

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE – AGM 10 July 2019

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 10 July 2019

London Borough & Royal Borough:	Representative:
Barking and Dagenham	Cllr Saima Ashraf
Barnet	Cllr John Hart
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Tom Miller
City of London Councils	Dhruv Patel OBE
Croydon	Cllr Hamida Ali
Ealing	Cllr Jasbir Anand
Greenwich	Cllr Miranda Williams
Hackney	Cllr Philip Glanville (Chair)
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cllr Adam Connell
Harrow	Cllr Sue Anderson
Hounslow	Cllr Katherine Dunne
Islington	Cllr Una O'Halloran
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Sam Foulder-Hughes
Lewisham	Cllr Jonathan Slater
Merton	Cllr Edith Macauley MBE
Newham	Cllr Charlene McLean
Redbridge	Cllr Helen Coomb
Richmond	Cllr Gareth Roberts
Southwark	Cllr Evelyn Akoto
Sutton	Cllr Marian James
Tower Hamlets	Cllr Asma Begum (deputy)
Waltham Forest	Cllr Louise Mitchell
Wandsworth	Cllr Paul Ellis
Westminster	Cllr Iain Bott

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), Cllr Viddy Persaud (LB Havering), Cllr Anne Cyron (RB Kensington and Chelsea) and Cllr Candida Ronald (LB Tower Hamlets).

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 existing members.
- 3.2 Members asked for their thanks to the former members of the Grants Committee to be recorded, in recognition of all the work carried out for the Committee.

Action: The Strategy Director to write a letter of thanks to all members who have left the Grants Committee this year.

4 Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

- 4.1 Mayor Philip Glanville was nominated as the Chair of the Grants Committee by Cllr Paul Ellis (LB Wandsworth), seconded by Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham).
- 4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, the Strategy Director declared Mayor Glanville 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 2019/20 Municipal Year

- 5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2019/20. The following members were nominated by Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) and seconded by Cllr Begum (LB Tower Hamlets):
 - 5.1.1 Cllr Saima Ashraf as the Labour Vice-Chair
 - 5.1.2 Cllr Paul Ellis as the Conservative Vice-Chair
 - 5.1.3 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 2019/20 Municipal Year

- 6.1 The following members were appointed:
 - 6.1.1 **Labour** - Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair), LB Hackney, Cllr Saima Ashraf, LB Barking & Dagenham, Cllr Miranda Williams, RB Greenwich, Cllr Charlene McLean, LB Newham and Cllr Jonathan Slater, LB Lewisham. The Chair noted that there was currently one Labour vacancy on the Executive
 - 6.1.2 **Conservative** - Cllr Paul Ellis, LB Wandsworth Cllr David Leaf, LB Bexley, and Cllr Iain Bott, City of Westminster
 - 6.1.3 **Liberal Democrat** - Cllr Gareth Roberts, LB Richmond
 - 6.1.4 **City of London** - Dhruv Patel OBE.

7 Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 11th July 2018 (for noting – already formally agreed)

- 7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2018 Grants AGM.

8 Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 20 March 2019

- 8.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 20 March 2019.

9 Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 7 February 2019 (for information)

- 9.1 Members noted the minutes of the meeting which took place on 7 February 2019.

10 Constitutional Matters

10.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item, which detailed several variations to the London Councils Constitutional documents which were agreed at Leaders Committee at its AGM on 4 June 2019. She said that all the variations in the constitutional documents were for noting, except the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer, under Article 37 of GDPR, which members were being asked to approve.

10.2 Members:

10.2.1 approved the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer and noted the remainder of the changes in Appendix 1

10.2.2 noted the changes to the other London Councils Constitutional documents in Appendix 2 (London Councils Standing Orders) and Appendix 3 (Revised Authorised Signatories).

11 Operation of the Grants Committee

11.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item and drew members' attention to paragraph 2, in which members were invited to undertake visits to partners who were delivering the projects on behalf of the Grants Committee.

11.2 The Chair invited members to inform him and the Grants team if there were any projects they wanted to visit. He said that the visits would be held on the days of the Grants Executive meetings. The Chair added that the date of the September Grants Executive meeting may need to be re-arranged due to a prior engagement, but that care would be taken that it did not clash with the Liberal Democrat conference.

11.3 Grants Committee noted:

11.3.1 the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive (Appendix 1)

11.3.2 the programme of meetings (below)

Grants Main Meeting	Time (Pre-meetings 10:00)
10 July 2019 (AGM)	11:00
13 November 2019	11:00
18 March 2020	11:00
8 July 2020 (AGM)	11:00
11 November 2020	11:00
Grants Executive	Time
12 September 2019	14:00
5 February 2020	14:00
16 September 2020	14:00

12 Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21: April 2017 to March 2019

- 12.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which provided members with an update on the three priorities of the Grants Programme. She said that for Priorities 1 and 2, this report presented an update for the period April 2017 to March 2019, and included information submitted by partners who were asked to identify their successes and challenges. For Priority 3, the report presented an update on delivery from October 2016 to March 2019.
- 12.2 The Strategy Director also drew members' attention to the annual update in Appendix 4, which contained information on the delivery of the different priorities broken down by borough. She added that Appendix 3, which contained the project delivery information and contact details of all the partners, was bound separately.
- 12.3 Members' attention was drawn to the fact that the format of the annual equalities report had changed from previous years', when it was presented primarily as an analytical comparative report, using demographic data. However, due to the nature of services the programme delivers, the user demographic was slightly different, and the new format better reflected the fact that services were being provided to a wide cross-section of Londoners.
- 12.4 Members were reminded that the Grants Committee pays the subscription for all boroughs' membership of London Funders. London Councils had worked with London Funders on a number of initiatives including Fair Funding, unaccompanied minors, and communications with third sector organisations. Members were invited to read the resources that London Funders had produced over the last year, which were made available for them at the meeting.
- 12.5 In relation to Priority 1, the Strategy Director noted that:
 - 12.5.1 there had been a number of successful outcomes in terms of homelessness, including advocating for clients in relation to the Duty to Refer
 - 12.5.2 the colocated services STAR partnership was now fully embedded in four local authority co-located settings including the London Boroughs of Barnet, Ealing, Haringey and Sutton, and had formed strong relationships with other boroughs
 - 12.5.3 anticipated challenges that may affect future delivery of the programme included a sharp increase in the number of individuals presenting with more complex needs, particularly mental health needs, who typically required support for longer periods – more staff also require clinical supervision because of the complex cases they are supporting
 - 12.5.4 further information relating to improving engagement in boroughs such would be shared with relevant borough officers by the Grants team.
 - 12.5.5 In response to the query from Cllr Foulmer-Hughes, the Strategy Director said that the updated report for the November meeting would contain information on the numbers of people affected by No recourse to Public Funds as well as the proportion of the programme users
 - 12.5.6 in response to a query from Cllr Leaf about whether the targets allocated were appropriate in the boroughs which showed underperformance, the Strategy Director said this are reviewed with up to date information
 - 12.5.7 In response to a query from Cllr Ellis, the Strategy Director said that borough information could be given to the Grants Committee on a quarterly basis, so that underperformance could be addressed sooner, however, the more comprehensive data would still be presented on an annual basis, as requested by the Committee

Action: The issue of quarterly reporting to be discussed more fully at the Grants Executive meeting in September.

12.6 In terms of Priority 2, the Strategy Director noted that:

- 12.6.1 London Councils administers £200,000 on behalf of MOPAC under a partnership arrangement, to complement the Grants Programme and provide additional resources to Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) for training frontline staff in statutory and voluntary services to identify harmful practices and take appropriate action
- 12.6.2 Woman's Aid were not awarded the Home Office grant relating to the National Domestic Violence helpline however, the grant had been awarded to Refuge, a current partner with Women's Aid
- 12.6.3 in response to a query from Cllr Miller about whether the Grants Committee had an effective mechanism to ensure that the overperformance in terms of volume did not impact on quality, the Strategy Director said that this was kept in check by the monitoring system, and that most of the overperformance was due to an increase in inquiries or signposting to other services. She added that this issue could potentially be examined in more detail in a thematic review.

12.7 In terms of Priority 3, members were informed that:

- 12.7.1 delivery had finished as of 30 June 2019 for Priority 3 projects
- 12.7.2 a final report on Priority 3 commissions, including an evaluation of the programme was due be presented at the November 2019 meeting of the Grants Committee
- 12.7.3 actual delivery of Priority 3 was less than half of what was originally commissioned however, it was important to acknowledge that the quality of the delivery, and the work undertaken by partners with some of the most vulnerable Londoners, was good (all the partners delivering Priority 3 have had excellent service user feedback, and this has been reflected in the additional RAG rating for participant satisfaction)
- 12.7.4 the Strategy Director reminded members that the red performance RAG rating was to ensure that the Grants Committee can hold London Councils officers to account. She added that the November 2019 report will contain more narrative information to reflect the positive quality of the delivery in Priority 3.

13 Priority 3 underspend: addressing issues related to No Recourse to Public Funds to support work to combat homelessness and tackle domestic violence

- 13.1 The Chair introduced this item and said that the Grants Executive had had extensive discussions on this issue. The consensus was to re-allocate the Priority 3 underspend to No Recourse to Public Funds, with a focus on immigration advice.
- 13.2 The Strategy Director said that lack of access to immigration advice was proving to be a significant problem, often leading to more complex cases and more families ending up in crisis. Earlier intervention would mean that there was less pressure on borough services. The Grants team has been discussing the issue with a number of relevant organisations, including the NPRF Network, the London Modern Slavery Leads Group, the Law Centres Network, London Funders the GLA, the Home Office, Trust for London, The Migration Exchange Funder Network, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and London Councils policy leads.
- 13.3 The Strategy Director reminded members that It is a criminal offence for a person to provide immigration advice or services in the UK unless their organisation is regulated

by or is otherwise covered by the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (members of certain professional bodies may give immigration advice without registering with OISC). Advisers must be registered with and regulated by the Institute of Legal Executives or the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. Options were being explored about helping organisations to go through the regulation process quicker.

13.4 The Chair said that once members had expressed a preference for one of the options, the Grants Executive would discuss this issue in further detail in September, and the decision needs to be made in November. He added that he had reservations about Option 2 due to its complexity.

13.5 Members were presented with the three options:

Option 1: Commissioning advice services that help prevent destitution through either signposting to specialist advisers or resolving lower-complexity immigration issues that could develop into complex issues for statutory services, e.g.:

- change of conditions applications
- renewing Leave to Remain
- raising awareness of basic steps that need to be taken by people to address immigration status concerns
- Destitute Domestic Violence Concession applications

Option 2: Commissioning legal support to deal with complex local authority cases to reduce the caseload burden on local authorities, combined with action research (using the cases that are being resolved) into early interventions that could mitigate complexity and the strain on local authority resources. The research benefits of this option are likely to produce findings that have medium and long-term benefits to local authorities.

Option 3: Commissioning both options 1 and 2.

13.6 Members made the following comments in the ensuing discussion:

13.6.1 most members backed Option 1 but requested robust evidence that the work commissioned would not be replicating work carried out elsewhere

13.6.2 several members said that they would like Option 1 to be firmly linked with the existing services delivered through Priorities 1 and 2

13.6.3 Cllr Anand suggested that Option 1 should cover maternity services

13.6.4 Cllr Ellis said that it would be worth supporting specific issues such as modern slavery and trafficking, which was a problem in many boroughs

13.6.5 Cllr Roberts and Cllr Akoto supported Option 2, due to its long-term benefits

13.6.6 The Chair concluded by saying that Option 1 appeared to be the preferred option for most boroughs, however, Option 2 would not be closed as a possibility.

Action: For further consideration at the Grants Executive in September.

14 Grants Programme 2021-25

14.1 The Chair informed members that the Leaders' Committee had set a number of specific Pledges to Londoners, across seven key policy areas: housing, better health and care, supporting business and inclusive growth, crime and public protection, transport and environment, funding London, and new ways of working.

- 14.2 The Strategy Director noted that the Pledges to Londoners are an expression of Leaders' Committee priorities and that any new Grants Programme and its priorities would need to align.
- 14.3 The Chair then detailed the broad implementation timeline:
- *Summer/Autumn 2019*: Grants Committee recommends to Leaders' that a new Programme is established for 2021-25; Leaders' Committee approves the principles and priorities of the Programme and the budget for the Programme
 - *Autumn 2019*: Focused review of priorities to better understand borough needs and develop service specifications with the boroughs
 - *March/July 2020*: Grants Committee reviews and endorses service specifications
 - *Summer 2020*: Service specifications advertised, and bids sought
 - *Autumn 2020*: Applications assessed with boroughs and other key stakeholders
 - *November 2020*: Leaders' Committee considers the 2021-22 budget, following recommendations from Grants Committee.
 - *February 2020*: Grants Committee considers recommendations for individual applications
 - *April 2020*: New Programme starts.
- 14.4 Members suggested that other issues linked to employment should also be considered, such as the link between unemployment and crime, youth pathways into employment, mentoring, outreach. It was noted that care should be taken not to duplicate the work of MOPAC.
- 14.5 Early intervention and supporting parents were considered key as there was currently a gap in early prevention work relating to youth violence, and the funding was often unstable. The potential for holding funding in reserve during the four-year cycle, to address unexpected or emerging issues, was also discussed.
- 14.6 The Chair pointed out that paragraphs 4.3.7 and 4.3.8 contained typographical errors, and that the correct dates were February 2021 and April 2021.
- 14.7 The Strategy Director told members that although the budget setting would be agreed in December 2020 by Leaders, the detail of the programme would be decided by the Grants Committee.
- 14.8 The Chair noted the general support for a 2021-2025 Grants Programme and acknowledged the need for further detail to take any proposals forward.

Action: For further consideration at the Grants Executive in September.

15 London Councils Grants Committee Pre-Audited Final Accounts 2018-19

- 15.1 Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources, introduced this item and said that the figures provided were the pre-audited results. He added that Table 1 showed the actual outturn position compared to the approved budget for 2018/19 and stated that the movement between the Month 9 forecast position and the provisional outturn was marginal.
- 15.2 The Director of Corporate Resources also said that Table 5 showed the position on reserves, containing two elements: the forecast £1million likely to be available in respect of Priority 3, and the resources for Priorities 1 and 2 in excess of the Committee's benchmark, amounting to around £473,000 (subject to audit). Members were now able to decide how these funds should be spent. The Director added that London Councils consolidated position for 2018/19 had already been presented to the London Councils'

Executive in June, and it was aware of the estimated level of reserves for the Grants Committee. The Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that the existing reserves could also be rolled over into the 2021-2025 programme and potentially be used to establish a contingency to cover future emerging issues.

15.3 The Chair said that a discussion with Leaders would need to be carried out relating to the future of the Grants programme.

15.4 Members noted:

15.4.1 the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £200,000 for 2018/19, the second year of the 2017-21 programme

15.4.2 the provisional level of reserves at paragraphs 17 to 19 and the financial outlook, as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the report; and

15.4.3 that the benchmark will be reviewed by the Grants Executive and will subsequently be brought to the full Grants Committee, as part of the discussion on the use of the Committee's reserves.

The meeting finished at 13.00