

Committee Community and Children's Services Committee	Dated: 07/06/2019
Subject Central Grants Programme (CGP) – Annual Report	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer (CGO) and Director of City Bridge Trust	For Information
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Summary

This annual report provides an update on the Central Grants Programme (CGP). The report includes the outcomes of the four CGP grant programmes delivered in 2018/19; an update on the monitoring and evaluation of the CGP and an outline of the next deadlines for 2019/20.

Recommendations:

- a) To note the Central Grants Programme (CGP) Annual Report

Main Report

Background

1. In March 2016, the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee received a report outlining the work that had been undertaken to date to implement the recommendations of the Effectiveness of Grants Service Based Review (SBR). The aim of the review was to increase the strategic impact of grant-making, ensure that the grants are managed more efficiently and effectively, improve the consistency and quality of the customer experience and so bring consequential reputational benefits. The report recommended a consolidated CGP be implemented.
2. In order to manage the CGP effectively a new Central Grants Unit (CGU) was proposed to administer the programme. The CGU would be responsible for the management of all grant applications, monitoring and evaluation processes and committee reporting procedures.
3. It was agreed that the CGU would be co-located with the City Bridge Trust team (CBT) in order to facilitate consistency of approach and harmonise service standards. The Chief Grants Officer, responsible for the grant-making activities of CBT would maintain an overview of the CGU, with relevant input from the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance (Chamberlain's Department), with the work being delivered by the Head of Central Grants Programme (HCGP).

4. In March 2018 the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee met and both agreed to support the implementation of the CGP on a permanent basis from the 1st April 2018. Members agreed an uplift to the City's Cash Grants element of the CGP Budget to enable this to equal £250,000 annually, being approximately 20% of the City's Cash grants budget. Members also noted the uplift of £10,000 applied to the operating costs of the CGU to £60,000, included within the approved CBT budget for 2018/19. This amount is supplemented by contributions from City of London (COL) Charities that the CGU supports.
5. The four CGP funding themes were agreed in March 2016 by the Policy and Resources Committee, and the eligibility criteria subsequently agreed by each respective grant-giving committee.

Overview of CGP

6. The table below outlines the total number of successful applications awarded in the year ending 31 March 2019.

12 Month Grant Period April 2018 – March 2019		
CoL Programme	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Education & Employment	17	£280,790
Inspiring London through Culture	25	£189,224
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	12	£155,475
Stronger Communities	13	£92,725
Total	67	£718,214

7. An update in more detail on the progress of the four CGP grant rounds for 2018/19 is provided in **Appendix 1**.
8. Detail of all applications approved, withdrawn and rejected under the CGP in 2018/19 is shown at **Appendix 2**.
9. A breakdown of the Management costs for the CGU in 2018/19 is shown at **Appendix 3**.

Education and Employment

10. The Education and Employment theme of the Central Grants Programme is responsible for the distribution of funds from the City Educational Trust (290840) and the Combined Education Charity (312836). Grant decisions for this programme are made by the Education Sub-Committee.
11. Revised criteria were approved by the Education Board on 8 March 2018 and two grant rounds have taken place in 2018/19 with deadlines in June and September. 17 applicants were awarded funding totalling £280,790 across the two Charities.

Inspiring London through Culture

12. One of the three City's Cash Grants Programmes the Inspiring London through Culture programme remains one of the most in demand themes under the Central Grants Programme.
13. In January 2019 this programme received a significant amount of applications totalling over £200,000. After an initial review it was deemed that the majority of applications were of a high quality. In order to meet the demand of this round Officers consulted with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee to seek approval of an early transfer of an underspend from another City's Cash grants budget. Approval was given for a further £56,655 to be added to the budget for this grant round, to meet the demand.
14. In 2018/19 this programme saw an increase in demand receiving 34 applications across two grant rounds. 25 applications were awarded funding totalling £189,224.

Stronger Communities

15. The Children and Community Services Committee agreed in February 2018 that the activities of a small grants programme it oversaw be combined with those of the City's Cash element of the Stronger Communities theme.
16. In 2018/19 the Stronger Communities Programme had two grant deadlines in June and November 2018 incorporating the new small grants process. 30 applications were received in total, with 13 grants awarded funding totalling £92,725. Although the programme received a high volume of applications the rejection rate was very high, leaving an underspend in the year. Analysis of rejections from the programme shows that many applicants misunderstand the criteria and the geographical restrictions. The CGU is working with the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Officers to ensure a more targeted outreach programme for 2019/20. The CGU will continue to work with applicants to improve the quality of applications.
17. At the February 2018 DCCS Committee, Members resolved that £30,000 of the Stronger Communities budget (City's Cash) under the CGP could be committed to support grants to organisations applying through a new 'crowd funding' platform run by Spacehive. The CGU continues to manage the Spacehive grants programme and several projects have been supported delivering work in the Aldgate Square area. The 'Our City' programme has now been rolled out City wide and expects to see significant increase in applications for support through Spacehive.
18. In accordance with the decisions of the trustees of the Corporation of London Benevolent Association (206643) (the Association) and the Community and Children's Services Committee, on behalf of the City Corporation as Trustee of the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity, the Association's assets were transferred to the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (1073660) as a restricted fund on 31 October 2018. Work is ongoing with DCCS Officers, supported by the Chamberlain's and Comptroller and City Solicitor's

departments, to update the Stronger Communities eligibility criteria to reflect the availability of additional funds for distribution following the transfer of assets from the Association to the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity, and the restrictions on these funds, and to ensure that grants will be awarded from this Charity in 2019/20.

Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment

19. Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment held one round in 2018/19. The CGU worked with Open Spaces Officers to do targeted funding workshops for applicants to this programme.
20. After successfully marketing the programme there was an increase in applications. 17 were received in total with 12 projects awarded funding totalling £155,475.

Monitoring

21. The HCGP has set up and implemented the online monitoring and evaluation system in line with best practice from the CBT. Monitoring is generally of a good standard with grantees reporting on the success and impact of their funded schemes, the enhanced reach of the funding provided and how the funding has helped to leverage additional or match-funding for projects.
22. The CGU currently oversees and manages 93 active grants across all programmes.

General

23. The table below outlines the shows the application deadlines for the CGP in 2019/20.

Funding Theme	Application Deadlines
Education and Employment	April 2019 October 2019
Inspiring London through Culture	May 2019 January 2020
Stronger Communities	May 2019 November 2019
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	October 2019

24. The CGP received some positive exposure in the press in 2019/20. **Appendix 4** shows a sample list of media engagements.
25. The CGU will continue to work with the CGO, The Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department and the Chamberlain to explore the consolidation and rationalisation of charities associated with the City Corporation, in particular those whose purpose is charitable funding.

26. The City of London holds a contingency fund of £100,000 in its City's Cash budget, allocated to the International Disasters Fund (IDF) administered by the Finance Committee. The CGU provide advice and make recommendations to the Finance Committee about where to distribute IDF in response to International Appeals. This year donations to the value of £100,000 have been made to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) and Save the Children in response to the two Indonesian Tsunami's and a further donation to the DEC in response to the humanitarian effort in the wake of Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa.
27. Discussions are happening between the CGU and other departments around taking on additional programmes of work.

Appendix 1 – CGP Grants Overview 2018/19

Appendix 2 – Overview of Approved, Rejected and Withdrawn Grants 2018/19

Appendix 3 – Breakdown of CGU Management Costs

Appendix 4 – CGP Media Schedule 2018/19

Background Papers:

- Policy and Resources Committee, January 2017, 'Review and Reclassification of Former Finance Grants Sub-Committee Grants'.
- Policy and Resources Committee, March 2018, 'Central Grants Programme Review'

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