

**LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE**  
**25 March 2015**

Minutes of the Grants Committee held at London Councils, 59 ½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 25 March 2015

London Borough & Royal Borough:	Representative:
Barking and Dagenham	Cllr Darren Rodwell
Bromley	Cllr Stephen Carr
City of London	Alison Gowman (Dep)
Ealing	Cllr Ranjit Dheer
Hackney	Cllr Johathan McShane
Hammersmith & Fulham	Cllr Sue Fennimore
Harrow	Cllr Sue Anderson
Havering	Cllr Melvin Wallace
Kensington & Chelsea	Cllr Gerard Hargreaves
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Julie Pickering
Lambeth	Cllr Paul McGlone (Chair)
Lewisham	Cllr Joan Millbank
Merton	Cllr Edith Macauley
Newham	Cllr Forhad Hussain
Redbridge	Cllr Dev Sharma
Sutton	Cllr Simon Wales
Waltham Forest	Cllr Liaquat Ali

London Councils' officers were in attendance.

Rachel Halford from Women in Prison was in attendance for Item 5.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Gareth Bacon (LB Bexley), Cllr Mohammed Butt (LB Brent), Jeremy Mayhew (City of London), Cllr Maureen O'Mara (LB Greenwich), Cllr Sue Fennimore (LB Hammersmith and Fulham), Cllr Peter Morton (LB Haringey), Cllr Douglas Mills (LB Hillingdon), Cllr Asima Shaikh (LB Islington), Cllr Meena Bond (LB Richmond), Cllr James Maddan (LB Wandsworth), Cllr Steve Summers (City of Westminster).

### **2. Deputies Declaration of Attendance**

Alison Gowman deputized for Jeremy Mayhew (City of London).

### **3. Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 26 November 2014.**

3.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 26 November 2014 with the proviso that the Cllr Guy Senior is deleted from the list of attendees.

The order of the agenda was then taken as follows:

### **5. Thematic Review – Women in Prison – Presentation**

5.1 Rachel Halford gave a presentation on the work done by Women in Prison which is funded by the Grants Programme. She said that:

- Women in Prison is a pan-London organization which supports women who are serving prison sentences reintegrate into society and reduce re-offending. This ultimately

provides significant cost savings as it costs £45,000 a year to keep a woman in prison, and around £75,000 for a woman with dependent children.

- Women in Prison is a gender-specific organization, as women are more at risk of experiencing anxiety/depression, psychosis and self-harm in prison. The project works closely with other local borough and community services to help women access counseling, housing, build healthy relationships, and take responsibility for their lives.
- Two of the major current programmes are the Housing Project, and the Thyme Project. The Housing Project provides advice, workshops, support for tenancy sustainment. To December 2014, 772 women were supported to access and maintain their tenancy. The Thyme Project is a holistic programme within HMP Holloway which offers practical/life skills workshops, one to one counselling amongst other services.

5.2 Members said that they thought this was a worthwhile project. The Chair said that the Grants team at London Councils were compiling a list of other organisations who were interested in presenting at future meetings, and that the members could decide at the next meeting which organization

#### **4. Performance of Grants Programme and 6. Review of Projects**

4.1 Simon Courage, Head of Grants, introduced the report and said that the majority of the commissions were either steady or going up, but that there were eight commissions whose performance had worsened compared to last quarter. Members asked for more detailed information on those eight projects.

Action: The Grants team will email members a summary of the projects whose performance is going down and the reasons for this.

4.2 Members were informed that the task-and-finish group of project leads and borough and London Councils officers, which was set up to identify ways of strengthening the relationship between boroughs and the commissions, was working well. The group has met once so far, and chose four areas to work on. Members were told that boroughs could still send representatives to the next meeting of the task and finish group, even if they did not participate in the first meeting.

4.3 Several members were slightly concerned that all commissions got a Green RAG rating this quarter, even those whose payments were delayed for issues relating to partnerships. Grants officers explained that the RAG rating was made up of a variety of factors, mainly concerning the delivery of targets, and that the commissions in question had performed well overall, which is why they retained their Green rating. It was agreed that the grants team will provide members with more detail on this issue. The issues around partnerships were now largely resolved and one of the three organisations whose payment had been delayed had already been paid, and the remaining two would get paid early on in the new financial year. Grants officers also clarified that the 'administrative issues' which had delayed the payments were not on the part of London Councils, but on the part of the commissions themselves.

Action: The Grants team to provide members with more detail on this issue.

4.4 Members said that commission performance targets needed to be reviewed, as they may not be challenging enough. They also said that they would like to see more information alongside the RAG ratings, for example on how much each organization was getting funded, and whether value for money was being achieved. Members asked for a Grants Executive meeting ahead of the July AGM.

Action: Corporate Governance to organise a Grants Executive meeting for June/early July 2015.

4.5 Members said that there needed to be more public recognition for the work done by the commissions, in a similar vein to the current MOPAC publicity posters around domestic violence.

4.6 Members noted the following:

At priority level:

- Priority 1 (homelessness) overall is performing at 39% (quarter 1 to quarter 6 cumulative) above its combined targets (known as 'primary outcome indicators')
- Priority 2 (sexual and domestic violence) overall is performing at 19% above its combined primary outcome indicators
- Priority 3 (ESF tackling poverty through employment) overall is performing at 2% below its combined primary outcome indicators
- Priority 4 (capacity building) overall is performing at 14% above its primary outcome indicators

At project level

- In the red, amber, green (RAG) system introduced under the monitoring policy in February 2013, all projects in all priorities are green. This means their performance is strong. The arrows do show that the performance of eight of the 35 projects is falling. These are the projects that officers will concentrate on. Last quarter nine were worsening, so number in this category has reduced by one.

## **7. Month 9 Revenue Forecast 2014/15**

7.1 Frank Smith, the Director of Corporate Resources at London Councils introduced this report which outlines actual income and expenditure against the approved budget to the end of December 2014 for the Grants Committee and provides a forecast of the outturn position for 2014/15 for both actual and committed expenditure on commissions, including matched funded ESF commissions, and the administration of all commissions.

7.2 In response to a query from members, Mr. Smith clarified that the ESF overspend corresponded to the funding that was allocated for the previous year but was not spent due to a delay in the start of the programme and would be covered by transfer from Committee reserves and through additional ESF grant.

### **Members:**

- noted the projected surplus of £91,000 for the year;
- noted the projected level of Committee reserves, as detailed in paragraphs 13-15 of this report and the commentary on the financial position of the Committee included in paragraph 16.

**The meeting ended at 12:25**