

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Minutes of the Grants Committee Executive meeting held in Room 7, London Councils, on Wednesday 12 September 2019

Members	Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair)	LB Hackney
	Cllr. Saima Ashraf (Vice Chair)	LB Barking and Dagenham
	Cllr. Paul Ellis (Vice Chair)	LB Wandsworth
	Cllr. Gareth Roberts (Vice Chair)	LB Richmond
	Cllr. Charlene McLean	LB Newham
	Cllr. Jonathan Slater	LB Lewisham
	Cllr. David Leaf	LB Bexley

London Councils officers

Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director
Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources
Sam Armitt, ESF Technical Adviser
Daniel Houghton, Liberal Democrat Political Advisor
Jade Appleton, Conservative Political Advisor
Mehboob Khan, Labour Political Advisor
Ana Gradiska, Principal Governance and Projects Officer

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting, and said he was pleased at the high turnout.

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Miranda Williams (RB Greenwich), Cllr Iain Bott (City of Westminster) and Dhruv Patel (City of London).

2 Deputies and Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no deputies or declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 7 February 2019

- 3.1 Members agreed the minutes of the meeting which took place on 7 February 2019.

4 Minutes of Grants Committee AGM held on 10 July 2019 (for noting)

- 4.1 Members noted the minutes of the Grants Committee AGM which took place on 10 July 2019.

5 Month 3 Revenue Forecast 2019/20

- 5.1 The Director of Resources introduced this report, which outlined the actual income and expenditure against the approved income and expenditure in the budget to the end of June

2019. The report also provided a forecast of the outturn position for 2019/20 for both actual and committed expenditure. The Director of Resources added that:

- 5.1.1 at this stage, the projected surplus is £36,000 for the year, which relates to Priority 1 and 2 activities
- 5.1.2 the projected S.48 ESF programme reserves (Priority 3), which have now been audited by external auditors, is £972,000, subject to adjustment as final claims are processed
- 5.1.3 the projected £759,000 held in respect of S.48 reserves (Priorities 1 and 2) is currently c.£500,000 above the £250,000 reserves benchmark established by this committee in September 2013 - Members had expressed a wish for this benchmark to be reviewed in due course
- 5.1.4 one of the options proposed was for the Priority 1 and 2 reserves to be held as a contingency to be applied during the course of the new 2021-25 grants programme - this would be discussed further at the November grants meeting
- 5.1.5 London Councils' committee reserves are ringfenced for each of the statutory committees (e.g. Grants, TEC or the Joint Committee). In certain circumstances, reserves can be transferred between committees, subject to appropriate member approvals. In 2011, this supported in the Grants Committee work, as reserves from TEC and the Joint Committee were transferred to the Grants Committee following a judicial review on proposed reductions to the grants programme. In terms of potential future transfers required in respect of Challenge related works, it is now unlikely that there would be any call on the Grants Committee reserves for this purpose and proposed works on the Southwark Street building would likely feed through in increased central recharges.

6 Grants Programme 2021-25

- 6.1 The Chair said that the draft 2021-25 programme was received positively in his political group. He drew members' attention to the recommendations in the report, which included discussing the various options concerning priority 3, "Tackling Poverty". He added that members had expressed a wish to include emerging priorities in the programme.
- 6.2 The Director of Strategy said that the steer from the Grants Committee AGM was that priorities 1 and 2 should continue to be the core priorities, as they fit in with the Leaders' pledges to Londoners and were best carried out through a pan-London vehicle. General employment projects, delivered through Priority 3, were now mainly embedded within the boroughs.
- 6.3 Members agreed that the core aim of Priority 3, Tackling Poverty, could lead to other programmes of activity, rather than general employment projects, for example projects aimed at tackling youth violence, through relieving youth poverty. Cllr Leaf suggested that there may be gaps in borough provision in terms of young offenders work which Priority 3 could potentially fill.
- 6.4 The Chair noted that, increasingly, 16 to 18-year-olds not engaged in employment, education or training (NEETS) were falling through the net, as they were usually too young for job brokerage programmes and lacked the skills for apprenticeships.
- 6.5 The Strategy Director noted the reported problem of schools illegally off-rolling pupils, and a reported increase in parents being asked to home educate their children.

- 6.6 Cllr Leaf said that the challenge of youth obesity, food poverty, and poor health outcomes all related to Priority 3, Tackling Poverty.
- 6.7 In answer to Cllr Ashraf's question about whether there could be a priority that focused solely on young people, the Strategy Director noted that all priorities had service areas which focused on particular aspects of support/services e.g. providing refuge provision under Priority 2, tackling youth homelessness under Priority 1.
- 6.8 Cllr Ellis said that outer borough members needed assurances that the work was evenly distributed in the boroughs, as in the past, most resources were concentrated on inner London. The Chair agreed and said that the London landscape had changed in the last 10 years and that many outer London boroughs were now experiencing similar problems to those in inner London, in part due to significant numbers of Londoners being relocated from inner to outer boroughs.
- 6.9 The Strategy Director was tasked with drafting some initial proposals for Priority 3, focusing on tackling youth poverty, to present to November Grants Committee.

The meeting ended at 3.00pm