

EDUCATION CHARITY SUB (EDUCATION BOARD) COMMITTEE

Monday, 12 November 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Education Charity Sub (Education Board) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.00 pm

Present

Members:

Henry Colthurst
Ann Holmes
Ruby Sayed

Veronica Wadley
Deputy Philip Woodhouse

Officers:

Alistair MacLellan
Emily Rimington
Jack Joslin

- Town Clerk's Department
- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
- Central Grants Team, Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Tim Campbell.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Henry Colthurst declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 5d (Grant Recommendations – Combined Education Charity), specifically the application from City of London Academy Islington (Ref: 15033) and noted that he would give up the Chair and not participate in the Sub-Committee's deliberations regarding that application.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018 be approved as a correct record.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk regarding outstanding actions from previous meetings and the following points were made.

Sub-Committee Vacancies

- Members noted that the vacancies on the Sub-Committee had not yet been advertised to that Committee for appointment. The Town Clerk agreed to ensure they were advertised to the next meeting of that Committee.

Grant Application Form Amendments

- The Chief Grants Officer noted that the existing grant form application had not been amended as it was a template shared across several funds

overseen by the Central Grants Team and therefore could not be easily changed. That said, the Central Grants Team was adopting a new Customer Relationship Management system in April 2019 which would provide an opportunity to revisit the potential to amend the format of the application forms.

Eligibility Criteria for Individual Applicants

- Members discussed the wording of the current eligibility criteria for individual applicants to the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity and queried various forms of wording – for example, whether ‘resident and...’ could be removed, or ‘and/or proposing to study’ being inserted. The Chief Grants Officer noted that any monies disbursed were given to the institution that the applicant was attending, and therefore the applicant had to be studying at the institution in question. The Chief Grants Officer noted that he could ensure a degree of flexibility in the application of monies through providing informal feedback to potential applicants that expressed an interest in applying.
- The Chairman concluded by noting that the wording of the eligibility criteria needed to make explicit that applicants who were not resident in London must be or proposing to study in London. The word ‘resident’ should be retained.

RESOLVED, that the report be received.

5. GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS - CITY EDUCATIONAL TRUST FUND (290840) & CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMBINED EDUCATION CHARITY (312836)

Members considered a report of the Chief Grants Officer regarding Grant Recommendations – City Educational Trust Fund (290840) & City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836). The Chairman noted that circa £60,000 remained in each charity for allocation in the current financial year, and that the Sub-Committee was under no obligation to carry any of those funds forward.

5.1 Appendix 1a - Eligibility Criteria - The City Educational Trust Fund

RESOLVED, that the eligibility criteria for the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) be received.

5.2 Appendix 1b - Eligibility Criteria - The Combined Education Charity

RESOLVED, that the eligibility criteria for the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836) be received.

5.3 Appendix 2 - City Educational Trust Grant Recommendations

Members considered the grants recommendations regarding the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and the following points were made.

City of London Academies Trust (Galleywall Primary City of London Academy) (Ref: 15030)

- The Chief Grants Officer noted the application was designed to improve the singing 'offer' at the school and included a proposal to construct a stage in the school playground and enable the creation of a parent/child choir.
- In response to a comment from a Member, the Chief Grants Officer agreed that visuals regarding proposals, and a breakdown of proposed spending on proposals included in applications going forward.

RESOLVED, that £11,565 be granted to the City of London Academies Trust (Galleywall Primary City of London Academy) for application ref. 15030.

Queen Mary University (Ref: 14293)

- The Chief Grants Officer noted that the maths programme that was the subject of the application had received funding from the City Educational Trust for the past two years. On this occasion, no financial information had been received as part of the application and therefore, if Members agreed the application, they should make the receipt of satisfactory financial information a condition of the grant being made.
- A Member emphasised the request that future applications put before the Sub-Committee include a detailed breakdown on how the applicant proposed spending the grant monies.
- Members endorsed a suggestion by the Chairman that consideration of this application be deferred and the applicant be required to provide the requested financial application prior to 15 December. The application would then be considered by the Town Clerk under delegated authority in consultation with the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED, that

- The applicant be given a deadline of 15 December 2018 to provide the requested financial information in support of their application;
- authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to consider, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Education Board, the Queen Mary University application (Ref: 14293)

Spitalfields Music (Ref: 15027)

- The Chief Grants Officer noted that Spitalfields Music had been in receipt of City Educational Trust funding for the past three years.

- In response to questions from Members the Chief Grants Officer replied that monitoring information was due from the charity at the end of the financial year, and he had reviewed the charity's funding strategy and was confident that it was a going concern, with an effective Director of Fundraising.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Grants Officer replied that the charity designed its charging policy to be as affordable for as many people as possible.
- Members noted that Spitalfields Music had been in receipt of City Educational Trust monies for a considerable period of time and felt that the charity should, on this occasion, be granted a larger figure than requested on the proviso that it consider fresh funding opportunities going forward, as they would not be funded by the charity during the next funding round.

RESOLVED, that £25,000 be granted to Spitalfields Music (Ref: 15027) subject to the comments made by Members.

5.4 **Appendix 3 - Combined Education Charity Grant Recommendations and Rejections**

Members considered the grants recommendations and rejections regarding the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836) and the following points were made.

Prisoners of Conscience (PoC) Appeal Fund (Ref: 15024)

- The Chief Grants Officer noted that the application fell outside the current eligibility criteria but did meet the overall objects of the charity.
- In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Grants Officer noted that PoC vetted the individuals they sponsored to ensure they were appropriate recipients of charitable funding. He agreed to request an impact assessment of Combined Education Charity funding in two years' time (2020).

RESOLVED, that £15,000 be granted to the Prisoners of Conscience (PoC) Appeal Fund (Ref: 15024).

City of London Academy Islington (Ref:15033)

Henry Colthurst did not participate in consideration of this item. Deputy Philip Woodhouse was in the chair.

- A Member commented that charitable support should not duplicate any support the academy received from the City of London Corporation in its capacity as co-sponsor and noted the advice set out within the report that there was no overriding conflict of interest for the City of London

Corporation in discharging its trustee duties in considering the application. The Chief Grants Officer replied that he had liaised with the Education Team to ensure that there was no duplication of funding and that the charity's funds are applied effectively and in the best interests of the charity.

- In response to a question from a Member, the Chief Grants Officer replied that financials had not been provided by the applicant as it was not a requirement on the current application form, but that he was happy to amend the form for future applications to make the provision of financial information a requirement. He was attempting to raise awareness of the charity among a wider range of London schools.

RESOLVED, that £2,200 be granted to City of London Academy Islington (Ref: 15033).

Performing Productions (Ref: 15029)

RESOLVED, that the application be rejected.

City of London Academies Trust (City of London Academy Shoreditch Park) (Ref: 15032)

- The Chairman commented that he was surprised the applicant had not approached the City of London Corporation's School Visits Fund.
- The Chief Grants Officer noted that he would work with the City of London Corporation's Education Unit to encourage a more holistic approach to applications to the charities from London schools.

RESOLVED, that the application be rejected.

Applicant 1 (Ref: 15023)

RESOLVED, that the application be rejected.

Applicant 2 (Ref: 15025)

RESOLVED, that the application be rejected.

Applicant 3 (Ref: 15026)

RESOLVED, that the application be rejected.

6. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Date of Next Meeting

The Chairman requested that the Town Clerk liaise with Members of the Sub-Committee to convene a meeting in May 2019.

The meeting closed at 1.51 pm

Chairman

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