

Committee(s)	Dated:
Resource Allocation Sub-Committee	2 May 2024
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	n/a
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
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: The Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Ben Dunleavy, Governance and Member Services Manager	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk outside of the Committee's meeting schedule, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a).

Background reports for both items are available on request.

Recommendation(s)

That Members note the report.

Main Report

Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund – Applications for Approval

1. At its February 2024 meeting, the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) Officer Panel considered a proposal from Pollinating London Together for a grant of £270,000 across two years (Year 1 £130,000; Year 2 £140,000).
2. Pollinating London Together (PLT) seeks to increase biodiversity and mitigate climate change by raising awareness of pollinators, the challenges facing them and what can be done to reverse their decline. It focuses on three key areas of work: redressing pollinator decline in the City of London by promoting action to improve planting and habitat in the Square Mile; raising environmental awareness of the human benefits of pollinators and improved planting and; informing people of the plight of pollinators and encouraging them to take positive actions at personal, local and national levels. This work is managed at an operational level by two Ecologists, a Project Co-ordination and Intern alongside a team of 40 volunteers.
3. In March 2022, PLT was awarded a two-year CILNF grant to pay for a full-time Ecologist, Project Manager and administration support enabling them to create and map biodiversity corridors across the City of London. In this time and using these funds, PLT has produced a list of recommended pollinator-friendly flora suitable for the Square Mile's needs, launched a website and encouraged the use of pollinator nesting and reproduction boxes. PLT has also assisted in the development of vital biodiversity corridors across the City, alongside the City Corporations' Environmental Resilience Team.
4. The grant was sought to allow PLT to increase the capacity of its ecological science team by continuing to employ their Ecologists, Project Co-ordinator, Administrative Intern, and contract additional seasonal ecology expertise (salaries £102,000/yr), expand project activity and pay for associated administration and communications costs (approx. £25,000/yr). This will support three key strands of work: the enhancement of the three identified City Green Corridors, a Wellbeing Survey and the delivery of an education and information across the City of London Schools and businesses.
5. The City Corporation is currently PLT's main funder and officers advised that CILNF continuation grant reflects good value for money. Over the next two years, PLT's Board will be focusing on the project's longer-term sustainability through diversification of its funding base expanding corporate membership and seeking event sponsorship to build reserves. Officers from Central Grants Unit advised that PLT has a track record of successful grant management and will be in a strong position to seek funding from large charitable foundations. Accordingly, PLT will not be seeking funding from CILNF in 2026/27.
6. At its meeting, the Officer Panel recommended that the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee should approve the grant at its meeting on 11 March 2024. The meeting of the Sub-Committee on 11 March was inquorate, and thus a decision under urgency was sought to allow the funding to be granted.
7. The Town Clerk accordingly approved the grant for £270,00 to Pollinating London under urgency procedures on 13 March.

Transport for London - Local Implementation Plan funded schemes 2024/25

8. Transport for London (TfL) is empowered under Section 159 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 to provide grants to London boroughs and the City of London Corporation for the provision of safe, efficient and economically viable transportation facilities and (or) services to, from or within Greater London. The City Corporation submitted an outline for its 3-year Local Implementation Plan to TfL in 2022, which TfL approved in principle.
9. An Annual Spending Submission was submitted to TfL in November 2023, in line with the indicated annual allocation from TfL for 2024/25. Details of the specific projects and programmes it is proposed should be funded through the allocation are set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Local Implementation Plan – TfL allocations for 2024/25

Project	Summary information	Allocation for 2024/25 from TfL LIP funding £
Strategic Transport programme	Data collection, research and strategic work	50,000
Vision Zero behaviour change	Behaviour change activities including in partnership with the City of London Police	25,000
Healthy Streets minor schemes programme	Programme of smaller scale projects to improve the walking experience, enhance accessibility and reduce road danger (including feasibility investigations and development of the 2024/25 programme).	325,000
Cycle network development	Cycleways network phase 1 Route 2 Aldgate Blackfriars	30,000
Cycle parking	New cycle parking schemes and making temporary cycle parking permanent.	54,000
Cycle training	To deliver cycle training in line with TfL programme	30,000
Total		514,000

10. Approval was also sought to spend any amount of ring-fenced funding allocated for Principal Road Renewal, which had not been confirmed at the time of the meeting.
11. Finally, the report sought approval to grant authorisation to the Executive Director, Environment to allocate any additional funds which TfL make available in the 24/25 financial year, and to reallocate the TfL grant between the approved schemes if required during the 24/25 financial year, up to a maximum of £150,000.
12. The meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee on 11 March 2024 was inquorate, and approval is therefore sought under urgency as the funds allocated by TfL for the Local Implementation Plan transport projects are tied to a financial year, and must be spent during that year. Permission to release the funds was required for the beginning of the financial year 24/25 (1st April) to allow work to commence on projects and set up project budget codes. Waiting for the May RASC meeting risked losing two-three months of the year for work on the projects.

13. Accordingly, the Town Clerk approved the following recommendations under urgency procedures on 13 March:

- a) Approve the allocations up to the maximum set out in Table 1 (£514,000), for financial year 2024/25.
- b) Authorise the Executive Director Environment, in consultation with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Planning & Transportation Committee and of the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee, to allocate any additional funds which are made available by TfL in 2024/25 financial year.
- c) Approve to spend any funds awarded for Principal Road Renewal for the year 2024/25.
- d) Authorise the Executive Director Environment to reallocate the TfL grant between the approved LIP schemes should that be necessary during 2024/25 up to a maximum of £150,000.

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