

Committee(s): Finance Grants Oversight and Performance Sub-Committee	Dated: 21/06/2021
Subject: Central Grants Unit – Update Report	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2,3,4,9, 10, 11, 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Managing Director of Bridge House Estate and Chief Charities Officer	For Information
Report author: Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Grants Unit	

Summary

This report provides an update on the work of the Central Grants Unit (CGU) established in late 2016. The CGU administers the City Corporation’s Central Grants Programme (CGP) as well as providing a centre of excellence in charity and grants administration and management with a view to establishing consistency of approach within the City Corporation and to role model best practice in the field of Grant Making. The success of the CGU has led to it taking on the administration of other funding and grants programmes for the City Corporation as charity trustee (Emanuel Hospital) and as local authority (Community Infrastructure Levy Fund).

Recommendations:

- a) To note the CGU progress update report

Main Report

Background

1. The CGU was established in October 2016 to manage the effectiveness of the CGP based on recommendations of the Effectiveness of Grants Service Based Review (SBR) 2014/15.
2. The CGU is co-located with the City Bridge Trust (CBT) team in the Town Clerk’s Department in order to facilitate consistency of approach and harmonise service standards across grant-making activities by the City Corporation (in its various capacities, including as trustee of a number of

charities which form part of the CGP). A full report on the activities of the CGP over the last year is part of this Agenda.

3. 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.
4. The CGU supports the ambitions of the 'role-modelling' pillar of the Joint Philanthropy Strategy, approved in May 2018, by enabling a more joined up, consistent and ultimately impactful approach to all grant-making taking place across the City of London Corporation.
5. A number of small charities in respect of which the City Corporation is trustee are administered through the CGP in a manner consistent with their charitable objects and governing documents, it being considered in each case to be in the charity's best interests for their most efficient administration and effective application of funds to do so, these matters being kept under review in the normal way. Consistent with the powers of a charity trustee to recover the reasonable costs and expenses of administering their charity, in each case these costs are recovered from each of the charities operating as part of the CGP.
6. As noted above, the CGU was originally set up to manage the effectiveness of the CGP. Due to its success, in May 2019 the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the City Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund be managed by the City CGU. It was agreed that a post be created to manage the programme under the oversight of the Head of the Central Grants Unit (HCGU). Any resources spent on the CIL Neighbourhood Fund by the CGU are met from the 5% administration fee charged to the total CIL.
7. The CGU is co-located within City Bridge Trust (CBT) in order to facilitate consistency of approach and harmonise service standards across all City Corporation Philanthropy, consistent with the 2018 – 2023 Joint Philanthropy Strategy agreed for the City Corporation in its own right and as Trustee of BHE.

Overview of the work of the CGU

8. The CGU has had to continue to adapt to the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. All staff have been working from home throughout the period and continued to deliver grant programmes remotely.
9. The CGU Team has had to continue to respond to the changing landscape and has maintained good relationships with grantees, providing flexibility on projects and giving advice where required.
10. The CGP maintained its existing deadlines to ensure that organisations still had access to support and could still plan projects for the future. Since Members met in January, the CGU has ensured that all the CGP funding

rounds have completed and spent allocated budgets. The CGP Annual Report received by this Committee outlines all the CGP Grant programmes delivered in 2020/21 Financial Year.

11. The CIL Neighbourhood Fund launched on the 1 September 2020. The fund has received a lot of interest and the CGU have regular discussions with organisations looking to apply. A more detailed report is provided in the CIL Neighbourhood Fund Update report on this Agenda.
12. In September 2020 the CGU became directly involved in the Corporate Charity (CC) Review. Part of this work has been supporting the Emanuel Hospital Charity (EH) (206952) to implement new strategic policies and refreshed administration arrangements to support the charity achieving maximum impact from its funds. At the meeting of the Emanuel Hospital Sub-Committee in May 2021 the Alderman approved two strategic grants totalling £442,584 supporting vulnerable older people in London.
13. The Table below outlines the funding that has been overseen by the CGU in year ending March 2021.

12 Month Grant Period April 2020 – March 2021		
CoL Programme	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Central Grants Programme	33	£291,440
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	4	£544,327
International Disaster Fund	6	£125,000
Total	43	£960,767

14. It is anticipated that the amount of grant oversight by the CGU is to increase significantly by March 2022. This is due to the successful imbedding of the CIL Neighbourhood Fund and from the implementation of outcomes of the CC Review.
15. A breakdown of the Management and Re-Charge costs for the CGU in 2020/21 is shown at **Appendix 1**.

Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF)

16. The CILNF Launched on 1st September 2020. Since opening it has attracted a lot of interest and the CGU deals regularly with enquiries about the fund and what it can support. To date 6 grants totalling £623,748 have been awarded, with some more substantial applications in the pipeline. Further detail on this fund is included in the CILNF report on the Agenda in this Committee.

The Corporate Charity Review

17. In 2020 the CGU became directly involved in the CC Review and in implementing outcomes has taken on the grant making and management of EH referred to in paragraph 12. CC Review proposals for the two education

charities¹ that the CGU administers as part of the CGP will be submitted to the Community and Children's Services Committee on 11 June 2021 and the Education Board on 1 July 2021 and, if approved, could release £5.2m in funding to beneficiaries over the next 5 years. The CGU will play a pivotal role in developing policy for and administering the proposed grant programmes with support from the CC Working Group.

18. The Corporate Charities Project Officer has joined the CGU team to support with the development of a 'Centre of Excellence' in grant making, charity management and administration. Further information on this ongoing work is provided later in the agenda.

International Disaster Fund

19. The City Corporation holds a contingency fund of £125,000 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. The HCGU has refined the policy for the IDF which was approved at the January meeting of the Finance Committee. A subsequent donation of £25,000 was approved in March 2021 to City Harvest in support of its Livery Kitchen Initiative and Food distribution service in East London.

20. A breakdown of all IDF Donations dating back to 2021 is provided in **Appendix 2** for information.

General

21. The CGU and the HCGU are now directly responsible to the Philanthropy Director to ensure that the CGU is reflecting the aspirations of the City Corporation's Joint Philanthropy Strategy and role-modelling best practice in grant making across its programmes, advice and support. Ongoing work is planned on how to work collaboratively and in support of other departments to role model best practice.

22. The CGU has been approached to administer other grants (including charitable grants) which are the responsibility of the City Corporation in its various legal capacities, and also to provide grant-making support in respect of grants that do not form part of the CGP. The CGU is seen as a trusted and collaborative team across CoLC.

23. The HCGU continues to be the City Corporation nominated London local authority Grants Officer to attend the London Borough Grants Officer Forum, hosted by London Councils. This is a useful forum to discuss grants funding related issues across London and to get updates from London Funders and

¹ City Educational Trust Fund (290840) and City of London Corporation Combined Education Charity (312836)

London Councils. This has been especially useful for sharing experiences of implementing CIL Neighborhood Funds across London local authorities.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Breakdown of CGU Management Costs 2020/21
- Appendix 2 – IDF Donations 2010 - 2021

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'
- Policy and Resources Committee, April 2021, Philanthropy Strategy Implementation and Plan

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