

Report from the Grants Committee Executive – 22 June 2015

Item no:

Report by: Ana Gradiska **Job title:** Principal Governance and Projects Officer
Date: 13 October 2015
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Summary: Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Grants Committee Executive held on 22 June 2015.

Recommendations: For information.

Members: Cllr. Paul McGlone (Chair - LB Lambeth), Cllr. Forhad Hussain (Vice Chair) LB Newham, Cllr. Stephen Carr (Vice Chair - LB Bromley), Cllr. Simon Wales (Vice Chair - LB Sutton), Cllr. Asima Shaikh (LB Islington), Cllr. Joan Millbank (LB Lewisham), Cllr. James Madden (LB Wandsworth), Cllr. Gerard Hargreaves (RB Kensington and Chelsea).

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

An Apology was received from Cllr James Madden.

2. Deputies and Declaration of Attendance

There were no deputies or declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 17 September 2014

Minutes of the meeting which took place on 17 September 2014 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 25 March 2015 (for noting)

The minutes from the Grants Committee meeting held on 25 March 2015 were noted. The Chair requested that the issue in section 4.5 relating to public recognition for the work done by the funded commissions needed to be put into action by the Grants team at London Councils.

5. Oral Update on Performance of Grants Scheme

The Head of Grants at London Councils said that the update constituted a performance report based on data received from projects which has been analysed by Grants officers. He added that:

- The scheme currently comprised 35 projects, covering four priorities: Homelessness, Domestic Violence, Tackling Poverty Through Employment, and Capacity Building for the Voluntary Sector.
- Among the commissions, all bar one were Green under the RAG rating. St Mungo's Community Housing Association, co-funded by the ESF, was rated Amber.
- Up-to-date versions of the reports would be available at the Grants AGM in July 2015, along with graphs depicting performance against expectations and one page summaries for each projects, which include case studies.

The order of the agenda was then varied, and items were taken in the following order:

6. Pre-Audited Financial Results 2014-2015

The Director of Corporate Resources at London Councils outlined the Pre-Audited Financial Results 2014-2015 report, which, once noted by the Grants Executive, would be approved by London Councils' Executive, and then passed on to auditors. In response to member queries, the Director confirmed that:

- The provisional surplus of £174,000 was split between the S.48 borough commissioned services and the ESF/borough funded commissions. The provisional general reserves of £1,074,000 remain after allowing for potential ESF commitments of £250,000 in 2015.
- There was a provisional net overspend of £58,000 in relation to grants administration expenditure attributable to an overspend of £87,000 in respect of salary costs, general running costs and central recharges, and offset by underspends of £12,000 in respect of the research budget and £17,000 in respect of investment income received on Committee reserves.
- The pension fund liability has increased by £648,000 from £912,000 to £1,560,000. The reason for this significant increase in the deficit is attributable to a greater increase in scheme liabilities over the increase in scheme assets over the year, due to changes in the financial assumptions used by the actuary between 2014 and 2015.

Members requested that the financial results report was presented to the Grants Committee at the November 2015 meeting, after the audit had taken place.

7. Proposals for Review of Grants Programme

The Head of Grants asked members for views and steers on the review of the Grants Programme, and the upcoming consultation. After some discussion, the recommendations were agreed by the Grants Executive.

The meeting ended at 14:00