

FINANCE GRANTS OVERSIGHT AND PERFORMANCE SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 January 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 21 January 2020 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Chairman)	Deputy Wendy Hyde
Deputy Philip Woodhouse (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
John Fletcher	Jeremy Mayhew

In Attendance

Officers:

Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
David Farnsworth	- Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust, Town Clerk's Department
Amelia Ehren	- Town Clerk's Department
Jack Joslin	- Town Clerk's Department
Karen Atkinson	- Chamberlain's Department
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Sarah Greenwood	- Community and Children's Services

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ian Seaton.

2. DECLARATIONS BY MEMBERS OF ANY PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA

John Fletcher declared an interest as a member of two groups which receive small grants under the small grants scheme: Portsoken Ward Club, Portsoken Activities Group.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that – the minutes of the previous meeting held 12 November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising: Benefits in Kind policy for reporting data to be reviewed. An update report will be brought to the Sub-Committee at a future meeting.

4. CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME (CGP) AND CENTRAL GRANTS UNIT (CGU) - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Members considered a report of the Chief Grants Officer and Director of City Bridge Trust relative to the Central Grants Programme (CGP) and Central Grants Unit (CGU) updates and next steps, including proposed amendments to the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference.

It was noted that the expanded Terms of Reference would reflect the oversight of the Benefits in Kind, and oversight of the general activities of the CGU which now extend beyond the CGP.

With respect to grants, Inspiring London Through Culture had received 16 applications following the recent deadline and applications were under review. A report is scheduled to be presented to the Community & Children's Services Committee for grants under £3000.

A report will be brought to the next Sub-Committee meeting indicating how the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund will be allocated. The report will outline the processes and reporting framework to the Committee.

The proposed extended Terms of Reference will be brought to the next Finance Committee meeting on 18 February 2020 for agreement.

RESOLVED, that Members –

1. note the CGP an CGU progress update report; and,
2. recommend to the Finance Committee the proposed changes to the Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference.

5. CITY ADVICE SERVICE

Members received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services relative to the City Advice Service. The service received a £100,000 City's Cash Grant, which was listed in the approved/proposed budgets for 2019/20 and 2020/21 financial years. Approval is to be sought from the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee for the continuation of the grant to the City Advice Service for a further three to five financial years to facilitate a new contract.

The following additional information regarding outputs and outcomes of the City Advise Service up to September was noted:

- 46 cases of individuals avoided repossession, including where a client or referrer indicated there was a threat of repossession;
- 104 cases of intervention of removing the threat of homelessness, including where a client or referrer indicated there was a risk of homelessness;
- 142 cases of care and support planning for vulnerable adults (meeting Care Act 2014 statutory requirements);
- 115 cases of debt reduction;
- Financial outcome of £859,694 for 231 cases, which includes all financial outcomes such as debt write off, benefits and entitlements. This was against a contract spend of £900,000;
- 410 cases of providing legal advice, excluding for matters of debt and welfare;
- 40 cases of successful tribunals and appeals;
- 42 cases of employment cases being resolved before court action;
- 4081 website page views and visits (from April-September 2019);
- some clients received more than one outcome in complex cases.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

6. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

8. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

9. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the previous meeting held 12 November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

10. **UPDATE REPORT ON THE CORPORATE CHARITIES REVIEW**

Members received a report of the Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust relative to an update on the Corporate Charities Review.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

11. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was one item of other business.

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm

Chairman

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