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| Committee(s): Education Board | Dated: 17/06/2024 |
| Subject: City Premium Grant 2024/25 Round 1 Applications | Public |
| Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse Engaged Communities • Providing Excellent Services |
| Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending? | N |
| What is the source of Funding? | Education Board |
| Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department? | Y |
| Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services | For Decision |
| Report author: Torri Stewart, Lead Strategy & Impact | |

Summary

This report updates Members with key information relating to the first round of City Premium Grant (CPG) applications for the 2024/25 academic year. Applications for 106 projects have been received and reviewed. Of these projects, 90 were deemed successful, and these projects collectively request £1,503,279 of funding. This represents 68% of the City Premium Grant funding available to the Family of Schools for the 2024/25 academic year.

The report asks Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills Director to distribute awards from the City Premium Grant to fund successful bids.

An outline of the administration process for the City Premium Grant is contained in **Appendix One**. An overview of all proposed projects is available in **Appendix Two**.

Recommendation

1. Members are asked to:

- Delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Director of Education and Skills to distribute Round 1 awards from the City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant, the City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant, and the City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant to the schools.

Main Report

Background

2. The Education Board has oversight of three strategies: Education, Cultural and Creative Learning, and Skills (2019-23). The City Corporation is committed to deliver a tripartite of strategies focused on education and learning. These strategies share a common vision: “To prepare people to flourish in a rapidly changing world through exceptional education, cultural and creative learning, and skills which link to the world of work.”
3. The City Premium Grant is an annual grant that provides financial support to academies and schools within the Family of Schools to deliver programmes and activities which will deliver the aims of the strategies.
4. As a basic principle, the City Premium Grant is provided to support ‘additionality’ to the education offer. This means that the City Premium Grant should not be used to fund basic school needs, capital purchases, school meals or routine school staffing. This was agreed by the Court of Common Council following the Tomlinson Review. Further detail is available in Appendix One.
5. The City Premium Grant is divided into three separate funding streams: **(1) City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant; (2) City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant; (3) City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant.**
6. City Premium Grant supported projects are logged and tracked via an online evaluation and impact measurement platform called ImpactEd. This system allows for better impact data collection than in previous years, and helps project leads across the Family of Schools to outline, monitor, and evaluate the impact of projects by specific groups of pupils and/or programmes.

Current Position

7. In response to teacher feedback, the City Premium Grant 2024/25 Round 1 bidding window was extended from 6 to 8 weeks and ran from March 4th to April 26th 2024. Applications for funding have now been processed and reviewed with the input of an independent third-party observer to ensure neutrality. The Education Strategy Unit reports that:
8. 106 applications were submitted from 16 schools. This amounts to 20 more applications and engagement from 4 more schools when compared to this point in the previous cycle. This increased demand demonstrates the value that schools continue to place on utilising this funding.
9. Of the 106 applications received, 66 requested City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant funding, 21 requested City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant funding and 19 requested City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant funding. Applications across the last two categories represent the creation of 40 proposed project partnerships between schools. At this point in the previous cycle 33 project partnerships had been proposed. This suggests an improved

level of school-led collaboration is taking place between all members of the Family of Schools – a key objective of the City Premium Grant.

10. 90 project applications were deemed successful. These projects account for £1,503,279 of funding. 9 proposed projects were ineligible for consideration as their focus was on standard school activity rather than additionality. 5 of the 106 project applications were returned on the basis that either too little information was provided to accurately assess the proposal, or the projects were being repeated but had not submitted evaluation information from previous years.
11. Collectively, applications marked as successful reference 18,831 learner beneficiaries. This translates to an average of 209 learner beneficiaries per project. Across the 90 projects, the average cost per beneficiary is £333.
12. In response to Member approval at the October 2023 committee meeting £40,000 (split equally across the Partnerships Grant, and the Strategic Grant) will again be committed to support the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) in the provision of a Partnerships Co-Ordinator. This co-ordinator will assist academies with the management of bids and project monitoring.
13. If funding is awarded to all projects marked as successful, the amount of remaining funding available for Round 2 awards is £682,721.

Proposals

14. All Round 1 projects have now been processed and reviewed with the input of an independent third-party observer to ensure neutrality. The Education Strategy Unit (ESU) proposes that funds for projects marked as successful be transferred to the relevant schools as soon as possible to maximise the project preparation time available in advance of the new academic year. (An overview of all proposed projects is available in **Appendix Two**. The colour-key indicates bids being proposed for funding, bids that supplied insufficient information for scoring, and bids which were ineligible).
15. Additionally, in recent months a number of conversations regarding potential improvements to the City Premium Grant's existing guidelines have emerged between stakeholders. Generally these relate to facilitating a smaller number of larger impact bids, alongside a number of more mechanical process learnings. To acknowledge this, and to align with the planned launch of the new education strategy in September 2024, the ESU further proposes that work take place over the summer period to engage key stakeholders and consider improvements to current guidelines and processes.

Conclusion

16. This report has updated Members with key information relating to the first round of City Premium Grant funding applications for 2024/25. It has then asked Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills

Director to distribute awards from the City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant, the City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant; and the City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant, in order to maximise the amount of project preparation time available to schools in advance of the new academic year.

Appendices

Appendix One: City Premium Grant Bid Development Guidance

Appendix Two: City Premium Grant 2024/25 – Round 1 Project Proposals Overview

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