

THE CITY BRIDGE TRUST COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 September 2020

Minutes of the virtual meeting of The City Bridge Trust Committee held on Thursday,
17 September 2020 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Dhruv Patel (Chairman)
Deputy Dr Giles Shilson (Deputy Chairman)
Karina Dostalova
Simon Duckworth
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Alison Gowman
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Alderwoman Susan Langley
Deputy Edward Lord
Jeremy Mayhew
Wendy Mead
Paul Martinelli
Jannat Hossain (Co-opted Member)
William Hoyle (Co-opted Member)

Officers:

David Farnsworth	- Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust
Karen Atkinson	- Chamberlain's Department
Nathan Omane	- Chamberlain's Department
Helen Martins	- Chamberlain's Department
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Fiona Rawes	- Town Clerk's Department
Jenny Field	- The City Bridge Trust
Ciaran Rafferty	- The City Bridge Trust
Jack Joslin	- The City Bridge Trust
Lily Brandhorst	- The City Bridge Trust
Matthew Robinson	- The City Bridge Trust
Kate Moralee	- The City Bridge Trust
Catherine Mahoney	- The City Bridge Trust
Geraldine Page	- The City Bridge Trust
Ruth Feder	- The City Bridge Trust
Shegufta Slawther	- The City Bridge Trust
Samantha Grimmatt-Batt	- The City Bridge Trust
Caspar Cech-Lucas	- The City Bridge Trust
Clara Espinosa	- The City Bridge Trust
Kate Halahan	- The City Bridge Trust
Emma Horrigan	- The City Bridge Trust

Stephanie Keating	- The City Bridge Trust
Lydia Parr	- The City Bridge Trust
Nan Smart	- The City Bridge Trust
Tim Fletcher	- Town Clerk's Department
Ellen Wentworth	- Chamberlain's Department

Also in attendance:

Dinah Cox

Alice Thornton (Renaissi)

At the start of the meeting, Alderman Alison Gowman, as senior Alderman present, was moved into the Chair until the Election of Chair/Chairman. Members and those watching the live broadcast of the meeting via YouTube were welcomed, before Members were reminded of the guidance circulated for the conducting of remote meetings.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Henry Colthurst.

2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council of 16 July 2020 appointing the Committee and approving its terms of reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR/CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chair/Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No.29, and Dhruv Patel, being the only Member who expressed his willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR/CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chair/Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No.30. As there were two Members indicating their willingness to serve, a ballot of eligible Committee Members was undertaken, and arising from the ballot, Deputy Dr Giles Shilson was duly elected as Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 8 July 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

7. **APPOINTMENT TO THE SOCIAL INVESTMENT BOARD**

RESOLVED – That Dhruv Patel be appointed to the Social Investment Board, for three years.

8. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received the list of outstanding actions, noting those which were on the agenda or were scheduled for a future date or meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Outstanding Actions update be noted.

9. **PRESENTATION – RENAIISI** and
9a. **REVIEW OF BRIDGING DIVIDES – YEAR 2**

The Committee received a presentation from Renaisi and a report of the Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust (CGO) providing a review of progress towards implementing the Bridging Divides strategy with recommendations for the coming year. The CGO introduced the item before handing over to Renaisi to present.

Renaisi then gave the Committee some background to the review and their role in conjunction with City Bridge Trust (CBT), before outlining the work undertaken and sharing headline findings of the review. Renaisi advised that the findings had been positive, with a tangible sense of progress in CBT implementing values and developing as a learning organisation. New aspects of CBT's funding offer and changes to the Committee had been well-received, as were the increased levels of delegation, which had also been highlighted as a positive. Renaisi also set out areas for improvement or further consideration, such as the scale of ambition, and further work required in becoming a learning organisation. Renaisi also reported ambitions to further work on the environment and representation, and desire to share more learning externally.

The Committee was advised that the report covered the period from March 2019 to March 2020, and therefore the context had changed since due to the impact of Covid-19. Renaisi drew the Committee's attention to the recommendations set out in the report, and advised that a further mid-year report would be drafted in October 2020. The Committee was advised that effort would be made to finalise the mid-year report in time for the November Committee meeting.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Renaisi recalled work previously done on two theories of change for CBT, which had been useful in understanding and providing shared language, and advised that this could be employed again during the process for allocating additional Bridge House Estates funding. In response to a question from a Member regarding the staff survey, Renaisi advised that the sample included all respondents to the survey, which was affected by the timing, but that responses received had been detailed and thoughtful.

RESOLVED – That the City Bridge Trust Committee note information on progress towards implementing Bridging Divides to date, including key learning points and recommendations, as presented.

10. **PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered the regular progress report of the CGO and discussed the updates and recommendations provided.

CBT's Response to Covid-19

The CGO advised that this had been a difficult period for organisations and the Committee would benefit from a shared level of understanding of officer engagement. The CGO thanked the Chairman and immediate past Chair for their engagement with officers and contributions to the focussed Covid response. The CGO then reminded the Committee of measures taken since March 2020 such as the pause on new applications and commitment to the London Community Response Fund (LCRF), plus CBT involvement in external groups.

The CGO then gave the Committee an overview of the work of the LCRF since its establishment, having now awarded over £21 million to London-based charities. LCRF had responded to changes in need and emerging needs in the spirit of partnership and collaboration, which had provided real diversity of experience and knowledge. It was hoped the opportunities presented would be capitalised upon going forward. In response to a question from a Member, the CGO advised that the best format for communicating the work of the LCRF to the wider Court was under consideration.

Referencing support for mental health issues, a Member asked how CBT could support organisations that challenged government policy where they felt it created difficulty. Another Member added that frontline organisations had shown real innovation in accelerating to online service delivery and suggested that CBT look at amplifying these innovations to inform other organisations. The CGO thanked Members for raising these points and advised that CBT supported organisations with emphasis and focus by identifying areas of concern and targeting frontline work. The CGO added that CBT were conscious of the widening gap to those without digital skills and resources and the opportunity to build on work servicing this need.

Delegated Authority Thresholds

The CGO advised that the existing arrangements were working effectively and officers sought authority to continue these arrangements until the end of the year, adding that the thresholds would be reviewed in the round ahead of next year.

RESOLVED – That the City Bridge Trust Committee:

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

11. REDESIGNING THE TRUST'S WORK FOR THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS AND BEYOND

The Committee considered a report of the CGO assessing the impact of the Covid-19 health crisis on the work of City Bridge Trust and offering several recommendations for the work of the Trust going forward. The Committee noted the revised version of the report that had been circulated. The CGO

introduced the report and drew Members' to the key points and recommendations.

The Committee discussed the additional resource of £200 million Bridge House Estates funding agreed by the March 2020 Court of Common Council meeting, noting that drawing some of this funding into the 2020-21 grant year had been considered. Members recognised the significant impact of Covid-19, but hoped to retain opportunities for larger, longer-term strategic grant funding. The CGO responded that this was the case, and whilst it was possible there would be some call on the funds to facilitate CBT's ongoing response to Covid-19, a significant balance would remain.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to the revised recommendation to draw funding from the overall Bridging Divides budget for the time being, and suggested that the additional resource be discussed further at the Committee's strategic away half-day. Whilst there may be unique opportunities post-Covid to use the funding, this would require further detail and discussion at that time. A Member added that they were sympathetic to the notion that the additional resources should be reserved, but noted that the unprecedented nature of Covid-19 and unknown nature of the situation going forward had to be taken into account.

RESOLVED – That the City Bridge Trust Committee:

- a) Approve an extension to the pause on funding for new grantee projects until the last quarter of 2020-21, asking officers to present plans for funding programmes at your Committee on 28th January 2021;
- b) Approve a further £15M allocation from the 'Bridging Divides' agreed 5-year (2018-2023) budget for expenditure in this financial year (2020-21); and,
- c) Approve £50,000 from the central risk budget for work on the interim Bridging Divides review.

12. FINANCIAL UPDATE OF CBT IN RESPECT OF 1 APRIL 2020 TO 31 JULY 2020

The Committee received a report of the CGO and the Chamberlain providing a financial update of CBT's activities for the first four months of the 2020/21 financial year to 31st July 2020.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13. GRANTS BUDGET AND APPLICATIONS TODAY

The Committee received a report of the CGO summarising grant applications recommended for decision at the meeting, and those that had been considered since the last meeting under schemes of delegation.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

14. GRANTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSESSMENTS

a) Grants of over £250,000 for Approval

The Committee considered a report of the CGO advising Members of funds recommended for approval for amounts of £250,000 or above. The CGO introduced the applications to Members and outlined the proposals.

The CGO advised that the applications for Inclusion London and Consortium LGBT+ had similarities in that they targeted a similar level of work, within the disability and LGBT+ sectors respectively. Organisations within these sectors were generally small, with low income thresholds and both projects proposed to develop those sectors by providing hands-on support to organisations within their memberships and undertaking important analysis of the sectors particularly with regards to the impact of Covid-19. Learning from their connection with organisations would also be used to try and influence policy.

In response to a question from a Member, the CGO advised the Committee that safeguarding against overreliance on one funder formed part of the application assessment process, with it being CBT policy that any grant funding could not represent more than 50% of an organisation's income. Officers also worked closely with organisations and maintained a hands-on ongoing relationship with mutual support and benefit. This connection helped to address and alleviate any possible concerns.

The CGO then introduced the Change, Grow, Live application, which had been received prior to the Covid-19 outbreak. The current restrictions had affected the project and the organisation had adapted to provide remote provision. The organisation supported women in prison and their families. The proposal had been fine-tuned to focus on short-term custodial sentences both in prison and in the community setting after release, and to work with volunteers to ensure ongoing community links become embedded.

In response to a question from a Member, the CGO explained the rationale behind focussing on short-term sentences as opposed to longer-term in this particular application as CBT criteria better suited a focus on those leaving prison and in the community. The CGO added that this work also focussed on reducing recidivism and the disruptive cycle for all members of affected families.

RESOLVED – That the City Bridge Trust Committee receive the report and approve the recommended amounts for the following applications:

1. Inclusion London

APPROVED £336,110 over 5 years (£76,570; £75,590; £77,140; £70,130; £36,680) for the salary of a Business Director and associated development and training activities, plus a contribution to staff capacity for shaping programme activities.

2. Change, Grow, Live

APPROVED £321,800 over 5 years (£62,500, £62,800, £64,600, £65,700, £66,200) to cover the salary of a f/t volunteer coordinator and all associated costs to provide support to mothers receiving short term custodial sentences maintain contact with their families.

3. Consortium LGBT+

APPROVED £290,000 over three years (£90,000; £100,000; £100,000) to research and meet the needs of the LGBT+ sector in London during and post the Covid-19 pandemic. The work will be delivered in partnership with HERO and will ensure specific support is provided to the Transgender sector.

b) **Funds Ordinarily Approved under Delegated Authority**

The Committee considered a report of the CGO advising Members of funds to be approved that would usually be approved under delegated but are presented instead to the Committee in order to be able to confirm the total grants awarded this financial year.

A Member advised that some organisations had reported difficulties in their relationships with Ethical Property Foundation, and asked whether this had come up during the assessment process. The Member also noted the conditions attached to the grant to London Wildlife Trust and asked whether this was due to any particular concern. Another Member asked whether current Covid-19 restrictions would impact the proposals in respect of the Deafinitely Theatre application.

The CGO responded that officers could look into any issues relating to grantees, but were not aware of any feedback from organisations regarding Ethical Property Foundation and undertook to discuss this with the Member. The CGO then advised that the condition attached to the London Wildlife Trust grant recommendation was unusual but had been included due to the change of circumstances arising from Covid-19 in this context. However, officers were confident that the workplan would be fine and did not want to delay the application further.

With regards to Deafinitely Theatre, the CGO advised that the project had been postponed until April 2021 due to Covid-19, and approval of the grant would allow the organisation to start planning how the project could be delivered. Noting the ongoing challenges for live theatre and other creative industries, the CGO added that the security of a five-year grant would be important.

The Deputy Chairman asked whether officers knew how many currently-funded schemes were on pause due to Covid-19, noting that CBT had also offered grantees the ability to reroute funding from specific projects to core costs. The CGO responded that there were very few projects that were completely paused, although many were now being delivered in a different way. This was in no small part to the flexibility afforded by CBT and LCRF grant funding to the sector.

RESOLVED – That the City Bridge Trust Committee receive the report and approve the recommended amounts for the following applications:

1. Abbey Community Centre

APPROVED £250,000 over 5 years (5 x £50,000) to support the salary costs of the Project Coordinator and Community Projects Development Manager and associated project costs to deliver a range of activities for older people in Camden.

2. Anna Freud Centre

APPROVED £250,000 over four years (£63,000; £75,000; £77,000; £35,000) for two 'First Steps' group therapy programmes with women who have experienced repeated removals of children from their care. The costs of the programme to be partly funded by Anna Freud Centre and Pause.

3. Arts For All

APPROVED £50,000 over five years (5 X £10K) for the costs of delivering The Rainbow Club, including a contribution to the Key Worker's salary; volunteer expenses; day trips; materials and charity governance.

4. BeFriend (formerly Volunteer Link Scheme)

APPROVED £130,000 over 5 years (£25,000; £25,500; £26,000; £26,500; £27,000) to contribute to the salary costs of the Befriending Coordinators and associated project costs to deliver a Befriending Service for older people in Ealing.

5. Deafinitely Theatre

APPROVED £200,000 over 5 years (5 x £40,000) to contribute to the costs of the Youth Programme for deaf young people in London.

6. Ethical Property Foundation

APPROVED £150,000 over three years (3 x £50,000) towards staff, associate and running costs to continue to provide a property advice service to benefit London's voluntary and community organisations.

7. Ezra Umarpeh

APPROVED £136,100 over five years (£25,600; £24,400; £24,500; £30,750; £30,850) towards the salary of a Home Equipment Delivery Technician (20 hpw), training, and vehicle operation costs.

8. The Federation of London Youth Clubs

APPROVED

- a) £97,000 towards the costs of a package of support through to January 2022 to organisations funded by the Young Londoners Fund, and
- b) Provision of a fund of £150,000 for individual Awards for organisations achieving the London Youth Quality Mark.

9. Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX)

APPROVED £104,200 over three years (£36,840; £33,260; £34,100) towards salaries of the 0.8 dpw Networks and LEAG Officer and the 2 dpw Training Officer, and associated project costs of a capacity building programme for organisations supporting London communities at risk of labour exploitation, modern slavery and trafficking. The grant includes a contribution to overheads.

10. Highgate Newton Community Centre

APPROVED £74,000 over a further and final two years (£36,700, £37,300) towards the p/t salary of a Project Coordinator and p/t/ salary of a Meals on Wheels Coordinator and a contribution to association freelance sessional staff costs to deliver a wellbeing programme to older vulnerable community members.

11. Limehouse Project Ltd.

APPROVED £117,100 over three years (£37,900; £39,000; £40,200) for the salary of a full time Universal Credit Support Worker and related running costs.

12. London Bubble

APPROVED £51,600 over a further and final two years (£24,400, £27,200) towards the salary of a project coordinator and evaluation lead, freelance artists and associated costs, to deliver creative sessions for older people on Southwark.

13. London Wildlife Trust

APPROVED £216,000 over five years (£42,200; £42,300; £43,000; £43,850; £44,650) for the salary and project costs towards increasing the participation of under-represented groups at Woodberry Wild. Release of the grant is conditional on the organisation providing a satisfactory year one activity plan for its community engagement work.

14. Park Theatre

APPROVED £36,200 over two further and final years (2 x £18,100) for the delivery of accessible performances for disabled audiences, deaf awareness training, and Evac Chair training.

15. Peter Bedford Housing Association

APPROVED £125,700 over 2 years (£61,600, £64,100) for a Creative Industries Enterprise Coordinator p/t (25hrs per week) and associated costs to provide a creative industries programme of activities and opportunities for people with a learning disability to develop life and employability skills.

15. **LONDON COMMUNITY RESPONSE FUND GRANTS APPROVED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY - WAVE 3**

The Committee received a report of the CGO advising Members of funds awarded through the London Community Response Fund (LCRF) under delegated authority for wave 3. The CGO advised that over a thousand grants had now been awarded through the LCRF. The Chairman commented that the report demonstrated the breadth and range of responses to Covid-19 and thanked officers for their work on this.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

16. **TO CONSIDER REPORTS OF THE CGO AS FOLLOWS: -**

a) **Applications Recommended for Rejection**

The Committee considered a report of the CGO outlining a total of 7 grant applications that were recommended for rejection.

RESOLVED – That the Committee reject the grant applications listed in the accompanying schedule.

b) **Funds Approved or Declined under Delegated Authority**

The Committee received a report of the CGO which advised Members of thirty-two expenditure items, totalling £2,689,477, which had been presented for approval under delegated authority to the CGO in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

c) **Withdrawn and Lapsed Applications**

The Committee received a report of the CGO which provided details of five applications which had been withdrawn or had lapsed.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

d) **City Bridge Trust Communications & Events Attended**

The Committee received a report of the CGO providing Members with an update on the communications work of City Bridge Trust.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

17. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising Members of actions taken by the Town Clerk since the last meeting of the Committee, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chair, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a).

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

18. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

In response to a question from a Member regarding the strategic away half-day, the CGO advised that a hybrid format for the meeting was an option if possible, with possible venues under consideration.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

The CGO advised the Committee that the recently released report arising from Lord Lisvane’s governance review contained references to CBT and set out possible future arrangements for the Committee’s functions. However, it was noted that all the recommendations within the report had yet to be discussed and debated by Members, and this would precede any agreement or action.

20. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.	Exempt Paragraphs
20 - 22	3
23 - 24	-

21. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2020 be agreed as an accurate record.

22. **PIPELINE OF PRO-ACTIVE STRATEGIC GRANTS**

The Committee received a report of the CGO.

23. **LEARNING CASE STUDY**

The Committee received a report of the CGO.

24. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

25. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm

Chairman

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