

Committee	Date
Bridge House Estates Grants Committee Bridge House Estates Board	9 March 2022 Delegated
Subject: Alliance Partnerships – Trust for London (19207, 19208)	Public
Which outcomes in the <i>BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045</i> Strategy does this proposal aim to support?	1,3
Which outcomes in CBT's funding strategy, <i>Bridging Divides</i>, does this proposal aim to support?	Reducing inequalities, Every Voice Counts, Progressive, Collaborative, Inclusive, & Representative values.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No (funding allocation from BHE designated grant making fund)
If so, how much?	£3.5m
What is the source of Funding?	<i>Bridging Divides</i> allocation 2021-2022
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the BHE & Charities Finance Team (representing the Chamberlain)?	Yes
Report of: David Farnsworth, Managing Director of BHE	For Decision
Report Authors: Sam Grimmett Batt, Funding Director, Aasha Farah, Funding Manager, James Lee, Programme Manager, CBT.	

Summary

This report requests funding of £3.5m be awarded to Trust for London (TFL) for use toward onward grants and funder plus¹ support within two new funds: a Racial Justice Fund (RJF) [19207] (accounting for £2m of the award) and a Disability Justice Fund (DJF) [19208] (accounting for £1.5m of the award) as an “Alliance Partnership”. Alliance Partnerships utilise BHE funds designated for grant making to advance the mission and vision of the Bridging Divides Strategy and are awarded to established funders towards programmes where the receiving organisation has a specialist knowledge which is additional to CBT’s own, and/ or where the organisation has undertaken significant scoping and evidence review in developing the programme. Recipients of Alliance Partnership awards must also be able to restrict funds for use in work that benefits Londoners only.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Bridge House Estates Grants Committee:

¹ Funder Plus includes capacity building activity such as help with fundraising plans, business plans, or governance support.

1. Endorse a grant of **£3.5m**, as an Alliance Partnership, for onward approval by the Bridge House Estates Board, to Trust for London [charity no: 20529] for onward grantmaking as part of two funds:
 - a. £2m for the Racial Justice Fund which will directly resource Black and minority-led organizations working at the intersections of racial and economic justice to address systemic policies and inequities. The funding is to be restricted to support organisations benefitting Londoners.
 - b. £1.5m for the Disability Justice Fund, providing grants to strengthen the disability movement in London by supporting organisations led by Deaf and Disabled people to grow in effectiveness, power, and influence. The funding is to be restricted to support organisations benefitting Londoners.

A payment schedule will be drawn up, allowing the funds to be paid to TFL in instalments over the course of the grant commitment period and to be received prior to onward grants being committed/paid.

It is recommended that the Bridge House Estates Board:

2. Approve a grant of £3.5m, as an Alliance Partnership, to Trust for London [charity no: 20529] (as per the terms endorsed by the Grants Committee at recommendation 1a and 1b).

Main Report

Background

1. This report seeks support for a recommendation to partner with Trust for London (TFL) on two distinct but related funding initiatives. Each initiative is covered in a separate section of the report for clarity.
2. CBT has engaged in collaborative funding practices for much of its 25-year history – particularly, but not limited to, its support of London’s voluntary and community sector infrastructure. It has widely been agreed across the sector that collaborative funding approaches are required for a thriving civil society and should form a healthy part of the overall funding ecosystem.
3. At the Grants Committee meeting on 6th December 2021, the Committee agreed to earmark up to £15m toward a series of ‘Alliance Partnerships’ which would advance the mission and vision of the Bridging Divides Strategy. It was agreed that Alliance Partnerships could be awarded where:
 - a. The funds will be awarded to established funders, with a track record of delivering grant funding programmes, where the organisation’s primary aim (or primary aim within civil society) is funding;

- b. The funds will be awarded towards grant programmes which are in development, or recently begun, and which have a finite end point (this could include phased initiatives);
 - c. Initiatives to be funded must have involved significant scoping/evidence review work, where the funder has specialist knowledge of the funding theme/priority that is additional to CBT's own reach. Evidence can include expertise by experience, including direct/lived experience; and,
 - d. The organisation receiving funds must be able to adequately restrict funding for onward distribution to work which benefits Londoners.
4. The proposal in this report meets the above criteria and, if approved, would see CBT strengthen its commitment to supporting some of the most disadvantaged Londoners through a partnership that will multiply the impact of the funding we have available.

About TFL

5. TFL is an independent charitable foundation which aims to tackle poverty and inequality in London and its root causes. It was established in 1891 as the City Parochial Foundation and changed its name to TFL in 2010. 2019 was its second year of delivering its five-year funding strategy to tackle poverty and inequality in London. It does this by funding voluntary and community groups (in 2019 it made 128 grants totaling £9.9m), developing strategic initiatives engaging in work on key issues to accelerate change to reduce poverty and inequality, commissioning independent research, supporting social investment, providing support and training to campaigners and sharing knowledge and expertise on London's social issues.
6. Like CBT, TFL has a long history of funding civil society in London and like BHE it is an old organisation. It is a longstanding ally and close partner for many significant initiatives that CBT has supported in London. With a shared geographic focus, both TFL and CBT find alignment in the areas of work we fund and our vision, mission, and commitment to supporting a more sustainable, equitable and inclusive London.
7. TFL would host both initiatives and administer the funds, therefore if the recommendation to contribute is agreed, then the grant would be payable to them. You have, of course, a track record with this type of arrangement and a long collaborative history with TFL – going back to the Fear & Fashion initiative begun in 2006 to the recent partnerships on the Moving on Up and the Strengthening Voices Realising Rights projects (see Appendix one and two). TFL would also coordinate all the processes and stakeholders, including the recruitment and induction of advisors.

TFL – Recent funding history

Funding	Year
£62,000 to TFL - £50,000 for match funding to projects and £12,000 towards the costs of managing, administering, and evaluating the pilot crowdfunding programme.	2016
£100,000 towards the overall costs of the Citizenship and Integration Initiative.	2017
£300,000 towards Phase 2 of the Moving on Up strategic initiative to improve employment outcomes for young black men in London.	2018
£300,000 to establish a joint fund to support the extension and sustainability of Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) in providing access to advice, support, and voice for disabled Londoners.	2018
£400,000 to establish a joint fund for Phase 2 of the Strengthening Voices Realising Rights initiative to support work that tackles some of the root causes of poverty and disadvantage amongst Deaf and Disabled Londoners.	2019
£840,000 to extend the current Moving on Up and the Strengthening Voices Realising Rights projects for an additional two years.	2021
£35,000 towards the access costs of disabled commissioners participating in the Commission on Social Security led by Experts by Experience.	2021

About the Racial Justice Fund (RJF)

8. Evidence has shown that there is a link between race and poverty in the UK. Black, Asian and minority ethnic households are twice as likely to be living in poverty as their white counterparts.² Data on employment, health, housing, criminal justice, wealth, and education outcomes persistently show disparities based on race.
9. These disparities have been further exacerbated by Covid-19, revealing the heightened and lasting impacts on BAME communities. Although there has been progress on improving the outcomes around the aforementioned areas, poverty and inequality still prevail.
10. The RJF is aimed at addressing racial injustice with a specific focus on increasing economic empowerment amongst London's Black and minoritised communities. Increasing the economic empowerment of BAME communities is important in addressing other areas where inequalities exist.

² [Social Metrics Commission: Measuring Poverty, July 2020](#)

11. Research published by Ten Years' Time has found that structural and systemic change occurs once funders, who are uniquely positioned to build relationships and share learning, collaborate with marginalised people³. The RJF seeks to address systemic structures by collaborating with the organisations which are best placed to establish solutions that remedy the social and economic inequities they experience.
12. The fund will directly resource Black and minority-led organisations working at the intersections of racial and economic justice to address systemic policies and inequities. It will also bring new voices, build alliances, and pilot new ideas to address the root causes of poverty and inequity and to contribute to longer-term systemic change. An open application process for funding will be instigated with proposals expected to work towards the following outcomes:
 - a. Increased income and wealth / economic wealth among Black and minoritised communities in London;
 - b. Black and minoritised communities and organisations are better placed to tackle economic injustice;
 - c. Reduced levels of poverty within these communities; and,
 - d. Strengthening organisations ability to campaign and the infrastructure to support that, on policy influencing work on employment, housing, social security, immigration, and shared wealth.
13. The RJF will award core and/or project funding to enable Black and Minoritized-led organisations to advance racial and economic justice. To allow maximum flexibility and to cater to the genuine needs of the applicant organisations there will be no advertised grant amount limits (in common with CBT practice in many of our responsive funding programmes). Similarly, there will be no advertised limit on the length of grants, but it is unlikely that grants of more than 3 years will be awarded. Recommendations for both grant amounts and grant terms will be informed by the assessments of TFL Officers made on a case-by-case basis.
14. Some of the RJF budget will be used to provide “funder plus” style support such as capacity building workshops, income generation training etc.
15. The fund has been developed by a group of staff and trustees at TFL who belong to black and minoritised communities. The same group will assess applications and make final decisions on which grants to agree (via delegated authority from TFL Trustees). TFL intends to involve more people with lived experiences of the issues in decision-making in the future. Racial equity has been an area that CBT and TFL have previously collaborated on. For example, CBT is currently jointly funding the ‘Moving On Up’ initiative, aimed at increasing the employment rates of young black men in

³ [Ten Years' Time report: Racial Justice and Social Transformation: How Funders Can Act, February 2022.](#)

London (**see Appendix one**). The proposal for the RJF has partly been informed by the learnings from the 'Moving On Up' initiative.

RJF - Budget and fundraising

16. TFL trustees have already committed £2m towards this initiative, your agreement to a further £2m will double the potential impact of the fund. TFL will cover the costs of administering the fund. Grants will be committed over a period of three years.

About the Disability Justice Fund (DJF)

17. Disability is both a cause and a consequence of poverty. Nearly half of people in poverty in the UK are disabled or live in a household with a disabled person. Disabled Londoners face inequalities in all spheres of life and continue to struggle for equal access to the built environment, to transport, to as good education as anyone else, and to decent work. London's overall employment rate is 85%, but this stands at 46.5% for disabled people.

18. Issues facing disabled people at the crossroads of overlapping systems of oppression remain largely unaddressed. Covid and its disproportionate impact on the most historically excluded groups of disabled people, such as women, Black people, migrants, and people who identify as LGBTQ+ has made us aware that disability cannot be approached as an isolated single issue or merely from a rights and inclusion perspective.

19. The concept of equity has been central to your previous work with TFL, notably on the 'Strengthening Voices Realising Rights' (SVRR) initiative which CBT co-funded). SVRR is currently funding six Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) over five years to offer social welfare advice and a further 8 DDPOs to undertake policy advocacy work. (**See Appendix Two**). Learning from SVRR is informing the proposals for the DJF.

20. The new DJF aims to be even more ambitious: the concept of 'Disability Justice' asserts an intention to subvert the power dynamics that drive inequities in a manner that recognises that disabled people experience intersecting forms of disadvantage that are frequently multiplied.

21. Taking learning from SVRR, the primary aim of this fund will be to strengthen the disability movement in London by supporting organisations led by Deaf and Disabled people to grow in effectiveness, power, and influence.

22. The fund will seek to achieve this aim by supporting work which strengthens the voices of Deaf and Disabled people in parts of London where these are nonexistent or weak; resourcing the emergence and development of the next generation of Deaf and Disabled leaders; supporting Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations to become

more inclusive, and supporting work programmes that reflect the overlapping and interconnected systems of oppression and disadvantage that Deaf and Disabled people experience.

23. As CBT strives to become a more diverse and representative organisation, it is worth noting that the development of this fund has been led by disabled people: within CBT, within TFL and from across the wider disabled community in London. Organisations such as Inclusion London [registered charity no: 1157376], with whom CBT has a long history of partnership, have been key to the development of this fund.
24. It is anticipated that the DJF will offer a mixture of core and project funding for 12 to 15 organisations over the course of three years.
25. It is proposed that a Grants Advisory Panel be established to allocate the funds and one which encompasses – in addition to representation from the funding bodies – advisors with lived experience of disability, to uphold the spirit of “nothing about us without us”.

DJF - Budget and fundraising

26. TFL trustees have already committed £1.5m towards this initiative. The Grants Committee and BHE Board agreement to commit a further £1.5m will double the potential impact of the fund. Grants would be committed through the fund over the course of three years.
27. TFL has coordinated a meeting of funders interested in this subject. Negotiations are ongoing with other funders to secure further contributions to the DJF and officers would emphasise the value beyond the financial commitment that the involvement of CBT would bring to this endeavor (and indeed the RJF). The proposed initiative aims to deliver a framework which enables diverse stakeholders with different agendas to participate at a level and in a manner that suits their strengths and accommodates their operational limitations.

Financial information

28. As an endowed grant-maker the financial review of TFL, as the grant holder, considers their broader ability to meet their grant-making aims. Audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 show a strong balance sheet with total group funds of £368m. It is TFL’s policy not to maintain any unrestricted reserves as ongoing working capital is available from the endowment under the total return policy adopted.
29. Expenditure in 2021 increased greatly as the Trust added £18.8m to its agreed drawdown from reserves for the year. This allowed it to carry out two special initiatives in response to the pandemic and has been enabled by the strong performance of the endowment. The 2022 budget does not show gains or losses on investments as these are not predicted in advance. However, Trustees are confident enough in the

investment returns to allow for the level of expenditure on grants as forecast. Plans for 2022 do not include additional draw-down on the same scale as in 2021 – expenditure will return to the levels as seen in 2020.

Year end as at 31 December	2020	2021	2022
	Audited Accounts	Budget & Dec Mgt AccsTrust only	Budget - Trust only
	£	£	£
Income	10,283,404	7,373,000	8,217,000
Expenditure	(25,400,891)	(41,557,000)	(24,060,000)
Net surplus/(deficit)	(15,117,487)	(34,184,000)	(15,843,000)
Net gain/losses on investments	36,444,691	25,196,000	-
Other gains/losses	(150,000)	400,000	-
Total surplus/(deficit)	21,177,204	(8,588,000)	(15,843,000)
Total group funds	368,468,272	*	*
Total Trust Funds	363,852,616	355,264,616	339,421,616

* Group figures unavailable for 2021 and 2022

Conclusion

30. CBT's funding collaborations regularly achieve more than the sum of their parts as, amongst other things, they provide opportunities for greater expertise to be harnessed; for learning to be shared; and for the sector to see funders support their work and raise their issues through unity of voice. The RJF and DJF not only meet the mission and vision of CBT well, they also embody CBT's PACIER values⁴, in particular advancing efforts to continue to strengthen our funding in progressive, collaborative, inclusive, and representative ways. This Alliance Partnership creates a multiplying effect, with CBT funding not only benefitting the ultimate onward grant recipients, but also supporting the work of a trusted expert fellow funder and potentially helping to leverage further support.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Moving on Up
- Appendix 2 – Strengthening Voices Realising Rights

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⁴ PACIER = Progressive, Adaptive, Collaborative, Environmentally Responsible, Representative.

Appendix one: Moving on Up

- Moving on Up (MoU) was set up to improve employment outcomes for young black men. This represents an essential area of engagement as young black men experience disproportionately higher unemployment rates than other demographic groups.
- MoU is funded in collaboration by CBT and TFL and with Action for Race Equality representing a strategic partner (previously known as Black Training & Employment Group).
- MoU is delivered through the collective impact partnership model, with partnerships being set up in Brent and Newham. The model brings together voluntary and community agencies working directly with young black men, local authority, employment centers, education providers, and employers. Partners are committed to shared outcomes and a shared monitoring and evaluation process.
- The first phase of MoU (2015-2017) resulted in over 250 young Black men securing employment.
- MoU drives engagement with the Inclusive Employers Toolkit, sponsored and published by the Greater London Authority (GLA).
- MoU has an established group of Ambassadors, young black men who have participated in the programme and contribute to the design and review of MoU.
- Moving on Up won Community Partnership of the Year in the 2021 Employment Related Services Association (ERSA) awards.

Appendix two: Strengthening Voices Realising Rights

Strengthening Voices Realising Rights (SVRR) is an initiative set up to strengthen the capacity of Deaf and Disabled people's organisations (DDPOs) in an effort to progress towards equality for Deaf and Disabled people (DDP)

Direct funding was provided through two strands:

- **Advice:** funding provision of social welfare advice to support individuals in asserting their rights and in obtaining their entitlements.
- **Campaigning:** funding work aimed at ensuring that the collective rights of DDP are protected, promoted, and fulfilled.
- The Advice strand was able to launch successfully in 2018 and through a Grants Advisory Panel (GAP), 7 DDPOs were funded. Inclusion London provided bespoke capacity building and training programme building on a needs analysis when their input commenced. In year two of SVRR, six DDPOs provided welfare advice to 1,122 DDP. Of these, 484 received one-off help, and 638 received casework over assorted social welfare matters. These DDPOs generated £1,521,777.65 of total financial value for their clients.
- The Campaigning strand launched in 2020, GAP members co-designed the programme, took part in shortlisting applications, in assessment interviews and funding decisions.
- The Grant Advisory Panel and members' lived experience of disability supported better decision-making. First-hand experience of the challenges enabled SVRR to identify new opportunities and take more (calculated) risks. The initiative successfully embodied the principle of "*nothing about us without us*", the idea that no policy should be decided, nor service delivered without the direct participation of those affected by that policy or service.