

| <b>Committee</b>   | <b>Date</b>  |
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| Bridge House Estates Grants Committee<br>Bridge House Estates Board  | 9 March 2022<br>Delegated  |
| <b>Subject: Alliance Partnership – United St Saviour’s Charity (ref:19149)</b>   | <b>Public</b>  |
| <b>Which outcomes in the <i>BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045</i> Strategy does this proposal aim to support?</b>            | 1,3  |
| <b>Which outcomes in City Bridge Trust’s funding strategy, <i>Bridging Divides</i>, does this proposal aim to support?</b> | Reducing inequalities, Every Voice Counts, Progressive, Collaborative, Inclusive, & Representative values. |
| <b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>   | No<br>(funding allocation from BHE designated grant making fund)   |
| <b>If so, how much?</b>  | £500,000   |
| <b>What is the source of Funding?</b>  | <i>Bridging Divides</i> allocation 2021-2022.  |
| <b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the BHE &amp; Charities Finance Team (representing the Chamberlain)?</b>       | Yes  |
| <b>Report of:</b> David Farnsworth, Managing Director of BHE   | <b>For Decision</b>  |
| <b>Report Author:</b> Stewart Goshawk, Acting Funding Director   |  |

### Summary

This report requests funding from City Bridge Trust (CBT) of £500,000 towards a partnership with the United St Saviour’s Charity, seeking to support organisations working with disadvantaged communities in the London Borough of Southwark, as part of the Alliance Partnerships initiative. This is part of the programme, making use of CBT funding to enhance the established work of other reputable funders in Greater London, in support of work that meets CBT’s objectives.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Bridge House Estates Grants Committee:

- a) Endorse a grant of **£500,000**, as an Alliance Partnership, for onward approval by the Bridge House Estates Board, to the United St Saviour’s Charity (USSC), registered charity no: 1103731, towards its work supporting disadvantaged communities in London Borough of Southwark.

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 USSC in instalments, enabling payments to be received prior to onward grants being committed/paid.

It is recommended that the Bridge House Estates Board:

- b) Approve a grant of £500,000, as an Alliance Partnership, to the United St Saviour's Charity (registered charity no. 1103731) (as per the terms endorsed by the Grants Committee at recommendation a.)

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. This report seeks the BHE Grants Committee and BHE Board's support for a new Alliance partnership proposal, in partnership with the United St Saviour's Charity.
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.
3. 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. Reports by London Funders<sup>1</sup>, ACF<sup>2</sup>, IVAR<sup>3</sup>, and CBT's own commissioned reports from learning partner Renaisi<sup>4</sup> have consistently recommended that independent funders, such as CBT, with the ability to work collaboratively, should do so as far as possible.

### **United St Saviour's Charity**

4. The United St Saviour's Charity (USSC) (registered charity no: 1103731) is a grant-making charity and almshouse provider in the London Borough of Southwark, with a history dating back to the Middle Ages.
5. As a local endowed charity, USSC has always been recognised for its knowledge and expertise in LB Southwark. Their involvement there for so many years means that they have a deep understanding of the local issues and how these are affected by external circumstances.
6. Over the past two years, USSC has played a critical local role during the pandemic. Establishing the Southwark Community Response Fund, as part of the London

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<sup>1</sup> [London Funders, 2021: London Community Response learning Reports](#)

<sup>2</sup> [ACF, 10 Pillars of Stronger Foundations](#)

<sup>3</sup> IVAR, 2016: [Funder Collaboration: is it worth it?](#)

<sup>4</sup> Various iterations have been included in papers over time, copy of most recent review available on request.

Community Response initiative, they operated a pooled fund of some £0.6m on behalf of local charitable and commercial donors, to ensure that funds were directed efficiently and effectively to where they were most needed.

7. Previously, after the London Bridge terror attack in 2017, USSC was instrumental in the co-ordination of local charitable donations and support for individuals and businesses directly affected. In this work, they liaised closely with the London Emergencies Trust, with which CBT has close links.
8. USSC's other historic activity is as a provider of accommodation, through the ownership and management of 75 almshouses for older people, located around the borough. These are a small but important piece in the overall local housing provision.
9. USSC operates around three priority areas, all of which chime with the themes in CBT's Bridging Divides Strategy:
  - a. Levelling the playing field – interventions for people experiencing social and economic disadvantage.
  - b. Strong, resilient communities – investing in organisations promoting a more inclusive, supportive society.
  - c. Positive Ageing – improving the quality of life and wellbeing of local older people.
10. Over the past eighteen months, USSC has noticed significant rises in demand for support from local people impacted by the pandemic, exacerbating their struggles during the years of austerity.
11. Five areas of particular concern have been highlighted:
  - a. Financial stress – households struggling to pay the bills, with changes to tax and benefits, as well as inflationary pressures, all on top of the pandemic.
  - b. Young people – issues around mental health, education and gangs.
  - c. New migrant communities – lacking severely in social support, badly housed with limited incomes and workplace exploitation.
  - d. Older people – significant impact on physical and mental well-being during lockdown and an identifiable reticence to rejoin society.
  - e. Housing crisis – issues around the supply and quality of housing stock. A noticeable increase in the use of temporary accommodation.
12. Towards the end of 2021, USSC opened its latest round of applications to its regular grant-giving. The outcome was a fourfold increase in the number of funding applications received, reflecting the perceived levels of need, but at a level that a parochial funder of USSC's resources could never hope to meet.
13. Two particular issues emerged, illustrating the difficulties many organisations are facing:

- a. those that had repurposed their services during lockdown e.g., for the provision of food and essentials but which are now looking to revert back to their original core activities but still under pressure to deliver their emergency work; and,
  - b. those that have survived financially this far, but which have exhausted all their internal options for funding, cutting, reshaping etc., earned income and fundraising has yet to recover and grant funding remains elusive from many of the “go-to” funders.
14. To help meet this level of demand, the USSC trustees are providing an additional £200k from their reserves, making a pot of £900k available for distribution.
15. Nevertheless, many requests will go unsupported. There are also conversations being had with organisations on how they can reconfigure their services using fewer resources.
16. A grant of £500k to supplement what USSC is able to release would enable more organisations to be funded for longer periods.
17. In USSC is also highly adept at distributing small grants to smaller organisations, reaching right into the heart of local communities. Additional funding from CBT would help support this critical part of USSC’s work to build sustainable local communities.

### **United St Saviour’s Charity – Funding History**

18. CBT has previously awarded one grant to USSC, as below. This grant does not benefit any of USSC’s own activities – it is acting only as the host for the funding.

| <b>Date</b> | <b>Grant amount</b> | <b>Grant purpose</b>  |
|-------------|---------------------|---|
| Nov 2020    | £261,520            | for the costs of Southwark Giving, the grant representing the final four years of a £326,900 award originally made to Community Southwark |

### **United St Saviour’s Charity – Financial Information**

19. USSC is an endowed charity, with total assets of property and investments worth in excess of £50m (of which their endowment is £39m). These date back to the aggregation of parish funds and other donations from Tudor times.
20. Grants expenditure for 2020/21 was £1.13m. Other expenditure was incurred on the management of the almshouses owned by USSC and on the administration of the charity and its investments. Expenditure for 2021/22 is slightly down across the charity. Despite the pandemic, USSC returned an unrestricted surplus in 2020/21 and is forecast to do so again in 2021/22, reducing expenditure to reflect reduced anticipated income. This has enabled USSC to retain a significant degree of financial stability, exceeding its reserves target of 8 months annual expenditure.

| <b>Year end as at 31st March</b>    | <b>2021</b>       | <b>2022</b>       |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                     | £                 | £                 |
|                                     | Audited accounts  | Forecast          |
| Income                              | 3,045,368         | 2,556,466         |
| Expenditure                         | 2,537,085         | 2,022,325         |
| Net surplus (deficit)               | 508,283           | 534,141           |
| Net gains / (losses) on investments | 1,481,310         | 858,350           |
| Total surplus / (deficit)           | 1,989,593         | 1,392,491         |
| <b>Total funds</b>                  | <b>50,639,329</b> | <b>52,031,820</b> |
| <b>Endowment funds</b>              | <b>38,955,564</b> | <b>39,813,914</b> |
| <b>Restricted funds</b>             | <b>27,289</b>     | <b>0</b>          |
| <b>Unrestricted funds</b>           | <b>11,656,476</b> | <b>12,217,906</b> |
|                                     | <b>50,639,329</b> | <b>52,031,820</b> |

## Consideration as an Alliance Partnership

21. At the last Grants Committee meeting, the Committee agreed that Alliance Partnership funding would be awarded in order to advance the mission and vision of the Bridging Divides Strategy, and usually will not be awarded to augment the “business as usual” day to day operations of other funders. Key features of recommendations for Alliance Partnership funding should include:

- 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. *USSC has a long-established history of grant support in LB Southwark and combines this with the management of its almshouses as its principal activities.*
- 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). *The funding will be used towards meeting current funding needs of local applicants, demonstrated within USSC’s latest grants round.*
- 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. *USSC has deep and specialist*

*knowledge of life in LB Southwark and directs funding into those communities that are most marginalised, many of which would fall outside the scope of CBT funding, whilst still meeting the aims of Bridging Divides.*

- d. The organisation receiving funds must be able to adequately ring-fence funding for onward distribution to work which benefits Londoners. *USSC works specifically in LB Southwark and so fully fits within CBT's area of benefit.*

22. It is therefore clear that USSC fully meet the criteria to receive Alliance Partnership funding.

## **Conclusion**

23. Awarding £500,000 to the United St Saviour's Charity to augment its local grant-making supports CBT's vision for a London where all communities can thrive. It will extend the reach of CBT funding into communities within one of the most deprived of London boroughs, which would not customarily access your funding. The Alliance Fund concept itself speaks to the values of being progressive, adaptive, collaborative, inclusive and representative. Alliance Partnerships represents a unique opportunity to expend uplift funds in a collaborative, collegiate manner facilitating the sustainability of civil society organisations including fellow funders. It demonstrates CBT's commitment to funding work which most meets our mission and values, regardless of whether CBT itself is in the driving seat of delivering the funding. A payment schedule will be agreed in line with grant commitments and payments, allowing USSC to meet immediate needs.

## **Stewart Goshawk**

Acting Funding Director

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