

Committee	Dated:
City Bridge Trust	Urgency
Subject: Grants Recommended of £250,000 or Above for Approval	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust (CGO)	For Decision
Report author: Scott Nixon, Head of Director's Office	

Summary

This report advises Members of funds recommended for approval for amounts of £250,000 or above. The assessment report for this grant recommended for approval is shown in appendix 2 of this report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Receive this report and approve the recommended amounts

Main Report

Member approval is requested for all applications of £250,000 or above, summarised in this report.

The total amount of expenditure and number of items to be approved under are shown in Appendix 1. The assessment report is provided at appendix 2.

Applications to be considered comprise of Bridging Divides applications.

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**Table 1:
Index of Grant Recommendations (amount requested: above £250,000)**

Page no	Ref	Grant Organisation	Original Amount Requested	Programme Area	Funding Manager	Location of Organisation	Amount recommended for approval	Grant duration (months)
<u>Bridging Divides</u>								
1	15607	FareShare	£376,676	Advice and Support	Shegufta Slawther	Lewisham	£376,600	60
<i>Total Bridging Divides (1 item)</i>			£376,676				£376,600	
Grand Totals			£376,676				£376,600	

MEETING: 13/05/2020

Ref: 15607

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Advice and Support**FareShare****Adv: Shegufta Slawther****Base: Lewisham****Amount requested: £331,460****Benefit: London-wide****{Revised request: £376,676}****Amount recommended: £376,600****The Applicant**

FareShare, a national charity that registered in 2003, provides food deemed surplus by supermarkets, etc to a diverse range of voluntary groups such as homeless shelters, women's refuges, children's breakfast clubs and drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres. It offers life changing support as well as hot, nutritious meals.

The Application

FareShare London currently provides food to six social pantries and seeks funding to establish and supply 10 more. The pantries will provide 1,600 struggling low-income households to offer longer-term support based on the fact that, for many in the age of austerity, falling living standards, poverty and food insecurity are chronic or recurring problems, rather than a temporary blip.

The Recommendation

Recognised as a leading organisation working to tackle food poverty, the charity has developed an extensive network across London (and wider). More recently, through the London Food Alliance, FareShare is working with the COVID-19 London Strategic Coordinating Group (LSCG) to help coordinate an effective response to the food insecurity issues identified by the LSCG within London by providing emergency food aid to those most in need. The revised request was submitted following the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK and reflects the anticipated higher demand in the first three years of this five-year grant request. At the time of the financial assessment the organisation was under lockdown but providing essential frontline services and so had reduced capacity to provide detailed financial forecasting. In order not to delay your funding, should you agree it, a condition requiring this information at a later date has been included. A grant is recommended:

£376,600 over five years (£76,400, £76,300, £77,100, £73,000, £73,800) for the FT salary of the London Development Manager and associated project costs. Release of the third quarter's payment is conditional on receiving required financial information.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
15/05/2014	PROJECT DESCRIPTION £165,000 over three years (£60,000; £55,000; £50,000) towards the salary costs of a London Development Manager plus running costs of a project creating satellite distribution centres in London.

Background and detail of proposal

The model of social pantries enables the charity to engage with hidden communities in London with a focus on prevention rather than crisis intervention and encouraging

social inclusion. Providing heavily subsidised groceries in partnership with Housing Associations and Local Councils, the model promotes dignity and choice. Each of the Pantries supports additional life-changing services such as financial and digital inclusion support and employability training. The Pantries also provide volunteering opportunities within the community; offering the chance to gain experience in food handling, customer service and administration.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, FareShare, along with food redistribution organisations City Harvest (one of your current grantee organisations) and The Felix Project, formed the London Food Alliance (LFA). Working in partnership with each London borough and other third sector organisations, the LFA is leading on the provision of emergency food aid. All 32 boroughs are establishing Food Hubs where food will be delivered and then prepared into parcels and meals, and from there delivered to people's doors or community groups. Each Hub is being supplied with ambient, chilled, fresh and frozen food where possible throughout the duration of the health crisis. The charity has also coordinated spare capacity within the haulage companies it uses under normal circumstances to transport food to support the delivery from Hubs to beneficiaries' doors or community groups. This has proved crucial to the LFA given that the majority of the charity's volunteers fall within the 'at-risk' category and are self-isolating. The charity is also working in partnership with Chefs in Schools to use school kitchens to use fresh, chilled and frozen food supplied by the LFA to cook onsite and then supply to families with children on free school meals and other vulnerable groups.

Financial Information

The charity expects a drop in income in 2021 due to a large grant from Asda reducing by £3m. This funding is from the proceeds of sales of plastic carrier bags; the sales of which has dropped significantly resulting in the reduction in income in 2021. Moving forward it will be reducing expenditure to align with this drop in income if required although in late March, after the charity's budget for 2020/21 was set (as shown in the table below) Asda announced that it would be making a donation of £5m between FareShare and Trussell Trust to help them support vulnerable people.

Reserves are below target but the trustees have set a target to increase reserves by one month's expenditure each year, for three years to fall within the reserves policy. This will primarily be raised through corporate and individual giving fundraising. The current health crisis has put additional pressures on the charity's finances, but equally has had members of the public, trusts and foundations and responsible businesses that have come forward to support them at this time. Due to the extensive and additional work on food distribution that FareShare is leading on nationally, it has only been able to provide an outline budget and forecast. A condition for payment is recommended for this information to be provided later in the year.

Year end as at 31 March	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	12,305,000	13,471,000	9,413,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 09/04/2020	N/A	100%	97%
Expenditure	(10,190,000)	(11,365,000)	(13,140,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	2,115,000	2,106,000	(3,727,000)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	2,278,000	1,941,000	(3,988,000)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(163,000)	165,000	261,000
	2,115,000	2,106,000	(3,727,000)
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	3,306,000	4,580,000	4,685,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	627,000	792,000	1,053,000
No of months of operating expenditure	2.3	2.1	2.7
Reserves policy target	2,400,000	2,290,000	2,342,500
No of months of operating expenditure	8.7	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(1,773,000)	(1,498,000)	(1,289,500)