

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
<b>Community and Children's Services</b>	<b>11 May 2017</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Stronger Communities (Central Grants) Programme – award of grants	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Simon Cribbens	

### **Summary**

The Stronger Communities theme forms part of the Central Grants Programme (CGP). This report informs Members of the award of £38,670 in support of four applications to this programme that will support community initiatives in the City and on our housing estates in line with the objectives of the funding criteria.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. The Stronger Communities theme is a strand of the City Corporation's Central Grants Programme (CGP) that awards up to £10,000 to projects or services that are being delivered for the benefit of communities or beneficiaries within the City of London and its housing estates across London.
2. The application guidance (Appendix 1) identifies three subthemes: developing stronger neighbourhoods and communities; promoting community health and wellbeing; and relieving poverty.
3. Members of this Committee agreed in May 2016 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.
4. The 2016/17 application round closed on 31 January 2017. The overall funding pot available was £95,574 for which seven proposals, totalling £67,183, were received. The Central Grants Programme assessment

recommended that three applications, totalling £28,513, were rejected for failure to meet the criteria (Appendix 2).

5. A panel of officers assessed the remaining bids on 21 March 2017 and recommended them to the Chairman for approval. In the absence of a Deputy Chairman, approval was sought from Alderman David Graves as the Committee's most senior member.
6. The panel proposed to award grants totalling £38,670 to support the four applications. The Chairman and Alderman Graves approved these recommendations, and the successful applicants have been notified. The applications approved are:

<b>Bidding organisation</b>	<b>Purpose of grant</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	<b>Amount approved</b>
<b>City Gateway</b>	To provide two residential opportunities for 24 young people living on City housing estates.	£9,000	£9,000
<b>Fusion Lifestyle</b>	To supply boxing equipment for the City of London Police Boxing Club for young people and adults living on City of London estates.	£10,000	£10,000
<b>Global Action Plan</b>	To support a programme of work that empowers residents of City of London housing estates to reduce their exposure to air pollution.	£10,000	£10,000
<b>Golden Lane Residents Association</b>	To assess the feasibility of, and propose a community-led management model for, the Golden Lane Estate Community Centre.	£9,670	£9,670
<b>Total programme</b>			<b>£38,670</b>

7. Summary assessments of the recommended applications to the Stronger Communities grant scheme are given in Appendix 3.
8. The approved programme leaves approximately £57,000 unallocated, which will support a further round of grants in 2017/18. Funding to be carried forward into the next financial year is subject to approval by the Chamberlain in conjunction with the Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

9. The Stronger Communities funding stream was created to promote a fair system of grant giving by the City Corporation.
10. The successful applications support the funding criteria and, in turn, the wider strategic aims of the Corporate Plan and the Departmental Business Plan.

### **Conclusion**

11. The Stronger Communities grants will support four diverse projects working in the City's communities. These grants provide a valuable opportunity to support initiatives led by a range of groups that deliver to a range of beneficiaries.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – *Stronger Communities*: criteria for funding
- Appendix 2 – *Stronger Communities*: table of grants declined, deferred or withdrawn
- Appendix 3 – *Stronger Communities*: summaries of successful applications

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## **Appendix 1 – *Stronger Communities*: criteria**

# **Stronger Communities**

### **1. Types of projects and activity to be supported**

Grants issued through the ‘Stronger Communities’ theme will be awarded to projects or services that are being delivered for the benefit of communities or beneficiaries within the City of London and its [Housing Estates](#) across London.

The Stronger Communities funding theme has been separated into three sub themes:

- **Developing stronger neighbourhoods and communities**

This sub theme has been developed to actively support local community based projects within the City of London and its Housing estates across London. The projects you put forward should enable more people to become involved in their communities and encourage a broader understanding of the diverse needs of these communities. Projects may either promote a higher take up of existing projects or services or encourage new and innovative ones.

- **Promoting community health and wellbeing**

The activities supported through this sub theme should contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities and should be able to demonstrate positive outcomes that address the Health and Wellbeing priorities set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Details of which can be found on the City of London Corporation (CoLC) website).

- **For the relief of poverty**

The activities supported through this sub theme should provide support for communities or individuals who find themselves in need for reason of poverty, old-age, ill-health, accident or infirmity.

### **2. Who can apply for a City of London Corporation Grant?**

The CoLC Central Grants Programme is open to organisations that fall into one of the following categories:

- Registered charity
- Registered Community Interest Company
- Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Charitable company (incorporated as a not-for-profit)
- Exempt or excepted charity
- Registered charitable industrial and provident society or charitable Cooperative (Bencom)
- Constituted voluntary organisation

Proposals that support individuals can be accepted under this theme. However, if you are an individual wanting to make an application, we ask that you apply for funding through a City-based constituted group or organisation, residents association or a charity who will be able to support and countersign your application and thus have “ownership” of the project.

Should you be a resident on one of the CoLC Housing Estates and would like to consider establishing a Residents Association (should there not be one already operating in your area), you should contact your local Estates Manager who will be able to provide you all the necessary advice and guidance on how to proceed. Their contact details can be found on the CoLC website.

Your local Council for Voluntary Service would be able to provide you advice and guidance in constituting any other type of organisation.

### **3. Opening Dates**

One annual grant round will be established per year. The opening date will be 15 August 2016 and the closing dates have been set as 31 January 2017 and 31 January 2018.

### **4. What is the minimum and maximum Grant that can be applied for?**

The minimum grant award permitted will be £500, and the maximum £10,000.

#### **Overview:**

<b>Minimum and maximum grant allowed</b>	<b>Opening dates for applications</b>	<b>Closing dates for applications</b>	<b>Decision timeframe</b>
	<b>2016-2018</b>	<b>2016-2018</b>	
£500 min  £10,000 max	15 August 2016	31 January 2017, and;  31 January 2018	12 weeks from closing date

### **5. How do you apply for a grant?**

To apply for a CoLC grant you will need to complete an online application form by the corresponding deadline and submit this electronically with your supporting documents to the CoLC Central Grants Unit.

You should send your application to us well before the stated deadline to allow us to process your application in time. We will only consider one application from your organisation at any one time.

All application forms should be completed through the online CoLC grants web portal. Application forms in large print, Braille or audio tape would be offered to applicants by special request.

### **6. How are applications assessed?**

Once the CoLC has received your online application and all supporting documents it will be passed to one of the City Corporation's Grant Officers for assessment. As part of this process a Grants Officer may contact you for more information.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application within 10 working days of it being received. If your application is not complete it will be returned to you and you will have a further 10 working days to send us the missing information.

A Grants Officer may also arrange to visit your organisation as part of the assessment process. Once a full assessment has been completed your request will be referred to an appropriate Committee.

The timescale to process your application will vary; however, we will endeavour to ensure your application is assessed within 12 weeks of the closing date. You should take account of this when planning your project.

#### **7. How do we monitor and evaluate grant recipients once an award has been made?**

If we fund your project we will need you to complete an end of grant monitoring report to confirm how the grant has been spent and what you achieved. Please make sure that you keep receipts for all the items or services you buy with the grant and that you keep them somewhere safe as we may ask you to provide them.

We may also visit you to check how the grant has been spent.

Please keep us up to date if your project or any of your contact details change at any stage during the period of your grant.

#### **8. If your grant application is successful**

If your application is successful, an initial offer letter detailing the level of grant awarded will be issued. This may contain special conditions relating to the grant award or pre-agreement grant conditions.

Grant acceptance terms and conditions will be subsequently issued which should be signed and returned within 20 working days.

Once all documentation has been received and approved you would be asked to formally request payment of your grant award.

Note: You cannot start your project until we have received, checked and approved all information that we have requested.

#### **9. If your grant application is unsuccessful**

Due to the limited budget available and the number of applications for funding we receive, the CoLC unfortunately cannot provide funding to every applicant that applies for a grant. Grants are therefore issued on a discretionary basis, there is no appeal process and the decision of the CoLC is final.

#### **10. Support with your application**

We urge all applicants that are unsure about whether to submit an application to read all available eligibility criteria on our website and attend one of our Grant Officer led workshops; dates for which will be publicised on our website throughout the year.

If you have an enquiry that is not covered within the online guidance, please contact the City of London Grants Unit directly, who will be able provide answers to general queries regarding the application process.

#### **11. Can you reapply for funding?**

You may reapply for funding to deliver a continuation of the same project however; organisations cannot hold more than one of our grants at any one time

If you are a current grant holder, you will need to have satisfactorily met all our grant monitoring requirements before applying again.

## **12. What do we not fund?**

Some things we are unable to pay for are shown below.

- activities that have already taken place or start before we confirm our grant
- any costs you incur when putting together your application
- fundraising activities for your organisation or others
- items that are purchased on behalf of another organisation
- loans or interest payments
- projects that actively promote religious or political activities
- purchase of alcohol

## **13. Further information**

If you have questions about how to apply or about the status of an application, you can contact us on 020 7332 3722, email us at [grants@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:grants@cityoflondon.gov.uk), or visit our website [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/centralgrantsprogramme](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/centralgrantsprogramme) to find out more.

**Appendix 2 – *Stronger Communities*: applications declined, deferred or withdrawn**

Organisation Name	Status	Request Amount	Reason
Alexandra Rose Charity	Declined	£10,000	The application did not sufficiently demonstrate how it would work with partners in Hackney effectively. The charity also has a highly inefficient cost model that was deemed as unsustainable.
Futureversity	Declined	£9,309	A confused application. This proposal did not sufficiently meet the criteria of this programme and it was deemed that the project had been poorly planned.
Volunteering Matters	Declined	£9,204	This application was not targeted at all at the City of London or residents of the City managed estates. The applicant did not sufficiently demonstrate how it met the programmes criteria.

## **APPENDIX 3 – summaries of successful applications**

### **CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Stronger Communities**

#### **1. City Gateway (Ref: 13906)**

**Amount requested: £9,000**

**Amount recommended: £9,000**

**Purpose of grant request:** To provide two residential opportunities for 24 young people living on City housing estates.

#### **The Charity**

City Gateway (CG) works to change the lives of children young people and women in communities that are most impacted by social and economic inequality and exclusion. The charity was founded in 1999 with a clear mission to bring hope to people living in East London. The charity now runs a range of programmes including: women's programme, youth services, early years programme and an apprenticeship and training scheme.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

CG run youth services at various sites across the City of London for 10 to 19 year olds. As well as drop in services they provide residential trips and a time credit programme. CG also runs youth participation service that allows young people to be part of decision making. CG is currently commissioned to deliver this work by the City of London. The contract they receive from the City covers one residential each year. This application is to extend the residential offer for young people living in the Golden Lane and Middlesex estates. The two new residential programmes are planned to take place in May and July 2017. Venues have not been secured to date but will be sought once funding has been confirmed.

Both residential programmes have been developed in consultation with young people and will be focused on participants who have not had the opportunity to go on a residential before. The first residential will be focused on Dance and the Expressive Arts and the second will be focused on Sports and competition. Both residential experiences will have a focus on health and fitness but will have additional outcomes for the young people involved which will be tracked. At assessment it was clear to your officer that this project would have positive outcomes on young people who have not had the opportunity to attend a residential before.

#### **Financial Information**

The Charity has separated City Gateway Trust and City Gateway Alternative Provision School into two legal entities which are why there is a significant reduction in turnover forecast for 2017. The charity's reserves at the end of August 2016 sit at 0.8 months of their annual expenditure. Taking into account the reduction in their turnover in 2017 the charities free reserves will equate to 1.8 months expenditure.

#### **Recommendation**

This is a well-planned application that will have significant outcomes on the 24 young people engaged on the residential programmes. The charity has a good track record of delivering residential programmes. This project will add value to the charity's commissioned youth services and will take place within the current contract time. Funding is therefore recommended as follows:

**£9,000 to support the cost of two residential programmes for 24 young people from City of London estates.**

## **2. Fusion Lifestyle - City of London (Ref: 13878)**

**Amount requested: £10,000**

**Amount recommended: £10,000**

**Purpose of grant request:** To supply Boxing equipment for the City of London Police Boxing Club for young people and adults living on City of London Estates.

### **The Charity**

Fusion Lifestyle (FL) is a charity and company limited by guarantee. FS was formed in April 2000 and has been operating over the last 14 years. The Charity provides sport and leisure management services across the UK in partnership with local authorities and other organisations. FL provides the main leisure facilities for residents of the City of London. This application is in partnership with the City of London Police but all funding and insurance will be managed by FL as the lead partner.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

FL has been working in partnership with the City of London Police to deliver a weekly boxing session targeting young people from the Portsoken Ward. Due to closure of the current premises FL are planning to bring the sessions in house to be delivered at Golden Lane Sport and Fitness. Youth and Adult sessions are planned to take place twice a week once the new club has launched in April 2017.

This application is looking for funding towards the equipment costs of the re-launched boxing club. The remainder of the budget will be made up by the City Police with significant in kind support supplied by FL through the use of sports hall and accredited coaches. As the programme will be moving they plan to expand the reach of the project and to Golden Lane and Barbican residents while retaining existing members. At assessment your officer was reassured that the FL had the correct insurance in place for this work and that all of the coaches were accredited. City of London Police officers run most of the sessions alongside accredited coaching staff. Equipment will be looked after by FL and kept at Golden Lane Sport and Leisure. Some of the equipment purchased with this funding will be used for other activities delivered as part of FL's general leisure programme. The boxing club will improve community cohesion between young people and the police while delivering health outcomes for all the participants.

### **Financial Information**

FL is a large turnover organisation that runs 60 sport and leisure facilities across London and the South-East. This grant will be managed by the Golden Lane Sport and Fitness team with a separate small budget for this work.

### **Recommendation**

This application is to support the purchase of equipment for the re-launch of the City of London Police Boxing club. This project will be managed by FL staff and all of the equipment will be kept at Golden Lane Sport and Fitness. At assessment it was clear that this would be a well-run and targeted programme which has been established in the City over a number of years. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£10,000 support for the purchase of boxing equipment for the re-launch of the City of London Police Boxing Club.**

### **3. Global Action Plan (Ref: 13898)**

**Amount requested: £10,000**

**Amount recommended: £10,000**

**Purpose of grant request:** To support a programme of work that empowers residents of City of London managed housing estates to reduce their exposure to air pollution.

#### **The Charity**

Global Action Plan (GAP) has been operating as an environmental behaviour change charity for the last 23 years. The Charity delivers national and global programmes across 24 countries. Their UK programme works strategically with Schools, the NHS and Business to ensure that environmental sustainability is an issue for everyone. GAP works with people to help them make practical, everyday choices to reduce their environmental impact.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

Air pollution is a big issue affecting many people living in the capital. London breached its legal limits for toxic air for the entire year in the first 5 days of 2017. GAP is looking to create a clean air movement that will culminate in the launch of a National Clean Air Day in June 2017. As part of this movement they are specifically looking to improve the health outcomes for London by implementing behaviour change projects that reduce the impact of air pollution on Londoners. Research has shown that lots of vulnerable people living in London are exposed to air pollution which can lead to poor health outcomes.

This application is part of the larger education programme but will be specifically targeting residents of City of London managed Housing Estates. The Charity has already made links with Avondale Square, Isleden, Windsor House, Holloway and Middlesex Street. Initially they will design and produce flyers that they will deliver on each of the estates to raise awareness of the issues of air pollution. Activator sessions will be arranged on the estates to engage as many residents as possible. Champions on each estate will be recruited and then trained by GAP to ensure the longevity of the project.

#### **Financial Information**

Accurate figures for their unrestricted reserves cannot be supplied at this stage as a number of decisions are still pending that will impact on their level of reserves at year end March 2017. The organisation is listed as a going concern as they had negative free reserves at the end of March 2017. Forecast accounts for year end March 2017 demonstrate an improvement in reserves from 2016 although these may still be recorded as negative free reserves. The charity has a new strategy in place to improve their unrestricted reserves and has recently scaled down the organisation from 30 to 20 staff. Although the charity is in a period of financial uncertainty your officer is confident that they will be in operation for the duration of this work.

#### **Recommendation**

This is a well-planned project that plans to engage residents on City of London managed estates and provide them with information and solutions on how to protect their families from air pollution and reduce emissions. Links have already been established with a number of housing estates and the charity has a strong track record of delivering similar programmes. As the organisation is in a period of financial uncertainty funding should be conditional of receipt of a sufficient 2017/ 18 budget and confirmation that the charity will work in collaboration with City Officers on the planning and implementation of this project. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£10,000 over a 12 month period to support flyer production, activator sessions and associated project costs.**

#### **4. Golden Lane Residents Association**

**Amount requested: £9,670**

**Amount recommended: £9,670**

**Purpose of grant request:** To support the cost of a feasibility study to look at the sustainability and management structure required to refurbish and reinvigorate the Golden Lane Estate Community Centre.

#### **The Charity**

Golden Lane Estate Residents' Association (GLERA) has been in existence since 2010. A constituted voluntary organisation their objectives are to further the common community interests of the residents of the Golden Lane Estate. They promote the maintenance and improvements of amenities on the estate and support their members with dealings with the City of London Corporation and other bodies.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

The Golden Lane Community Centre is owned by the City of London Corporation and is set to undergo refurbishment in September this year. The centre has until recently been managed by a separate organisation and it was felt that it was not inclusive to everyone in the community. A steering group of residents that are part of GLERA has recently been set up to ensure that resident's thoughts are being taken into account with the refurbishment of the Community Centre. GLERA are planning to take on the management of this building and are looking for support to have an independent feasibility study done to ensure this is a practical solution.

The steering group have been in contact with Locality with regards to this feasibility study with all parts of the budget based on the quote received for this work. The study will look at local need, capture views of local residents, partners and potential partners and look at the viability and management implications for taking on the running of the Community Centre. At assessment your officer discussed the fact that GLERA did not have all Safeguarding policies in place. As they currently do not directly deliver services they are not required to but would ensure that all policies, procedures and training were implemented before the management of the Community Centre is taken on.

#### **Financial Information**

The organisation has not received any Income over the last 2 years and has very little expenditure. The Leaseholders Reserve Fund represents the Reserve balance transferred from the Golden Lane Owners Association and held for legal, architects' and surveyors' fees in protecting the legal position and assets of the leaseholders. None of this reserve has been allocated to this specific project. At assessment your officer was reassured that the organisation had appropriate financial controls and oversight in place to manage funds.

#### **Recommendation**

This application is to support the cost of feasibility study to be carried out to look at the viability of GLERA taking on the management of the Golden Lane Community Centre once it has been refurbished. This application fits with the Stronger Communities funding theme as the ultimate outcome will develop stronger neighbourhoods and communities on the Golden

Lane Estate. Funding will be conditional on the feasibility consultants meeting with City Officers and that the City will have the right to use the report once it has been completed. Funding is recommended as follows:

**£9,670 for the cost associated to carrying out an independent feasibility study looking at the viability of GLERA taking on the management of the Golden Lane Community Centre.**