

<b>Committee(s):</b> Finance Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 14 June 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Central Grants Unit – Annual Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	2,3,4,9, 10, 11, 12
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Managing Director of BHE and Chief Charities Officer	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Grants Unit	

### Summary

This annual report provides an update on the work of the Central Grants Unit (CGU). The report includes the outcomes of the four Central Grants Programme (CGP) grant themes delivered in 2021/22 and an overview of additional work overseen by the Unit.

### Recommendations:

- a) To note the Central Grants Unit Annual Report

### Main Report

### Background

1. In March 2018 the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee met and both agreed to support the implementation of the CGP and CGU on a permanent basis from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.
2. The CGU is co-located with the City Bridge Trust (CBT) team within the BHE Institution 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. 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.

- A number of small charities of which the City Corporation is trustee, or where the majority of trustees are appointed through the Corporation, are administered through the CGU 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 CGU.

### Overview of the work of the CGU

- The CGU Team has continued to respond to the disruptions wrought by Covid-19 and has maintained good relationships with grantees, providing flexibility on projects and giving advice where required.
- The CGU has maintained its existing deadlines across all programmes to ensure that organisations still have access to support and could plan projects for the future. The dates for each grant round are stated below:

**Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment** – 11 October 2021

**Inspiring London Through Culture** – 5 November 2021

**Stronger Communities** – Applications received year round

**CIL Neighbourhood Fund** – Applications received year round

- The CGP & CIL Neighbourhood Fund websites has been updated to create a more accessible environment for applicants and improve the user experience.
- The table below outlines the total number of grants and donations awarded from the Central Grants Unit in 2021/21.

12 Month Grant Period April 2020 – March 2021		
Funding Programmes	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Education & Employment	0	0
Inspiring London through Culture	10	£86,313
Enjoying Green Spaces and the Natural Environment	8	£76,300
Stronger Communities	7	£66,009
Combined Relief of Poverty Charity (Stronger Communities)	1	£60,000
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	20	£2,050,344
International Disaster Fund	6	£375,000
Emanuel Hospital Charity	2	£442,584
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>£3,156,550</b>

## Central Grants Programme

9. The CGP has run successful grant programmes this year. The CGU has worked collaboratively with departments across CoLC to ensure that grant opportunities are well publicised. The CGU provides support to applicants throughout the year.
10. Further details of each of the CGP Themes, their performance and the grants awarded, rejected, and withdrawn can be found at **Appendix 1**.

## Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF)

11. The CILNF Launched on 1<sup>st</sup> 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. In May, the neighbourhood portion of the City CIL stood at £5.8 million in available funds.
12. The City CILNF, Members and Officers have worked together to provide £2,050,344 in funding to City communities in 2021/22. A breakdown of all of the grants awarded, rejected and withdrawn can be viewed at **Appendix 2**.
13. A public consultation on the first 18 months of the CIL is currently being undertaken. A paper outlining the proposal from the public consultation is going to the Policy and Resources Committee for decision in July 2022.

## The Corporate Charities (CC) Review

14. In 2020 the CGU became directly involved in the CC Review and in implementing outcomes provides grant making and management support for the Emanuel Hospital charity (EH) (206952). The CGU has supported EH to implement new strategic policies and refresh administration arrangements to support the charity achieving maximum impact from its funds.
15. The CGU has oversight of the CC Review, working in collaboration with the Charity Finance Team and City Solicitors. The project is in its implementation stages. The CGU will be taking on further grant making and management services to City of London Corporate Charities and continue to provide support and advice to departments on Charity matters. This supports the objectives of the Joint Philanthropy strategy in 'role modelling' best practice' in grant making and Charity management.

## International Disaster Fund

16. The City Corporation holds £125,000 within its City's Cash contingency budgets, 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 2021 meeting of the Finance Committee.

17. Five Donations of £25,000 have been awarded in the 2021/22 Financial Year. An additional donation of £250,000 from Finance Committee Contingency was approved in March 2022 to support the Disaster Emergency Committee Ukraine Appeal. A schedule of all donations awarded from the IDF can be found at **Appendix 3**.

### General

18. The CGU is 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 through the development of a Centre for Charitable Excellence to increase collaboration with and support for other departments and ensure role modelling of best practice in philanthropy and charitable activity.

19. The Head of the CGU remains the City Corporation nominated London local authority Grants Officer to attend the London Borough Grants Officer Forum, hosted by London Councils.

### **Conclusion**

20. Although operating in a changing environment, the CGU has continued to provide support to communities to access funding for an increasing range of projects, supporting green space management, cultural activity, community development and capital infrastructure. The CGP continues to role-model best practice in grant making and works collaboratively across CoLC to ensure the grants awarded make the maximum impact.

**Appendix 1** – Overview of GGP & Approved, Rejected and Withdrawn Grants 2021/22

**Appendix 2** – CIL Neighbourhood Fund – Approved, Rejected and Withdrawn Grants 2021/22

**Appendix 3** – Schedule of donations made from the IDF in 2021/22

### **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'

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