

Committee	Dated:
City Bridge Trust	11 th May 2017
Subject: Employment & disability – <i>Bridge to Work</i> Programme	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision

Summary

This report informs you of the specific projects recommended for funding in your Bridge to Work programme and confirms the allocation of the total amount available.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

1. Note the report.
2. Agree the allocation of the total £3.3m funds as outlined in Table 1 – subject to consideration of the individual reports on the selected organisations, which are presented elsewhere in your papers.
3. Recommend that the Court of Common Council approves any individual grants which are above £500,000.

Main Report

Background

1. At your meeting in March you agreed a general allocation of the available funds for the Bridge to Work programme (supporting disabled people into and in employment), with officers instructed to bring recommendations on specific funding to named organisations to this meeting.
2. The total funds available (excluding the Mental Health strand which is the subject of a report elsewhere in your papers) amount to £3.3m. Of this, certain areas of expenditure were agreed in principle at your last meeting (see Table 1 below) and can now be confirmed.
3. Assessment reports for the individual projects recommended for support are also provided elsewhere in these papers, for decision on an individual basis. You are asked to agree 5 years' funding to each but with years 4 and 5 subject to satisfactory progress being achieved. This was the principle agreed at your meeting in January 2017. One of those – for a joint project between Inclusion London and Action on Disability – will need to be referred for decision to the Court of Common Council, preferably in June, as it amounts to more than £500,000 over the five year period.

4. The individual organisations recommended for support are:

Action for Kids	£250,000
Inclusion London/Action on Disability	£775,000
Muscular Dystrophy UK	£276,000
National Autistic Society	£199,000
Royal Mencap	£350,000
Whizz-Kidz	<u>£384,000</u>
	£2,234,000

5. If you agree those grants as advised (and the Court supports the Inclusion London recommendation), the total sum would be £2,234,000. The sum set aside at your March meeting was £2,400,000 so it is proposed that the difference of £166,000 be added to the £350,000 originally recommended for the Work Experience/Internship fund. This is reflected in Table 1.

6. Expenditure items 3-6 within Table 1 represent costs that will either be directly incurred by your team or will be the subject of a supplier contract. As such, these costs will be spread over the lifetime of the programme. Plans for the operation of the work experience/internship fund, Item 2, are being developed and will be presented at a future meeting.

7. Assuming you (and the Court where necessary) agree these allocations and the individual grants, the Bridge to Work programme can commence in full in the summer time, in line with the intentions of the individual projects.

Table 1

	Total for 5 years
1. Funding to individual organisations	2,234,000
2. Work experience/Internship fund + management costs	516,000
3. External evaluation (based on £20k pa)	100,000
4. Resources, events, seminars, project costs, etc	70,000
5. Project management/Employer engagement (based on £40k pa on average)	200,000
6. Contingency/additional projects	180,000
	£3,300,000

Conclusion

8. The Bridge to Work programme aims to narrow the disability employment gap by funding projects which provide employability support for young disabled people in London and which help to strengthen links between employers and the disabled community. The individual projects bring both a variety of approaches and commonality of objectives which is both exciting and comprehensive and which, in conjunction with the other areas of engagement, should make significant progress in supporting disabled Londoners into work.

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