

Committee Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub-Committee	Dated: 21/02/2017
Subject Central Grants Programme (CGP) - Update	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For information
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Summary

This report provides an update on the CGP. The report includes the outcomes of the first CGP grant round delivered in 2016/2017; an update on the Senior Grants Officer's (SGO) workshops for grantees; an overview of the grants that no longer align with the eligibility criteria of the CGP and an update on the historical grants previously managed by the Finance Grants Sub-Committee.

Recommendations:

- a) To note the CGP progress update.
- b) To discuss the out of scope grants.

Main Report

Background

1. In March 2016, the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and the 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. The report recommended a consolidated CGP be implemented.
2. In order to manage the CGP effectively a new CGU was proposed. The CGU would be responsible for the management of all grant applications, monitoring and evaluation processes and committee reporting procedures.
3. It was agreed that the CGU would be co-located with City Bridge Trust (CBT) in order to facilitate consistency of approach and harmonise service standards. The Chief Grants Officer, responsible for the grant-making activities of CBT will maintain an overview of the CGU, with relevant input from the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance.

4. The four CGP funding themes were agreed in March 2016 by the Policy and resources Committee, and the eligibility criteria subsequently agreed by each respective grant-giving committee.
5. The CGP started accepting grant applications from 15 August 2016 and was managed by an interim resource until the SGO secondment from CBT started in October 2016.

CGP Update

6. An update on the progress of the first CGP grant round is provided in the below table:

Funding Theme	Committee/Officer Panel date	Total number of applications received	Total number of applications approved	Total funding awarded through CGP (£)
Education and Employment	Education Charity Sub-Committee - December 2016, The City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (290129).	14 applications. (1 from a school and 13 applications from individuals)	8	25,000
	Education Charity Sub-Committee - December 2016, (The City Educational Trust Fund (290840).	5 applications	2	14,500
Inspiring London through Culture	Culture, Heritage and Libraries - February 2017. (No Charitable funds to manage)	16 applications	9	54,832
Stronger Communities	Officer Panel - March 2017 The City of London Corporation Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (1073660)	7 applications	TBD	TBD
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	Officer Panel - March 2017, (No Charitable funds to manage).	8 applications	TBD	TBD

7. Detail of all applications approved, declined and withdrawn to date under the CGP is shown at Appendix 1.

Workshops for prospective grantees

8. In order to ensure that prospective grantees are given the opportunity to discuss potential applications with the Senior Grants Officer (SGO), a series of one to one advice sessions have been delivered at the Guildhall. Two have been delivered to date with an average of six organisations attending each session. Feedback from those attending has been positive. Additional sessions will be held, at appropriate times before established grant deadlines.

Out of scope grants

9. Members requested an update on which organisations had in the past received a grant from the CoLC and which do not align with the existing CGP eligibility criteria:

Christmas Grants - As part of the Effectiveness of Grants Review, the Finance Committee Chairman's Discretionary Fund was discontinued by the Policy and Resources Committee. In previous years, this Fund and the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (1073660) funds had been used to make small donations at Christmas to charities based around London, up to a total of £10,000.

There is currently no additional funding available for the CGP to agree Christmas grants in 2017/2018. As an interim solution in 2016 the Finance Committee agreed a one off payment to four charities (The Parent House, Crisis, The Stuart Low Trust, Solace Women's Aid) along with the request that a permanent solution to be determined for future years.

- a) St Paul's Bells – An initial request was received for the repair of the bells. Advice was provided by the SGO that it was unlikely to be eligible, particularly given that the amount to be requested would exceed the funding cap of £10,000. However, an application is due to be discussed at Policy and Resources Committee on 16th February.
- b) Sheriffs and Records Fund – This Fund was allocated £25,000 in 2014/2015 by the Finance Grants Sub-Committee, which was in turn allocated as small grants to ex-prisoners and their families in London. It is unlikely that they would be eligible for a grant under the existing CGP eligibility criteria.
- c) Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund – This Fund received support from Finance Grants Sub-Committee since 2007 with two separate three-year grants for bursaries and one core grant in 2015. A recent application was made to the 'Education and Employment' programme of the CGU. The project did not align closely enough with the objects of the City Educational Trust and was therefore not approved for support.

- d) Spitalfield's Music – Funding is currently issued to this organisation through the City Educational Trust fund at a level of £45, 000 per year (until 2017/2018). The Education and Employment programme eligibility criteria is currently under review and it is unlikely that the same level of funding would be available. However, the project may still fit the criteria of this theme.
- e) Thames Festival - The festival received an annual £15,000 contribution from the Economic Development Office (EDO) in previous years. This festival will no longer be supported by EDO and so the festival will be applying to the Inspiring London through Culture theme. It is potentially eligible but grants from this theme are capped at £10,000.
- f) Dr Johnson's House – This organisation is currently funded until 2017/2018 by a grant awarded by the Finance Grants Sub-Committee and is in receipt of £10,000 per year. This grant is overseen by this Sub-Committee until it comes to an end. The grant currently goes towards running expenses and the cost of providing education and public engagement work. It is anticipated that when the current grant ends in 2018, that an application could be submitted to the Inspiring London through Culture theme. Whether grants that span more than one year would be considered by Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee is yet to be determined.
- g) St. Paul's Chorister Trust – This Trust received a reducing grant over three years - £15,000; £12,500 and £10,000 to support choristers of limited means, who otherwise might not be able to take up a place in the choir. This grant ended in 2016/2017. This Trust may be eligible to apply on behalf of their pupils to the Education and Employment theme, however, the funds available from The City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity to distribute are limited and funding may not be awarded at the same level as previously agreed.

Finance Grants Sub-Committee: Historical grants

- 10. In March 2016, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that all on-going funding commitments formerly managed through the Finance Grants Sub-Committee (FGSC) would be transferred to the most appropriate Committee for on-going administration. For those that had no set review date, it was requested that they be reviewed and reported back to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.
- 11. Each funding commitment (except The Guildhall School Trust payment – for which a report is currently being prepared by Education Policy Officers for submission to the Education Board in May 2017) has been reviewed and reported to the Policy and Resources Committee. The Committee agreed that all future reviews would be undertaken regularly, be submitted to the responsible Committee and that each payment would be incorporated into the responsible Department's budget.

Appendix 1 – Overview of all applications approved, declined and withdrawn.

Background Papers:

- Policy and Resources Committee, January 2017, 'Review and Reclassification of Former Finance Grants Sub-Committee Grants'.

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