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| Committee | Dated: |
| Culture, Heritage and Libraries | 11 July 2016 |
| Subject | Public |
| Implementation of Grants Review | |
| Report of: | For Decision |
| Deputy Town Clerk | |
| Report author: | |
| Scott Nixon, Project Manager | |

Summary

In March 2016, Resource Allocation Subcommittee 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 work undertaken 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.

The Policy and Resources Committee agreed that:

- a) The grant programmes that were in scope for immediate centralised administration;
- b) Four overarching funding themes for the grant programme (for 2016-2018) would be established; Inspiring London through Culture – to be the responsibility of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee;
- 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;
- d) The proposed allocation of funding across the four funding themes, and;
- e) That the Grant Programme arrangements would be reviewed in 2018 to align with City Bridge Trust's next quinquennial review.

The Policy and Resources Committee it was also resolved that the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee terms of reference would be amended '*To be responsible for grants in relation to the programme for culture and arts from funds under the Committee's control*' and that this amendment would be included in the annual report to the Court of Common Council in April 2016 for approval.

Recommendations:

1. To note the agreed 'Inspiring London through Culture' overarching funding theme for the 2016-2018 Central Grants Programme.
2. To note the level of funding available for the 'Inspiring London through Culture' theme.
3. To discuss and agree the Central Grants Programme eligibility criteria for the 'Inspiring London through Culture' theme', which includes the geographical area covered.
4. To agree to delegate authority to the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the levels of staffing and associated management fee.

Main Report

Background

1. Funding Themes and Allocation of funding

- 1.1 Following consultation with Chief Officers, four overarching themes were proposed for the 2016-2018 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 'Inspiring London through Culture' allocated equally over two financial years is as follows:

| Funding Theme | Grant Decision Making Committee | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | Total |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Inspiring London through Culture | Culture, Heritage and Libraries | £72,569.83 | £72,569.83 | £145,139.66 |
| Total | | £72,569.83 | £72,569.83 | £145,139.66 |

- 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.

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 below sub themes have been developed further in consultation with Chief Officers and are hereby submitted for Member consideration:

| Funding theme | Sub-themes |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Inspiring London through Culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting access for all to participate in the City of London’s cultural offer • Investing in London’s creative future through innovation and excellence • Enhancing public benefit in the City of London through culture or heritage • Supporting the development of the City of London’s “cultural hub” |

2.3 Once the sub-themes have been agreed by this Committee, the information will be incorporated into the corresponding section of the grant eligibility criteria.

3. Grant Eligibility Criteria

3.1 Members are requested to discuss and agree the eligibility criteria of the ‘Inspiring London through Culture’ theme, attached as Appendix 1. Points to confirm include:

- Having two grant rounds per year over the course of the two year grants programme, with a normal maximum of £7,500 per grant (but provision made for larger awards in exceptional circumstances).
- The deliberately non-prescriptive stance, beyond meeting one or more of the key criteria (so as to make the scheme as open as possible).
- The stipulation that successful schemes must deliver at least some of their benefits within the Square Mile (the funding envelope being too small to encourage schemes from all over London).

3.2 Members should note that although opening and closing dates have been proposed within the eligibility criteria, these dates will only be confirmed once all eligibility criteria for all four funding themes have been finalised.

4. Process

4.1 It is intended that applications will initially be assessed by the Central Grants Unit before being considered by a small Officer/Member panel which will make recommendations to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee as to whether funding should be awarded or not. This will make the process more manageable and will mirror the successful operational arrangements for applications for art installations, which are considered by the City Arts Initiative before coming to Committee.

5. Central Grants Unit Staffing/Management fee

- 5.1 In order to manage the Central Grants Programme effectively a new Central Grants Unit was proposed to Resource Allocation and Policy and Resources Committee in March 2016.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 Until all grant giving committees have been consulted on their individual eligibility criteria, it is not possible to calculate the wider level of resourcing required to manage the Central Grants Programme.
- 5.4 It is therefore proposed that this Committee agree to delegate authority to Policy and Resources Committee to 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.
- 5.5 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 Eligibility Criteria

Background Papers:

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

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