

Appendix 1

Central Grants Programme Annual Report

Summary

This annual report provides an update on the Central Grants Programme (CGP). The report includes the outcomes of the four CGP grant programmes delivered in 2019/20; an update on the monitoring and evaluation of the CGP and an outline of the next deadlines for 2020/21.

Recommendations:

- a) To note the Central Grants Programme (CGP) Annual Report

Main Report

Background

1. In March 2016, the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee received a report outlining the work that had been undertaken to date to implement the recommendations of the Effectiveness of Grants Service Based Review (SBR). The aim of the review was to increase the strategic impact of grant-making, ensure that the grants are managed more efficiently and effectively, improve the consistency and quality of the customer experience and so bring consequential reputational benefits. The report recommended a consolidated CGP be implemented.
2. In order to manage the CGP effectively a new Central Grants Unit (CGU) was proposed to administer the programme. The CGU would be responsible for the management of all grant applications, monitoring and evaluation processes and committee reporting procedures.
3. It was agreed that the CGU would be co-located with the City Bridge Trust team (CBT) in order to facilitate consistency of approach and harmonise service standards. The Chief Grants Officer, responsible for the grant-making activities of CBT would maintain 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).
4. 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 1st 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. Members also noted the uplift of £10,000 applied to the operating costs of the CGU to £60,000, included within the approved CBT budget for 2019/20. This amount is supplemented by contributions from City of London (COL) Charities that the CGU supports.

- 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.

Overview of CGP

- The table below outlines the total number of successful applications awarded in the year ending 31 March 2020.

12 Month Grant Period April 2019 – March 2020		
CoL Programme	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Education & Employment	7	£121,825
Inspiring London through Culture	9	£86,466
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	11	£120,212
Stronger Communities	18	£122,429
Total	45	£451,932

- Detail of all applications approved, withdrawn and rejected under the CGP in 2019/20 is shown at **Appendix 1**.
- Monitoring and Evaluation Information for the period is available at **Appendix 2**.

Education and Employment

- 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.
- Across the two Charities 7 grants were awarded totalling £121,825.
- 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 was referred to the Community and Children's Services Committee in December and then approved by the Education Board in January. A new grant round was approved 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 CGU worked closely with officers to ensure that the rounds were well advertised across a range of channels. Two funding rounds took place with decisions made by 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.
13. In 2019/20 this programme saw an increase in demand receiving 24 applications across two grant rounds. 9 applications were awarded funding totalling £86,466.

Stronger Communities

1. The Stronger Communities Programme is funded from City's Cash and charitable funding and ran 2 grant rounds in 2019/20. The programme was very popular and received 48 applications. 18 were awarded funding totalling £122,429.
2. 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.
3. 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 was agreed by the CCS Committee in February 2020 to be rolled out from 1 April 2020.
4. 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 continued 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 DCCS Department. It was agreed that the Spacehive project is not re-commissioned in 2020/21 and that any outstanding funds not committed be returned to the CGU to be allocated to the Stronger Communities Programme.
5. 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.

6. 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

14. Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment held one round in 2019/20. The CGU worked with Open Spaces Officers to do targeted funding workshops for applicants to this programme. 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 £56,000 to be added to the budget for this grant round, to meet the demand.
15. After successfully marketing the programme there was an increase in applications. 21 were received in total with 11 projects awarded funding totalling £120,212.

Monitoring

16. 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.

17. The CGU currently oversees and manages 102 active grants across all programmes.

General

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

Funding Theme	Application Deadlines
Education and Employment	April 2020
Inspiring London through Culture	July 2020 January 2021
Stronger Communities	May 2020 October 2020
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	October 2019

19. 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.

20. 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 to the value of £100,000 have been made to the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) to support the ongoing Myanmar Appeal, to the British Red Cross to support the Australian Red Cross in response of the devastating bush fires and a donation to Team Rubicon in response to the Hurricane in the Bahamas.

21. Discussions are happening between the CGU and other departments around taking on additional programmes of work.

Appendix 1 – Overview of Approved, Rejected and Withdrawn Grants 2012019/20

Appendix 2 – Monitoring and Evaluation Overview

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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