

# Leaders' Committee

## Minutes and Summaries

Item no: 10

**Report by:** Lisa Dominic    **Job title:** Senior Governance Support Officer

**Date:** 8 December 2020

**Contact Officer:** Christiane Jenkins

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**Summary**                      Summaries of the minutes of London Councils

**Recommendations**    Leader's Committee is recommended to note the attached minutes:

- Executive – 8 September 2020
- Grants Executive – 16 September 2020
- YPES – 15 October 2020

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 09:30 am

**Cllr Peter John OBE was in the chair**

### Present

Member	Position
Cllr Peter John OBE	Chair
Cllr Teresa O'Neill OBE	
Cllr Claire Holland	
Cllr Darren Rodwell	
Cllr Georgia Gould	
Cllr Ray Puddifoot MBE	
Cllr Muhammed Butt	
Cllr Gareth Roberts	Substitute
Cllr Clare Coghill	
Cllr Danny Thorpe	
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell	
Catherine McGuinness	

Cllr Julian Bell and Kim Smith, Chief Executive of the the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham were in attendance.

London Councils officers were in attendance.

The Chair congratulated Cllr Sir Ray Puddifoot MBE on his recent knighthood. The Chair confirmed that it was to be his last meeting of the Executive, although he would be attending the Leaders' Committee AGM in October.

Cllr Puddifoot announced that this would be his last Executive meeting. The Chair also confirmed that John O'Brien, London Councils Chief Executive, had announced his intention to step down from his role in April 2021.

The Chair also welcomed Cllr Gareth Roberts, who was substituting for Cllr Ruth Dombey, and also Kim Smith, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, present for item 4 on the agenda.

### **1. Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Ruth Dombey.

### **2. Declaration of interest**

Cllr Bell declared an interest in that he was a member of the Transport for London (TfL) Board.

### **3. Minutes of the Executive Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

The minutes of the Executive meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

### **4. Supporting Councils to improve services and practice by addressing Racial Inequality**

The Chief Executive introduced the report, informing members that the business plan adopted in July 2020 had included references relating to the importance of fairness and inclusivity in the Capital, and that these ambitions were to be seen in the context of the disproportionate impact on BAME communities by Covid-19, and also the response to the death of George Floyd. Work in these areas had progressed with professional networks and, in particular, a CELC working group, chaired by Kim Smith, Chief Executive of Hammersmith and Fulham Council, as well as Heads of HR and also Cllr Butt, Portfolio Holder for Welfare, Social Inclusion and Empowerment.

The work with boroughs emphasised the importance of avoiding duplication in work, and also of finding ways in which boroughs could better be supported to

fulfill their own objectives. Progress was being shared in order to get for members' feedback, with a view to taking a draft statement to Leaders' Committee for endorsement.

Kim Smith, Chief Executive of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, commented that the paper set out a business case for addressing inequality issues, a number of which had been further revealed by the Pandemic, within three overall themes: Demonstrating Leadership; Building Inclusive Workplaces; and Challenging and Improving Practice across Services.

Ms Smith pointed out that London boroughs had a good reputation for being inclusive employers and in demonstrating positive behaviours, and there were opportunities for looking at further improvements, for example maximising apprenticeship levy budgets, and looking at the issue of recruitment of BAME staff. Ms Smith recognised the large amount of good practice within boroughs, as well the need to accelerate actions in this sphere and for greater visibility in the work being undertaken.

Ms Smith also referenced a number of thematic reviews on health, crime, housing and employment, which now had regard to the disproportionate impact on BAME communities and which were addressing whether work programmes needed to be amended as a result.

Cllr Butt recognised the opportunity for boroughs to have a collective voice and to demonstrate further commitment with a view to increasing confidence. He recognised the importance of boroughs, as large employers, creating mentoring and support systems, and demonstrating that boroughs were taking the issue of inequality seriously.

In terms of the draft statement on race equality, the Chair explored the relationship with MOPAC/MPS work in this area.

Members made the following points in response to the paper:

- it was important that boroughs should look at their own workforce diversity, and how they were developing recruitment, sponsorship and mentoring to promote more diverse organisations;
- it was also important to understand what boroughs already knew about disproportionality in terms of planning for a potential second wave of the Pandemic, and what more could be done to mitigate the risks for communities;
- data held by boroughs should be utilised to help benchmarking activity, examine key issues such as ethnicity pay gaps and to help focus on action to improve outcomes.
- the work should eventually be expanded to cover all areas of diversity.

Executive noted the progress made in co-designing a programme of activity, commented on the emerging model for the programme of work set out in the report, and commended the draft statement set out in Appendix B to Leaders' Committee for its consideration.

## **5. Local Government Finance – Update**

The Director of Local Government Performance and Finance introduced the report, commenting that:

- the paper set out the aggregate financial position for London boroughs as a result of Covid 19 impacts to the end of July based upon individual borough returns. Since the production of the report, boroughs had completed the August survey, the results of which were being analysed.
- Collectively, the financial impact of Covid-19 on boroughs was estimated to be losses of £2 billion

- the paper had been written in the context of the forthcoming Spending Review and further Government consultation on the reform of Business Rates
- In terms of the Business Rates review, there was an initial call for evidence by 18 September and a full response required by the end of October. The draft London Councils response called for the review to take place alongside a wider review of the Local Government finance system
- the paper also set out an approach to Spending Review lobbying.

Members made the following points in response to the report:

- the key financial priority was to make good the financial effects of the Pandemic and address the issues of social care underfunding. Broader ambitions would fall in to the medium term as the immediate priority was seeking greater financial stability;
- that greater clarity on the next phase of Government financial support was clearly needed;
- London had historically been a source of support to other parts of the country, but the lack of available finance would limit the ability of London to assist in that way in the next period;
- the work on the treatment of SEND deficits in relation to DSG had yielded positive results;
- lobbying should not focus too much on the submission of letters to ministers;
- the previously agreed 1/2 page list of 'asks' for London remained a good product and should also include the investment case for London.

Executive noted the information provided on the financial impact of Covid-19 and agreed the broad principle of the joint London Government response to the Fundamental Review of Business Rates.

## **6. Covid 19 – Recovery and Renewal**

The Chief Executive introduced the report, referencing the previously expressed view of the Executive that work should build on the work being carried out by the boroughs on recovery and renewal as well as supporting the Recovery Board. Accordingly, the results of a survey of Leaders and Chief Executives had been included in the report, which covered the work that boroughs have been participating in with communities, cross borough collaborative projects, and how boroughs were addressing the financial challenges caused by the Pandemic.

Members were informed that the themes in the report would be developed further with Portfolio holders, and it was hoped to integrate the work into material in connection with influencing the Spending Review and in responding to the Devolution White Paper. The competing pressures on time and resources, for members, for boroughs and London Councils in supporting various strands of recovery activity would need to be identified and managed.

- Members emphasised the connection to work on Resilience and London local government response to the pandemic.

Cllr Gould drew members' attention to the shared agenda being developed with the GLA in encouraging green jobs, digital access and reinvigorating high streets.

The Executive noted the findings of the borough Leaders and Chief Executive surveys and supported progressing the findings contained in the Recovery and Renewal overview report.

## **7. Month 3 Revenue Forecast 2020/21**

The Director of Corporate Resources reported:

- That the figures reflected the impact of the Pandemic on the Transport and Environment and Joint Committee funding streams;
- while TEC had a small surplus, there has been a reduction in income relating to enforcement activities and Freedom Pass renewal income;
- there had been savings in the running costs of London Councils buildings and utilities, but the income target for meeting room rental had not been met because of the present position;
- in terms of reserves, London Councils were in a broadly comparable position compared with the same time last year;
- the implications of the Pandemic were expected to be clearer at the half year stage.

Cllr Puddifoot felt that the financial position was relatively strong and as good as could be expected in the present circumstances. He congratulated the Finance Team at London Councils for all their work, which the Chair also endorsed.

The Executive noted the overall forecast surplus as at 30 June 2020 (Month 3) of £109,000 and noted the position on reserves.

## **8. Debtors Update report**

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report, which detailed the level of outstanding debt owed to London Councils from all sources as at 31 July 2020. This report also detailed the reduction in the level of outstanding debt due from boroughs, TfL and the GLA in the period to 31 December 2019.

Executive noted that all borough, TfL and GLA debts raised up to 31 December 2019 and reported to the Executive at its meeting on 3 March 2020 have been paid; the level of outstanding debt of £1.83 million in respect of borough, TfL and GLA invoices raised in the period 1 January to 31 July 2020; the level of outstanding debt of £229,000 in relation to other debtors invoices raised up until 31 July 2020; and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the finances.

In closing, Executive Members paid tribute to Cllr Peter John for his work as Chair of London Councils, recognising his strong leadership, persuasive advocacy on behalf of London local government and his willingness to offer advice and support to fellow Leaders across London throughout his tenure as Chair. Members also paid tribute to the contribution of Cllr Sir Ray Puddifoot to the Executive and thanked him for all of his work.

The meeting closed at 10.45.

# Report from the Grants Executive Committee – 16 September 2020

Item no:

**Report by:** Ana Gradiska      **Job title:** Principal Governance and Projects Officer

**Date:** 8 December 2020

**Contact Officer:** Ana Gradiska

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**Summary:** Summary of the minutes of the London Councils' Grants Executive Committee held on 16 September 2020.

**Recommendations:** For information.

## **Members:**

Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair) LB Hackney  
Cllr Caroline Kerr (Vice Chair), RB Kingston upon Thames  
Cllr Charlene McLean, LB Newham  
Cllr David Leaf, LB Bexley  
Cllr Jonathan Slater, LB Lewisham  
Dhruv Patel OBE, City of London

## **London Councils officers:**

Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director  
Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources  
Daniel Houghton, Liberal Democrat Political Advisor  
Jade Appleton, Conservative Political Advisor  
Mehboob Khan, Labour Political Advisor  
Ana Gradiska, Principal Governance and Projects Officer  
Lisa Dominic, Senior Governance Support Officer

**For Item 5:** David Farnsworth (Chair of London Funders and Director & Chief Grants Officer of the City Bridge Trust)

## **1 Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Saima Ashraf, Barking and Dagenham.

## **2 Declarations of Interests**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **3 Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 5 February 2020**

- 3.1 The minutes of the Grants Executive meeting held 5 February were agreed.

### **4 Minutes of Grants Committee held on 8 July 2020 (for noting)**

- 4.1 The minutes of the Grants Committee held on 8 July 2020 were noted.

### **5 Discussion item: Working with other funders, communities and the voluntary sector**

- 5.1 David Farnsworth thanked Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director, for all the work she has done on the Funders, Community and Voluntary Sector Sub-Group, which was formed to support London's funders and the community and voluntary sector to respond to the Covid-19 crisis. One of the aims of the sub-group was to look at new and emerging best practice for grant making and to explore opportunities for aligning processes and funding. Through the London Community Response, processes have been amended to ease the administrative burden for third sector organisations whilst ensuring due diligence for the funders (for example, accessing due diligence that had been carried out in the past three months) and managing risks. The relationship with the community sector had improved and there had been some excellent examples of cooperation taking place during the past few months. London Funders, the cross-sector membership network for funders and investors in London which represents 130 organisations, has commissioned a report to capture the information and best practice gained from the past six months.
- 5.2 The Strategy Director said that during the last six months, things were achieved which would previously have been deemed impossible. Risk and due diligence were managed in a different way, as were funding applications. There was a strong recognition that funders were trusting third sector organisations to get on with their work, and as a result, relationships between funders and third sector organisations have improved immensely. The Funders, Community and Voluntary Sector Sub-Group had started looking into investment in the voluntary sector beyond funding, e.g. capacity building, mutual aid groups, new ways of working to deliver greater efficiencies.

### **6 Current programme: Rapid review for 2021/22**

- 6.1 The purpose of the review was to establish if any immediate changes to the programme needed to be considered in the interests of the boroughs. The review asked respondents to consider the current key performance measures in the context of the current and short-term environment. Only seven responses to the review were received. This was due to the timing – the review had to take place over August, in order to be ready to be presented at the November Grants Committee meeting, and to avoid clashing with the full consultation for the new programme. The respondents stated that the existing performance measures remained broadly the right measures. In order to add to the information garnered from the review, it was proposed that the Grants Team undertakes a workshop session at the next Borough Grants Officers meeting on 30 September and arranges brief one-to-one/two sessions (via phone/Skype/Teams) with Grants

Committee members and borough policy leads for Housing and Homelessness and Domestic Violence.

- 6.2 The results from the review will be presented to Grants Committee in November along with recommendations for funding agreement variations for grants partners. This will provide financial certainty to grants partners before the end of the calendar year, to enable them to forward plan.

Action: The Strategy Director to send the meeting invite for the 30 September workshop to Grants Committee members and ask them to forward it to their Heads of Service.

Action: The Grants team to get in touch with the London Child Poverty Alliance.

- 6.3 Grants Committee Executive members:

- noted the response to the rapid review
- agreed the next steps for further exploratory work
- agreed to present funding agreement variations to the November Grants Committee meeting for endorsement.

## **7 Grants Programme 2021-2025: Planning and implementation**

- 7.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item and said that:

- In July 2020, the Grants Committee agreed that the current 2017-2021 Grants Programme be extended to March 2022, to allow time to develop a new programme that reflected a London recovering from the consequences of Covid-19 and lockdown. In order to develop the new programme starting April 2022, planning needed to start now. At the last meeting of the Grants Executive, members had agreed to have an initial consultation with boroughs (both elected members and officers), to help shape broader stakeholder engagement plans and the more detailed plans for achieving a new programme.
- Even prior to the pandemic, officers working with young people locally were seeing an increase in need. Many borough officers made the point that youth work is, and should be, locally tailored, so it was difficult to envisage a regional project. Youth poverty cuts across priorities one and two.
- The Grants Programme four-year cycle broadly mirrors the London Councils elections cycle. The new programme will be out of kilter with the elections cycle, which needed to be given further consideration.

- 7.2 Executive discussed a 'response' fund, funded through reserves, that supported aspects of transition and recovery. The Chair reminded members that at the February Grants Executive meeting, members were asked to identify 'sponsors' for supporting and challenging the consultation and stakeholder engagement; emerging best practice for grant making, and equity and inclusion work. Cllr David Leaf held this role for the No Recourse for Public Funds (NRPF) work. Other members of the Grants Committee have also shown an interest in being sponsors.

- 7.4 The Chair asked for another Grants Executive meeting to be organised ahead of the November Grants Committee AGM to explore the future Grants programme cycle and

what effect the different frameworks would have on governance, decision making and planning.

7.5 Members agreed the recommendations in the report including the additional meeting.

Action: London Councils to organise a further Grants Executive meeting ahead of the November Grants AGM.

Action: The Strategy Director to speak to sub-regional directors about potential for potential for working with the Grants Committee on tackling youth poverty.

## **8 No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) reporting – verbal update**

8.1 The Strategy Director gave an update on the NRPF work undertaken since the programme started.

8.2 Members thanked the Strategy Director for the update and said that this seemed to be a very successful scheme that would save public money in the long run. Careful monitoring of the situation was necessary, particularly when temporary accommodation is no longer available and street homelessness increases. It was noted that capturing borough level information might be difficult for those presenting as homeless.

8.3 The Chair asked London Councils to publicise the successful start that partners had made with regards to NRPF work. The Strategy Director said that she would speak to the London Councils Communications team about this.

Action: The Strategy Director to work with the London Councils Communications team to publicise the successful start of the NRPF work.

## **9 Month 3 Revenue Forecast 2020/21**

9.1 The Director of Resources introduced this report and said that the pandemic has had very little effect on the Committee's income and that members needed to consider options for the use of reserves during the autumn, which had already been touched on at Item 7.

9.2 Members:

- noted the projected surplus of £2,000 for the year; and
- noted the projected level of Grants Committee reserves.

The meeting finished at 3.40pm.

## Young People's Education and Skills Board

<b>Date</b>	15 October 2020	<b>Venue</b>	Microsoft Teams and livestreamed
<b>Meeting Chair</b>	Cllr Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council and Chair of London Councils		
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Peter O'Brien		
<b>Telephone</b>	020 7934 9743	<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov">peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov</a>

### Present

Cllr Georgia Gould	Leader, Camden Council and Chair of London Councils
Brian McKeown	DWP London and Essex Group
Cllr Claire Coghill	Leader, London Borough of Waltham Forest and London Councils Lead on Skills and Employment
Cllr Elizabeth Campbell	Leader, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and London Councils Lead on Schools and Children's Services
Gail Tolley	Strategic Director for Children and Young People, London Borough of Brent) representing the Association of London Directors of Children's Services
Graeme Atherton	Director, AccessHE
John Prior	Principal, Orchard Hill College
Mary Vine-Morris	Area Director (London) and National Lead on Employment, Association of Colleges
Sarah Wilkins	Head of Education and Youth, Greater London Authority (GLA) representing Joanne McCartney, Deputy Mayor of London for Education and Childcare
Yolande Burgess	Strategy Director, London Councils
<b>Presenter</b>	
Lib Peck	Director of the Violence Reduction Unit, GLA

<b>Officers</b>	
Peter O'Brien	Manager, London Councils - Young People's Education and Skills
Lisa Dominic	Senior Governance Support Office, London Councils
<b>Apologies</b>	
Ben Anderson	Landsec, employer representative on the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)
Michael Heanue	GLA / LEAP
Paul Wakeling	Havering Sixth-Form College, representing AoC – Sixth-Form Colleges
Dr Sam Parrett OBE	London South East Colleges Group, representing AoC – General Further Education Colleges

## **1 Welcome, Introductions and apologies**

1.1 The Chair welcomed Board members, introduced Cllr Coghill, who will take over as Chair of the Board after this meeting, thanked Lib Peck for agreeing to present to the meeting and invited those in attendance to introduce themselves. Cllr Coghill said she was looking forward to working with the Board and Board members reciprocated this sentiment. Comments from Ben Anderson, who had given apologies for absence, were made available to the meeting.

## **2 The work of the London Transition and Recovery Boards in relation to young people**

2.1 Yolande Burgess introduced the item and spoke about the London Transition Board - which is focused on co-ordinating London's response to Covid-19, emergence from lockdown and outbreak control - and the London Recovery Board, which has been established to reverse the economic and social effects of the pandemic, especially unemployment, narrow inequalities and accelerate the delivery of a cleaner, greener London. Through a process of co-production involving City Hall, London Councils, London's civic society, business and other stakeholders, the overall challenge has been defined as 'restore confidence in the city, minimise the impact on London's most vulnerable communities and

rebuild the city's economy and society', which will be delivered through nine interconnected missions.

2.2 Lib Peck spoke about the new deal for young people mission and explained that it was to ensure that, by 2024, all young people are entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners have access to quality local youth activities. Lib talked through the elements of the mission and emphasised: the importance of engaging young people; how we need to re-imagine the concept of 'mentoring'; and that youth activities considered as part of this mission went beyond the creation of youth centres. Lib also referred to the close links between the new deal for young people and the other missions that related to education, employment and health and well-being.

2.3 The Chair thanked Lib for her presentation. In discussion, the Board welcomed both the overall approach that had been taken to London's recovery and the new deal for young people mission. In particular, the Board:

- appreciated the emphasis on individualised support and Board members offered to assist the Recovery Board in articulating universal entitlements within which specific needs could be addressed
- stressed the importance of engaging young people in the design and delivery of solutions to both the current priorities and the chronic problems that young Londoners have faced
- agreed that the priority for the Board and team at London Councils should be to support the London Recovery Board's missions, gather and analyse information in conjunction with boroughs and other partners and build on activities and projects that have had successes in the past.

**Action:** Peter O'Brien to develop an action plan for the Young People's Education and Skills Team to support the London Recovery Board's missions

### **3 Mayor's response to recommendations made by the Education Panel of the London Assembly**

3.1 Sarah Wilkins said that the Education Panel had made recommendations in March and some covered areas that were not within the Mayor's remit. These included special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and school sixth

forms. In his response, he had referred to the Young People's Education and Skills Board.

### 3.2 It was agreed that:

- the Education Panel's recommendations on SEND provision would best be addressed when the Department for Education (DFE) published the findings of its review of the national system that had been put in place in 2014
- Board members should send their views on small sixth forms to Peter O'Brien at London Councils to relay to Sarah.

**Action:** On the release of the findings of DfE review of the SEND system, Yolande Burgess to convene a task and finish group to consider both the DfE review and the recommendations from the Mayor's enquiry.

**Action:** Board members to send views on small sixth forms to Peter O'Brien ([peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk](mailto:peter.obrien@londoncouncils.gov.uk)) by 6 November 2020.

## 4 Feedback and intelligence from borough officers

4.1 Peter O'Brien reported back from a meeting of borough officers held in September. He said that, although there had been some re-deployment of resources from 14 to 19 teams, the level of NEET had been relatively stable throughout the pandemic and boroughs had continued with work experience and careers events. There was scope for closer integration and simplification of services in the future. A follow-up meeting is taking place in November 2020.

## 5 Other business

5.1 Mary Vine-Morris said that Colleges Week will take place 19 to 25 October 2020.

## 6 Valediction

6.1 On behalf of the Board, Yolande Burgess congratulated Cllr Gould on her appointment as Chair of London Councils and thanked her for chairing the Young People's Education and Skills Board and contributing to its work. The meeting echoed Yolande's comments and offered its best wishes to Cllr Gould in her new role.