



Committee: Funding Committee of the City Bridge Foundation Board	Date: 10 June 2024
Subject: CBF Chief Funding Director's Update Report	Public
Report of: Sacha Rose-Smith, CBF Chief Funding Director	For Information

Summary

To support the Funding Committee in the discharge of its duties, this regular report provides an update on key areas of activity to note and agree, where necessary. Specifically, the report provides details on the following: Committee Membership, Social Investments, Collaboration Circle, the LocalMotion and Anchor programmes, Suicide Prevention, philanthropy, Impact & Learning, and recent media coverage.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Funding Committee of the City Bridge Foundation Board, in discharge of functions for the City Corporation as Trustee of City Bridge Foundation and solely in the charity's best interests:

- i) Note the contents of the report.

Main Report

Governance Updates

1. Committee Membership – At its meeting on 16 May 2024, the City Bridge Foundation (CBF) Board, in agreeing to reconstitute the Committee for the ensuing year, also approved the appointment of three new Co-opted Members to the Funding Committee: Karin Woodley, Holly Piper and Cliff Prior, who join the Committee and are welcomed on their first meeting. This follows a successful recruitment exercise seeking specialists in the London Voluntary Sector and in Social Investments.
2. With the ensuing year being pivotal in the development of the charity's next funding policy, the CBF Board has agreed to expand the size of the Committee to 5 Commoners or Aldermen appointed from the Board. Consequently, Deputy James Thomson is also welcomed to the Committee from this meeting.

Funding Updates

3. Social Investments – In addition to the two investment recommendations on today's agenda, the team is working with a range of charities and social enterprises to explore opportunities for affordable housing; accessible sports facilities; and arts studios. CBF's new colleague, Nkechi Adeboye, is now well-established as the contact to support organisations who wish to explore ideas where repayable finance might help deliver impact.
4. CBF has been exploring its potential future role in supporting VCSE resilience through enterprise development. This work, led by Funding Managers Matt



Robinson and Gerard Darby has involved a literature review, engagement with current and past providers, and consultation with infrastructure and front-line charities. The review will provide recommendations for how CBF can both complement existing sector initiatives and support the work of the Future Funding Policy.

5. CBF is working with Trust for London and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation on a pilot model for a London-focused social investment facility, with wraparound support for historically underinvested leaders from global majority communities. This is subject to further due diligence and is referenced in the non-public strategic initiative pipeline.
6. Collaboration Circle – Collaboration Circle is a subsidiary company of London Funders, the cross-sector membership network for funders and investors in London's civil society, with the ambition to create change through a more equitable and collaborative funding system. It has been set up to make it easier to pool money across different geographies and boundaries and enable funders and civil society to share decision making, learn together, and rethink how we achieve change.
7. It is being overseen by a Board of Directors (which includes Sam Grimmett Batt, CBF Funding Director) drawn in equal number from the funding community and civil society organisations focussed on equity and justice.

Bridging Divides Updates

8. LocalMotion – In December 2023 and February 2024, the CBF Funding Committee and CBF Board awarded £5,000,000 towards the delivery of Local Motion over 7 years, 2024 – 2031, as a grant to Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. It is a place-led funding collaboration, working to tackle the causes of deep-rooted structural injustices facing people in towns and cities across the UK by exploring place-based change and ceding power to communities. The grant agreement and memorandum of understanding for all the partners have now been signed.
9. Anchor Programme – The Anchor Programme aims to support equity-led infrastructure organisations by supporting them to deliver systems change by awarding long-term core grants. Since Round One grants were awarded in 2023, Learning Partner the Social Innovation Partnership (TSIP), have ran a series of workshops with the first cohort of funded organisations. Heads of Anchor programme, Clara Espinosa and Khadra Aden, held two webinars for organisations that were not successful in Round One to signpost to other CBF funding programmes.
10. Following feedback from applicants and learnings taken from a period of reflection on Round One, and to ensure a lower rejection rate, the criteria has been narrowed to ensure mainstream second-tier organisations do not apply. Work has also been undertaken to ensure that terminology used to describe the Anchor Programme has been made clearer, with examples of what eligible organisations look like, using case studies to further illustrate types of organisations we are looking to support under the programme. The advisory panel was consulted on the



application process as well as the application form questions prior to launching the second round.

11. The Anchor Programme Round Two web page has been launched and open to applications from 13 May 2024. Two pre-application webinars were held to provide information and guidance on the aims of the programme.
12. The deadline to submit an expression of interest form was Monday 3 June 2024. A group of external stakeholders have been invited to join a shortlisting panel to support officers to decide who will be invited to submit a stage two application form, following the Expression of Interest stage.
13. Suicide Prevention Update – The suicide prevention funding programme has been publicly launched. The application window for ‘Making London More Liveable’ has now closed and applications are under assessment, while the application window for ‘Strategic Partnership Funding’ applications has recently opened. The suicide prevention funding programme continues to trial new ways of working such as offering pre-application calls and the continued involvement of a lived experience advisory group.

Philanthropy Updates

14. At the Policy & Resources Committee on 18 March 2024, the Committee noted the conclusion of the Joint Philanthropy Strategy at the end of March 2024 and the decision of the CBF Board (reached on 28 November 2023) that it was no longer in the best interests of CBF to operate a Joint Philanthropy Strategy beyond the current term given the risk of potential conflicts of interest. The CBF Board’s commitment to ongoing collaboration with the City Corporation on future philanthropic endeavours, when appropriately resourced and in the best interests of the charity, was also noted as was the oversight which the Philanthropy Director would continue to provide by line managing the Head of the Central Grants Unit in order to maximise alignment between the work of that unit and the broader work of CBF.
15. The Policy & Resources Committee further agreed that oversight for volunteering work should move from the Philanthropy Director to the People and Human Resources Department and that volunteering considerations should be built into the relevant parts of the City Corporation’s new People Plan.
16. In agreement with the Chief Funding Director, the Philanthropy Director has transferred any oversight/engagement responsibilities she has had in relation to any CBF-funded relationships to relevant Funding Directors and Funding Managers.

Impact and Learning (I&L)

17. The evaluation of Bridging Divides has now been peer-reviewed, with staff team engagement sessions successfully held on 22nd, 23rd, and 29th May. Additionally, the consultation with young people from the Prince's Trust took place on 20th May, providing valuable insights. Demos’ report on ‘Visioning London 2035’ consultation



and Londoner’s survey is expected in June 2024. CBF Data Analyst Dr Emma Horrigan participated in a panel at the London Funders Festival of Learning on 20th May, discussing data-driven strategy development and associated challenges. A [short film](#) providing context to the consultation process and highlights from the face-to-face event at the Barbican in March is available for viewing. A Members’ consultation breakfast event is planned for September to present and discuss consultation findings.

Finance Updates

18. Update on Financial Position – In the year 2023/24, total grants awarded net of revocations, was £85.64m, against a budget of £101.50m.

The table below shows grant awards under different programmes:

2023/2024 Programmes	Amount Awarded (£m)
Bridging Divides Responsive Grant making	61.01
Bridge programme	0.10
The Prince’s Trust	1.00
London’s Giving	0.97
LocalMotion	5.00
Alliance Partnerships	1.36
Propel	1.41
Anchor programme	14.00
Social investment – Test & Discover	0.79
Total Grants	85.64

Grants awarded were £15.86m below the initial budget due to delays and other issues with anticipated grants commitments across various programmes.

Most of the underspend relates to the Every Voice Counts, Alliance Partnerships (part two), Propel and Social Investment programmes. The Every Voice counts programme and Alliance Partnerships (part two) (originally £5m and £6m respectively) were cancelled due to the development of the Future Funding Direction (FFD). The Propel (originally £12.5m) budget was re-forecasted shortly after the budget was approved, when officers realised that the next round of funding would not launch in the current financial year due to the other collaborators not being in a position yet to begin programme design. The underspend on Social Investment programmes (originally £10m) was due to the work to update CBF’s governance and the delay to the start of the enterprise development review which is expected to complete in July 2024 with recommendations to be included in the future funding policy. Grant spending originally planned for 2023/24 is likely to be deferred to 2024/25.

The approved grants budget for 2024/25 is £80.61m. There were no grants awards in April 2024, as applications were still under assessment. There has been significant interest in the suicide prevention programme with applications open until 31 May 2024.



The table below compares grants budget 2024/25 with grant awards in 2023/24:

2024/2025 Programmes	24/25 Budget (£m)	23/24 Actual (£m)
Bridging Divides Responsive Grant making	46.00	61.01
Bridge programme	0.75	0.10
Propel	6.00	1.41
Anchor programme	13.86	14.00
Social investment	4.00	0.79
Suicide prevention	10.00	-
The Prince's Trust	-	1.00
London's Giving	-	0.97
LocalMotion	-	5.00
Alliance Partnerships	-	1.36
Total Grants	80.61	85.59

Communications Updates

19. Media Coverage – In March and April there were 64 items of CBF media coverage, of which 16 related to funding, 32 related to bridges and the remainder related to the foundation generally. Coverage included reports on the foundation's new £10 million finding programme for suicide prevention projects, which appeared in [UK Fundraising](#), [Civil Society](#) and [Charity Today](#).
20. [Barking & Dagenham Post](#), [This Is Local London](#), [Essex Magazine](#) and [Charity Today](#) reported on 'life saving' mental health support being offered to children at schools in Barking & Dagenham thanks to a £135,980 grant. Meanwhile, there was coverage in [Enfield Dispatch](#), [Charity Today](#) and [London Post](#) on a £112,000 grant to Age UK Enfield for healthy activities for older people in the borough.

Conclusion

21. This report provides a high-level summary of CBF activities since the Funding Committee last met in March 2024. The Funding Committee is asked to note the content of the report. Further information on any of the updates given in this report can be provided to the Funding Committee orally in the meeting or in written format in advance of or as a follow-up to the meeting.

Sacha Rose-Smith

Chief Funding Director

E: Sacha.Rose-Smith@citybridgefoundation.org.uk