

Committee(s):	Date:
Policy and Resources Committee Resource Allocation Sub Committee	19 January 2017
Subject: Policing the City Bridges	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain and the Comptroller and Comptroller and City Solicitor	For Decision
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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report addresses a request to the City Corporation as trustee of Bridge House Estates ("BHE") from the Police Committee on behalf of the City of London Police ("CoLP") for annual funding for CoLP from Bridge House Estates of £214,000.
- 1.2 The request by the CoLP is within the criteria for funding by BHE, and similar funding has been provided in the past.
- 1.3 In considering whether or not to expend the funds as requested by CoLP, the City Corporation, as sole trustee of BHE, must ensure that the expenditure is compliant with the duty on the City Corporation as sole trustee to act in the best interest of BHE (see Annex 2 for a summary of the principal duties and responsibilities of charity trustees).
- 1.4 The report advises that CoLP have satisfactorily demonstrated that the annual sum requested reflects the costs of policing the bridges.
- 1.5 The report advises that the expenditure is within the City Corporation's powers as sole trustee of BHE, and recommends that the request be agreed subject to regular review.

Recommendations

That the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee approves the provision of funding totalling £214,000 from BHE revenue budget to fund the cost of policing of the City Bridges on an annual basis, subject to:-

- the concurrence of the Policy and Resources Committee, acting as sole trustee of BHE in respect of expenditure of BHE funds;
- the sum being kept under review; and
- the City Corporation as sole trustee of BHE remaining satisfied that such expenditure is in the best interests of BHE).

2. Background and historical context

- 2.1 A recent Law Officer's Opinion (of the City of London Law Officers i.e. the Comptroller and City Solicitor, the Remembrancer and the Recorder) (see Appendix 1 of the Report to Police Committee which is attached as Annex 1 to this report) confirmed that in respect of London Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge and Southwark Bridge, there was a duty on BHE to fund the policing of those three bridges. In respect of Tower Bridge and the Millennium Bridge, it is open to the City Corporation as trustee of BHE to fund the policing of those bridges on the grounds that such activity contributes to the "maintenance and support" of those bridges, which is the primary purpose of the BHE charity, subject to the City Corporation as trustee being satisfied that such funding is in the best interests of the charity.
- 2.2 Although BHE has historically funded the policing of the City bridges, this had been suspended pending clarification of the statutory position.
- 2.3 Following clarification in the recent Law Officer's Opinion, on 3 November Police Committee received a report from CoLP on the issue (see Annex 1) and agreed the recommendation to approach BHE for annual funding of £214,000.

3. Evaluation

- 3.1 The Chamberlain, through the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance, acting for BHE, has reviewed the Estimated Costs Summary and Assumptions provided by CoLP in the report to Police Committee and is satisfied that they represent reasonable expenditure.
- 3.2 In respect of London Bridge, Blackfriars Bridge and Southwark Bridge, payment by BHE of the costs of policing those bridges would be compliant with BHE's statutory duties. In respect of Tower Bridge and the Millennium Bridge, expenditure on policing those bridges can reasonably be regarded as contributing to the maintenance and support of the bridges. The payment in respect of Tower Bridge and the Millennium Bridge is considered in the best interests of BHE (including the reputation of the charity) in order to ensure that the level of policing service appropriate to the bridges, including an adequate level of support to social services provision, can be maintained.
- 3.3 The provision of the funding by BHE is recommended. However, it would be prudent for BHE to keep under review whether such expenditure is in the best interests of the charity in future years, to ensure that any change in circumstances or other relevant issues can be taken into account, if applicable, before making further annual payments. It is anticipated that the annual payments will continue unless a change in circumstance or other relevant issue arises, in which case the matter would be reported to your Committee.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 It is open to BHE to provide annual funding of £214,000 as requested and this is recommended.

Annex 1 – Report to Police Committee 3 November 2016 and related Minute from meeting

Annex 2 – Summary of Trustee Duties