

<b>Committee</b> Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 09/04/2019
<b>Subject</b> Central Grants Programme (CGP) – Update and Next Steps	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Grants Officer (CGO) and Director of City Bridge Trust	<b>For Information</b>
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## Summary

This report provides an update on the CGP. The report includes the outcomes of the four CGP grant rounds delivered in 2018/19; an update on the monitoring and evaluation of the CGP and an outline of the next steps for 2019/20.

## Recommendations:

- a) To note the CGP progress update report.

## Main Report

### Background

1. The CGU has been established since October 2016 to manage the effectiveness of the CGP based on recommendations of the Effectiveness of Grants Service Based Review (SBR).
2. The CGU is co-located with the City Bridge Trust (CBT) team in order to facilitate consistency of approach and harmonise service standards across grant-making activities by the City Corporation. The Chief Grants Officer, responsible for the grant-making activities of CBT maintains an overview of the CGU, with relevant input from the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance (Chamberlain's Department), with the work being delivered by the Head of Central Grants Programme (HCGP).
3. In March 2018 the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee met and both agreed to support the implementation of the CGP on a permanent basis from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. Members agreed an uplift to the City's Cash Grants element of the CGP Budget to enable this to equal £250,000 annually, being approximately 20% of the City's Cash grants budget, an uplift of £91,000 for 2018/19. Members also noted the uplift of £10,000 applied to the operating costs of the CGU, included within the

approved CBT budget for 2018/19. This amount is supplemented by the management fee paid by the charities that are administered under the CGP.

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.

## CGP Update

5. Since the last meeting 4 additional grant rounds have taken place. The table below outlines the total number of successful applications awarded in the year ending 31 March 2019. 42 grants have been awarded totalling £423,247 in the 5-month period since the last meeting.

12 Month Grant Period April 2018 – March 2019		
CoL Programme	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Education & Employment	17	£280,790
Inspiring London through Culture	25	£189,224
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	12	£155,475
Stronger Communities	13	£92,725
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>£718,214</b>

6. An update in more detail on the progress of the four CGP grant rounds for 2018/19 is provided in **Appendix 1**.
7. Detail of all applications approved, withdrawn and rejected under the CGP in 2018/19 is shown at **Appendix 2**.
8. A breakdown of the Management costs for the CGU in 2018/19 is shown at **Appendix 3**. Members will note a forecast underspend in the management costs for the programme in 2018/19. This is due to delays in staff recruitment and a delay in the CGU taking on other CoL Charities to manage.

## Overview of CGP

### Staffing Update

9. In March 2018 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed an uplift to the operating costs of the CGU. The increased budget was to include the permanent recruitment of the HCGP for 3 days a week and to recruit a Funding Officer 2.5 days a week to support the work of the CGU. As there was a delay in recruitment the HCGP has been working 4 days a week since June 2018.
10. A Funding Officer for the Central Grants Programme was appointed and started on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

## Education and Employment

11. Revised criteria were approved by the Education Board on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018 and two grant rounds have taken place in 2018/19 with deadlines in June and September. The HCGP worked with the Education Team and Media Team to publicise the programme widely which resulted in two successful funding rounds. The City Educational Trust (290840) spent nearly its full budget including carry forward from the previous year. Further work needs to be done to encourage improved applications to the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836). At the Education Charity Sub-Committee in November Members agreed revised wording to widen the eligibility criteria to facilitate improved distribution of funds.

## Inspiring London through Culture

12. This is a very popular programme. The HCGP worked closely with officers to ensure that the rounds were well advertised across a range of channels. Two funding rounds took place in 2018/19. In July 2018 the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee agreed to delegate decision making to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for all grants of £10,000 or less. This has allowed for applicants to receive a decision on their applications more quickly and improved efficiency.
13. In January 2019 this programme received a significant amount of applications totalling over £200,000. After an initial review it was deemed that the majority of applications were of a high quality. In order to meet the demand of this round Officers consulted with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee to seek approval of an early transfer of an underspend from another City's Cash grants budget. Approval was given for a further £56,655 to be added to the budget for this grant round, to meet the demand.

## Stronger Communities

14. The Stronger Communities Programme ran two successful grant rounds in 2018/19. Although the programme received a high volume of applications the rejection rate was very high, leaving an underspend in the year. Analysis of rejections from the programme shows that many applicants misunderstand the criteria and the geographical restrictions. The CGU is working with the Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS) Officers to ensure a more targeted outreach programme for 2019/20. The CGU will continue to work with applicants to improve the quality of applications. Members will note that although this programme spent the least across the 3 programmes it had a high management and administration cost. Reasons for the include: a high rejection rate for applications, ongoing support for the Spacehive programme and small grants being proportionally more expensive to administer.
15. At the February 2018 DCCS Committee, Members resolved that £30,000 of the Stronger Communities budget (City's Cash) under the CGP could be committed to support grants to organisations applying through a new 'crowd funding' platform run by Spacehive. The CGU continues to manage the Spacehive grants programme and a number of projects have been supported

delivering work in the Aldgate Square area. The cost of the Spacehive budget are met by Departmental Budgets with the CGU responsible for assessing project applications on the platform and providing recommendations to officers from the DCCS Department.

16. In February 2019 Spacehive were re-commissioned for another year to extend the 'Our Aldgate' programme to the whole of the City of London. After running for a year, it was agreed that focusing the platform in a small area like Aldgate was too restrictive. The rebranded 'Our City' launched in February 2019 and will attract applications from across the City. The CGU will continue to work with DCCS officers and Spacehive to ensure appropriate due diligence is carried out on project applications.
17. In accordance with the decisions of the trustees of the Corporation of London Benevolent Association (206643) (the Association) and the Community and Children's Services Committee, on behalf of the City Corporation as Trustee of the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity, the Association's assets were transferred to the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (1073660) as a restricted fund on 31 October 2018. Work is ongoing with DCCS Officers, supported by the Chamberlain's and Comptroller and City Solicitor's departments, to update the Stronger Communities eligibility criteria to reflect the availability of additional funds for distribution following the transfer of assets from the Association to the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity, and the restrictions on these funds, and to ensure that grants will be awarded from this Charity in 2019/20.

#### Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment

18. Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment held one round in November 2017 and received only two applications. The HCGP has worked with officers in the Open Spaces Department to develop a marketing strategy for the October 2018 grant round. The HCGP has carried out funding presentations in Epping Forest and Parliament Hill and provided one to one support on applications from Burnham Beaches and City Commons. The outreach and marketing of the programme was a success and Officers from across the Open Spaces Department met and awarded 12 grants totalling £155,475. A marked improvement from the 2 grants awarded in 2017/18.
19. The HCGP has supported Open Spaces Officers to survey applicants and stakeholders from across the Department on whether the eligibility criteria for the programme are still suitable. A review has been completed with recommendations being made to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee in April for Decision. Officers plan to have one deadline in 2019/20 and to do similar outreach work in the build up to the deadline supported by the CGU.

#### General

20. The CGU still monitors organisations that are perceived to have fallen through the cracks as they may have previously benefited from funding from the City Corporations previous arrangements for grant-making but are ineligible under

the current CGP criteria. Further information on these grants can be provided at Members' request or verbally at the meeting.

21. The HCGP is planning several workshops in 2019/20 in the build up to grant rounds.
22. The CGP received some positive exposure in the press in 2019/20. **Appendix 4** shows a sample list of media engagements.
23. The City of London holds a contingency fund of £100,000 in its City's Cash budget, allocated to the International Disasters Fund (IDF) administered by the Finance Committee. The CGU provide advice and make recommendations to the Finance Committee about where to distribute IDF in response to International Appeals. This year donations have been made to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) and Save the Children in response to the two Indonesian Tsunami's and a further donation to the DEC in response to the humanitarian effort in the wake of Cyclone Idai in Southern Africa.
24. The HCGP has prepared an annual report to be presented to all the Service Committees to outline the overall work of the CGP. A copy of the report can be viewed at **Appendix 5**.

### **Monitoring**

25. The HCGP has set up and implemented the online monitoring and evaluation system in line with best practice from the CBT. Monitoring is generally of a good standard with grantees reporting on the success and impact of their funded schemes, the enhanced reach of the funding provided and how the funding has helped to leverage additional or match-funding for projects.
26. The CGU currently oversees and manages 95 active grants. 28 grants have now been completed since the CGP's inception and provided monitoring information.

### **Next steps 2019/20**

27. The CGU will continue to work with the CGO, The Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department and the Chamberlain to explore the consolidation and rationalisation of charities associated with the City Corporation, in particular those whose purpose is charitable funding. A verbal update on this will be provided at the meeting.
28. The CGU will continue to monitor the City of London's Benefits in Kind and will be commencing the annual monitoring for this in August.
29. The HCGP will work with the Philanthropy Director to support implementation and delivery of the Philanthropy Strategy.
30. Discussions are happening between the CGU and the Department for Built Environment around the management of the Community Infrastructure Levy

Neighbourhood Fund. A further paper has been provided on this for information, with a verbal update to be provided at the meeting.

31. The CGU will continue its core business of monitoring existing grants and the distribution of 2019/20 funds: The table below outlines the income potentially available for distribution by the CGP in 2019/20 for all existing programmes should requests for carry-forward within the City's Cash Grant's budget be approved.

#### 2019/20 Funds for Distribution

Entity	New Funds in the year	Carry Forward from 18/19	Total
<b>City Educational Trust</b>	150,000	7,369	157,369
<b>Combined Education Charity</b>	46,000	38,835	84,835
<b>Combined Relief of Poverty Charity</b>	4,000	52,000	56,000
<b>Sundry Trust's Total</b>	200,000	98,204	298,204
<b>City's Cash</b>			
<b>Inspiring London through Culture</b>	83,333	6,431	89,764
<b>Stronger Communities</b>	83,333	39,275	122,608
<b>Enjoying Green Spaces</b>	83,334	3,525	86,859
<b>City's Cash Total</b>	250,000	49,231	299,231
<b>Total</b>	450,000	147,435	597,435

32. The table below outlines the application deadlines for the CGP in 2019/20.

Funding Theme	Application Deadlines
Education and Employment	April 2019 October 2019
Inspiring London through Culture	May 2019 January 2020
Stronger Communities	May 2019 November 2019
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	October 2019

33. The HCGP has joined the London Borough Grants Officers Network and attends the London Borough Grants Officer Forum, hosted by London Councils. This is a useful forum to discuss issues across London and get updates from London Funders and London Councils.
34. The HCGP has become the Co-Chair of the National Lottery Fund Officer Working Group which oversees all grant applications made to the National

Lottery across the City of London Corporation. The HCGP will provide advice and scrutiny on funding proposals, to assist the City Surveyor's Department priorities proposals.

**Appendix 1** – CGP Grants Overview 2018/19

**Appendix 2** – Overview of Approved, Rejected and Withdrawn Grants 2018/19

**Appendix 3** – Breakdown of CGU Management Costs

**Appendix 4** – CGP Media Schedule 2018/19

**Appendix 5** – CGP Annual Report

**Background Papers:**

- Policy and Resources Committee, January 2017, 'Review and Reclassification of Former Finance Grants Sub-Committee Grants'.
- Policy and Resources Committee, March 2018, 'Central Grants Programme Review'

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