

<b>Committee</b> Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub-Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 12/11/2019
<b>Subject</b> Central Grants Programme (CGP) and Central Grants Unit (CGU) – 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 and the CGU. The report includes the outcomes of the three CGP grant rounds delivered so far in 2019/20 and an overview of the wider work of the CGU.

### Recommendations:

Members are asked to note the CGP and CGU 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 (in its various capacities, including as trustee of a number of charities which form part of the CGP). The Chief Grants Officer, responsible for the grant-making activities of CBT is also responsible for maintaining an overview of the CGU (and broader charity matters), with relevant input from the Charity Finance Team (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.

4. This amount is supplemented by the management fee paid to the CGU by a number of small charities in respect of which the City Corporation is charity trustee and which are administered through the CGP in a manner consistent with their charitable objects and governing documents, it being considered in each case to be in the charity's best interests for their most efficient administration and effective application of funds to do so, these matters being kept under review in the normal way.
5. 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 and, as relevant, adopted for each charity operating within the CGP consistent with the objects of each charity.

## CGP Update

6. A breakdown outlining the number of successful applications and amounts awarded for each programme across the 7 Month Period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 are in the table below (encompassing the application of charitable funds):

7 Month Grant Period April 2018 – October 2019		
CoL Programme	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Education & Employment	9	£126,825
Inspiring London through Culture	5	£49,616
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	0	£0
Stronger Communities	6	£29,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>£205,441</b>

7. An update in more detail on the progress of the four CGP grant rounds for 2019/20 is provided in **Appendix 1**. 3 grant rounds remain before the end of the financial year and the HCGP has worked closely with officers to ensure they are well publicised to ensure the budget is met.
8. Detail of all applications approved, withdrawn and rejected under the CGP in 2019/20 is shown at **Appendix 2**.
9. A breakdown of the forecast management costs for the CGU in 2019/20 is shown at **Appendix 3**.

## Overview of CGP

### Education and Employment

10. This programme is funded from two charities. The Education Charity Sub-Committee met in July 2019 to make decisions on grant applications received

in the April Education and Employment grant round. Grants were awarded from both the City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836). As the majority of the budget for the City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity was spent in this round the Sub-Committee recommended and the Education Board has resolved to cancel the next grant application deadline and relaunch for an April 2020 deadline. The Sub-Committee also recommended and the Education Board resolved to close the next 2019/20 funding round for the City Educational Trust Fund due to an over commitment of the unrestricted general fund of the City Educational Trust Fund.

11. At the Education Charity Sub-Committee in July Members once again recommended revised wording to widen the eligibility criteria for both charities to facilitate improved distribution of funds which is to be referred to the Community and Children's Services Committee in December and then to the Education Board in January for consideration and approval. A new grant round will be proposed for April 2020 subject to approval on the amended criteria.

#### Inspiring London through Culture

12. This continues to be a very popular programme and is solely funded from City's Cash. The HCGP worked closely with officers to ensure that the rounds were well advertised across a range of channels. One funding round has taken place so far with decisions made the Assistant Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee upon the advice of a panel of expert officers in July 2019. 16 applications were received with only 5 awarded funding due to a tight budget and an anticipation of the January 2020 round being very popular.

#### Stronger Communities

13. The Stronger Communities Programme is funded from City's Cash and charitable funding and has run one grant round so far in 2019/20. The programme received only 6 applications to the last deadline and one application outside of the deadline cycle. The programme still finds it difficult to promote itself to charities working on City of London managed housing estates. The CGU has been working closely with the housing and community engagement team in the Community and Children's Services Department to ensure better uptake in the November 2019 deadline.
14. At the September Children and Community Services (CCS) Committee it was agreed to increase the value of City's Cash grants to this programme to £20,000 over a two-year period. From a recent London Funders meeting on small grants attended by the HCGP it was agreed that Small Grants offered over a longer period provided better outcomes for community organisations and their beneficiaries, this was taken into consideration when proposing the uplift. Due diligence on these grants will increase proportionately in line with the amount being requested.

15. At the September CCS Committee, it was also requested that the CGU look at options to open up the City's Cash Small Grants (up to £3,000) element of the Stronger Communities programme on a rolling basis. This is being explored with departmental officers to be outlined at the November meeting of the CCS Committee.
16. At the February 2018 CCS 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 across the City. 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 Department of Community and Children's Services (DCCS). Work is ongoing with Spacehive to see if this will be continued for a further year.
17. The funds of the City of London Corporation Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (1073660) also form part of this programme. The charity's modest funds were more than doubled following the decisions taken to transfer the assets of the Corporation of London Benevolent Association (206643) (the Association), an historic charity funded by elected Members, to 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 to accommodate the restrictions on these funds, and to facilitate the aware of grants from this charity in 2019/20. The HCGP is working with DCCS officers to ensure that funds can be awarded from this Charity.
18. In October 2019, following the recommendation of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, the Court of Common Council acting as Trustee of the Signor Favale Marriage Portions Charity (206949) (the Favale Charity) resolved to close the Favale Charity by updating the objects to reflect those of the receiving charity, by releasing the restrictions on expenditure of the permanent endowment, and then transferring the charity's funds free of restrictions to the City of London Corporation Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (1073660), with an expression of wish that Signor Favale's name be retained in some way in future grant-giving, subject to Charity Commission consent. The Community and Children's Services Committee acting for the City Corporation as Trustee of the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity has subsequently resolved that it was in that charity's interests for it to take receipt of the funds on this basis. Once the transfer has been completed, additional funds will therefore be available for distribution from the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity under the Stronger Communities theme. Approximately

£15,000 is estimated to be added to the funds of the Combined Relief of Poverty Charity.

#### Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment

19. This programme is funded solely from City's Cash. Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment is currently under assessment, the programme has one grant round each year. This application round is the largest that the programme has seen, which means it is heavily oversubscribed
20. The HCGP has worked with officers in the Open Spaces Department to develop a marketing strategy for the October 2019 grant round based on the success of the last year. The HCGP has carried out funding presentations in Epping Forest, Parliament Hill on Hampstead Heath, and Ashted Common and provided one to one support on applications from Burnham Beaches and City Commons. (These open spaces are the property of other charities in respect of which the City Corporation is trustee.)
21. 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 was completed with recommendations being made to the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee in April 2019 for Decision. The Committee agreed the amendments to the criteria and also increased the maximum grant to £20,000 over a three-year period, in line with the results of the consultation and best practice.

#### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund

22. The CGU was originally set up to manage the effectiveness of the CGP. Due to its success, in May the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the City CIL Neighbourhood Fund be managed by the Corporation's Central Grants Unit. The HCGP has been working on developing the programme since the first of June. It was agreed that a substantive post be brought in to manage the programme with oversight from the HCCP. This work is ongoing and further information on the proposed programme will be announced once the part-time (0.6FTE) position of CIL Neighbourhood Programme Manager has been recruited to. Any resource spent on the CIL Neighbourhood Fund by the CGU is covered by a 5% administration fee that can be drawn on from CIL.
23. The CGU managing the CIL Neighbourhood Fund will widen the scope of the CGU but also this Committee. If Members are in agreement officers will look to broaden the scope of the Terms of Reference for this Committee to include scrutiny of the CIL to be implemented. This will be brought to Committee for discussion in January.

#### General

24. Due to the success of the CGU referred to in the preceding paragraph, the CGU is now also being approached to administer other grants (including

charitable grants) and provide grant-making support in respect of grants that do not form part of the CGP. These additional matters and activities will be reported to this sub-committee to the extent that they fall within its remit.

25. 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 Corporation's previous arrangements for grant-making but are ineligible under the current CGP funding criteria. Further information on these organisations can be provided at Members' request or verbally at the meeting.
26. The HCGP delivers programme specific workshops and has one coming up in November to talk to City based Voluntary Sector organisations about the Stronger Communities programme. The CGU are always on hand to discuss applications and work with departmental officers to provide a package of support where required.
27. 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 to date a donation has been made to Team Rubicon UK in their response to the Hurricane Dorian Appeal in the Bahamas in September 2019.
28. The CGU continues to draw on and adopt the best practice of CBT. At the CBT Committee in September 2019 and subsequently at Court of Common Council it was agreed that Funding Managers have authority to undertake an independent financial assessment of grants of up to £50,000. In line with this best practice the HCGP will have the authority to approve the financial assessment of grants under the CGU up to the value of £50,000, and to draw on the expertise of the Chamberlain as and when required.

## **Monitoring**

29. 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.
30. The CGU is working with the new Head of Learning and Impact function within the CBT team to improve and develop their monitoring system and find better ways of learning from the varied grant portfolio.

## **Next steps 2019/20**

31. The CGU will continue to work with the CGO, The Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department and the Chamberlain's Department to explore the consolidation and rationalisation of charities associated with the City

Corporation, in particular those whose activities involve grant-making. A presentation will be made about this work at the Committee.

32. The HCGP will work with the Philanthropy Director to support implementation and delivery of the Philanthropy Strategy.
33. The table below outlines the application deadlines for the CGP for the rest of 2019/20.
34. The HCGP continues to be the allocated Borough Grants Officer to attend 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. This has been especially useful for sharing experiences of implementing the CIL Neighborhood Fund.

#### **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**

#### **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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