

Committee(s): Policy and Resources Committee	Dated: 16/11/2023
Subject: Policy and Resources Contingency/Discretionary Funds	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	All
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Chamberlain	For Information
Report Author: Geraldine Francis - Chamberlain	

Summary

This report provides the schedule of projects and activities which have received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF), the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund and Committee's Project Reserve for 2023/24 and future years with details of expenditure in 2023/24. The balances remaining for these Funds for 2023/24 and beyond are shown in the Table below.

Fund	2023/24 Balance Remaining after Approved Bids £	2024/25 Balance Remaining after Approved Bids £	2025/26 Balance Remaining after Approved Bids £	2026/27 Balance Remaining after Approved Bids
Policy Initiative Fund	546,226	605,000	955,000	1,180,000
Policy and Resources Contingency	19,720	285,000	300,000	300,000
Policy & Resources Project Reserve	343,000	0	0	0

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and contents of the schedules.

Main Report

Background

1. The purpose of the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF) is to allow the Committee to respond swiftly and effectively with funding for projects and initiatives identified during the year which support the City Corporation's overall aims and objectives.
2. The current process for identifying which items should sit within the PIF are if they fall under the below criteria:
 - Items that relate to a specific initiative i.e. research.
 - Sponsorship/funding for bodies which have initiatives that support the City's overall objectives; and
 - Membership of high-profile national think tanks.
3. To restrict the depletion of funds in future years, a two-year time limit is in place on multiyear PIF bids, with three years being an option by exception. To ensure prioritisation within the multiyear bids, the PIF from the financial year 2019/20 and onwards has £600k of its total budget put aside for multiyear bids with the rest set aside (£600k) for one off allocations, with the option to 'top up' the multiyear allocation from the balance if members agree to do so. This will ensure that there should always be enough in the PIF to fund emerging one-off opportunities as they come up.
4. PIF bids need to include a measurable success/benefits criterion in the report so that the successful bids can then be reviewed to see what the outcomes are and if the works/activities meet the objectives of the PIF. These measures will be used to review PIF bids on a six-monthly basis. This review will aide members in evaluating the effectiveness/benefits of PIF bids supported works/activities which can be taken into consideration when approving similar works/activities in the future.
5. PIF bids must include the category which the Initiative falls within. The current categories are: Events, Promoting The City, Communities, Research and Attracting and Retaining International Organisations.
6. When a PIF bid has been approved there should be a reasonable amount of progress/spend on the works/activities within 18 months of approval which allows for slippage and delays. If there has not been enough spend/activity within this timeframe, members will be asked to approve that the remaining allocation be returned to the Fund where it can be utilised for other works/activities. If the Department requires funding for the same works/activities again at a later date, it is suggested that they re-bid for the funding. If there is a legitimate reason, out of the Department's control, which has caused delays, it is recommended that these are reviewed by Committee as needed.
7. The Committee Contingency Fund is used to fund unforeseen items of expenditure when no specific provision exists within the Policy Committee's budget such as hosting one-off events.

8. The Committee's Project Reserve is a limited reserve which has been established from funds moved from the Projects Sub Committee Contingency Fund as approved in May 2019's Policy and Resources Committee. The initial amount transferred to this reserve totalled £450,000 from the Project Sub Committee, this is not an annual Contingency but a one-off sum. It is suggested that this reserve is used for project type spend.

Current Position

9. Appendices 1 to 3 list committed projects and activities approved by this Committee for the current and future financial years with the remaining balances available for the PIF (Appendix 1), your Committee's Contingency (Appendix 2) and the Policy & Resources Project Reserve (Appendix 3).
10. The balances that are currently available in the Policy Initiatives Fund, Committee Contingency Fund and Committee's Project Reserve for 2023/24 are shown in the Table below. These amounts include uncommitted balances from 2022/23 of £701,000 and £357,159 under PIF and Committee's Contingency respectively, as agreed by your Committee in March 2023. The 2022/23 unspent allocations Departments requested to be carried forward have now been approved and are also included in the figures below.

Fund	2023/24 Opening Balance £	2023/24 Approved Bids £	2023/24 Balance Remaining after 2023/24 Approved Bids £	2023/24 Pending Bids £	2023/24 Balance Remaining after 2023/24 Pending Bids £
Policy Initiative Fund	2,269,012	(1,722,786)	546,226	(49,000)	497,226
Policy and Resources Contingency	778,446	(758,726)	19,720	0	19,720
Policy and Resources Project Reserve	343,000	0	343,000	0	343,000

11. The remaining multiyear allocation is shown in the Table below with details, as shown in Appendix 1, prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Balance remaining of Multiyear PIF allocation	£43,000	£5,000	£355,000	£530,000

12. Committee Members are asked to note Appendices 4 and 5 which provide an update of progress/benefits/outcomes from spend resulting from the PIF (Appendix 4) and Committee Contingency Fund (Appendix 5).

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. Strategic implications – Although each PIF application has to be judged on its merits, it can be assumed that they may be helping towards contributing to a flourishing society, supporting a thriving economy and shaping outstanding environments as per the corporate plan.
14. Financial implications – Each PIF application should be approved on a case by case basis and Departments should look to local budgets first before seeking PIF approval, with PIF requests only being submitted if there is no funding within local budgets available.
15. Resource implications – None
16. Legal implications – None
17. Risk implications – None
18. Equalities implications – None
19. Climate implications – None
20. Security implications – None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – PIF 2023/24 and Future Years
- Appendix 2 – P&R Contingency 2023/24 and Future Years
- Appendix 3 – P&R Project Reserve 2023/24
- Appendix 4 – PIF Progress/Benefits/Outcomes
- Appendix 5 – P&R Contingency Progress/Benefits/Outcomes

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