

Committee(s): Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee – For decision	Dated: 11/07/2024
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?	Diverse Engaged Community Vibrant Thriving Destination Flourishing Public Spaces
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 Bridge House Estate	For Decision
Report author: Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Funding and Charity Management Team	

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 Funding & Charity Management Team (CFCMT), 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 of London CIL funds allowed to cover such costs in the Regulations.

Members are asked to make decisions on the CILNF Officer Panel recommendations from their meetings in May and June 2024, to note the grants approved and rejected under delegated authority and to approve the listing of CILNF grants on 360 Giving’s grant database GrantNav.

Recommendations

Members are recommended:

1. To note the current position of the CILNF with respect to funds available.

2. To approve the grant recommended to **London Symphony Orchestra** for £454,642 at the meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in May 2024 (**Appendix 1**).
3. To reject the grant to the **Insurance Museum** for £450,000 as recommended by the CILNF Officer Panel meeting in June 2024 (**Appendix 1**).
4. To note the approved and rejected grants under delegated authority at meetings of the CILNF Officer Panel from February to June 2024 (**Appendix 2**).
5. To approve listing of CILNF grants on 360 Giving's grant database GrantNav.

Main Report

Background

1. Management of the City of London's CILNF process is aligned with the City's existing grant allocation process, through the Central Funding & Charity Management Team (CFCMT). The City of London's CILNF Funding Policy is set out at **Appendix 3**.
2. Since the launch of the City of London's CILNF, Members and Officers have worked together to commit £7,563,572 in funding to City communities. The current balance of the General CILNF and Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Funds is £8,062,791.

Financial year	Funds committed
2020/21	£544,327
2021/22	£1,985,085
2022/23	£3,099,542
2023/24	£1,609,037
2024/25	£325,581

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 CFCMT 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's outcomes, value for money as well as

equality and equity considerations. The Officer Panel has representatives from the Departments 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 towards the making of decisions.

5. The Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum (BGLNF) was ratified in Autumn 2023. When a proposed project takes place within the designated Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Area then the CFCMT share the application with the BGLNF for comment.
6. At its meetings from March to June 2024, the CILNF Officer Panel considered seven applications. A schedule of the five grant decisions that were made under delegated authority for projects working with the City's diversity of communities including support specifically for the City's LGBTQ+ community, the City's care experienced young people and those sleeping rough or homeless in the City is available in **Appendix 2**.
7. The Officers Panel also considered a proposal from the London Symphony Orchestra and are recommending that members approve a grant of £454,642 (£86,129; £368,513) across two years to contribute to a wider £7m capital project to reconfigure LSO St Luke's to upgrade its physical and digital infrastructure enabling it to increase the volume, range and quality of all LSO activity. LSO is a well-regarded organisation, providing significant cultural capital to the City of London through its Barbican residency. It's community outreach work through LSO Discovery is of rich benefit to City communities, providing unique opportunities and advancing music education. This is a 100% capital project and will enable this work to be strengthened, reaching more people, provide an adaptive and inclusive offering and enable community partners further usage of the building. Despite LSO St Luke's being just outside the City of London boundary line, the registered office of LSO is within the City (Barbican Centre). There is also a strong argument of the impact of the work LSO is providing to City communities therefore meeting the CILNF's aims. This application was submitted prior to the revised CILNF policy amendment, and is covered by the previous CILNF policy which states geographical eligibility as – para 16 “...close to the City of London where projects support the development of the City.” A significant proportion of the fundraising for this work has been pledged, with the capital work request supporting the community aspect as well as enhancing the environmental efficiency of the building.
8. The Officers Panel also considered a proposal from the Insurance Museum for £450,000 towards establishing the physical 'Mini Insurance Museum' and are recommending that members reject this request. Despite the Insurance Museum's proposal potentially providing an opportunity to enhance education in relation to the history of insurance, and highlight career paths within the sector, the Panel has concerns about the lack of significant “buy in” from the Insurance sector with only a further £15K raised over the last seven months since the application was first presented to Panel for consideration. CFCMT Officers have

spent a significant amount of time working with the Insurance Museum to ensure there is more buy in from the sector, with subsequent information being presented to Panel in June. Officers do not feel that the project provides good value for money and are also concerned that there is a lack of sector willingness to contribute towards the project. Subject to approval by the Sub-Committee officers will continue to meet with the Insurance Museum and provide feedback, with the aim of a more comprehensive bid being received later down the line. The full assessment report is at Appendix 1.

9. In line with best practice funding and the Institute of Voluntary Action Research's (IVAR) principles for open and trusting grant-making the CFCMT has begun listing Central Grants Programme awards on 360 Giving's GrantNav (Inspiring London Through Culture programme, Stronger Communities programme and Enjoying Green Space and the Natural Environment programme). 360 Giving is a charity that helps organisations to publish open, standardised grants data and supports people to use it to improve charitable giving. 278 funders currently share their data on the GrantNav portal which lists over 1 million individual grants representing £266 billion of investment. GrantNav makes it easy to search, explore and download data about where funding goes and how much is given. 360 Giving add data from the Charity Commission to the charities in its dataset which will help us as a funder understand the size and turnover of the charities we fund. City Bridge Foundation has published its grants on GrantNav for several years and permission to publish CILNF grants alongside Central Grants Programme grants will provide a better picture of the Corporation's grant investment historically across the City of London.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

10. Corporate Plan Implications: the CILNF can resource community-led infrastructure improvements and activity across the City and contribute towards meeting the four aims of the Corporate Plan 2024-29 - Diverse Engaged Communities, Providing Excellent Services, Vibrant Thriving Destination and Flourishing Public Spaces.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Equalities and resourcing implications: the CIL Neighbourhood Fund and revised policy have been subject to a full Equalities Impact Assessment. The Equalities Impact Assessment has concluded that there are no adverse impacts arising for equality groups and social mobility. The CFCMT has developed an Equalities Action Plan outlining the actions it will take to improve the positive equalities impact of the CILNF.

Conclusion

14. 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.
15. The Neighbourhood Fund application process is managed by the City Corporation's Central Funding & Charity Management Team, 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. Members are also asked to approve the recommendation to publish CILNF grants on GrantNav.

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

Sheena Etches

Funding Manager – Central Funding and Charity Management Team

Jack Joslin

Head of Central Funding and Charity Management Team

E: jack.joslin@cityoflondon.gov.uk