

Committee:	Dated:
Community and Children's Services	08/03/2019
Subject: Stronger Communities Grants Programme	Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information
Report author: Jack Joslin, Head of Central Grants Programme	

Summary

The Stronger Communities grant funding round – part of the Central Grants Programme (CGP) – closed to applications on 16 November 2019. Applications were assessed by an officer panel and recommendations made to the Director, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of this Committee for approval. Eight projects were successful and have, in total, received £63,840 in grant funding. Two projects were considered as small grants, with 17 projects considered under the main grants programme.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the grants approved for Stronger Communities funding.

Main Report

Background

1. The Stronger Communities theme is a strand of the City of London Corporation's (CoLC) CGP that awards up to £10,000 to projects or services that are being delivered for the benefit of communities or beneficiaries within the City of London and its housing estates across London. It is funded from City's Cash.
2. Members of this Committee agreed in May 2016 that the award of grants will be determined by Officers of Community and Children's Services, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee.
3. The grant assessment process for this and other themes in the programme is overseen by the Central Grants Unit (CGU) and draws on the unit's expertise in the field of grant-making, and demonstrates good practice.
4. Grant applications were subject to a series of due diligence checks by the CGU to ensure compliance with the established eligibility criteria. They passed a financial assessment by the Head of Charity and Social Investment

Finance (Chamberlain's Department). All eligible applications were then considered by a panel of expert officers.

5. This funding round work was done with officers at Hackney Council to promote both the Stronger Communities programme and the Healthy Hackney Fund. Both programmes had application deadlines of 16 November, with officers from the City and Hackney involved in decision making.

Stronger Communities

Grant allocation

6. In July 2018 the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee, approved that a City's Cash underspend of £26,000 from financial year 2017/18 could be allocated to the 2018/19 Stronger Communities funding programme. The overall funding pot available this financial year is £132,000.
7. In June 2018 funding was awarded to four projects, totalling £26,885. Funding available for this round of applications was £105,115.
8. Applications to this round were assessed by a panel of officers representing a range of Community and Children's Services functions and the CGU, chaired by the Assistant Director of Commissioning and Partnerships.
9. The officer-led Grants Panel proposed eight grants totalling £63,840 be awarded. The recommendations were put to, and agreed by, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of this Committee.
10. The £41,275 underspend will be put through the standard carry-forward process to be allocated in grants in the next financial year, subject to approval from the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance Committee.
11. In February 2018, the Community and Children's Services Committee agreed to combine the Department's Small Grants Programme into the Stronger Communities Programme. A new application process was provided for Small Grants this round with two applications received. A copy of the online application form can be viewed at Appendix 2.
12. Summary assessment reports of all recommended applications to the Stronger Communities grant scheme are provided in Appendices 3 and 4 of this report, along with all the applications that were recommended for rejection. The successful applications are:

Organisation Name	Approved
Afro-Brazilian Arts & Cultural Exchange Institute	£4,900
Age Concern City of London	£9,920
Aldgate Community Events	£10,000

Chance UK	£10,000
Forget Me Not Memory Cafe	£10,000
Mint Street Music Festival	£7,020
Repowering Limited	£10,000
Strictly Stylish Sequence Dancers	£2,000
Total	£63,840

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. The CGP Stronger Communities funding strand was created to promote a fair system of grant-giving by the CoLC.
14. The recommendations of the panel support the funding criteria and, in turn, the CoLC's Corporate Plan.

Conclusion

15. The Stronger Communities and Small Grants allocations will support eight diverse projects working in the City's communities.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Stronger Communities: Criteria for funding
- Appendix 2 – Small Grant Application Form
- Appendix 3 – Stronger Communities: Project outlines and grants awarded.
- Appendix 4 – Stronger Communities: Table of grants declined, deferred or withdrawn

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