

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE - AGM
11 July 2018

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 11 July 2018

London Borough & Royal Borough:

Representative:

Barking and Dagenham
Bexley
Brent
Enfield
Greenwich
Hackney
Haringey
Harrow
Havering
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kingston upon Thames
Merton
Newham
Redbridge
Richmond
Sutton
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Westminster

Cllr Saima Ashraf
Cllr David Leaf
Cllr Margaret McLennan
Cllr Mary Maguire (dep)
Cllr Miranda Williams
Cllr Philip Glanville (Chair)
Cllr Mark Blake
Cllr Sue Anderson
Cllr Viddy Persaud
Cllr Janet Burgess (dep)
Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
Cllr Jon Tolley
Cllr Edith Macauley
Cllr Charlene McLean
Cllr Helen Coomb
Cllr Gareth Roberts
Cllr Marian James
Cllr Candida Ronald
Cllr Louise Mitchell
Cllr Paul Ellis
Cllr David Harvey

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Smith (LB Bromley), Cllr Jonathan Simpson (LB Camden), Alderman Alison Gowman (City of London), Cllr Nesil Caliskan (LB Enfield – Cllr Mary Maguire deputising), Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington – Cllr Janet Burgess deputising), Cllr Ben Coleman (LB Hammersmith and Fulham) and Cllr Jonathan Slater (LB Lewisham)

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Helen Coomb declared that her sister was a trustee of Redbridge CVS.

3. Acknowledgement of new members of the Grants Committee

3.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director: Young People's Education and Skills, Grants and Community Services at London Councils welcomed new members of the Grants Committee, and welcomed back the existing members.

4. Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

4.1 Mayor Philip Glanville was elected as Chair of the Grants Committee – nominated by Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham) and seconded by Cllr Paul Ellis (LB Wandsworth).

4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, Ms Burgess declared Mayor Glanville Chair of the Grants Committee, and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

4.3 Cllr Ellis congratulated the Chair on his appointment, and extended a thank you on behalf of the Conservative Group to the previous Chair of the Grants Committee Paul McGlone. He added that he was looking forward to continuing a positive relationship with the new Chair.

5. Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2018/19. The following were nominated by Cllr Sue Anderson (LB Harrow) and seconded by Cllr Hargreaves (RB Kensington and Chelsea), namely:

Cllr Saima Ashraf as the Labour Vice-Chair.
Cllr Paul Ellis as the Conservative Vice-Chair.
Cllr Gareth Roberts as the Liberal Democrat Vice-Chair

5.2 There being no other nominees the chair declared Cllrs Ashraf, Ellis and Roberts as the Vice Chairs.

6. Election of the Grants Executive for the 2018/19 Municipal Year

6.1 The Chair said that political proportionality of the Grants Executive would be worked out after the meeting and asked for expressions of interest. Grants Committee agreed to delegate to the Chair the power to determine the composition of the Grants Executive (see 6.3 below)

6.2 The following members expressed interest in being on the Grants Executive: Cllr Miranda Williams (LB Greenwich), Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz (LB Islington, nominated by Cllr Janet Burgess who was deputising), Cllr Louise Mitchell (Waltham Forest), and Cllr Charlene McLean (LB Newham).

6.3 It was agreed that the Grants Exec comprises 10 members - 5 Labour, 3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 City of London. The following members were appointed:

Labour - Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair), LB Hackney, Cllr Saima Ashraf, Barking & Dagenham, Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz, LB Islington, Cllr Miranda Williams, RB Greenwich, Cllr Charlene McLean, LB Newham.

Sub - Cllr. Louise Mitchell, LB Waltham Forest

Conservative - Cllr Paul Ellis, LB Wandsworth (group lead), Cllr Gerard Hargreaves, RB Kensington & Chelsea, Cllr David Leaf, LB Bexley

Sub - Cllr David Harvey, City of Westminster

Liberal Democrat - Cllr Gareth Roberts, LB Richmond.

Sub – Cllr Marian James, LB Sutton

City of London - Alderman Alison Gowman

Sub – Cllr Druv Patel

7. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 12th July 2017 (for noting – previously agreed)

7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2017 Grants AGM.

8. Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 21 March 2018

8.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 21 March 2018.

9. Constitutional Matters

9.1 Members noted the changes to the constitutional documents previously agreed at Leaders' Committee on 5 June 2018, namely London Councils Financial Regulations.

9.2 Ms Burgess noted that there were no specific implications for the Grants Committee in the report, and highlighted the key changes regarding EU procurement thresholds and the General Data Protection Regulation.

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 – listed below:

Grants Main Meeting		
Date	Time	Main Business
21 November 2018	11.00 am	Grants Committee
20 March 2019	11.00 am	Grants Committee
10 July 2019 (AGM)	11.00 am	Grants Committee AGM
13 November 2019	11.00 am	
Grants Executive		
Date	Time	Main Business
18 September 2018	2:00 pm	Grants Executive
7 February 2019	2:00 pm	Grants Executive
17 September 2019	2:00 pm	Grants Executive

11. Presentations from providers at future meetings

11.1 Ms Burgess said that providers and their beneficiaries were often asked to present at Grants Committee meetings which helped give members an overview of their programme. As Priority 3 partners had not presented to Grants Committee, and considering issues related to the European Social Fund (ESF), officers were proposing that a Priority 3 provider be invited to the next meeting.

11.2 The Chair added that it would be useful for all members of the Grants Committee to note the Grants Executive dates in their calendars, as those dates could potentially be used for visits to projects.

11.3 Members made the following points in the ensuing discussion:

- It would be good to have a presentation from the charity SignHealth, that delivers the project Deaf Hope which works with deaf people who are survivors of domestic violence
- It would be useful if there was dialogue between presenters and members, rather than a PowerPoint presentation.
- Different providers from Priority 3 could be invited as they would all potentially offer a different outlook.

- Redbridge CVS should be invited in order to talk about the challenges they were currently facing as they were responsible for a third of the delivery across Priority 3
- It would be useful to hear from projects about issues and challenges as well as successes whose work was not progressing well, as it would provide a good learning opportunity.

11.4 Members:

- Noted the thematic reviews undertaken in 2017-18.
- Agreed the Priority 3 thematic review for the November 2018 Grants Committee meeting.

12. Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21 April 2017-March 2018 (Year one, Quarters one to four)

12.1 Ms Burgess introduced this report and said that it contained the key performance metrics for each priority. She drew members' attention to the significant issues faced by Priority 3 projects, which targeted people who were furthest from the job market in order to help them find and retain employment.

12.2 Cllr Blake (LB Haringey) asked for more detailed information regarding the beneficiaries in his borough, for example their race and ethnicity, and whether or not they had a criminal record, as all these things could be a barrier to employment. London Councils officers said that they would provide him with further information subsequent to the meeting.

12.3 In response to a question from Cllr Leaf (LB Bexley) about how many projects focused on issues such as knife crime and the gang cultures, London Councils officers stated that although Priority 2 is focused on sexual and domestic violence, there is some cross over with gang related violence, and there may be opportunity to look into this link further during the mid-programme review. MOPAC will be launching further funding for knife crime reduction programmes and it will be important to ensure there was no duplication of support and activities. In addition to this, officers highlighted the Mayor's £45m Young Londoners Fund, and noted that applications had recently been sought for £15million from the fund for projects that support children and young people who are either at risk of exclusion or involved/have been involved in criminal activity. London Councils is working with the team at the Greater London Authority to ensure that the Young Londoner's projects complement s activities delivered through the grants programme

12.4 In response to members' queries about how the risks carried by Priority 3 projects were being mitigated, officers explained that this was managed through due diligence, frequent meetings with providers, and a robust quality assurance process.

12.5 London Councils officers said that they were keeping a close eye on the effects of the Homelessness Reduction Act on providers, and that they would report more fully on this issue at the November meeting.

12.6 In response to Cllr Tolley's (RB Kingston) question on what will happen to ESF funding post-Brexit, London Councils officers said that funding was agreed until 2020 and there were on-going discussions to potentially extended this to 2023.

12.7 Members:

Noted that:

a) At priority level, the outcomes for:

- i) Priority 1 (combatting homelessness) overall were 11 per cent above profile in 2017-18 (Year 1, Q1-4)

- ii) Priority 2 (tackling sexual and domestic violence) overall were -5 per cent below profile in 2017-18 (Year 1, Q1-4)
 - iii) Priority 3 (tackling poverty through employment overall were -42 per cent below profile in 2017-18 (October 2016- March 2018).
- b) The number of interventions delivered in the relevant quarters is as follows:
- i) Priority 1 (combatting homelessness) – 21,811
 - ii) Priority 2 (tackling sexual and domestic violence) – 130,031
 - iii) Priority 3 (ESF tackling poverty through employment) – 2,187
- c) At project level:
- i) Priority 1&2: In the red, amber, green (RAG) system, 12 projects are green and one is amber.
 - ii) Priority 1&2: The direction-of-travel arrows show that the performance of all projects is level or upwards. Further information is provided in Section 4.2 on the project rated amber and four other projects with particular issues. More detailed information on the performance of all commissions is provided in **Appendix Seven**.
 - iii) Priority 1&2: Officers propose to concentrate performance management effort on the project that is rated amber, and those reported under the project issues Section 4.2.
 - iv) Priority 3: Following a re-basing exercise to address performance issues, all projects remain rated red. Performance management actions, both taken and planned, to support improved delivery are outlined in Section 3.3 of this report.
- d) **Noted** the progress on the administration of £100,000 per year for two years on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to enhance training to front-line professionals on identifying harmful practices, as set out in Section Three.
- e) **Endorsed** the approach outlined in Section 4.2 in relation to the removing an outcome target for the Shelter STAR project regarding rough sleeper reconnections following consultation with key stakeholders and a review of recent data.
- f) **Noted** the update on issues raised in the 2015-16 Grants Review (Sections Two, Five, Six and Seven), in particular the focus on borough engagement through the borough officer survey report (**Appendix Two**).
- g) **Noted** the equalities audit report included at **Appendix Three** and **endorse** officers' approach to addressing issues identified as outlined in Section Six of this report.
- h) **Noted** the annual performance report provided by London Funders included at **Appendix Four**. **Agree** that London Councils officers share this report with relevant borough officers to ensure they are aware of the activities provided (boroughs pay a reduced subscription to London Funders via London Councils, which is considered in the November budget setting process).
- i) **Noted** the borough maps (**Appendix Five**), annual individual borough reports (**Appendix Six**), and updates on actions to address issues with borough level delivery outlined in Section Five.

- j) **Agreed** to share **Appendix Seven** with their local authority officers encourage greater awareness about referral pathways.

13 London Councils Grants Committee – Pre-Audited Financial Results 2017/2018

13.1 Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources, outlined the financial results for 2017/2018 and said that the Grants Committee finances would shortly be audited by KPMG. He added that any substantial changes would be reported at the next meeting in November.

13.2 Members were informed that the budget was split into Priorities 1 and 2, and Priority 3 (ESF funding). Priorities 1 and 2 were at provisional breakeven position. Priority 3 was showing a provisional surplus, attributable to slippage in the ESF programme, although performance had improved over the last six months, so further payments can be recognised in the 2017/18 outturn figures. The quality assurance process implemented last year supported payments on a monthly, not quarterly basis, following rigorous checks of participant information.

13.3 Mr Smith added that boroughs had paid in £1.92m for Priority 3 over the past three years, and will not be asked for further contributions. These reserves are expected to be applied during the course of the current financial year and 2019.

13.4 Members:

- Noted the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £656,000 for 2017/18, the first year of the 2017-21 programme;
- Noted the provisional level of reserves at paragraphs 18 to 20 and the financial outlook, as detailed in paragraphs 21 to 24 of the report.

The meeting finished at 12:05