

Committee(s): Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee – For decision	Dated: 01/12/2022
Subject: Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund – Applications for Approval	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
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 the Bridge House Estate	For Decision
Report author: Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Grants Unit	

Summary

The City Corporation adopted a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in 2014. National CIL Regulations require that 15% of CIL receipts be reserved for neighbourhood funding. Local authorities are required to engage with communities on how this neighbourhood funding should be used to support development of the area. Local authorities are required to report annually on the collection and use of CIL funds, identifying separately the amount of funds allocated to neighbourhood funding.

The Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) application process is managed by the City Corporation’s Central Grants Unit (CGU), with officers assessing applications and providing support to Committee in the consideration of larger applications. The administrative cost incurred in operating the City CILNF is recoverable from the 5% of City CIL funds allowed to cover such costs in Regulations.

Members are asked to approve the grants recommended for their consideration at meetings of the CILNF Officer Panel in November 2022. Members are asked to note the grants approved and rejected under delegated authority.

Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

1. To note the approved and rejected grants under delegated authority at a meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in November 2022 (**Appendix 1**).

2. To approve the grant recommended to ‘**New Diorama**’ at a meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in November 2022 (**Appendix 2**).
3. To approve the grant recommended to ‘**The Corporation Church of St Paul in London**’ at a meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in September 2022 (**Appendix 2**).
4. To note the current position of the CILNF with respect to funds available and ongoing reporting.
5. To note the pipeline of grant applications over £50,000 currently under assessment by the CGU. (**Non-Public Appendix 4**)

Main Report

Background

1. Management of the City CILNF process is aligned with the City’s existing grant allocation process, through the Central Grants Unit. The City CILNF Funding Policy is set out at **Appendix 3**.
2. Since the launch of the City CILNF, Members and Officers have worked together to commit £4,674,124 in funding to City communities.

Financial year	Funds committed
2020/21	£544,327
2021/22	£2,050,344
2022/23	£2,079,453

3. The City CILNF has been in operation since September 2020, providing a wide range of funding to support City of London Communities. The Grant programme is open access and available to apply to throughout the year. In July 2022 the outcomes of a community consultation were outlined to the Policy and Resources Committee. The public consultation demonstrated wide support for the way the current programme operated.

Current Position

4. The City CILNF is currently processing an application pipeline of £1,595,007. It is not anticipated that this entire pipeline will be fully funded. All applications over £50,000 that are under assessment by the CGU can be found in the Non-Public Agenda, **Appendix 4**.

Funds committed to date	Funds available	Current pipeline
£4,674,124	£4,603,649	£1,595,007

5. At its meeting in September 2022, the CILNF Officer Panel considered three applications. **Appendix 2** outlines two grants which Members of the Committee are now asked to approve at this meeting.
6. At the meeting of the Sub Committee in October 2022 Members requested more information on how the City CILNF compared to other London Boroughs. Since the meeting the CGU has conducted research on this topic, **Appendix 5** provides an overview of information that is publicly available.
7. From analysis of how other boroughs operate their CILNF funds the City is one of the only boroughs to offer an open access grant programme throughout the year and is also one of the most transparent in its decision-making processes around CILNF.
8. Further analysis has also been done on the City's Current portfolio of grants as it was felt by members at the October meeting of the Sub-Committee that too much funding was going to City Churches. Further analysis of the portfolio is outlined at the bottom of **Appendix 5**. City Churches make up a fifth of the current City CILNF Portfolio, with most projects being designated for access improvements. Culture and Heritage projects make up the most substantial part of the portfolio of grants.
9. The CGU continues to work with officers from the Community and Children Services Department to advertise the CILNF across the City of London. Additional outreach has also taken place with officers from the CGU meeting with ward members and their constituents to provide advice and support on applications.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. Corporate Plan Implications: the CILNF can resource community-led infrastructure improvements across the City and contribute towards meeting the 3 aims of the Corporate Plan 2018-23, particularly Contributing to a Flourishing Society and Shaping an Outstanding Environment.
11. Security Implications: the CILNF fulfils a statutory requirement for the spending of CIL. There are no direct security implications, though future funded projects may bring security benefits.
12. Financial Implications: the CILNF makes use of that proportion of City CIL monies which are required by statute to be used to assist in the delivery of new infrastructure to meet community needs (15% of CIL funds). The costs of management of the grant application process will be met through the 5% of CIL funds set aside by statute to cover CIL administration.
13. Equalities and resourcing implications: the CILNF has been subject to an Equality Analysis Test of Relevance. This has concluded that there are no impacts arising from these proposals for protected groups and that a full Equality Analysis is not required.

14. Philanthropy implications: Projects funded by the CILNF may provide volunteering opportunities which can be offered to Officers via the Corporate Volunteering programme when appropriate.
15. Delivery of the Fund will be through existing staff resources in Departments. Staff resource requirements will be met through allocation of some of the City CIL funds set aside by statute to cover administration costs.

Conclusion

16. Community Infrastructure Levy legislation requires local authorities to reserve between 15% and 25% of CIL receipts for neighbourhood funding. Where there is no recognised parish or town council or neighbourhood forum, the local authority will retain the neighbourhood fund but must spend it on infrastructure which meets community needs. The local authority must consult the community on how these funds will be used.
17. The Neighbourhood Fund application process is managed by the City Corporation's Central Grants Unit, with officers assessing applications and providing support to Committee in the consideration of larger applications. The administrative cost incurred in operating the Fund is recoverable from the 5% of City CIL funds allowed to cover such costs in Regulations.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Applications Approved and Rejected under Delegated Authority
- Appendix 2 – Assessment Pack
- Appendix 3 – CIL Neighbourhood Fund Policy
- Appendix 5 – Analysis of CILNG across London Boroughs

Non-Public

- Appendix 4 – Pipeline of applications over £50,000 to the CILNF

Background Papers

Report to Policy & Resources Committee 02/05/2019: City of London Community Infrastructure Levy – Approval of Neighbourhood Fund

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