

London Councils' Grants Committee

Constitutional Matters

Item 11

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Date: 15 July 2015
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Summary:

This report informs the Grants Committee of changes to constitutional documents which were agreed at Leaders' Committee AGM on 2 June 2015. Changes were made to the following documents;

- London Councils Agreement (a minor variation relating to appointing an auditor)
- Standing Orders
- Scheme of Delegation to Officers
- Financial Regulations

The Leaders' Committee reports which outlined the rationale for the changes are attached to this report as appendices. This report is for information only.

Recommendation:

The Committee is recommended to:

- Note the changes to London Councils constitutional documents.

Constitutional changes

1. London Councils Leaders' Committee considered six constitutional reports at its AGM on 2 June 2015. Four of the six reports made changes which apply to the Grants Committee and are therefore reported for to this Committee for information.
2. The changes made are summarised below;
 - A minor variation to London Councils governing agreement to enable Leaders Committee to appoint an external auditor. This was a change necessitated by the abolition of the Audit Commission;
 - Minor changes to Standing Orders to add clarity and ensure consistent wording to procedures;
 - Approval of the Scheme of Delegation to Officers including three additions;
 - i. to clarify the delegated authority within Financial Regulations
 - ii. Enable the Chief Executive to approve appointments to the Young People's Education and Skills Board
 - iii. To confirm the Chief Executive as the proper officer for the purposes of section 33(2) Localism Act 2011 (granting dispensations for a Member to take part in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, in some circumstances).
 - Update the Financial Regulations following the introduction of introduction of the Public Contract Regulations (PCR) 2015 and other minor changes, including an increase in the Director of Corporate Resources authority to write off small value debts up to the value of £1,000.

Recommendation:

3. Note the changes to London Councils constitutional documents

Legal Implications for London Councils

4. It is necessary that changes to London Councils governance documents are properly made in a manner which is consistent with the joint committees' Governing Agreements. Consequently Leaders' Committee has approved the changes noted in this report. The Grants Committee is now advised of these changes and will be required to operate in accordance with the updated documents.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

5. There are no specific equalities implications for London Councils.

Financial Implications for London Councils

6. There are no specific financial implications for London Councils

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Leaders Committee AGM Report item 15A – Constitutional Matters – Minor Variations

Appendix 2 - Leaders Committee AGM Report item 15B – Constitutional Matters – Standing Orders

Appendix 3 - Leaders Committee AGM Report item 15C – Constitutional Matters – Scheme of Delegation to Officers

Appendix 4 - Leaders Committee AGM Report item 15F – Constitutional Matters – Financial Regulations