

Committee Community and Children's Services	Dated: 13 May 2016
Subject Implementation of Grants Review 'Stronger Communities'	Public
Report of: Deputy Town Clerk	For Decision
Report author: Scott Nixon, Project Manager	

Background

In March 2016, the Resource Allocation Sub Committee and 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.

As a result of the proposals made to Resource Allocation Sub Committee and Policy and Resources Committee it was agreed that:

- a) Four grant programmes were in scope for immediate centralised administration - Finance Grants Sub Committee, City of London Corporation Combined Relief of Poverty Charity, City Educational Trust Fund and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity.
- b) Four overarching funding themes for the grant programme (for 2016-2018) would be established; Stronger Communities; Education and Employment Support; Enjoying Open Spaces and the Natural Environment; and Inspiring London through Culture.
- c) The geographical area for the consolidated grants programme or individual themes would be left to the discretion of the decision making Committees as part of their agreement of grant eligibility criteria (subject to any restrictions on the geographical area of benefit in respect of any charities being managed).
- d) The proposed allocation of funding across the four funding themes was approved.
- e) Grant programme arrangements would be reviewed in 2018 to align with City Bridge Trust's next quinquennial review.

In order to manage the Central Grants Programme effectively a new Central Grants Unit was proposed. Members questioned the ratio of the resources required to run the Central Grants Unit in comparison to the amount of funds it would dispense, and referred the matter back to Officers for further consideration.

Accordingly, until all grant giving committees have been consulted on their individual eligibility criteria, it will not be possible to calculate the wider level of resourcing required to manage the Central Grants Programme and the associated costs. In the intervening period the majority of the costs of administering the various funds will continue to be met by the Corporation in the corresponding service departments.

In April 2016, Court of Common Council approved an addition to this Committee's terms of reference *'To take responsibility for allocating grants from the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity'*. The City of London Corporation is the corporate trustee of the charity and the administration of the charity is undertaken in accordance with the City of London's governance framework.

Recommendations:

- To note the agreed 'Stronger Communities' overarching funding themes as set out in Appendix 2, Section 1, and the level of funding available for the 2016-2018 Central Grants Programme.
- To discuss and agree the eligibility criteria for the 'Stronger Communities' theme, as set out in Appendix 2, Section 2, which will be in operation until reviewed in 2018.
- To agree that the award of grants will be determined by Officers of Community and Children's Services in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee.
- To note that the Policy and Resources Committee will approve the proportionate management fee to be charged for resourcing.

Main Report

1. Funding Themes and Allocation of funding

1.1 Following consultation with Chief Officers, four overarching themes were proposed for the 2016-2018 City of London Central Grants Programme and were subsequently agreed at the March 2016 Policy and Resources Committee.

1.2 The agreed overarching funding theme and level of funding for the 'Stronger Communities' theme, for which this Committee will be responsible is as follows:

Funding Theme	Funding source	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Stronger Communities	Combined Relief of Poverty Charity	£3,500	£3,500	£7,000
	City's Cash	£72,569.83	£72,569.83	£145,139.67

Funding Theme	Funding source	2016/17	2017/18	Total
Total		£76,069.83	£76,069.83	£152,139.67

- 1.3 It should be noted that the total funding amounts expressed in the above table do NOT include deductions for the proposed management fee, and therefore differ from the figures presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in March.
- 1.4 A financial overview of the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity and details on the remaining funding available to this Grant Programme is included in Appendix 1.

2. Sub Themes

- 2.1 With the overarching themes for the Central Grants Programme agreed, it is requested that each grant decision making committee now discuss and agree any appropriate sub-themes for their specific theme.
- 2.2 The proposed sub themes have been developed in consultation with Chief Officers and are submitted for Member consideration.
- 2.3 It should be noted that the charitable objects of the Combined Relief Of Poverty Charity, for which this Committee is now responsible, state that *'the funds available should be used for the relief of those in need by reason of poverty, old-age, ill-health, accident or infirmity who are either the widow, widower or child of a freeman of the City of London or who reside in the city of London or the London boroughs by the provision of grants, items and services or such other support as the trustee determines.'*
- 2.4 Thus, in order for the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity's funding to be available, a sub theme has been included that covers the relief of poverty/those in need.

Funding theme	Sub-themes
'Stronger Communities'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing strong neighbourhoods and communities • To promote community health and wellbeing • For the Relief of Poverty

3. Grant Eligibility Criteria

- 3.1 It is requested that Members discuss and agree the eligibility criteria of the 'Stronger Communities' theme, attached as Appendix 2, Section 2, which will be in operation until reviewed in 2018.
- 3.2 These eligibility criteria to be proposed to Members have been developed based on the above sub themes and the charitable objects of the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity.

3.3 Members' attention is drawn to the following points extracted from the proposed eligibility criteria.

- Grants issued through the 'Stronger Communities' theme will be awarded to projects or services to be delivered within the City of London and its Housing Estates across London.
- Organisations applying for a grant should be able to demonstrate that they are already operating or delivering similar services in the area where the intended project or service is to be delivered.
- One annual grant round will be established per year; the opening and closing date for which will be established in consultation with Chief Officers, once all four themes have finalised their eligibility criteria (this will ensure that the required grants administration is evenly spaced throughout the year across all four themes).
- Community and Children's Services Officers, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee will determine the award of grants.
- The minimum grant award permitted will be £500, and the maximum £10,000.

3.4 As agreed at Policy and Resources Committee in March 2016, the Central Grant Programme arrangements would be reviewed in 2018 to align with City Bridge Trust's next quinquennial review. Therefore, it should be noted that the overarching theme and sub-themes may change post 2018, should Policy and Resources Committee agree that the Central Grants Programme continue.

4. Central Grants Unit Staffing/Management fee

- 4.1 In order to manage the Central Grants Programme effectively a new Central Grants Unit was proposed to Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee in March 2016.
- 4.2 Members questioned the ratio of the resources required to run the Central Grants Unit in comparison to the amount of funds it would dispense. The Chief Grants Officer undertook to look at the resourcing of the unit and report back to Members.
- 4.3 Accordingly, until all grant giving committees have been consulted on their individual eligibility criteria, it will not be possible to calculate the wider level of resourcing required to manage the Central Grants Programme, and the associated costs. In the intervening period the costs of administering the relevant funds will continue to be absorbed by the City Corporation.
- 4.4 It is therefore proposed that this Committee note that the Policy and Resources Committee will agree the levels of staffing and corresponding

proportionate management fee to be deducted from all grant programmes to be administered by the Central Grants Unit.

- 4.5 The Central Grants Programme will be unable to go 'live' until the appropriate levels of staffing have been agreed and are in place.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Financial Overview

Appendix 2: Eligibility Criteria, Stronger Communities.

Background Papers:

Policy and Resources Committee, March 2016, 'Implementation of Grants Review'

Scott Nixon

Project Manager, Town Clerk's Department

T: 020 7332 3722

E: Scott.Nixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk