

Committee(s): Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee – For decision Policy & Resources Committee – For Decision	Dated: 11/12/2024 12/12/2024
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: Simon Latham, Interim Managing Director of City Bridge Foundation	For Decision
Report author: Sheena Etches, Funding Manager, 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 CILNF Officer Panel recommendations from their meeting in November 2024, to note the grants approved under delegated authority from July to November 2024, to approve the updated Terms of Reference for the CILNF Officer Panel and Resource Allocation Sub-Committee (RASC) and to note the administrative update to the CILNF Policy and findings of the evaluation of the CILNF grant programme to date.

Recommendations

Members are recommended:

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

2. To note the approved grants under delegated authority at meetings of the CILNF Officer Panel from July to November 2024 (**Appendix 1**).
3. To approve the grant recommended to **Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust** for £145,500 at the meeting of the CILNF Officer Panel in November 2024 (**Appendix 2**).
4. To approve the updated Terms of Reference for the CILNF Officers Panel (**Appendix 3**).
5. To note the administrative change made to the CILNF Policy under delegated authority (**Appendix 4**).
6. To approve the updated Terms of Reference for RASC (**Clause 10**).
7. To note the findings of the evaluation of the CILNF grant programme to date (**Appendix 5**).

Subject to the above Members of Policy and Resources are recommended:

1. To note the administrative change made to the CILNF Policy under delegated authority (**Appendix 4**).
2. To approve the updated Terms of Reference for RASC (**Clause 10**).

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 4**.
2. Since the launch of the City of London's CILNF in September 2020, Members and Officers have worked together to commit £8,336,317 in funding to City communities. The balance of the General CILNF and Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Funds as at 13 November 2024 was £8,112,577.

Financial year	Funds committed as at 13.11.24
2020/21	£406,410
2021/22	£1,985,084
2022/23	£3,099,542
2023/24	£1,609,037
2024/25	£1,236,244

Current Position

3. 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 (OP) which is made up of Officers from across CoL 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 OP has representatives from the Departments of Environment, Community and Children Services, Libraries, Chamberlain's, City Gardens, EEDI, 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.
4. 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.
5. At its meetings from July to November 2024, the CILNF OP considered eight applications. A schedule of the 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 older BAME communities, gender inclusion, the City's disabled residents and youth is available in **Appendix 1** for information.
6. The OP also considered a proposal from Maggie Keswick Jencks Cancer Caring Centres Trust (Maggie's) and are recommending that members approve a grant of £145,500 (£71,200; £74,300) for continuation funding to provide the salary of a Cancer Support Specialist to provide expert support for anyone in the City with cancer and those closest to them, through 1:1's, group sessions and workshops across two years. There is no statutory obligation to provide the additional care and support that would be available to City of London residents and workers via the Cancer Support Specialist role, and Maggie's has evidenced the impact that this role can provide. A full assessment report is available at **Appendix 2**.
7. Building on its first year, Maggie's is prioritising new sessions that will enhance the diversity of its visitors, and will continue to facilitate its monthly LGBTQIA+ group, and signpost to financial support. The Cancer Support Specialist (CCS) role includes encouraging where appropriate for people to sign-up for exercise classes and facilitates support post-treatment. Funding for this role was previously approved, but the grant partially revoked when the CILNF supported capital project was postponed due to other building works at Barts. Approval of continuation funding will ensure that the full costs of the CSS role including National Insurance and an inflation salary increase are supported.
8. In line with best practice the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the CILNF OP are reviewed every year. Revisions to the CILNF OP ToR reflect changes in

membership and the change to the level of delegated authority agreed by Policy & Resources Committee on 22 February 2024. The updated CILNF OP ToR are at **Appendix 3** for approval.

9. As a consequence of the P&R Committee's decision on 22 February 2024 to adjust the level of delegated authority to CILNF OP, RASC's ToR also need to be updated accordingly as follows:
'(s) to consider funding bids in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund of over ~~£50,000~~ £100,000;'
10. Members are also asked to note for information an administrative change to the CILNF Policy amended by the Town Clerk via delegated authority, agreed by Policy & Resources Committee on 22 February 2024, as outlined in **Appendix 4**.
11. Additionally Members are asked to note a recent analysis that was conducted by the CFCMT on the Neighbourhood Fund portfolio. The analysis provides an in depth review of current funding and an overview of the significant outreach the team has delivered. Key findings and an analysis of all the CILNF grants awarded to date is included at **Appendix 5** for information. The paper is the first comprehensive analysis of the grants awarded by the CILNF since its launch in 2020. 68 CILNF grants have been awarded over the funding programme's initial 45 months of operation (December 2020 to August 2024 inclusive) - a total of £8,155,330.
12. Grants awarded over this period have ranged in value from £7,885 (St Michael Cornhill) to £774,000 (Barts Heritage). However, the value of the average grant awarded in the first five months of 2024/25 is £87,938 reflecting the work of the CILNF outreach programme to increase the number and broaden the range of applications to the funding programme with a specific focus on supporting community and grassroots organisations. Such applicants tend to have a smaller turnover and often new to grant funding applicants tend to request smaller value and shorter-term initial grants. It is therefore anticipated that moving forwards the average value of CILNF grants will likely remain in the £80-90,000 range. In response to the CILNF outreach work there is a predicted 56% increase in the total number of grants for 2024/25 compared to the previous year. This correlates to the increase in pre-application advice sessions which have more than tripled each month. The outreach programme is still in its infancy and its outputs are not expected to be fully felt until at least April 2025.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

13. **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.

14. **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.
15. **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.
16. **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

17. Community Infrastructure Levy legislation requires local authorities to reserve between 15% and 25% of CIL receipts for neighbourhood funding. The CILNF 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 updated Terms of Reference for both the CILNF Officer Panel and RASC, to note the recent administrative change to the CILNF Policy and to note the key findings of the evaluation of the CILNF grant programme to date.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Applications Approved and Rejected under Delegated Authority July to November 2024
- Appendix 2 – CILNF Assessment Pack
- Appendix 3 – Terms of Reference CILNF Officer Panel – November 2024
- Appendix 4 – CIL Neighbourhood Fund Policy (Nov 2004)
- Appendix 5 – Analysis of CILNF grants – Key Findings (Oct 2024)

Background Papers

- Report to Policy & Resources Committee 02/05/2019: City of London Community Infrastructure Levy – Approval of Neighbourhood Fund
- Report to Policy & Resources Committee 22/02/2024: Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund –Approval of updated Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund Policy

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