

Committee(s) Education Board	Dated: 03/12/2021
Subject: City Premium Grant Proposed Allocation Model	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 8 and 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Potentially, subject to a decision of RASC
If so, how much?	Subject to a decision of RASC
What is the source of Funding?	Subject to a decision of RASC
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
Report author(s): Anne Bamford, Strategic Education and Skills Director	

Summary

This report outlines a proposed model for allocation of the City Premium Grant from April 2022 and onwards on an annual basis.

Recommendation(s)

Members of the Education Board are asked to:

- Agree to the proposed changes to the allocation, management and accountability of the City Schools Premium grants.
- Agree moving to a more streamlined online system for project proposals, monitoring, evaluation and for tracking the impact of the projects funded.

Main Report

Background

1. The grant, that is now referred to as the City Premium Grant, was first agreed by Education Board on 24 June 2014. Each Academy was allocated a grant of £150,000 and Redriff Primary £50,000. The grant allocated to each school is to be additional money and should be used to make a difference and add value to the educational offer already provided at the school.
2. In 2017, Education Board approved a proposed budget increase of £1,021K to £2,325K. The majority of this increase (£930K) consisted of increase in 'City Premium Grant' funding to schools on the basis of £250,000 for each full

- secondary school and £100,000 for each full primary school. This increase also reflects the fact that there were to be eight schools in the CoLAT by April 2018.
3. In 2018/19 the Policy and Resources Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services, together with a resolution from the Education Board, concerning the proposed education budget for 2018/19 to include a sum for the academies, what is now referred to as the City Premium Grant.
 4. It was agreed that the grant would increase the impact the Education Board has on school outcomes and therefore on the disadvantaged communities they serve. According to the established procedures, schools must produce a high quality bid for the funds and are required to report via half-termly impact meetings to the Strategic Director Education and Skills and the CEO of the Trust, and annually to the Education Board.
 5. The funding is termed the 'City Premium Grant' and is the key factor in City of London sponsored academies showing the best progress of any academies group in 2015/16. (TES and Sutton Report on Chain effects – 2016)
 6. 'The City Premium Grant' allows our schools to excel beyond the national expected averages. The impact on outcomes is due to the support offered by the City of London Corporation as sponsor through governance, leadership ethos and through the extra resources provided that enable impactful raising achievement interventions.
 7. In 2019, Sir Mike Tomlinson was commissioned by the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board to conduct a review into the City's spend on education provision. The scope was agreed as follows:
 - i) To review grant funding provided by the City of London Corporation for its Family of Schools, consulting the affiliated Working Party, Members, officers, Chairs of Governors and Principals of those schools as necessary;
 - ii) To assess and report on the impact of such funding and how it correlates to the City of London Corporation's strategic priorities;
 - iii) To provide recommendations to the Working Party on the method of City grant funding that will optimise impact for recipient children whilst respecting the City of London Corporation's historical links; and
 - iv) To report to Policy & Resources and the Education Board the recommendations as approved by the Working Party.
 8. A joint Working Party was constituted to consult on the independent review and to approve the final recommendations of the review, for reporting to the Policy & Resources Committee and Education Board. It included Members from the Policy & Resources Committee, Education Board and Finance Committee.
 9. The final Review was submitted to the Education Board in January 2020 and to the Policy & Resources Committee in February 2020. All recommendations were supported, and a number were able to be implemented immediately by the relevant departments (listed later in the report). However, the more

substantive issue within the review concerned the need for a comprehensive policy and funding model to underpin the City Corporation's grant funding of schools.

10. In January 2021, it was recommended that change occurred in the method of funding the Family of Schools to a three-tiered 'donut' model, including consideration on the balance of funding between academies and independent schools.
11. In May 2021, Members considered a joint report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain concerning the City Corporation's funding of education. It was agreed that the Board approve the implications of the need-based funding policy for grant funding to the City of London Academies Trust academies, within the approved budget envelope; and to discuss the overall funding policy in terms of the implications for the Education Strategy 2019-23.
12. The Education Board, in considering the decision at paragraph 4 above, consulted with the Board of Trustees of the City of London Academies Trust, a separate legal entity, to discuss the implications of the grants to the City of London Academies Trust academies in line with the Trust's local strategic plan and charitable objects.

Proposed model

13. The City Premium Grant is an annual grant to City Corporation's sponsored academies and special grants around strategic and partnership projects across the Family of Schools. Decisions on the grant are delegated to the City Corporation's Education Board with operational responsibility owned by the Education Strategy Unit.
14. The Education Board has oversight of three strategies: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills (2019-23). The City Corporation is committed to deliver a tripartite of strategies focused on education and learning. These strategies share a common vision: "To prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional education, cultural and creative learning, and skills which link to the world of work".
15. The City Premium Grant is an annual grant to provide financial support to academies towards programmes and activities which will deliver the aims of the strategies, in particular:
 - Developing pupils' Fusion Skills (e.g. oral communication, collaboration and teamwork, initiative, problem solving, creativity).
 - Improving teaching and learning practices.
 - Driving equality of opportunity by promoting social mobility and good health and wellbeing.
 - Providing opportunities for pupils to experience the world of work.
 - Providing opportunities for pupils to access culture, and for teachers to use culture and creativity as tools in teaching and learning.

16. As a basic principle, the City Premium Grant is to support 'additionality' to the education offer. This means that the City Premium Grant should not be used to fund basic school needs, capital purchases or routine school staffing. For example: building works, computer hardware, software and telephony, staffing, basic stationary such as paper and pens, and school meals cannot be included in a school's bid. Instead, the grant should be used for resources or activities which are 'additional' to those already provided under regular day-to-day circumstances, for example: bespoke projects for targeted groups of pupils, trips and visits, Continued Professional Development (CPD) for teachers, additional staffing for revision sessions, additional arts and cultural provisions, offers to broaden the curriculum, and resources to enrich aspects of the curriculum.

Process for funds distribution

17. From April 2022, the City Premium Grant will be divided in three separate funding streams.

1) City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant

- This is an amount based on the number of pupil premium or equivalent (PP) pupils in each sponsored academy.

- The amount per school is calculated each December based on the census return for the school. Note that this will be calculated on the current year's number of PP and applied to the funding agreed in March each year for the following academic year. So, for example, if the 2021 census showed that School X had 220 PP in December 2021, this figure would be used to calculate the amount that the school will be allocated for the 2022-23 academic year.

- Schools will be informed of their allocation in December and have to present a costed plan for how the money will be used for the next academic year before February. A digital form will be provided for this purpose.

- Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and if so, will approve the release of funds.

- The funds should be in the school's accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year.

2) City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant

- Every December, a single amount will be agreed and released as a competitive partnership grant.

- Across the Family of Schools (including academies, schools and independent schools), collaborations will be encouraged to apply for grants on a digital form.

- All grants need to involve at least two or more schools and can involve all the Family of Schools.

- Bids can look to address particular skills, issues, needs, priorities, subject/s, learning phase/s, projects, staff development goals, youth generated learning, curriculum goals and so on.
 - Bids can be small or up to the full amount of the grant for any given year.
 - We warmly welcome bids developed by teachers or even by students.
 - A panel will judge the bids and make recommendations to Education Board
 - Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and if so, will approve the release of funds.
 - Depending on the nature of the bid, the funds should be in CoLAT's or the schools' accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year, based on the proportion indicated per school in the bid proposal.
- 3) **City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant**
- Every December, a single amount will be agreed and released as a strategic grant.
 - The strategic grant will be linked to a core general priority identified across all the Family of Schools (including academies, schools and independent schools) and directly linked to the tripartite group of strategies. For example, pupil wellbeing could be identified as a priority, or SEND, or the performance of boys, or environmental education and so on.
 - The strategic priority area will be based on a combination of need identified, the views of the Heads and other forums, and through evidence from the Education Strategy Unit.
 - All grants need to involve at least two or more schools and can involve all the Family of Schools.
- 4) A paper will make recommendations to Education Board.
- 5) Education Board will decide if the proposed plan meets the goals and intended outcomes of the City Premium Grant and of the strategies and if so, will approve the release of funds.
- 6) Depending on the nature of the proposal agreed, the funds may be held centrally to support delivery, released to CoLAT, or to the schools' accounts by May or June before the start of the new academic year, based on the proportion indicated per school in the bid proposal.

Accountability

18. While Academies are responsible for their own financial management, they are subject to public standards of accountability. Therefore, as with all funds, governors hold the accountability function and the responsibility for ensuring

appropriate spend complies with the financial accountability framework and assurance arrangements. Governors have been advised to ensure that the standards as set out in the Financial Management and Governance Self-Assessment (FMGS) are applied.

19. In the intention of reducing bureaucracy and creating a more streamlined model of impact measurement, from April, it is proposed that the bidding system, reporting updates and impact reporting will be moved to a digital system enabling better tracking by the teachers, the schools, and the City of London Academy Trust (CoLAT). It will also enable clearer overall impact reporting and reporting by specific groups of pupils or programmes.
20. The schools will use this system to outline the project to be supported through the grant, their target audience and the educational outcomes expected.
21. The online system will also be used during the project and at the end of the project to monitor, evaluate and track impact of the projects funded.
22. A summary outline of the administration process for the grants is contained in **Appendix One**.

Conclusions and recommendations

23. Members of the Education Board are asked to:
 - Agree to the proposed changes to the allocation, management and accountability of the City Schools Premium grants.
 - Agree moving to a more streamlined online system for project proposals, monitoring, evaluation and for tracking the impact of the projects funded.

Key Data

24. While the overall budget envelope and principles of distribution will remain consistent the specific funds in each area of funding may vary for year to year.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

25. As a basic principle, the City Premium Grant is to support 'additionality' to the education offer. This additionality is targeted to ensuring the schools as organisations of the City of London meet or exceed the City's Corporate and Strategic goals.
26. The accurate measurement of impact and clear reporting enables the City Corporation to monitor the effectiveness of its organisations.

Appendix

Appendix One: City Premium Grant FAQ and Funding Cycle

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