

Committee:	Date:
Establishment Committee	29/10/2020
Subject: City of London Corporation Marathon team grant	Public
Report of:	For Decision
Report author: Tim Harvey, Marathon Team Captain	

### Summary

In March 2016, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that all on-going funding commitments from the Finance Grants Sub-Committee would be transferred to the most appropriate Committee for on-going administration. In this instance the administration of the Marathon team grant payment was transferred to the Establishment Committee.

For all grants that had no set review date, it was requested that the funding commitment be reviewed and reported back no later than December 2016 to the Policy and Resources Committee via its managing Committee.

The annual grant payment made to the Marathon team is currently £3,500. This report requests that Establishment Committee Members review the outcomes of the Marathon team in relation to the annual grant awarded and make a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee as to whether the grant payment should be continued at the same level.

The Establishment Committee recommendations will be passed to the Policy and Resources Committee for final approval of the grant

### Recommendation(s)

- To continue to provide the current level of funding to the Marathon team for a further 3 years, 2021-22 to 2023-24 and for a follow up review to take place after three years.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. In March 2016, the Policy and Resources Committee received a report on the Effectiveness of Grants review.
2. Following the principle of committees having responsibility for grants relating to areas within their remit, it was agreed that the existing Finance Grants Subcommittee (FGSC) funding commitments be reallocated (as the terms of

reference of the FGSC no longer allowed the issue or management of grant payments).

3. In the report submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee, a review process for each of the activities was built-in. The Committee agreed that all activities with no set review date must be reviewed by December 2016 by Its managing committee and the outcomes reported back to the Policy and Resources Committee no later than December 2016.
4. The administration of the City of London Corporation grant was transferred to the Establishment Committee. No changes are proposed to the Officers currently responsible for administration, management and reporting in respect of the Marathon team.

### Current Position

5. The 23-Mile Running club was first established to prepare a team of City of London Corporation (CoLC) marathon runners for the first London Marathon on 29 March 1981. The running club has submitted a team to every London Marathon since this date.
6. The running club currently has 50 members, all of whom pay an annual membership fee of £40. The income generated through membership is used to affiliate the running club with English Athletics. This affiliation formally allows running club members to enter competitions such as the Virgin Money London Marathon and provides the required insurance cover for all participating members.
7. All marathon participants are responsible for their own £35 marathon registration fee and the raising of charity sponsorship money.
8. In terms of in-kind contributions, COLC Officers undertake the following activities in their own time:
  - Annual management of the affiliation with English Athletics and insurance for all members.
  - Scheduling of training runs and bi-annual team meetings.
  - Kit purchase and its distribution to running club members.
  - Team selection and formal registration with the Virgin Money London Marathon.
  - Development and management of the 'Just Giving' sponsorship website and the hardcopy sponsorship form.
  - Liaison with the Public Relations department to highlight the success of the marathon team, generate publicity and attend an annual photo call with the Lord Mayor.

- Approximately 80 volunteers are sourced annually from within the CoLC and through running club friends and family to man the Marathon water station. For many years this was outside the Dowgate Fire station that is along the route past mile marker 23. In 2019 following a reorganisation of the stations the City manned a dual station serving miles 14 and 22.

### Current grant expenditure

9. The marathon team currently receives an annual payment of £3,500 from City's Cash (previously issued through Finance Grants Sub-Committee).
10. On an annual basis the following items are purchased by the running club to support their Marathon entrants:

Details	Annual cost
46 high quality hi-vis running jackets for training purposes.	£1,600
60 running tops for the day of the marathon event.	£1,000
25 pairs of gloves.	£300
20 Running vests.	£200
25 Beanies	£300
Delivery charges.	£100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,500</b>

\*Items branded with the City of London Corporation crest.

Note: 60 kits are purchased, and 60 runners will commence training, however, through the course of the year injury and the limited availability of marathon places will determine the final number of marathon participants.

### Marathon team outcomes

11. In 2019, the CoLC Sports Development department allocated 28 marathon places to the 23-Mile Running Club; however, on occasion's additional marathon places do become available through other sources (e.g. — Under the international running places quota and the private ballot entries scheme).
12. In 2019, a total of 23 runners from the CoLC Marathon team participated and successfully completed the course. The fastest staff time was produced by Andrew Cotton in 3.12 hrs from City Surveyors Department and the fastest woman was 3.40 hrs from Emma Lloyd from Town Clerks.

13. In 2019, a total of £15,000 was raised in sponsorship for the Lord Mayor's appeal fund.
14. Places had been allocated for the 2020 Marathon which should have been held in April 2020. Unfortunately, on the day of the Team photo with the Lord Mayor it was announced that due to Covid-19 the Marathon would be postponed until October 2020. Subsequently the format of the event has been changed with no mass participation event.. However, some of the runners will be taking part in the virtual Marathon and other events. There is also a plan to hold a run in the City of London during the year if possible.
15. The next London Marathon is now due to be run in October 2021 with another held in April 2022 and the City will enter teams for both events.
16. An informal 'twinning' relationship with Port Elizabeth, South Africa, was established with the Marathon team over 20 years ago, when the then CoLC Lord Mayor received the Mayor of Port Elizabeth. Every year Marathon places are offered to runners from Port Elizabeth local authority in order to maintain the relationship. In February 2020 two runners from the Marathon Team competed in the Surfers Marathon in Port Elizabeth.
17. Should the funding for the Marathon team be reduced;
  - The quality of the kit provided to the marathon team would be reduced.
  - The training kits would not be branded with the CoLC crest.
  - Fewer volunteers for the water station would be recruited.
  - Less sponsorship money would be raised for charity.
18. Should funding for the Marathon team be withdrawn, the running club would cease to operate as currently it only exists to train its members for the Marathon.

### Strategic links

19. The aims of the Marathon team align closely with the objectives of CityWell, the CoLC's employee health and wellbeing strategy. This strategy aims to establish a resilient health and wellbeing programme focusing on; Mental Health, Physical Activity and Social Wellbeing.

### Background Papers

- Policy and Resources Committee, March 2016, 'Implementation of Grants Review'

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