

Committee: City Bridge Trust (CBT)	8th July 2020
Subject: Progress Report	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer and Director of CBT (CGO)	For Decision

Summary

This paper provides an update on CBT's progress against its current business plan whilst highlighting decisions taken/to be taken in the current operating context. All decisions and actions should be anchored in CBT's values: Progressive; Adaptive; Collaborative; Inclusive; Environmentally responsible; and Representative (P.A.C.I.E.R.). At Appendix 1 there is an update of CBT's six major workstreams with changes since the last update of 30 May 2020 highlighted. The CBT Black Lives Matter and Covid-19 responses are considered in more detail. An update on the Responding to the Resilience Risk Initiative is also provided.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the report
- b) Agree to work with the CBT team, with appropriate support, to develop an action plan in response to Black Lives Matters, mindful of CBT's values, responsibility as London's largest independent funder and the work of BHE's trustee, the City of London Corporation (CoLC)
- c) Agree the contribution of staff time to London's Covid-19 Strategic-Co-ordination Group, Transition and Recovery boards and related workstreams
- d) Agree to extend the pause on new applications to Bridging Divides until the end of September 2020, with the recommendations of a review being considered at your September CBT Committee
- e) Recommend that the current level of delegations in relation to grant-making is extended for a further 3 months.

Main Report

Black Lives Matter

1. The brutal killing of George Floyd sparked worldwide Black Lives Matter demonstrations which have again highlighted the inequalities for black people. Our chair, Dhruv Patel, made a statement on behalf of CBT through a video on social media: explaining why CBT will always stand in solidarity with, and in support of, London's BAME communities.
<https://twitter.com/CityBridgeTrust/status/1270092093382438912>
2. CBT has always funded projects that increase support for, engagement with and equality within Black, Asian, and other minority ethnic groups (over £15M in the past 5 years). One current example is the 'Moving-On Up' programme (MoU): a partnership with the Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) and Trust for London (TfL). MoU arose from research commissioned by TfL and undertaken by BTEG. This found that approximately half of all young

Black men in England and Wales live in London (c.87,000) and that the unemployment rate for this group is more than double that of young white men; and Black university graduates are twice as likely to be unemployed as their White counterparts. MoU pilots practical solutions to the inequalities in employment outcomes for young Black men:

<https://www.bteg.co.uk/movingonup/campaign> .

3. CBT is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Coalition. The DEI Coalition is a group of 17 UK foundations looking to improve their own and the sector's practice around diversity, equity and inclusion.
4. Inclusion and representation are two of CBT's core values but we still have much work to do to realise our ambitions in respect of them.
5. CBT draws on experience and expertise from the team, our committee and the many organisations we fund but at present we lack capacity (see below). To address this, we have engaged Dinah Cox OBE on a consultancy basis. Dinah has been CEO of local, regional and national organisations working in the communities and equalities fields; a Senior Policy advisor to government; CEO of Race on the Agenda and chair of BBC Children in Need's London & South East Advisory Committee.
6. Dinah will contribute additional strategic capacity and her first focus will be to work with the CBT team and, with your agreement, the Committee to scope and develop an ambitious CBT action plan in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, anchored in our Bridging Divides Strategy and our PACIER values. Part of this will be to provide support/challenge to our trustee, CoLC – CoLC having recently formed a 'Tackling Racism Task Force' co-chaired by two elected Members from a BAME background Caroline Addy and Andrien Meyers. All CBT Committee members will be a helpful bridge to this work and Edward Lord OBE JP, as a member of the CBT Committee and the new task force no doubt particularly so.
7. In light of the above, the CBT Committee are asked to agree to work with CBT officers and appropriate support to develop an ambitious action plan in response to Black Lives Matters, mindful of CBT's values, responsibility as London's largest independent funder and the work of BHE's trustee, the City of London Corporation.

Covid-19

8. London statistics show a significant decline in the Covid-19 death rate and a relatively stable 'r' rate. The latter is under considerable scrutiny as lockdown is further relaxed. The socio-economic impacts on London's communities are profound and growing: these have significant consequences for London's voluntary and community sector.
9. Many charities and community groups are very stretched: navigating increased demand whilst adapting to new operating models and drops in income. The Greater London Authority's latest weekly survey of these groups

reports housing, unemployment, poverty, mental health, digital exclusion as being of greatest concern.

10. Members may recall that building on the work of the London Covid-19 Strategic Co-ordination Group, a new structure is now in place to oversee the Capital's Covid-19 emergency and recovery work: a Transition Management Group reporting to a Transition Board (co-chaired by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Mayor of London) is overseeing the former; a Recovery Board (co-chaired by the Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils) is overseeing the latter.
11. CBT continues to have significant connection to this work:
 - a. Your CGO is on both boards and co-chairs the Funders, Community & Voluntary Sector sub-group (FCVS) – this currently equates to c.20% of his time;
 - b. Your Director of Philanthropy co-chairs the FCVS and is providing strategic and senior project leadership to related work streams – this currently equates to c.80% of her time;
12. In addition to the above posts funded by BHE through CBT's budget, CoLC-funded colleagues Amelia Ehren, Claire Holdgate, Sharon Long and the Town Clerk continue to contribute some of their time.
13. The focus of your CBT officers contributing to these structures is London's Community & Voluntary Sector, particularly the impact of Covid-19 on vulnerable groups. It sits squarely within CBT's vision and mission; it draws on work CBT have funded, expertise of CBT's grantees and it will inform CBT's future work.
14. Members are therefore asked to agree to support the contribution of staff time (as above) to London's Covid-19 Strategic-Co-ordination Group, Transition and Recovery boards and related workstreams.

CBT Business Plan Workstream Update

15. The table at Appendix 1 considers the six major workstreams articulated in CBT's Business Plan (also attached). Updates since last reported on 30 May 2020 are highlighted.
16. Key areas to note are:
 - a. The update on Philanthropy House (referred to in the first section of the Appendix 1 table under 'Notes');
 - b. The continued pause on receiving any new applications to Bridging Divides (other than to the LCRF, Small Grants and Stepping Stones programmes and for continuation funding) – currently until the end of August 2020.
 - i. CBT is focusing its resources on applications made before the pandemic took grip (the pipeline) and on the LCRF. The pipeline is substantial – after this Committee meeting there will still be over £21M worth of applications in the system.

- ii. Demands on the LCRF are considerable and despite efficiency gains from successfully going entirely online the team is operating at reduced capacity because of the constraints and impacts of lock-down such as home schooling.
- iii. In light of the above, it is recommended that the pause is extended from the end of August to the end of September 2020, with a review being undertaken and its recommendations as to any further full or partial extension being considered at the September CBT Committee.
- iv. The LCRF which is considered in detail in the Strategy Paper below (non-public).
- v. The additional resources from BHE for Bridging Divides which is considered in detail in the Strategy Paper below (non-public).
- vi. The higher level of delegations afforded to the CGO and the Deputy Director of CBT were agreed for an initial 3 month period and end on 7th July 2020. It is recommended that this level of delegations is extended for a further 3 months.
- vii. In response to the context and through a contractual variation, the Wembley National Stadium Trust contract has been reduced to c.30%. Spare capacity is being directed at the LCRF.
- viii. The Bridge House Estates final draft strategy is presented for consideration later in your papers.

The London Community Response Fund (LCRF)

17. Members will recall, the LCRF was launched in March 2020, jointly by the Mayor of London/GLA and CBT, each contributing an initial £1m to be administered by CBT. It has since grown to a fund of £13.5m, including a total of £6m committed by CBT (a further £5M added to the initial £1M – allocated from the agreed Bridging Divides Budget under Urgency), due to donations from across the City. Almost 1000 grants have been awarded under the initiative so far in waves 1 & 2, providing food and essential items to communities across the capital via crisis response grants, as well as grants to enable the voluntary sector to adapt its services in response to the crisis at pace and deliver them digitally, or via other alternative methods.
18. Wave 3 will launch imminently, continuing to provide crisis response funding, in addition to two new streams: Enable and Adapt. The fund distributes grants to applicants which have applied via the London Community Response, an online application portal and wider funder collaboration of which the LCRF is part, which is hosted and co-ordinated by London Funders. The wider London Community Response includes funding available from a range of funders, including the LCRF, totalling more than £23m. The strategy implications of the LCRF and further resource considerations are detailed in the Strategy Paper below (non-public).

Responding to the Resilience Risk initiative (RRR)

19. Early findings from the RRR were shared at a learning event on Tuesday 19th May, during Mental Health Awareness Week. The virtual event, which was hosted by London Funders, using Zoom, was attended by 24 colleagues, primarily from the funding community, and precedes publication of the full

evaluation report for RRR scheduled for August 2020. It was timely and well-received. The event included a presentation by Alice Thornton from Renaisi, RRR evaluator; and further presentations by Jo Hensel from Guildhall School of Music and Drama about her study of students' resilience and from your officer, Julia Mirkin, Funding Manager. A panel discussion about the role of funders in supporting resilience was Chaired by Noa Burger. Panellists included Cordelia Lumley from The Listening Place; Rebecca Wilkie from the Access to Justice Foundation; Jo Hensel; Alice Thornton and your Deputy Director.

Members to Note

20. Your papers today include recommendations for grants of £250,000 or less and which would otherwise be eligible to be approved under delegated authority. They are being brought to Committee as they have been completed in time to meet the deadline for inclusion. This explains why some of the report formats may differ between reports.
21. Mindful of the fast pace of developments, if any CBT Committee member would like any further information or has any questions arising from this paper, please do contact your CGO (contacts below) prior to or post committee.

David Farnsworth

CGO

TEAMS: David Farnsworth (internal directory)

E: David.Farnsworth@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix 1: CBT Major Workstreams in the Context of Covid-19

Appendix 2: Current Business Plan