**London Councils Grants Programme 2017-21**

The London Councils Grants Programme was established in primary legislation in 1985. Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 empowers boroughs to establish a grants Programme to make grants to the voluntary and community sector. The Leaders’ Committee sets the overall funding strategies, policies, and priorities for funding to voluntary organisations.

The London Councils Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done through commissions at a pan-London level. London boroughs invest £7million a year to help Londoners who face serious challenges in their lives (poverty through unemployment, homelessness and sexual and domestic violence). Funding is provided by boroughs through a contribution which is agreed annually through the Leaders’ Committee. Borough contributions are determined by Office for National Statistics (ONS) population figures. Local needs data is used to establish targets for each priority area per borough.

**The papers**

There are two sets of papers.

* Main papers
* Item 5 - Appendix 3: provided as a separate document.
	+ Appendix 3 provides members with a directory of services, with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance.

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/35320>

| Item | Report | Details |
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| Item 1 | Apologies for absence and announcement of deputies | A list of those sending apologies and deputies will be announced. |
| Item 2 | Declarations of Interest | Committee members will be asked if they have any declarations of interest to give. |
| Item 3 | Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 11 July 2018 | All actions are complete. |
| Item 4 | Thematic Review - Co-location: Shelter and Ealing Council | Colleagues from Shelter and Ealing Housing Solutions will present an overview of how co-location improves services and benefits service users. Shelter and Ealing Housing Solutions will highlight the challenges they encountered, how these were dealt with and lessons learned in setting up a co-located service.  |
| Item 5 | Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21: Quarters one to seven | **Main report:** This report provides members with an update on the three priorities under the London Councils Grants Programme 2017-21:Priority 1 Combatting HomelessnessPriority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic ViolencePriority 3 Tackling Poverty Through Employment (ESF match funded)[[1]](#footnote-1)For Priority 1 and 2 this represents an update from April 2017 to December 2018. For Priority 3 this represents an update on delivery from October 2016 to December 2018.**Appendix 1:** provides members with the Red/Amber/Green (RAG) rating methodology (and recent adjustments to this) **Appendix 2:** maps setting out actual delivery against profiled delivery for 2017-18. **Appendix 3:** (bound separately) provides members with a directory of services, with up to date contact information, as well as an update on performance.The Grants Committee is asked to: **Note**:* 1. outcomes at priority level:
		1. Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is 17 per cent above profile for quarters one to seven
		2. Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is on profile (a marginal 0.87 per cent above) for quarters one to seven
		3. Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment, overall is -52 per cent below profile for the period October 2016 to December 2018
	2. the number of interventions delivered in the relevant periods:
		1. Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 39,849
		2. Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence - 184,970
		3. Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment – 4,766
	3. project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained at **Appendix 1**):
		1. Priorities 1 and 2: 12 projects are rated Green and one is Amber
		2. Priority 3: as previously discussed with Grants Committee members, all projects remain rated Red to ensure performance management actions support continuous improvements in delivery (Section 4)
	4. that options for using the underspend related to the withdrawal of a Priority 3 partner and the under delivery across the Priority, were discussed with Grants Executive in February 2019; Grants Executive Committee member’s deliberations are presented to this committee under item 6
	5. the progress on administration of £200,000 on behalf of the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime to enhance training to front-line professionals on identifying harmful practices (paragraph 3.16)
	6. the borough maps (**Appendix 2**), and borough engagement (Section 6).
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| Item 6 | ESF match funded Priority 3: options for anticipated underspend | The Priority 3 strand of the 2017-2021 London Councils Grants Programme – *Tackling poverty through employment* – will complete at the end of June 2019.Despite efforts to address delivery challenges, which have been reported to Grants Committee, the programme will under-deliver against the original targets set (both activity and financial). Based on the delivery profile to-date, the programme is estimated to outturn on completion at £3,019,000; half this value is attributable to the Grants programme. Considering management and administrative costs (see Financial Implications), it is projected that £1,135,000 will be returned to the Grants Programme once Priority 3 has completed.Following a meeting of the Grants Committee Executive on 7 February 2019 ([papers for the meeting](https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/35116)) to discuss choices, this paper presents options to the Grants Committee for deploying the underspend, namely:* Commission additional activity with existing commissions delivering across Priority 1 and Priority 2, to address the needs of London residents impacted by no recourse to public funds (sections 3 and 4)
* hold the underspend in reserves to allow the Grants Committee more time to consider the redeployment of funds (section 5)
* return funds to the boroughs through a one-off repatriation from reserves in 2020-21 (section 5).

Grants Committee is asked to:1. discuss and consider the options presented in this paper
2. recommend an option to Leaders Committee (April 2019) for approval
3. task officers with undertaking the necessary actions to implement the agreed option.
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1. This Priority is half funded by boroughs’ contributions to the Grants Programme (£3 million), matched by £3 million from London Councils European Social Fund (ESF) Programme under an agreement with the Greater London Authority (GLA). These commissions were agreed in 2016 as the ESF timeframe is not aligned with that of the Grants Programme. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)