

<b>Committee(s):</b> Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee – For decision	<b>Dated:</b> 24/05/2023
<b>Subject:</b> Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund – Applications for Approval	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</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 the Bridge House Estate	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> 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 May 2023. Members also asked to approve for the CILNF to close temporarily to applications over £50,000 while the fund undergoes its annual Public Consultation.

### Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

1. To approve the grant recommended to **ARTBASH** for £75,210 at a meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in May 2023 (**Appendix 1**).

2. To approve the grant recommended to **Department of Community and Children’s Services in collaboration with the Barbican Association** for £449,550 at a meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in May 2022 (**Appendix 1**).
3. To approve the final year of funding of £233,707 to the **Barbican Centre Trust Limited**, as agreed in principle by the Committee at its meeting 10 May 2021 (**Appendix 2**).
4. To note the current position of the CILNF, the need for a public consultation to be carried out on the fund and approve for the temporary closure of the Fund for grants over £50,000.

## 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**. The current funding available for distribution is just over £4.5 Million.
2. Since the launch of the City CILNF, Members and Officers have worked together to commit £5,711,549 in funding to City communities.

Financial year	Funds committed
2020/21	£544,327
2021/22	£2,050,344
2022/23	£3,099,542

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 strong support for the way the current programme operated.

### Current Position

4. Applications to the CILNF are assessed by the CGU Team in conjunction with the BHE and Charity Finance Team. All eligible applications are then presented to the CILNF Officer Panel. This panel is made up of officers from across CoLC to ensure that all decisions and recommendations have a wide range of expert input. The Officer Panel has representatives from the department of Environment, Community and Children Services, Surveyors, HR, Chamberlain’s, Destination City Team and the CGU. All applications over £50,000 are recommended to the Sub-Committee for decision after being assessed and

analysed by the panel. This process has been effective to date in utilising all the assets of the officer team in the making of decisions.

5. At its meeting in May 2023, the CILNF Officer Panel considered two applications, over £50,000 and one below. **Appendix 1** outlines two grants which Members of the Committee are now asked to approve at this meeting and one to note that will be agreed under delegated authority arrangements.
6. When considering the applications from ARTBASH, the officer panel felt the application would not only provide some engaging public art on a unique new aspect of the river, but also commended the community engagement built into the application.
7. The application from the Department of Community and Children's Services in collaboration with the Barbican Association is the first application of its kind where a City of London Department is delivering a project in collaboration with a local resident's organisation, in line with the Funds criteria. The Panel felt this application would very much provide community benefit by creating a space that could be accessed by residents and community organisations from across the City.
8. At the meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee on 29 June 2021 Members approved an initial grant of £191,067 to the Barbican Centre Trust as the first part of a three-year grant of £737,807 to deliver a Creative Communities Programme in the City of London with a requirement that a comprehensive evaluation was received by the Sub-Committee each year before subsequent year 2 and 3 payments were released. This would ensure maximum benefit from the grant with continued Member oversight. The original assessment report can be found at **Appendix 2**.
9. An additional grant of £39,663 was approved under delegated authority in October 2022 to extend the reporting period for the first year of the grant, with this extension reducing the length and funding ask for the final year of the project. Officers from the CGU recently met with the Barbican to discuss the work and were satisfied that it was being delivered on track and continued to make a significant amount of community impact.
10. The funding for year two of this grant is coming to an end in July 2023, once the full year has been completed an evaluation will be provided to the CGU to review. As this is likely to take place over the summer recess, Members of the Sub-Committee are asked to approve the final year grant of £233,707 to the Barbican Centre Trust to ensure there is no break in delivery of the project. The Comprehensive evaluation will be reviewed by the CGU and provided to the Committee for information in September 2023.
11. The CGU is now looking to conduct its annual public consultation on the Neighbourhood Fund. It is proposed that the fund closes to bids of over £50,000 for a 3 Month period while this consultation is carried out, the CGU is seeking Members approval to temporarily close the fund to large applications. In specific circumstances and when an application has significant corporate importance it

may still be possible to submit proposals during this time, these will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A report on the outcome of the review will be reported to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval in September 2023. Applications of less than £50,000 will continue to be accepted allowing the fund to continue to respond to emerging community needs.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Philanthropy implications: Projects funded by the CILNF may provide volunteering opportunities which can be offered to Officers via the Corporate Volunteering programme when appropriate.
17. 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**

18. 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.
19. 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 – Assessment Pack

Appendix 2 – Original Assessment Report – Barbican Centre Trust

Appendix 3 – CIL Neighbourhood Fund Policy

## **Background Papers**

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

### **Jack Joslin**

Head of Central Grants Unit

E: [jack.joslin@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jack.joslin@cityoflondon.gov.uk)