

Committee(s): Education Board	Date: 05 Feb 2024
Subject: City Premium Grant 2023/24 Round 2 Applications	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8 & 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
What is the source of Funding?	Education Board
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Y
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author: Torri Stewart, Lead Strategy & Impact	

Summary

This report updates Members with key information relating to the second round of City Premium Grant applications for 2023/24. The amount of funding still available to the Family of Schools for the 2023/24 academic year is £526,500.

Applications for 41 projects have been received and reviewed. Nearly all proposed projects were eligible to be considered for funding. The combined associated cost of eligible projects is £894,777.

The report asks Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills Director to distribute awards from the City Premium Grant to fund the highest scoring projects.

The report further proposes that remaining eligible bids from this round be considered for 2024/25 Round 1 funding, in April of 2024, should the schools which have bid wish to re-enter the Spring 2024 bidding round with the same proposals.

An outline of the administration process for the City Premium Grant is contained in **Appendix One**. An overview of all proposed projects is available in **Appendix Two**.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to:

- Delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Director of Education and Skills to distribute Round 2 awards from the City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant, the City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant, and the City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant to the schools.

Main Report

Background

2. The Education Board has oversight of three strategies: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills (2019-23). The City Corporation is committed to deliver a tripartite of strategies focused on education and learning. These strategies share a common vision: “To prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional education, cultural and creative learning, and skills which link to the world of work.”
3. The City Premium Grant is an annual grant that provides financial support to academies and schools within the Family of Schools to deliver programmes and activities which will deliver the aims of the strategies.
4. As a basic principle, the City Premium Grant is provided to support ‘additionality’ to the education offer. This means that the City Premium Grant should not be used to fund basic school needs, capital purchases, school meals or routine school staffing. This was agreed by the Court of Common Council following the Tomlinson Review. Further detail is available in Appendix 3.
5. The City Premium Grant is divided into three separate funding streams: **(1) City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant; (2) City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant; (3) City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant.**
6. City Premium Grant supported projects are logged and tracked via an online evaluation and impact measurement platform called ImpactEd. This system allows for better impact data collection than in previous years, and helps project leads across the Family of Schools to outline, monitor, and evaluate the impact of projects by specific groups of pupils and/or programmes.

Current Position

7. The City Premium Grant 2023/24 Round 2 bidding window was open between November and December of 2023. Applications for funding have now been processed and reviewed with the input of an independent third-party observer to ensure neutrality. The Education Strategy Unit reports that:
8. 41 applications were submitted from 8 schools. This is 32 more applications than received at this point in the previous cycle.
9. Of the 41 applications received, 2 requested City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant funding, 27 requested City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant funding and 12 requested City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant funding. Applications across the last two categories represent the creation of 39 proposed project partnerships between schools.

- 10.39 of the 41 project applications were eligible to be considered for City Premium Grant funding. 2 proposed projects were ineligible for consideration as their focus was on basic school needs rather than additionality.
11. Collectively the applications reference 14,179 learner beneficiaries. This translates to an average of 346 learner beneficiaries per project. The average project cost per beneficiary is £623.
12. Following the distribution of Round 1 awards, £566,500 of funding was available for Round 2 applications. In response to Members approval at the October 2023 committee meeting, a further £40,000 (split equally across the Partnerships Grant, and the Strategic Grant) was committed to support the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) in the recruitment of a Partnerships Co-Ordinator to assist academies with the management of bids and project monitoring.
13. The amount of funding now available for City Premium Grant 2023/24 Round 2 bids is £526,500. The total cost associated with eligible bids is £894,777. This strong increase in demand demonstrates the value that schools continue to place on utilising this funding. It also illustrates an improved level of school-led collaboration taking place between all members of the Family of Schools – a key objective of the City Premium Grant.

Proposals

14. All Round 2 projects have now been processed and reviewed with the input of an independent third-party observer to ensure neutrality. The Education Strategy Unit (ESU) proposes that the highest scoring eligible bids receive their awards as soon as possible to allow schools to start delivering their projects.
15. After fully funding as many eligible bids as possible, a small surplus will remain in each grant pot. To ensure each surplus is also utilised, the ESU proposes that surpluses are offered to part-fund bids falling at this boundary.
16. The ESU further proposes that in response to the high level of demand, eligible bids that could *not* be funded are saved for future consideration in April 2024 for 2024/25 Round 1 funding, assuming that bidding schools which their previous bids to be considered in the next round.
17. An overview of all proposed projects is available in **Appendix Two** The colour-key indicates bids proposed for full funding, part-funding, and future consideration.

Conclusion

18. This report has updated Members with key information relating to the second round of City Premium Grant funding applications for 2023/24. It has then asked Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills

Director to distribute awards from the City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant, the City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant; and the City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant, in order that schools can begin delivery of their second round projects as soon as possible.

Appendices

Appendix One: City Premium Grant FAQ and Funding Cycle

Appendix Two: City Premium Grant 2023/24 – Round 2 Project Proposals Overview

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Appendix One: City Premium Grant FAQ and Funding Cycle

What is the City Premium Grant?

The City Premium Grant is an annual grant to the City Corporation's sponsored academies, and special grants around strategic and partnership projects across the Family of Schools. Decisions on the grant are delegated to the City Corporation's Education Board with operational responsibility owned by the Education Strategy Unit.

What is the purpose of the City Premium Grant?

The City Corporation is committed to deliver a tripartite of strategies¹ focused on education and learning. These strategies share a common vision: "To prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional education, cultural and creative learning, and skills which link to the world of work".

The City Premium Grant is an annual grant to provide financial support to academies towards programmes and activities which will deliver the aims of the strategies, in particular:

- Developing pupils' Fusion Skills (e.g. oral communication, collaboration and teamwork, initiative, problem solving, creativity)
- Improving teaching and learning practices
- Driving equality of opportunity by promoting social mobility and good health and wellbeing
- Providing opportunities for pupils to experience the world of work
- Providing opportunities for pupils to access culture, and for teachers to use culture and creativity as tools in teaching and learning

¹The Education Strategy 2019-23, The Skills Strategy 2019-23 and The Cultural and Creative Learning Strategy 2019-23.

What can the City Premium Grant be used for?

As a basic principle, the City Premium Grant is provided to support '**additionality**' to the education offer.

This means that the City Premium Grant should not be used to fund basic school needs, capital purchases or routine school staffing. For example: building works, computer hardware, software and telephony, staffing, basic stationary such as paper and pens, and school meals cannot be included in a school's bid.

Instead, the grant should be used for resources or activities which are '**additional**' to those already provided under regular day-to-day circumstances, for example: bespoke projects for targeted groups of pupils, trips and visits, Continued Professional Development (CPD) for teachers, additional staffing for revision sessions, additional arts and cultural provisions, offers to broaden the curriculum, and resources to enrich aspects of the curriculum.

How are the funds received?

As of March 2022, the City Premium Grant has been divided into **three** separate funding streams.

1) City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant

- This is an amount based on the number of pupil premium or equivalent (PP) pupils in each sponsored academy.
- The amount per school is calculated each December based on the census return for the school. Note that this will be calculated on the current year's number of PP and applied to the funding agreed in March each year for the following academic year. So, for example, if the 2021 census showed that school X had 220 PP in December 2021, this figure would be used to calculate the amount that the school will be allocated for the 2022-23 academic year.
- Schools will be informed of their allocation in February and have to present a costed plan for how the money will be used for the next academic year in March. A digital form will be provided for this purpose.
- Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and if so, will approve the release of funds.
- The funds should be in the school's account by May or June, before the start of the new academic year.

2) City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant

- Every December, a single amount will be agreed and released as a competitive Partnerships Grant.

- Across the Family of Schools (including academies, schools and independent schools) , collaborations will be encouraged to apply for grants on a digital form.
- All grants need to involve at least two or more schools and can involve all the Family of Schools.
- Proposals can be designed to address particular skills, issues, needs, priorities, subject/s, learning phase/s, projects, staff development goals, youth generated learning, curriculum goals and so on.
- Bids can be small or up to the full amount of the grant for any one year.
- We warmly welcome bids developed by teachers or even by students.
- A panel will judge the bids and make recommendations to Education Board
- Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and if so, will approve the release of funds.
- Depending on the nature of the bid, the funds should be in CoLAT's or the schools' accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year.

3) City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant

- Every December, a single amount will be agreed and released as a Strategic Grant.
- The strategic grant will be linked to a core general priority or priorities identified across all the Family of Schools (including academies, schools and independent schools) and directly linked to the tripartite group of strategies. For example, pupil wellbeing could be identified as a priority, or SEND, or the performance of boys, or environmental education and so on.
- The strategic priority area will be based on a combination of need identified, the views of the Heads and other forums, and through evidence from the Education Strategy Unit.
- All grants need to involve at least two or more schools and can involve all the Family of Schools.
- A paper will make recommendations to Education Board.
- Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and of the strategies and if so, will approve the release of funds.
- Depending on the nature of the proposal agreed, the funds may be held centrally to support delivery, released to CoLAT, or to the schools' accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year.

How much can I receive?

The size of the grants will vary from year to year in each of the three grants, but the overall envelope of funds will be the same or greater.

Based on PP numbers some schools may receive more than they have in previous years and others may receive less.

All schools in the Family of Schools can apply to the Partnerships and Strategic grants as well as their dedicated school grant.

Do we need to be accountable?

Yes, no matter what grant you are applying for you will be required to complete the digital application forms and also answer fully the digital impact reporting and evaluation.

Failure to be accountable or to evidence outcomes and impact may result in the school being ineligible for applying for additional funds the following year. Support will be provided to assist with ensuring schools focus on impact and value for money in their decision making and reporting.

What happens if we change our minds or don't spend all the money?

If it is necessary to change the scope and nature of what you proposed in your bids, there will be a digital form to complete to indicate the changes. You will need to complete this variation form for any significant changes.

The grant money should have separate account references in your accounts to make reporting easier.

Any unspent monies will be re-claimed centrally and reallocated to areas of need following the final reporting.

The City of London also reserves the right to claw-back significant underspends against the grants at the end of each financial year.

Who can I contact for support?

If you have any queries on the City Premium Grant process, and/or require support completing your application, and/or evaluating the impact of your school's activities or projects, please contact the Education Strategy Unit which can support you to benefit from external expertise if required.

What is the timeline of the process?

Grant type	Who can apply?	When to apply?	When will I know the results?	When do I need to finalise the impact evaluation/s?
City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant	Academies only	February 2023 , when you will be told the total amount for your school. You will have four weeks to complete the online application form.	April 2023 , following the decision by Education Board. You should receive the funds in your school's account by May or June 2023	October 2024
City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant	The Family of Schools	February 2023 , when you will be told the overall grant size that can be applied for. You will have six weeks in total to form a collaborative partnership and complete the online application form.	April 2023 , following the decision by Education Board. You should receive the funds via CoLAT or via direct transfer to the school's account by May or June 2023	October 2024
City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant	The Family of Schools	February 2023 , when you will be told the overall grant size that can be applied for, and also the strategic themes. You will have six weeks in total to form a collaborative partnership and complete the online application form.	April 2023 , following the decision by Education Board. You should receive the funds via CoLAT or via direct transfer to the school's accounts by May or June 2023 . Alternatively the grant may be held and delivered centrally depending on the nature of projects proposed.	October 2024