

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee	16/01/2025
Subject: Benefits-in-Kind Annual Reporting and an overview of funding for outside bodies for 2023/24	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly insofar as it is in the best interests of each of the charities within scope of the Review to support?	Dynamic Economic Growth Diverse Engaged Communities
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Yes
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	
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 authors: Jack Joslin, Head of the Central Funding and Charity Management	

Summary

The purpose of this report is for Members to receive an annual report of Benefits in Kind (BIK) that have been undertaken by the Central Funding and Charity Management Team (CFCMT), formerly the Central Grants Unit. In addition, a further piece of work has been carried out this year at the request of the Chamberlain to provide details of Departmental and Institutional funding to outside bodies alongside this data. Data has been collected for 2023/24 Financial year in line with BIK data collection. Members are provided this data and analysis for information.

Recommendations

- a) To note the BIK Annual Report
- b) To note the funding to outside bodies
- c) To approve that funding for outside bodies data is collected annually and presented to members alongside BIK reporting

Main Report

Background

1. CoLC's definition of BIK is: Abatement of a full commercial rent; abatement of a fee or charge for services provided; or the provision of goods or services to a third party at either a nil or reduced charge by CoLC. This includes Officer volunteering time and general support and the provision of advice or guidance to

external bodies/charities. The CFCMT collects this data from departments and institutions each year in the spring for Autumn reporting.

2. In September 2024 the Chamberlain requested for further data to be secured from departments and institutions to show what funding arrangements there are in place for outside bodies. To ensure the data is in line with the BIK data it has been collected for financial year 2023/24. For the purpose of this paper and the data collection this does not include commissioned or procured services.

Current Position

3. In 2023/24 the Finance Committee and Resource Allocation Sub-Committee received a report of the CFCMT outlining the outcome of a comprehensive review of BIK. A new BIK policy was agreed at the meeting and will be adopted from f/y 2023/24, the new policy can be found at **Appendix 1**. Since the review, the CFCMT has provided an enhanced service to Departments and Institutions on BIK ensuring there is a better understanding of the policy and its implementation across the organisation.
4. The current data suggests that the City Corporation made 197 BIK with an overall value of £3,512,615 in the 2023/24 Financial Year. While many of the BIK awarded are small, the collective value across all departments is significant. It should also be noted that the amount of BIK awarded has significantly increased from £2,475,128 in financial year 2022/23. This is an increase of more than £1 Million. Which is a total increase in BIK reporting of £1.8 Million since 2021/22.
5. The increase in BIK recorded could be in part to the better understanding of BIK across CoLC due to the enhanced service provided by the CFCMT, but also the further return to business as usual following the pandemic. An analysis of the new BIK awarded shows they fall mainly under the auspices of the Remembrancer's department but comprise the reduced rates offered for venue hire in line with the charging policy agreed by the Civic Affairs Sub Committee and endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee. The figures show the difference between the commercial rate and the rate the client received. This includes reduced charges for UK registered charities, those with a City connection or those events supported by other Corporation departments to further Corporate objectives. A further analysis of BIK can be found at **Appendix 2**.
6. In September 2024 Members and the Chamberlain requested that BIK reporting also provided an overview of Funding awarded to outside bodies in 2023/24. Chief Officers were mandated to provide information for each department and institution.
7. A further analysis of the funding awarded to outside bodies can be found at **Appendix 3** from which it can be seen that a total of 629 funding arrangements have now been recorded with a total value of £95,216,534. It should be noted that most of these funds were charitable grants awarded by the City Bridge Foundation (CBF) in furtherance of the objects of the charity. CBF awarded 532 grants totalling £85,558,997 in 2023/24.

8. Out of the 97 remaining funding arrangements, these are split across City Fund and City of London Corporate Charities. The CFCMT have oversight and management of 52 of those grants awarded through the various programmes it oversees, namely the Central Grants Programme, Proceeds of Crime Act funding and the CIL Neighbourhood Fund. All funding awarded through programmes managed through the CFCMT and City Bridge Foundation have clear outcomes which are monitored through grant management and end of year monitoring and evaluation reports.
9. Members should note the ongoing funding arrangements that have been provided by the Innovation and growth department detailed in **Appendix 4**.
10. As the collection of funding for outside bodies was delivered for the first time this year alongside BIK reporting, Members should decide if they wish to see this information going forward so the CFCMT can plan this into the annual data collection. This would not require any additional resource and can be met through existing budgets. Collecting this information at the same time as BIK will lead to more accurate and comprehensive reporting.

Conclusion

11. This report provides Members with oversight of BIK and funding to outside bodies provided in the 2023/24 Financial year. The report provides an overview and analysis of these arrangements across all departments and institutions. Members are asked to note the report and agree to this being brought to members on an annual basis.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Current BIK policy

Appendix 2: Revised BIK Policy for Approval

Appendix 3: 2022/23 Annual Departmental BIK analysis

Non-Public Appendix: Current and Future Funding arrangements for Innovation and Growth

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