

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE
21 November 2018

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 21 November 2018

London Borough & Royal Borough:	Representative:
Barking and Dagenham	Cllr Saima Ashraf
Barnet	Cllr John Hart (dep)
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Margaret McLennan
Camden	Cllr Jonathan Simpson
City of London	Alderman Dhruv Patel (dep)
Hackney	Cllr Philip Glanville (Chair)
Haringey	Cllr Patrick Perryman (dep)
Harrow	Cllr Sue Anderson
Havering	Cllr Viddy Persaud
Kensington and Chelsea	Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Sam Foulder-Hughes
Lambeth	Cllr Andy Wilson
Lewisham	Cllr Jonathan Slater
Merton	Cllr Edith Macauley
Redbridge	Cllr Helen Coomb
Richmond	Cllr Gareth Roberts
Sutton	Cllr Marian James
Wandsworth	Cllr Paul Ellis
Westminster	Cllr David Harvey

Cllr Foulder-Hughes has replaced Cllr Jon Tolley as the RB Kingston representative.

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Cornelius (LB Barnet), Cllr Colin Smith (LB Bromley), Alderman Alison Gowman (City of London), Cllr Miranda Williams (RB Greenwich), Cllr Ben Coleman (LB Hammersmith and Fulham), Cllr Mark Blake (LB Haringey), Cllr Charlene McLean (LB Newham), Cllr Candida Ronald (LB Tower Hamlets) and Cllr Louise Mitchell (LB Waltham Forest).

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 11 July 2018

3.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 11 July 2018 were agreed. The Chair drew members' attention to the fact that subsequent to the AGM, political proportionality was applied when forming the Grants Committee Executive which resulted in the following configuration: 10 members - 5 Labour, 3 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 City of London.

4. Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21, April 2017 – September 2018 (quarters one to six)

4.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, London Councils, introduced this paper and said that programmes under Priority 1 and Priority 2 were performing well and were rated green on the RAG rating system. LB Southwark's housing solutions service was the first local authority housing service in the country to achieve accreditation for good practice and commitment to

recognising and responding to domestic abuse. Co-located work undertaken by Shelter was also noted and will be showcased at a future Grants Committee.

4.2 However, Priority 3 programmes remained a challenge. The Citizens Trust had withdrawn from delivery (immediately prior to the Grants Committee AGM) due to issues with meeting delivery targets. London Councils has been liaising with other Priority 3 partners to ensure coverage to boroughs affected and have now come to an agreement with Paddington Development Trust, who will cover all the boroughs except LB Richmond. London Councils will seek a suitable partner to cover LB Richmond Ms Burgess said she was confident that this would could be achieved.

4.3 The Grants team at London Councils had undertaken a mid-programme review in October 2018 and found the programmes overarching aims and objectives remained fit for purpose. The team will continue to liaise with Priority 1 partners and policy colleagues at London Councils to assess the impact the Homelessness Reduction Act may have on commissions.

5. Priority 3: Tackling poverty through employment - partner perspective

5.1 Ross Diamond and Harjit Sangha from Redbridge CVS talked about the successes and challenges of delivering a Priority 3 project. They highlighted the following:

5.2 Redbridge CVS delivers two commissions for Priority 3 – Outreach East and Aim Higher. These provide support to long-term unemployed and economically inactive people who may have mental health conditions, substance misuse problems, and other barriers to employment.

5.3 Both projects aim to help people back into employment through improving their confidence, skills, employability and health. Participants are offered personalised advice, access to work experience, CV building, interview skills, money management advice, and other forms of support. Qualified coaches provide help and advice to clients, although it was sometimes difficult to recruit staff with the right experience and qualifications.

5.4 In answer to a member question about whether they provided help for people who wanted to become self-employed, Redbridge CVS said that although this could be a good option for people who needed flexibility due to, for example, caring responsibilities, it also involved people managing their own taxes, which posed difficulties for their client group. However, the local authority, LB Redbridge, did provide help and advice for start-ups.

5.5 Priority 3 as a whole was currently underperforming, including the commissions carried out by Redbridge CVS. Some of the main challenges were evidencing clients', which meant more time spent on administration and less on delivering outcomes. Another challenge was the evidencing of results, for example, to claim a sustained job outcome, European Social Fund (ESF) rules require 26 weeks of employment (in a 32-week period) to count as a successful outcome, but this does not reflect the reality of the employment market. Other challenges which impacted on outcomes included needing to provide continuous training to partner organisations and a high turnover of staff.

5.6 Nevertheless, the projects had produced many successful outcomes, for example: a 60+ client who had completed training which led to working for a local authority, and who was recently promoted; a BME disabled woman who found a permanent job after a supported work trial with an employer.

5.7 Redbridge CVS has been working closely with London Councils to address many of the issues and are on track to deliver further positive outcomes to individuals as a result. Looking forward, it would be helpful if the scope of the project allowed the partners to help people on zero hours contracts and those in work, but on low incomes.

5.8 Members gave positive feedback on the presentation and acknowledged that despite the external challenges, excellent progress had been with vulnerable London residents who were furthest from the employment market.

5.9 A film with further information on the programme and additional case studies is available on the Redbridge CVS website – www.redbridgecvs.net.

6. Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2018/19

6.1 Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources, London Councils, introduced this report which outlines actual income and expenditure against the approved budgets for 2018/19 to the end of September 2018 and provides a forecast of the outturn position for 2018/19.

6.2 Mr Smith said that currently a surplus of £110,000 is forecast over the approved budget and that projected total reserves of £892,000 are forecast at the year end, of which £259,000 relates to residual borough contributions towards the funding of the ESF commissions collected over the past three financial years. He added that from this financial year, boroughs are no longer contributing to the ESF programme, and that payments to providers are scheduled to end in June 2019.

7. London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2019/20

7.1 Frank Smith introduced this report, which outlines the proposed budget for the Grants scheme for 2019/20. He added that should this budget meet with approval, it will then go to December's Leaders' Committee for ratification, and then the City of London for final approval as the designated council for the Scheme.

7.2 In answer to members' queries, Mr Smith said that borough contributions were based on population figures which were provided by the Office for National Statistics as at June 2017, and that they showed a marginal shift in population from outer London boroughs to inner London boroughs.

7.3 The Chair reminded members that the reserves showed residual Priority 3 (ESF) borough contributions, but not the ESF match funding as this is paid after the expenditure has been incurred and validated.

7.4 Members agreed (subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders' Committee on 4 December 2018):

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.909 million for the Grants Scheme in 2019/20 (inclusive of £241,000 residual gross ESF programme);
- that taking into account the application of £58,000 ESF grant and £183,000 from accumulated reserves, borough contributions for 2019/20 should be £6.668 million;
- that further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2019 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £8.668 million);
- that constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2019/20 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2017;
- that subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £574,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities, including ESF administration of £139,000 required to wind down the current programme; and
- that a decision on options over the level of reserves going forward should be deferred until the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 2019, with proposals being

brought back to a later meeting of this Committee for approval (by this time, the end of project position in respect of the S.48 ESF programme would be clearer).

8. Grants Committee Proposed Meeting Dates for 2019/2020

8.1 Grants Committee noted the proposed meeting dates for 2019/20 as set out below:

Grants Committee (11:00– political group pre-meets at 10:00)

2019

- 20 March 2019
- 10 July 2019 (AGM)
- 13 November 2019 *

2020

- 18 March 2020 *
- 8 July 2020 (AGM) *
- 11 November 2020 *

Grants Executive (2:00 – 4:00pm)

2019

- 7 February 2019
- 17 September 2019 *

2020

- 5 February 2020 *
- 16 September 2020 *

*Remain in draft until formally agreed at Leaders' AGM

Cllr Roberts asked that the September 2019 and September 2020 Grants Executive dates be changed as they clash with the Liberal Democrat annual conference. London Councils officers said that alternative September dates would be forwarded to members shortly.

The meeting finished at 12.20