

Committee:	Date:
Gresham Committee (City Side)	1 November 2019
Subject: Decisions taken under Urgency Procedures or Delegated Authority	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Greg Moore	

Summary

This report provides details of two decisions taken under urgency procedures or delegated authority since your last meeting, concerning the use of the Committee's Contingency Fund.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Gresham College Interim Payments

1. As Members will be aware, interim funding agreements have been put into place with Gresham College whilst negotiations for the next five-year funding agreement are ongoing. The new funding proposals are to flow from a strategic review of the College's operating model, which has been considered in draft by the Joint Grand Gresham Committee (JGGC) at a Strategy Meeting on 24 September 2019. The formal proposals will be submitted to the relevant decision-making bodies of the two Sponsors – the City Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers – in the coming period.
2. Consultants were commissioned to undertake the aforementioned strategic review, which was completed in July 2019. In order to undertake some of the activities associated with preparing for the new funding agreement, the College made a request for further funds, which was considered by the Gresham Working Party on 18 July 2019.
3. The Working Party determined that the College should employ its reserves to fund some of the short-term measures identified; however, support was expressed for contributing towards prospective consultants' fees in order to assist the College in preparing a formal submission of proposals and a business plan for the September JGGC Strategy Meeting. In addition, there was support for a contribution towards business and legal advice associated with establishing a trading arm, to assist with income generation moving forwards. The total contribution to be granted by the City Corporation towards this activity would be £8,500.

4. As there were unspent funds (amounting to £2,000) from a previous allocation for the consultants' review, this was able to be reallocated towards that portion of the additional work, leaving a balance of £6,500 to be met. It was, therefore, agreed that an allocation of up to £6,500 be made from the Committee's Contingency Budget (of £10,000).
5. Approval was sought and obtained under urgency procedures as the College and consultants were required to undertake work immediately, in order to meet the deadlines for presentation to the Sponsors.

Gresham Almshouses Refurbishment

6. There are eight Gresham Almshouses situated in Brixton, on a site with 42 City of London Almshouses. These residences were built in the 1880s and are managed by the Department of Community and Children's Services.
7. Following a review, a programme of investment to refurbish and improve the Almshouses was developed. A consultant architect was appointed in 2017 and a procurement exercise took place in 2018. To achieve economies of scale, expedite works, and minimise disturbance to residents, the works to the Gresham Almshouses were to be undertaken in tandem with similar works at the City of London Almshouses.
8. Following an administrative error through the project management process, which had arisen due to a consequence of delays to the project and miscommunication with the Chamberlain's department, further approvals became necessary in order to authorise the carry-forward of previously approved funds to a new financial year in respect of works to the Gresham Almshouses.
9. In order to obtain these approvals, a request would need to be submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration. At your May 2019 meeting, the City Side Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to consider the wording of this request, to ensure that the position was articulated adequately.
10. Following the meeting, the wording of the proposed request was drafted and approved under delegated authority for submission.

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