

<b>Committee:</b> Grants Committee of the Bridge House Estates Board	<b>Date:</b> 26 September 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Alliance Partnerships Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the <i>BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045 Strategy</i> 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.
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b> (£3m allocation recommended from BHE unrestricted income funds – designated fund for grant making)
<b>Report of:</b> David Farnsworth, Managing Director, BHE	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> Sam Grimmett Batt, Funding Director	

### Summary

This report provides an update on the Alliance Partnerships programme of work. It reflects on the success of the programme to date and the quality of the potential collaborative grants pipeline. It concludes with a request of an additional, in principle allocation of a further £3M towards the programme (bringing the grand total allocation to £18m). Grants awarded under the allocation will be subject to the usual assessment (including financial assessment) and delegated authority protocols. There are sufficient funds within the BHE designated fund for grantmaking, and the budgeted spend for 2022/23 and 2023/24, for the proposed additional allocation and any consequential grantmaking.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Grants Committee of the Bridge House Estates Board, in the discharge of functions for the City Corporation as Trustee of Bridge House Estates (charity no. 1035628) and solely in the charity’s best interests:

- i) Agree to allocate, in principle, a further £3m of the designated unrestricted income fund for grant making towards “Alliance Partnerships” which meet the criteria set out in this report (bringing the grand total allocation to £18m).

### Main Report

#### Background

1. It has widely been agreed across the funding 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 with the ability to work collaboratively, should do so as far as possible.

2. In December 2021, the Grants Committee agreed to allocate £15m towards a collaborative initiative to award grants to established fellow funders, primarily for the purpose of onward grantmaking. The onward grants were to be made under defined grant programmes which were well aligned with CBT's own funding strategy.
3. Whilst there was existing precedence for funding in this way in the past, CBT had not previously contributed to the onward grants budgets of other funders at such scale.
4. These "Alliance Partnerships" (originally named "the Alliance Fund", but later renamed) sought to expend some of the identified uplift in funds in a manner which maximised collaborative, leveraging, and catalysing potential, as well as applying lateral thinking to utilise the uplift in the most efficient way possible, reducing the need to temporarily increase staffing.
5. The criteria for Alliance Partnerships are as follows:

"Alliance Partnerships will 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 Funding will 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.
  - 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.
  - d. The organisation receiving funds must be able to adequately ring-fence funding for onward distribution to work which benefits Londoners."
6. Since then, £12.2m has been awarded towards such partnerships (**see Appendix 1**) leaving £2.7m remaining. Additionally, the reports today include a £2m recommendation to Comic Relief. Should this be endorsed by the Grants Committee and approved by the BHE Board, approximately £690k of the original £15m allocation will remain.

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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.

7. During the scoping period, officers investigated a number of different avenues and there are three potential high-quality Alliance Partnerships in the pipeline which could still be brought to fruition – these total a maximum of £3m (**see Appendix 2**). The Grants Committee's agreement is sought to allocate a further £3m towards Alliance Partnerships, increasing the grand total of allocation to £18m, to allow officers to progress these discussions. Each potential partnership recommendation will still be submitted to the Grants Committee for approval or endorsement to the BHE Board following the usual protocols.
8. Through Alliance Partnerships, CBT has modelled a collaborative, generous approach to the wider sector, acknowledging that it does not always need to be leading initiatives, and can sometimes be most facilitative of the needs of Londoners by instead supporting simply with additional or matched funding.
9. Alliance Partnerships have allowed CBT to benefit from proximity to more expert and specialist funders, for example a CBT Funding Manager was able to observe the work of the Rosa assessment panel. Additionally, Rosa amplified a recent CBT recruitment advert, which led directly to an increase in the number of applications from women of colour.

## **Conclusion**

10. Alliance Partnerships have provided a unique opportunity to expend uplift funds in a collaborative, collegiate manner facilitating the sustainability of civil society organisations, including fellow funders. It has demonstrated CBT's commitment to funding work which meets its mission and values, regardless of whether CBT itself is in the driving seat of delivering the funding. Alliance Partnerships to date have provided excellent leveraging opportunities, with multiple other funders (from both the charitable and corporate sectors) also supporting the majority of the programmes supported. The Grants Committee approval of a further £3m towards Alliance Partnerships will allow three further potential awards to be explored, directing funding towards three areas which are less well represented in the programme so far: young people experiencing homelessness (not yet expressly supported), women and girls (one other grant is explicitly focused on women and girls), and human rights (not yet addressed explicitly). This will bring the total number of awards to ten, with a well rounded and diverse range of focus.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Alliance Partnerships summary update
- Appendix 2 – Alliance Partnerships pipeline

## **Sam Grimmitt-Batt**

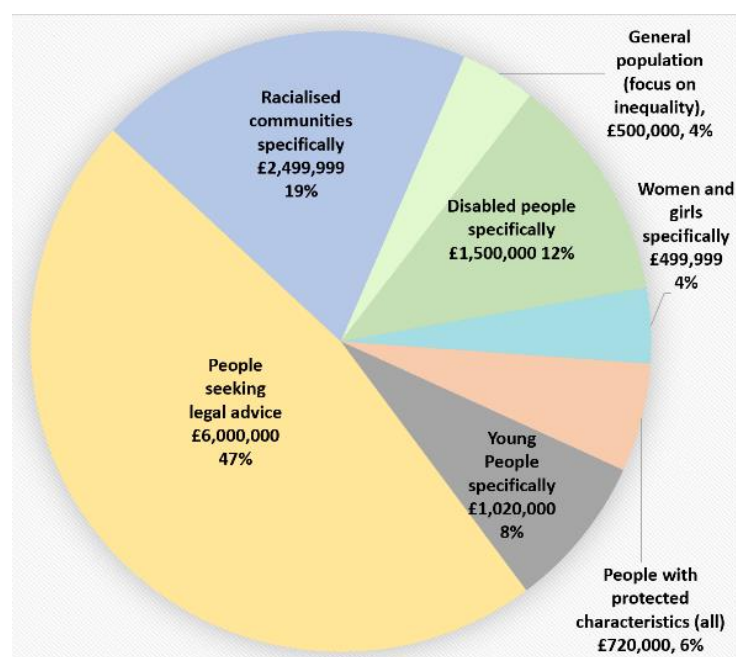
Funding Director

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## Appendix 1: Alliance Partnerships awarded to date, summary, distribution and update

Name	Initiative	Amount
Rosa	Rise Programme	£499,999
Greater London Authority	Civil Society Roots 3	£720,000
John Lyons Charity	Local communities in specific boroughs <sup>5</sup>	£1,020,000
United Saint Saviours Charity	Local Communities in Southwark	£500,000
Trust for London	Racial Justice Fund	£2,000,000
Trust for London	Disability Justice Fund	£1,500,000
London Legal Support Trust	Advice Services Development Fund	£6,000,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£12,239,999</b>
Previously allocated		£15,000,000
Recommended		£2,069,375
Remaining allocation		£690,626

### Distribution of funding (total amount) by communities ultimately supported:



<sup>5</sup> JLC works in Barnet, Brent, Camden, Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea, and the Cities of London and Westminster.

Name	Update
<b>Rosa,</b> £499,999 (Dec 2021)	<p>The Rise Fund offered two-year grants of up to £40,000 to Black and minoritised-led women's and girls' organisations in the UK which have been established for three years or more, and which have an average annual income of less than £100,000 per year. 35 projects were approved by the panel, of which 16 were in London. City Bridge Trust monies were fully spent, with grant award payments made in July 2022. Example of a funded project:</p> <p>CAME Women and Girls Development Organisation is charity in Ealing that is dedicated to improving the safety and livelihood of women and girls, predominantly from Black African backgrounds. It received a £30,000 grant for organisational development, including staff training and strategic development.</p>
<b>Greater London Authority</b> £720,000 (Dec 2021)	<p>Civil Society Roots 3 will distribute £1.1m to organisations led by and for the following named protected characteristic groups impacted by structural inequalities: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Londoners, Disabled Londoners, LGBT+ Londoners, Women and Older Londoners, in 10 'cold-spot' boroughs. Impact grants of up to £50k and development grants of up to £5k will strengthen the roots of 'community-led' civil society by supporting these target groups to strengthen their relationships, networks and collective advocacy voices. 'Frontline' delivery projects are not eligible for this fund.</p> <p>The first round saw £500k distributed to 31 organisations including a £50,000 grant to user-led deaf and disabled organisation Bromley Experts by Experience, which will support the organisation to convene impairment-specific groups to raise collective voice and support local campaigning efforts.</p> <p>In Spring 2023, the second round will see a similar amount distributed.</p>
<b>John Lyons Charity</b> (JLC), £1,020,000 (Feb 2022)	<p>Contribution to the Home-School-Community Recovery Fund, aimed at ensuring organisations working with young people in and across these three settings have the capacity to survive and flourish. Following development work, the onward grantmaking period began on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. JLC is finalising the priorities of the programme and expects that the first grants will be awarded at JLC's next board meeting in November.</p>
<b>United Saint Saviours Charity,</b>	<p>Local grant-making in Southwark directly as a response to increased need following the impact of Covid 19 (this programme received double the number of applications compared to the previous round in 2021/22).</p>

<p>£500,000 (2022)</p>	<p>£200,000 has been committed to date in year one. 11 organisations were awarded large grants and 28 received small grants. Additionally, £50,000 has been committed under USS's (invitation only) Strategic Grants Programme. This is part-funding two initiatives to address the costs of living impact for more vulnerable residents in Southwark.</p> <p>Example grant: Step Now a CIC set up by a group of young Black professionals in 2019. The aim of this small but growing enterprise is to educate, mentor and empower the next generation of leaders, providing them with life skills to successfully transition into adulthood, using their own lived experience to deliver and engage relatable interventions. The grant is funding 'Pattern Your Future' - a pathway to employment and career exploration programme, which is followed by a further set of 6-weeks of career coaching sessions.</p>
<p><b>Trust for London</b> (Racial Justice Fund), £2,000,000 (Feb 2022)</p>	<p>Match funding for a dedicated new Racial Justice Fund focused on wealth and income disparities and the clear link between race and poverty in the UK.</p> <p>The Racial Justice Fund will support work which facilitates Black and minoritised communities with access to the power and resources needed to create economic wealth. Grants will be awarded for up to five years and development grants, and flexible funding for core and/or project funding will be available.</p> <p>There are two stages to the application process: Expression of Interest (now closed), followed by shortlisted applicants being directly invited to apply (underway currently).</p>
<p><b>Trust for London</b> (Disability Justice Fund) £1,500,000 (Feb 2022)</p>	<p>Match funding to fund DDPOS (Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations) through a dedicated new fund. By directly resourcing DDPOs, the funding will support these groups to be more effective, powerful, inclusive and sustainable.</p> <p>The fund has been designed in collaboration with Deaf and Disabled activists, and builds on learning from <a href="#">Stronger Voices, Realising Rights (SVRR)</a>, an initiative set up in 2018 (also co-funded by CBT) to support Deaf and Disabled people's rights and inclusion.</p> <p>The fund will support a range of DDPOs including small organisations and those working across intersections of injustice – for example groups for LGBTQ+ Disabled people – to strengthen their collective identity and capacity to mobilise for change.</p> <p>Applications launched on 6<sup>th</sup> July, with a closing date of 3 October 2022.</p>

<b>London Legal Support Trust</b> £6,000,000 (June 2022)	<p>Awarded June 2022, £6m over five years towards onward grant making under the Advice Skills Development Fund (ASDF) (approximately £5.2m of the £6m), and towards the process of co-designing a funding programme, including overall administration costs of both activities (co-design and onward grant making) (approximately £800k of the £5m).</p> <p>Still under development as it will likely be delivered under the Collaborative Action for Recovery Programme.</p> <p>The steering group met recently to agree priorities, and it is hoped that initial applications will launch in October 2022. A CBT officer will sit on the advisory panel (an officer already sits on the steering group).</p>
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## Appendix 2: Alliance Partnerships pipeline

Name	Initiative	Potential amount (up to)
BBC Children in Need	Young People	£1,500,000
Smallwood Trust	Women and girls	£780,640
Baring Foundation	Human Rights	£1,237,711
<b>Total</b>		<b>£3,518,351</b>
Less: Remaining amounts from original £15m allocation		(£690,626)
<b>Maximum additional allocation of designated funds required</b>		<b>£2,827,725</b>