

## City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> Education Board	<b>Dated:</b> 21/01/2025
<b>Subject:</b> City Premium Grant 2024/25 Round 2 Applications	<b>Public report:</b> For Decision
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Diverse Engaged Communities</b></li> <li>• <b>Providing Excellent Services</b></li> </ul>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	Yes
<b>Report of:</b>	Dr Deborah Bell
<b>Report author:</b>	Torri Stewart, Lead Officer, Strategy & Impact

### Summary

This report updates Members with key information relating to the second round of City Premium Grant applications for 2024/25. The amount of funding still available to the Family of Schools for the 2024/25 academic year is £381,678.

Applications for 61 projects have been received and reviewed. Nearly all proposed projects were eligible to be considered for funding.

The report asks Members to delegate authority to the Chair and the Strategic Education and Skills Director to distribute awards from the remaining City Premium Grant envelope 2024-25 in order that schools can begin delivery of their second round projects as soon as possible.

The report further proposes that remaining eligible bids from this round be considered for 2025/26 Round 1 funding, in February 2025.

An overview of all bid submissions is available in **Appendix One**.

## Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Delegate authority to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and the Strategic Director of Education and Skills to distribute Round 2 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

1. The Education Board has oversight of the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy 2024-29. At the core of this strategy are 5 key priorities which together work toward a central vision – 'Helping learners to flourish in a rapidly changing world by supporting outstanding education, encouraging lifelong learning and driving upward social mobility'.
2. The City Premium Grant (CPG) is an annual grant that provides financial support to the City of London Family of Schools, towards programmes and activities which will support the aims of the strategy.
3. 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.
4. 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**.
5. The Strategic Grant requires programmes and activities to align with at least one of four strategic themes. For the 2024/25 academic year, these themes were:
  - Mental Health & Wellbeing
  - Environmental & Outdoor Learning
  - Employability
  - Personal Development
6. The bidding and evaluation process for all CPG projects runs on an online impact measurement platform called ImpactEd. This system allows for more robust data collection than was collected in previous years and can offer the City Corporation a richer understanding of the outcomes of projects individually, collectively and (in time) longitudinally. Since its introduction in 2022 continuous incremental

improvements to the submission process have been made in response to teacher feedback. Teachers have reported that despite initial challenges the platform is easy to use, and when used effectively, can help them more closely consider the potential outcomes for a project, and help demonstrate if the project delivered what was expected

7. For the academic year 2024/25, the City Premium Grant envelope was £2,226,000. Of this total, the Disadvantaged Pupils Grant accounted for £1,458,000, and the Partnerships Grant and Strategic Grant each accounted for £384,000. As approved by Members at the October 2023 committee meeting, £40,000 of this envelope, (split equally across the Partnerships Grant, and the Strategic Grant), has been committed to support the City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) in the provision of a Partnerships Co-Ordinator to assist academies with the management of bids and project monitoring for a period of three years.

### **Current Position**

8. The City Premium Grant 2024/25 Round 2 bidding window was open between October and November of 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:
9. 61 applications were submitted from 13 schools. At this point in the previous cycle, 41 applications had been received from 8 schools. This consistent increase in engagement demonstrates the value that schools continue to place on utilising this funding. It also illustrates a strong level of school-led collaboration taking place between all members of the Family of Schools – a key objective of the City Premium Grant.
10. Of the 61 applications received, 20 requested City Premium Grant: Disadvantaged Pupils Grant funding, 19 requested City Premium Grant: Partnerships Grant funding and 22 requested City Premium Grant: Strategic Grant funding. Applications across the last two categories represent the creation of 41 proposed project partnerships between schools.
11. 59 of the 61 project applications were eligible to be considered for City Premium Grant funding, and a marked improvement in the quality of bids was noted. The eligibility of two proposed projects was questioned and the authors of these bids will be invited to clarify the points in question and potentially re-submit the bids in February 2025 for the first round of funding for the 2025/26 academic year.
12. Collectively the applications reference 19,339 learner beneficiaries. This translates to an average of 317 learner beneficiaries per project and an average project cost per beneficiary of £57.

13. Following the distribution of Round 1 awards, £381,678 of funding is available for Round 2 applications.

## **Proposals**

14. All Round 2 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 27 eligible bids receive awards as soon as possible to allow schools to start delivering their projects.

15. The ESU further proposes that in response to the high level of demand, eligible bids that could not be funded in this round are carried forward for consideration in February 2025 for 2025/26 Round 1 funding.

16. An overview of all proposed projects is available in Appendix One. The colour-key indicates bids proposed for full funding, bids for proposed for future consideration and bids returned.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

### Strategic implications

25. This work is aligned with and will contribute to the outcomes of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan 2024-29, specifically 'Providing Excellent Services', 'Diverse Engaged Communities' and 'Leading Sustainable Environment'.

### Financial implications

26. None, existing approved resources will continue to be deployed.

### Resource implications

27. None

### Legal implications

28. None

### Risk implications

29. None

### Equalities implications

30. This activity complies with our public Sector Equality Duty 2010. It delivers against the City of London Corporation's Education Strategy 2024-29, for which a comprehensive

Equalities Impact Assessment was undertaken. More specifically, City Premium Grant funding is the main way in which the Education Board supports its sponsored academies to deliver the outcomes outlined in the Education Strategy. In particular, the grants support 'additionality' which enables academies to deliver projects and activities – especially to those facing the most disadvantage - which are supplementary to the teaching and learning funded by the academies' core budgets and focus on a holistic approach to education.

Climate implications

31. None

Security implications

32. None

## **Conclusion**

17. This report has updated Members with key information relating to the second 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 that schools can begin delivery of their second round projects as soon as possible.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 - City Premium Grant 2024/25: Round 2 Project Proposals Overview

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