

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Finance Committee – For Information	Dated: 29 April 2025
Subject: Report of Action Taken	Public report: For Information
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• provides business enabling functions	
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:	Town Clerk
Report author:	Ben Dunleavy

Summary

This report provides details of decisions taken under urgency and delegated authority procedures between Committee meetings.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Urgent Decisions Under Standing Order 41A

Extension of Central London Forward's Digital Connectivity Programme

1. Central London Forward (CLF) is the sub-regional partnership of the 11 central London local authorities and the City of London Corporation. The City of London Corporation acts as the contracting body for CLF. CLF promotes inclusive and sustainable growth in central London and manages employment and training programmes for central London residents.
2. Central London Forward's Digital Connectivity programme aims to support the CLF member authorities in attracting inward investment to improve broadband and mobile connectivity in central London. CLF currently receive £125,000 per annum from GLA to deliver the Programme, covering the costs of the digital lead post and residual funding to cover programme activity. The programme is due to end 31 March 2025.

3. The GLA secured additional funding to continue delivering the digital connectivity programme, which would require a variation agreement to be signed. This would continue funding of £125,000 per annum for a further four years (to financial year 2028/9), with an annual break clause, available to either party.
4. The variation agreement needed to be signed by 18 March to allow funding to be transferred by the end of FY 2024/25. As the Finance Committee would need meet until April 2025, approval was sought under urgency procedures. Owing to a lack of clarity among officers as to the correct governance procedures for approving the variation, a decision (or request for delegated authority) was not ready in time to be presented to Committees at an earlier time. Officers have committed to a review of mechanisms for the approving the variation of agreements for CLF, and this has also been flagged as part of the wider procurement review.
5. The Town Clerk accordingly approved the following under urgency procedures on 19 March 2025:
 - Approve CLF accepting funding of £500,000 over four years from the GLA. To enable the continuation of the Digital Connectivity Programme and the digital connectivity lead, who is responsible for programme delivery.
 - Authorise the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth to sign the variation agreement to accept the funding of £500,000 over four years.

Background Papers

1. Extension of Central London Forward's Digital Connectivity Programme

Ben Dunleavy

Governance and Member Services Manager