

Committee(s): Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee – For decision	Dated: 11/03/2024
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 City Bridge Foundation	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 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 CILNF is recoverable from the 5% of City CIL funds allowed to cover such costs in the Regulations.

Members are asked to approve the grants recommended for their consideration at the CILNF Officer Panel meeting in February 2024 and to note the grants approved and rejected under delegated authority.

Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

1. To note the current position of the CILNF with respect to funds available.
2. To approve the grant recommended to **Pollinating London Together** for £270,000 at the meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in February 2024 (**Appendix 1**).
3. To note the approved and rejected grants under delegated authority at a meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in February 2024 (**Appendix 2**).

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 £6,799,543 in funding to City communities. The current balance of the Neighbourhood Fund is £6,138,868.

Financial year	Funds committed
2020/21	£544,327
2021/22	£2,050,344
2022/23	£3,099,542
2023/24	£1,105,330

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.

Current Position

4. Applications to the CILNF are assessed by the CGU Team in conjunction with the 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. At the panel consideration is given to the project outcomes, value for money as well as equality and equity considerations. The Officer Panel has representatives from the department of Environment, Community and Children Services, Libraries, Chamberlain's, City Gardens, EDI, Destination City Team and the Town Clerks. All applications for £100,000 and over 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. The Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum (BGLNF) was ratified in Autumn 2023 since when any proposal specifically taking place within or for those living or working in the Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Area are shared with the BGLNF for comment.
6. At its meeting in February 2024, the CILNF Officer Panel considered six applications. A schedule of the grant decisions that were made under delegated authority are listed at **Appendix 2**.
7. The Officers Panel also considered a proposal from Pollinating London Together and are recommending that members approve a grant of £270,000 across two

years (Year 1 £130,000; Year 2 £140,000) to continue to employ a full-time ecologist and support additional ecology expertise that will support expanded delivery of its ambitious pollinating project in the City. The Panel have been impressed by this project since its inception and have received consistent and detailed impact studies on the work. This funding will allow for the project to continue to thrive over a further two years.

8. Members of the Sub-Committee should note that while a new Policy for the Neighbourhood Fund was agreed by Policy and Resources Committee in December 2023, this application was received when the previous policy was in place. This application and all of the others considered by the Panel in February were assessed against the previous Policy which is included at **Appendix 3**.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. Equalities and resourcing implications: the CIL Neighbourhood Fund and revised policy have been subject to a full Equality Analysis. The Equality Analysis has concluded that there are no adverse impacts arising for equality groups and social mobility. The CGU has developed an Equalities Action Plan outlining the actions it will take to improve the positive equalities impact of the CILNF.

Conclusion

13. 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.
14. 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. Members are asked to approve the recommendations and note the delegated decisions of the CILNF Officer Panel.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Assessment Pack

Appendix 2 – Applications Approved and Rejected under Delegated Authority

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

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