

Committee	Dated:
City Bridge Trust (CBT)	28th January 2021
Subject: Chief Grants Officer's (CGO) Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Chief Grants Officer and Director of CBT (CGO)	For Information
Report author: Chief Grants Officer and Director of CBT (CGO)	

Summary

This is a regular report by the CGO. You are asked within this report to note updates on the following:

- a) Taking Bridging Divides Off Pause
- b) Interim Review of Bridging Divides
- c) Race Action plan update
- d) The Cornerstone Fund
- e) Planned retirement of CBT's Deputy Director

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the report.

Main report

Your speaker today is Rozzy Amos – Director, South of England at The Prince's Trust (PT). Your 10-year strategic partnership with the PT is almost at the end of its sixth year and Rozzy will speak to your Committee today on the work that the PT has undertaken in London since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as provide a brief outline of future plans.

Taking Bridging Divides Off Pause

1. Grant applications for new projects were paused in May 2020 across most of the Trust's programmes, allowing the team to focus on the London Community Response, pan-London transition and recovery planning, and the

pipeline of applications received before the Covid-19 health crisis. In November 2020 CBT Officers embarked on a piece of work to examine which pre-pandemic Bridging Divides programmes could be re-opened in January 2021. This involved work across the whole team, examining each funding strand to see if there was a case for restarting funding. This work proved to be extremely useful and will form a key input to the Interim Strategic Review of Bridging Divides which is taking place in the first quarter of 2021.

2. Given the scale of need in London, it is possible to make a case to take most of the Bridging Divides funding strands off pause at the start of 2021, but the staff team believe this would be premature, especially when programmes may be redesigned more fundamentally following the Interim Strategic Review. Additionally, the pandemic and Black Lives Matter have both highlighted issues which CBT's future practice should reflect, such as the role of core funding and equity so that groups and organisations led by or working with particularly disadvantaged or marginalised communities can have improved access to funding opportunities.
3. The group concluded that re-opening some programmes in January, potentially for a short window, would cause confusion in the sector and could also run this risk of CBT being overwhelmed by applications, at a time when staff are stretched. Instead, work to address what sort of funder CBT is, and what it funds should fall to the Interim Review of Bridging Divides and emerge from that process.
4. To ensure that support remains available, we will contribute £4m to Wave 5 of the London Community Response Fund, and £1m as aligned funding (which entails CBT directly awarding grants to organisations identified from within CBT's current grants portfolio). This has the benefit of releasing money to the sector at a level roughly equivalent to one quarter of grant spending (in 'normal' times) and space to allow further consideration of the Working Groups' outputs through the Interim Bridging Divides Strategic Review.
5. Proposals to support Wave 5 of the LCRF were shared with Members of this Committee on 12th January for comment ahead of submission to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair for approval ahead of the launch of Wave 5 on January 14th 2021.

Interim Review of Bridging Divides

6. Following on from your September 2020 Committee when you agreed a framework for the interim review of your Bridging Divides, your officer, Kate Moralee, has been appointed to lead the review until 31st March 2021, following an internal recruitment process.
7. Kate is undertaking the following:
 - a. Desk research, making use of both internal and external resources and materials;
 - b. Identifying any gaps there might be in research and commissioning accordingly;

- c. Consulting with internal and external stakeholders, including CBT Committee members;
 - d. Convening the internal staff working group (building on the previous working groups outlined in paragraph 4);
 - e. Overseeing a piece of work that Rocket Science is undertaking for us which is pulling together the various learning that we have from a number of strands of work, including Renaisi's overarching work on Bridging Divides, as well as Collaborate's work on the Cornerstone Fund; Renaisi's work on LocalMotion, and Rocket Science's own work on the Bridge Programme (the subject of a separate report in today's papers) and London's Giving. Rocket Science are also looking at other work underway at present, such as London Funder's evaluation of the London Community Response and IVAR's work on capturing and distilling learning from the funding community's response to the Corona Pandemic.
8. Kate will bring a paper to your March Committee outlining options for where we might best focus over the coming months. However, we remain in a period of considerable uncertainty which will make forward planning extremely challenging.

Race Action Plan update

- 9. Following the CBT committee meetings in September and November 2020 as well as the Board half day Awayday in October, Dinah Cox OBE has continued to support CBT's team and Members in the development and delivery of the agreed actions to tackle racial injustice.
- 10. Work completed to-date includes the setting up of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Working Group, which is also linked to your PACIER values work, and the strategic grant awarded to the new Baobab Foundation for their research and development phase.
- 11. Work will continue in liaison with the CoLC, Diversity and Engagement Lead Officer and BHE to ensure both synergy and challenge deliver appropriate outcomes.

The Cornerstone Fund

- 12. Following the consultation event that was held on November 5th 2020, a meeting was held on 8th January 2021 for both the existing funders who are partnering with us on this initiative and for potential new funder collaborators. Round 2 of the fund will launch no later than 8th February 2021, if not before. The purpose of the meeting was to agree the criteria for Round 2 and the Deputy Director is currently following up with potential new funders to the fund.

Planned Retirement of CBT's Deputy Director

- 13. The Deputy Director of CBT plans to retire from the Trust at the end of May 2021. In the light of various changes that will be taking place with Bridge House Estates and the wider City of London Corporation over the coming

months, there are no immediate plans to recruit to the role. The report, 'Delegated Authority Threshold Review' that can be found elsewhere in your papers today, takes account of this in its proposal to extend delegated authority decision-making powers to the Funding Directors in addition to the Deputy Director.

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