

Committee: City Bridge Trust (CBT)	17th September 2020
Subject: Progress Report	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer and Director of CBT (CGO)	For Decision

Summary

Building on the progress/learning report and presentation of our Learning Partner, Renaisi (previous agenda item), the CGO will provide a brief presentation on CBT's response to Covid-19. This will include: contribution to the pan-London, multi-agency response; collaboration and leadership in respect of the London Community Response Fund; action taken in respect of CBT's portfolio of funded organisations and the application pipeline. Lessons learnt to date will be highlighted with a view to informing future plans, anchored in CBT's PACIER (Progressive, Adaptive, Collaborative, Inclusive, Environmentally Responsible and Representative) values – to be discussed in more depth in relation to the following agenda item and then at the October Committee Away Half-Day. There will be an opportunity for questions to ensure a shared understanding across the Committee.

Updates are also provided in respect of the work to deliver a racial justice action plan, the Philanthropy House project and compliance & unannounced visits.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the report.
- b) Agree that the current level of delegations in relation to grant-making is extended for a further 4 months.

Main Report

CBT's Response to Covid-19

1. Members will receive a short presentation by the CGO summarising CBT's contribution to the pan-London, multi-agency response; collaboration and leadership in respect of the London Community Response Fund; action taken in respect of CBT's portfolio of funded organisations and the application pipeline. Lessons learnt to date will be highlighted with a view to informing future plans, anchored in CBT's PACIER (Progressive, Adaptive, Collaborative, Inclusive, Environmentally Responsible and Representative) values – to be discussed in more depth in relation to the following agenda item and then at the October Committee Away Half-Day.
2. Following the last CBT committee meeting, Dinah Cox OBE has been working with the CBT team and Members to scope and develop the CBT action plan in solidarity with Black Lives Matters. This will of course be anchored in our Bridging Divides Strategy and our PACIER values. As you will remember, part of this would be to provide support/challenge to our trustee, City of London

Corporation which has formed the 'Tackling Racism Task Force' co-chaired by two elected Members from a BAME background Caroline Addy and Andrien Meyers. Any CBT Committee members who are yet to contribute and who would still like to do so are encouraged to contact Dinah. The draft action plan will form the basis of a substantive discussion at the October strategic away half day.

Compliance and unannounced visits

3. We paused our rolling programme of compliance and unannounced visits to funded organisations at the start of lockdown. In August Internal Audit agreed that it is appropriate to continue to pause the visits until the end of March 2021 with a review in January. In this period we are satisfied that sufficient mitigating methods are in place: payments will continue to be made quarterly; Funding Managers will continue to review organisational finances on assessment and then annually (or more frequently where there are particular concerns); and any concerns around compliance will continue to be raised and action taken in liaison with the Leadership Team, Finance and Internal Audit as appropriate. To date we have not seen any evidence of increase compliance concern during lockdown.

Philanthropy House (PH)

4. In January 2020, Corporate Asset Sub-committee & associated committees paused the refurbishment of 20/21 Aldermanbury and agreed to a commercial letting of 21 Aldermanbury to a meanwhile workspace management company pending greater clarity on the optimal long-term appropriate use of that property. Having ascertained that the Anchor Partners for the PH project were not interested in renting space within the building on a meanwhile basis (owing to commitments under their current lease at Toynbee Hall), your Officers have been working with City Surveyors to explore the commercial viability of another property within the BHE portfolio as alternative sites for PH. This is subject to input from architects who have scoped the expansion and modernisation potential of this property and are in the process of generating final plans for planning approval, which will hopefully be submitted by the end of September.
5. Once these plans are approved, the assumptions underpinning business modelling to date will need to be revisited in light of the significant impact of Covid-19 on the commercial rental market and then applied to the footprint in question. We will update this committee with the findings once they are available.

Delegated Authority Thresholds

6. At your July Committee meeting, you agreed that the higher level of delegations afforded to the CGO and the Deputy Director of CBT be extended for a further 3 months, until 7th October 2020. It is proposed that this be extended for a further 4 months until your meeting on 28th January 2021 when these thresholds be subject to review.

Note to Members - Recommendations for grants of £250,000 or less

7. Your papers today include recommendations for grants of £250,000 or less and which would otherwise be eligible to be approved under delegated authority. They are being brought to Committee as they have been completed in time to meet the deadline for inclusion. This explains why some of the report formats may differ between reports.
8. Mindful of the fast pace of developments, if any CBT Committee member would like any further information or has any questions arising from this paper, please do contact your CGO (contacts below) prior to or post committee.

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