

Committee: City Bridge Trust (CBT)	25th July 2019
Subject: Progress Report	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer and Director of CBT (CGO)	For Decision

Summary

This is a regular report by the CGO. You are asked within this report to note updates on the following:

- a) Small Grants Programme
- b) Member's Briefing Lunch
- c) HR Update
- d) 'Telling your Stories Screening' at the Barbican
- e) Addition to your Positive Transitions programme
- f) Recommended change of wording in Mission statement
- g) Core Funding
- h) Update on Responding to the Resilience Risk
- i) Bridge to Work
- j) Philanthropy House

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the report.
- b) Change the wording of your mission statement so that the term 'cohesive communities' is replaced by 'stronger, more resilient and thriving communities'

Main Report

Small Grants Programme

1. Bridging Divides, when launched in April 2018, included a targeted Small Grants programme – your first for many years. These are grants for up to £10,000 in any one year for organisations with a turnover of £75,000 or less. The funding priorities include work with older people; disabled people; or community greening & growing projects.
2. It is timely that this programme is now reviewed. To this end your officers have asked London Funders to arrange a survey amongst other funders so

that the general “geography” of Small Grant funders and programmes can be determined – which will include the Central Grants Programme. This survey is currently under way and it is planned to hold a follow-up meeting of funders in late August/early September – again under the auspices of London Funders.

3. Following this it is our intention to bring a more detailed paper to your September Committee outlining the detail of your Small Grants programme to date; the results of the survey and other research and engagement; and to make some recommendations as to how the programme might be adjusted for greater impact and reach in the future.

Members’ Briefing Lunch

4. On Friday 28 June 2019 the CBT Committee hosted a Members’ briefing lunch in the Guildhall Club Private Dining Room on the different sources of charitable funding managed by the city of London Corporation.
5. The briefing session was well attended by members and there was some useful discussion on the eligibility of the CBT and Central Grants funding programmes. A summary of available funding was circulated to all members as a follow up.
6. Input from this briefing along with the CBT strategy meeting/dinner will help inform the Autumn, CBT Committee strategic half away-day. Then working with your new Chair, some of the ideas on how to improve the presentation of papers and organisation of CBT Committee meetings will start to be trialled in September.

HR Update

7. Natalie Jordan has been recruited into the 12-month (fixed term) Funding Manager position and will be starting on 12th August 2019.
8. Martin Hall who worked in the position of Funding Officer left CBT in June 2019 for pastures new.
9. The interviews for the vacant Funding Officer position took place on 5th July. One candidate was offered the position and is currently undergoing the standard reference checks. Further information will be provided to you in due course on the progress of this.

‘Telling your Stories’ Screening at the Barbican

10. ‘Telling your Stories’ is a strategic initiative to provide 10 of the charitable projects you support the opportunity to have a short film made about their work by professional filmmakers from the Media Trust (MT). The MT has been successfully delivering the ‘Telling Your Stories’ project on behalf of the Trust for a number of years. The latest cohort of 10 organisations you support are in the process of completing their films over the summer and a screening

at the Barbican is booked for Thursday 10 October from 15:30-17:30pm. Please note this date for your diary and keep free if you would like to attend.

11. The programme but will be in line with previous years, with a short introduction from CBT and MT followed by one or two speakers, likely to be one of the film directors and/or a participant of a film if they are willing. The afternoon will conclude with light refreshments.

Addition to your Positive Transitions programme

12. It has recently come to our attention that in the process of implementing Bridging Divides we mistakenly omitted the priority aimed at funding specialist services to address the mental health needs of homeless people. This had been a successful and important priority of Investing in Londoners and it had always been the intention to retain it within Bridging Divides. The wording below has now been added to the Trust's priorities on the website and within the Members' Handbook: *Specialist support services to improve the mental health of homeless and transient people.*

Recommended change of wording to Mission statement

13. City Bridge Trust's mission is to '**reduce inequality** and grow more **cohesive communities** for a London that serves everyone' (emphasis added). The aim is for *Bridging Divides* to be 'a strategy that learns and adapts' in response to intelligence and feedback. Part of this process will involve using data to understand and learn how well the Trust has progressed towards achieving its mission. A good understanding of inequality and community cohesion in London, and how the Trust's work influences those phenomena, will therefore be vital.
14. In Winter 2018, we commissioned Renaisi, your Bridging Divides learning partner, to produce a paper to help understand how to define, monitor and analyse inequality and community cohesion in London. The paper; *Understanding inequality and community cohesion in London* (January 2019), draws on a range of academic and non-academic sources, as well as synthesis of conversations with your officers.
15. A key finding in this paper and in Renaisi's *Review of Year 1 of Bridging Divides* (April 2019), was that the phrase 'cohesive communities', is a contested and controversial term and should be changed.
16. Renaisi state: 'The term 'community cohesion' tends to be associated with racial and / or ethnic divides between and within communities. It was strongly associated with the Cantle Report, 'Community Cohesion: A report of the Independent Review Team' (Cantle 2001), which was commissioned in response to race riots in Bradford and highlighted problems of segregation and division between groups, defined in the report by their ethnicity, in different areas of the country. The term has since become a contested and

somewhat controversial term because of its association with the notion of cohesion as a one- sided process.'

17. It is therefore recommended that the term 'cohesive communities' is changed to 'stronger, more resilient and thriving communities', a phrase already used to describe the [Connecting the Capital Funding programme](#), because:

- a) 'Stronger, more resilient and thriving communities' can be understood to be about the strength and quality of relationships as well as the institutional strength of key community organisations. This reflects your focus on social participation, voice, relationships, connectedness, equality and inclusivity, as well as your work in supporting civil society as a means to an end of reducing inequality and strengthening communities.
- b) The focus on resilience better reflects the continued substantial challenges facing Londoners and threats to the continued work of civil society organisations.

18. If you approve this recommendation, officers will create a definition for 'stronger, more resilient and thriving communities' and communicate this definition internally and to funded organisations and potential funded organisations, so that all are clear about the Trust's mission. If the change is adopted, the Impact and Learning Team will use these agreed definitions to inform the creation of a framework for learning and impact work.

Core Funding

19. As part of Bridging Divides, you introduced core funding to your grants programme. However, it has not attracted as many applications as expected and it has presented some assessment challenges. In order to make the process more accessible and straightforward to applicants, your grants' team has conducted a mapping exercise of other funders and reviewed latest guidance from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Two Funding Managers and the Head of Impact and Learning are devising a plan for developing this aspect of your funding programme in a way that aligns cohesively with other areas of your work, namely, your Funder Plus programme and your work around philanthropy. It is hoped that plans for developing your core funding offer will be presented at your September meeting.

Update on Responding to the Resilience Risk

20. Following the launch of Responding to the Resilience Risk (RRR) on the 14th May 2019, during Mental Health Awareness Week, 38 proposals were received to design and deliver resilience interventions by voluntary sector organisations, demonstrating an interest and need for this work. These interventions will seek to support and develop the resilience of front-line workers in charitable organisations. Proposals were received from a broad cross-section of organisations, ranging in size and sector.

21. A panel of five professionals with experience of working in or researching resilience or mental health was convened to support the short-listing process,

which was observed by your Chair. Following a lively panel discussion, chaired by your officer, it was agreed that fuller proposals would be invited from nine applicants, from which the total sum requested is £137,509. The budget allocation for RRR includes £100K for funding pilot interventions. The final selection of proposals to receive funding will be made at a second panel meeting on the 23rd August.

22. Two tenders have been received to evaluate RRR and your officer, supported by the Head of Impact and Learning, will select an evaluator, following an interview process. RRR is on track to meet the scheduled funding announcement date in early September with pilot projects commencing in October 2019. Learning from the pilots will be shared at a learning event next May, during Mental Health Awareness Week 2020, and a more comprehensive evaluation will follow later in the summer.

Bridge to Work

23. An independent evaluation of the first year of the Bridge to Work programme, which supports young disabled Londoners into and in employment, has been undertaken by Disability Rights UK. A link to the full report is provided below. <https://www.citybridgetrust.org.uk/publications/bridge-to-work-year-1-evaluation/>
(A hard copy can be provided on request.) The Programme Manager, James Lee, is unable to attend this Committee but will be at your September meeting where officers intend to present a paper outlining how the Trust might review, celebrate and expand its contribution to supporting disabled Londoners' independence in the year ahead and in recognition that 2020 will see the 25th anniversary of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Philanthropy House

24. Officers have undertaken extensive research into available properties within the city in addition to 21 Aldermanbury and are further refining our business modelling to reflect the findings. 21 Aldermanbury remains the option we will recommend to the Policy and Resources (P&R) committee in September, and the case is now reinforced by this additional market analysis. If officers secure P&R's approval to progress with 21 Aldermanbury, members will also need to be satisfied that there is a business case for City's Cash to appropriate the property to Bridge House Estates and a separate paper will be considered by P&R to this effect. Your officers are working closely with the related teams in City Surveyor's, Comptroller and City Solicitor's, Chamberlain's and Remembrancer's.
25. Over the summer officers have continued to liaise closely with the potential Anchor Tenants and relationships remain positive. Officers undertook a further independently facilitated workshop to further refine the vision and success criteria as well as to chart the practical steps required to promote the property effectively. Officers have continued to research examples of effective, collaborative working space: the above-mentioned workshop took

place at the Foundry in Vauxhall, one such purpose-built space. A visit in the autumn is planned to the Brussels Philanthropy House to learn from their operational experience.

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