

Committee(s): Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee	Dated: 16/07/2022
Subject: Central Grants Unit – Annual 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?	N/A
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 BHE and Chief Charities Officer	For Information
Report author: 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. The report also pays specific attention to the Inspiring London through Culture theme of the CGP and highlights other cultural grants awarded in the 2021/22 financial year.

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 1st 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.

4. 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

5. 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.
6. 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

7. The CGP & CIL Neighbourhood Fund websites has been updated to create a more accessible environment for applicants and improve the user experience.
8. 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
Total	54	£3,156,550

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 the other CGP Themes, their performance and the grants awarded, rejected, and withdrawn can be found at **Appendix 1**.

Inspiring London through Culture

11. The *Inspiring London Through Culture* grant assessment panel met on 2 February 2022 comprising City Corporation officers, the Cultural and Visitor Development Director (chair), your Chair and Deputy Chairman and external assessors. Panel members unable to attend were invited to send comments which were then considered as part of the assessment process at the meeting.
12. For this *Inspiring London through Culture* funding application round, the CGU received 18 applications totalling £166,218. This was another popular round and likely reflects the financial hardship faced by many City cultural and creative sector operatives.
13. One of the three City's Cash Grants Programmes, the Inspiring London through Culture programme, remains one of the most in demand themes under the Central Grants Programme. The panel had used their expertise to prioritise decisions this year as the programme was heavily over-subscribed.
14. The budget for *Inspiring London through Culture* was £76,600 for 2021/22. At the February grant panel, a total of £86,313 grants were approved. The programme benefitted from an underspend in the *Stronger Communities* programme to provide an additional grant to support City of London Communities.

Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF)

15. 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. In May, the neighbourhood portion of the City CIL stood at £5.8 million in available funds.
16. 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**.

17. It should be noted by the Committee that 9 projects totalling £900,139 that were supported through the City CILNF in 2021/22 had a culture or heritage focus.

The Corporate Charities (CC) Review

18. 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.
19. 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.

General

20. 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.

Conclusion

21. 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. A considerable amount of funding has been awarded to Culture and Heritage Projects in the financial year 2021/22.

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

Appendix 2 – CIL Neighbourhood Fund – Approved, Rejected and Withdrawn Grants 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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