harmful practices, and whether that work took place in schools? Ms Ganger confirmed work in schools was taking place through the London Councils funded project led by Tender Education and Arts.. An effective platform for many of these discussions was via programmes like healthy eating. Cllr Dheer confirmed that this was a successful approach – discussions could also take place through community safety partnerships.

11.8 The Committee thanked both Ms Ganger and the recipient of the service for their presentations.

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

12.1 Simon Courage, Head of Grants and Community Services, acknowledged the offer of City Bridge Trust to work with Grants Committee and in particular on 'The Way Ahead' programme. Grants Committee had agreed a workplan for this piece of work in November 2016 and the progress against this was contained in his report.

12.2 The Head of Grants and Community Services reported that the main piece of work done to date was a survey to establish infrastructure details within local authorities, and that 24 responses had been received. A report on the responses was to be made to the first meeting of the Third Sector Leadership Sub Committee. The Chair suggested that a note on those boroughs who had so far responded should be sent round to the Committee to improve response numbers.

12.3 The Chair mentioned that the first meeting of the new Sub Committee was set for 18th July, and that nominations for places were being processed through the usual political channels. Cllr Carr stated that he was absolutely supportive, but was disappointed that the date had only been notified to him several days previously and as such he was unable to attend. The Chair felt that, whilst not ideal, the meeting must go ahead, but it was important that future dates be agreed as soon as possible. Hard copies of papers for the Sub Committee were made available at this meeting.

12.4 Cllr Comer-Schwartz asked whether a representative from the London Living Wage Committee could attend a future meeting of the Sub Committee? The Chair suggested that this be discussed at the 18 July meeting.

12.5 The Committee noted the paper.

13. Grants Committee 2017-21 Update Report

13.1 The Principal Programme Manager introduced the report, and provided an update on the grant awards that were made at the February meeting of the Grants Committee. The process to get the 13 projects into grant agreement addressed the issues raised in the Grants Review (2015-16) namely robust outcomes, due diligence, equalities, value for money, borough involvement and pan London approach, recognising the different needs presenting in inner and outer London. She confirmed that all 13 grant agreements had now been signed by the Director

and sent out. Projects had been informed that they could start at their own risk as there had been some delays in the partnership agreements, mainly around the need for increased Data Protection provisions.

13.2 The Committee were informed that the first performance report would be made to the November meeting of Grants Committee. There would be a 4 October launch event to which Grants Committee members would be invited. The Committee endorsed the approach outlined in section four of the report to address the issues raised in the Grants Review during the grant agreement process. The process is in line with the Commissioning Performance Management Framework, agreed by members in February 2017 and focuses on value for money, linking of priorities, pan-London delivery (covering differing issues faced by inner and outer London), borough engagement, robust outcomes and equalities implications.

13.3 The Principal Programme Manager reported the request to Leaders' Committee to administer £100,000 per year for two years on behalf of MOPAC for training on identifying harmful practices. Cllr Comer-Schwarz welcomed this following on from the comments about MOPAC's partnership working earlier in the meeting. The Chair agreed with Cllr Carr's comment that even though the funding was via MOPAC it should still be adopted and monitored in the usual way. Cllr Carr also pointed out that the 4 October date clashed with the Conservative Party conference, although it was pointed out that the date had been set by providers, not London Councils.

14. Commissioning Performance Management Framework; Grants Committee Reporting Plan 2017-18

14.1 Cllr Hussain introduced the paper. He summarized the work done on performance reporting, including the development of Equality Impact Assessments, and drew Members' attention to Appendix 1 of the report which set out the form of reporting. The reporting would be live from November 2017.

14.2 The Committee was reminded that there had been discussions about No Recourse to Public Funds being the first thematic review at the November meeting of the Grants Committee. Members agreed this, and also to sending suggestions for future reviews via the Chair.

14.3 Members noted the rest of the report and agreed the approach to reporting, which is based on the Commissioning Performance Management Framework (agreed by members in February 2017) and the draft reporting timetable outlined in Appendix One.

15. Grants Committee – Pre Audited Financial results 2016/17

15.1 The Director of Corporate Resources introduced the report. He confirmed that the surplus position of £517,000 had moved from that of £759,000 reported to the Committee in February; the reason for the reduction was due to the way the ESF payments were treated in the accounts, in that they were considered for accounting purposes to be advance payments and therefore disallowed from the surplus for the year. Borough contributions to fund this deferred expenditure were also disallowed, with both elements to be reflected within the current financial year figures.

15.2 The Director of Corporate Resources commented that the £212,000 relating to Section 48 reserves was lower than the benchmark established by the Grants Committee in 2013. However, due to the likely overstating of liabilities for 2016/17, which will be recycled back into reserves, the benchmark level is likely to be replenished.

15.3 The position on ESF was reported. £1million had been collected from boroughs for the last two financial years, and in the current year and although the programme had been late in

starting, these accumulated funds would be used to fund future ESF activities up until the project end-date of December 2018.

15.4 The liability position of the Committee, in relation to the overall position for London Councils, in respect of the pension deficit, which had been reflected on the face of the balance sheets for the last 10 years, was clarified for Members as set out in sections 13 - 16 of the report.

15.5 Members noted the pre-audited outturn position and the provisional level of reserves in the report.

The meeting finished at 12:05pm