

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
City Bridge Trust	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Strategic Initiative – London Emergencies Trust	
<b>Report of:</b> Deputy Chief Grants Officer	<b>For Decision</b>

### **Summary**

This report seeks your approval to support additional running costs of London Emergencies Trust, in order for it to be able to respond sensitively and effectively to the victims of recent tragic events in London.

### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to agree:

- a) A grant of £50,000 towards the running costs of London Emergencies Trust between September 2017 and March 2018.
- b) The continued secondment of one 0.8 FTE CBT staff member to London Emergencies Trust, possibly until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. You may recall that the London Emergencies Trust (LET) was established in March 2016, as the notional successor body to the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund (LBRCF), to consider at times of national emergency whether there is need for a disaster fund, to provide financial support to those affected by any incident. The board of LET includes a number of leading professionals who were trustees of LBRCF, together with the directors of City Bridge Trust and Trust for London – and receives advice from former LBRCF personnel (including a CBT member of staff,, Stewart Goshawk), London Funders, the British Red Cross and Farrer & Co.
2. LET is the authorised distributor of funds collected by the British Red Cross and others for the bereaved and hospitalised survivors of the three recent terrorist attacks (Westminster, London Bridge and Finsbury Park) as well as for the Grenfell Tower disaster. It is recognised by the Mayor of London, the Metropolitan Police, DCMS and other key institutions as the point of authority for the establishment and delivery (or otherwise) of any major disaster fund.
3. In March 2017, you approved a grant of £75,000 towards a fund for the bereaved families and injured survivors of the Westminster terror attack and to provide LET with working funds to meet other outgoings. When that funding was approved, of course, it could not have been foreseen that further calls would be made on it in response to the ensuing tragic events.

4. You received an update on the work of LET at your July Committee meeting. An additional paper was also tabled in the non-public session of that meeting setting out the various responses that are being made by the funding community to the four tragic events in London, and to highlight the actual and/or potential resource implications for the Trust.

### **Current Position**

5. When you approved the previous grant of £75,000, it was envisaged that up to £50,000 would be used to directly benefit the bereaved and injured survivors of the Palace of Westminster incident with the balance being used towards general running costs, including company secretarial and other administrative functions. It was also noted that in order to enable LET to remain an operational charity, it would need a modest level of “working” funds should it ever need to be activated again.
6. In the early days, LET drew heavily on the expertise of Stewart Goshawk with the consent of the trustees of Wembley National Stadium Trust (WNST) where he is currently seconded as Chief Executive.
7. Following the London Bridge terrorist attack, your Grants Officer Julia Mirkin was seconded to LET on a part-time basis. However, following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, all of her time (0.8 FTE) is currently given over to LET. This is likely to continue until at least the end of the calendar year and possibly until March 2018.
8. A Director for LET was appointed following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, Rob Bell, formerly Deputy Director of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and currently a freelance consultant; as well as an Office Manager to implement administrative systems. Both these posts are being supported from funds approved towards LET’s operating costs. This means that the £25,000 of your original grant of £75,000 has been utilised in full towards operating costs (with the remaining £50,000 having directly benefitted those who were bereaved or injured).
9. In addition to the pro bono staffing support provided by CBT and WNST, LET has been in receipt of free office accommodation through CAN Mezzanine at Old Street, although it does have to meet the normal day to day costs of running an office.
10. All those involved have been working at more than maximum capacity to deal with claims in as speedy but sensitive way as possible and with minimal intrusion, against a backdrop of close and sometimes hostile media attention.
11. To date, LET has received a little over £5.6m for distribution, as follows:
  - Grenfell - £4.8m
  - Westminster – £200,000
  - London Bridge - £492,000
  - Finsbury Park - £110,000

## The future

12. Planning for the future of LET is a complex matter because there are a number of unknowns. Its Director has provided a new budget to cover the period to March 2018 which tries to properly establish the systems, protocols, business continuity provisions and relationships to allow LET to respond effectively to growing need as well as to be able to scale down again yet scale up again if needed.
13. LET is due to distribute a further £3m on behalf of the British Red Cross and other fundraising organisations. It may then be required to distribute funds not yet spent early in 2018 or distribute new funds, such as those raised by the various giving platforms.
14. To this end, LET wishes to appoint an additional FTE caseworker and a full-time Administrative Assistant. This would grow the staff team as follows:

Director FTE (existing post)  
 Office Manager 0.8 FTE (existing post)  
 Admin Assistant FTE (new proposed post)  
 Casework Manager 0.8FTE (CBT secondment)  
 Casework Manager FTE (new proposed post)  
 Casework Manager 0.5 FTE (CBT/WNST secondment)

### LET Budget 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

London Emergencies Trust Running Costs Income 01/09/2017 – 31/03/2018		
Source	Amount	Comments
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	20,000	For Office Manager
British Red Cross	35,000	for core costs
Trust for London	20,000	TBC
In-kind support		Office free rental to 31st March 2018
		Free photocopier rental to 31st March 2018
		Two PCs donated
<b>Total</b>	<b>75,000</b>	
London Emergencies Trust Running Costs Expenditure 01/09/2017 – 31/03/2018		
Description	Amount	Comments
Office running costs	9,885	
Case management software	5,000	
Evaluation	10,000	
Legal & statutory	10,000	
Communications	7,000	
Staffing	134,000	5.3 FTE including on-costs
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,885</b>	

15. This means that LET faces a shortfall of £105,885. CBT is asked to contribute £50,000 towards this shortfall whilst LET is approaching other

fundings for the remaining shortfall. The shortfall would be partially mitigated if the current 0.8FTE secondment from CBT continues. At the point of writing this report, it is not clear how long this arrangement needs to continue. It is recommended therefore that you agree the continued secondment of one 0.8 FTE from the staff team, possibly until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. The value of this in-kind support is £35,000.

## **Conclusion**

16. The establishment of LET has benefited greatly from CBT's involvement with its 'predecessor', the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund (LBRCF) and the consequent knowledge and experience brought by CBT staff and the former CBT Chief grants Officer, now a LET trustee.
17. Since its inception, but in particular following events in June, it has had to deal with a great many unknowns, making forward planning very difficult.
18. Staff currently on secondment from CBT and WNST have gained considerable experience with LET and LET is very grateful for their input. It would probably be the preference of LET to continue to benefit from that experience rather than to try and train new staff from a 'cold start'. The casework, in particular following the Grenfell Tower tragedy, is extremely complex and needs to be handled with extreme care, understanding of the facts of the case, as well as sensitivity and compassion.
19. A grant as requested would provide the charity with a degree of certainty and assist it with forward-planning and is recommended. The continued secondment of CBT staff would provide welcome continuity and is also recommended.

## **Jenny Field**

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