

Committee:	Date:
The City Bridge Trust	4 th July 2013
Subject: Progress Report	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Information
<u>Summary</u>	
This is a regular Progress Report by the Chief Grants Officer.	
Recommendation	
That you receive this report and note its contents.	

Main Report

1.0 First impressions:

- 1.1 The City Bridge Trust has an excellent reputation externally: it is known for quality work and a hardworking, professional team. Happily, my first impressions of the work and team thoroughly endorse this view: You have a highly committed, mutually supportive team who have made me very welcome. I would particularly like to thank the outgoing Chief Grants Officer who has been very generous with her time, and has provided me with a thoughtful handover interlaced with wisdom and humour.
- 1.2 Happily I am learning both to navigate the building and the unusual governance structure. I have had very useful introductory meetings with your Chairman and Deputy Chairman, and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Social Investment Board. An introductory meeting with Simon Murrells, Assistant Town Clerk; and the Committee Clerk team, have also greatly assisted in my understanding of the Corporation's governance structure.
- 1.3 By the time of the Committee meeting, I will have had introductory meetings with all of the CBT team and half of the Corporation's lead officers. There is much goodwill towards CBT and its work. There is also clearly an on-going need to ensure we invest sufficient time in ensuring CBT and the Corporation's departments understand the scope of each other's work, being live to further opportunities where collaboration and joined-up approaches could increase impact.
- 1.4 In resource terms, there will be a busy period coming up where we shut down our old grants programme, and subject to the agreement of the Court of Common Council, the new grants programmes introduced. As

part of this we will ensure a communications strategy will be put in place and all related copy and procedures are updated.

Recruitment

- 1.5 Interviews have recently taken place to fill the full-time grants officer post created by the departure of Stewart Goshawk and John Merivale. There were over a hundred applications and a high calibre short-list were interviewed. An offer has been made and references are being taken up. 1st August is the anticipated start date.
- 1.6 I have had three early forays into the external environment, all memorable for different reasons. At the annual Charity Awards, a CBT grantee, Islington Giving, received a highly commended award and was singled out one of 30 outstanding charities. This is a considerable achievement. I shared a table with some of the team: I was impressed by their calibre and their model is one which could usefully be replicated. You will note that in today's papers you have a paper entitled *Islington Giving – Evaluation* detailing how this might be progressed.
- 1.7 I was pleased to learn about the contract we hold in running the grant giving for the Wembley National Stadium Trust. You may remember the City Bridge Trust won the bid through competitive tender and two of your officers deliver the contract. I attended an assessment visit in Stratford and learnt about the potential reach and extent of the work: it is an impressive operation and one which will reach deep into the communities of London.

Social Investment

- 1.8 I attended my first Social Investment board meeting. Your leadership in positioning the City Bridge Trust and the Corporation at the forefront of this still nascent area and the quality contributions which your officers have made are respected by the outside world. There are clearly many opportunities to build on this going forward.

Philanthropy Exhibition

- 1.9 Following a very useful briefing from your *City Philanthropy: A Wealth of Opportunity* Advisor, I attended the steering group of the Philanthropy Exhibition which you are funding. You will recall at your last Committee meeting you approved a grant of £15,000 to produce a book to accompany the exhibition. Charterhouse, the Museum of London, a representative from the Mercers' Company and Deputy William Fraser, Chairman of the Livery Committee, were present. The exhibition should prove a useful vehicle for progressing the campaign to promote London as a global centre for effective philanthropy. You will of course be invited to the Exhibition in due course, and your suggestions on how the

portable elements of the Exhibition can be brought to a wider audience will be welcome.

2.0 Grant applications by fundraisers

- 2.1 Whilst the flow of grant applications to the Trust has remained remarkably consistent by number over the past several years there appears to be a slight increase in recent months in organisations using external fundraisers and/or other support agencies to help them make these applications.
- 2.2 Clearly, an applicant charity can enlist the help of whom it so wishes. Whilst such fundraisers play an important role in the sector, the issue for funders is whether or not the beneficiary organisation is then capable of delivering the outputs and outcomes as described in the application.
- 2.3 The key issue in assessment, therefore, is that your officers would insist on meeting with the organisation's lead officer or project manager who would be responsible for the delivery of the project, if it were to be funded. They would also have to assure your officers in the assessment meeting that they knew and understood the detail of what was being applied for in their name.
- 2.4 Often your officers are asked to give presentations to the sector on topics such as "What makes a good application" and the techniques in successfully filling in an application form can indeed be learnt. However what your assessment processes aim to ensure, particularly through the face-to-face meetings with organisations, is that, ultimately, an organisation is capable of delivering any project you decide to support.

3.0 Media Work

City Philanthropy – a wealth of opportunity

- 3.1 An in-depth interview with the Lord Mayor featured in the April edition of City Wealth Magazine. The article focused on the activities supported by City Bridge Trust as part of your 'City Philanthropy – a Wealth of Opportunity' initiative.

Growing Localities

- 3.2 Articles on the Growing Localities Award winners, Hexagon Housing and Burgess Park Food Project have appeared in the South London Press. An article on Groundwork London is due to appear in the Ealing Gazette during the week these papers are being prepared.
- 3.3 A Media Trust film featuring your Growing Localities grantees was broadcast on the Community Channel on 26th and 28th May. Blue Peter presenter, Chris Collins, appeared in and narrated the film. A keen gardener himself, he has shown great interest in your Growing Localities initiative and in helping to promote the work on other occasions.

Working with Londoners

- 3.4 There was coverage of your grant to Hammersmith & Fulham Volunteer Centre in both the Fulham & Hammersmith Chronicle and the Westminster Chronicle.

Social Media

- 3.4 Champollion, our external PR agency, tweeted around the Community Channel broadcasts as outlined in paragraph 3.3.

Traffic and engagement levels with the Parklife London website, which you are developing as part of your Growing Localities Initiative, continue to be strong with 258 visits since last month's report.

4.0 'Creative Solutions for Tough Times' Conference

- 4.1 You may recall that you have commissioned the New Economics Foundation (nef), jointly with the Barrow Cadbury Trust and the Lankelly Chase Foundation, to undertake a piece of action research looking at the opportunities and obstacles presented by the Big Society agenda in a climate of public spending reductions. The New Economics Foundation has been recruiting and training people from the local community ("peer researchers") to interview residents about how the cuts are affecting them and whether the Big Society has any resonance with them. The work in London is taking place in LB Haringey where nef is running a series of workshops on the "co-production" of public services, where people, rather than being treated as passive recipients of services, are actively involved in shaping those services.
- 4.2 The New Economics Foundation is due to publish the findings of its report later in July. City Bridge Trust is therefore planning a conference, in partnership with the other funders and nef. The purpose of the conference is to share some of the findings of the New Economic Foundation's research and to showcase some examples of creative approaches to community-led change that Barrow Cadbury Trust and City Bridge Trust have been funding.
- 4.3 The event will take place between **9.30am and 3.15pm** on **Tuesday 9th July 2013** in the **Livery Hall**. All members of this Committee have been sent an invitation.
- 4.4 Details of the programme are still being finalised. The Chairman will provide the welcome. The opening plenary sessions will be followed by workshops covering such topics as the Spice Londoner Time Credits initiative you are funding; commissioning for outcomes and co-production; and neighbourhood planning. The target audience is the voluntary and community sector; local authorities, especially commissioners; as well as other funders and commentators in this area.

5. The Clink Charity – Update

- 5.1 On 11 June, your officer Karisia Gichuke, attended the launch of the Criminal Justice Alliance's campaign, Transforming Justice, at The Clink Restaurant in HMP High Down. The CJA is a coalition of 70 organisations arguing for a move away from centralised penal planning and budgeting towards a more holistic, evidence-based system that empowers local communities to employ more cost-effective tailored crime reduction methods. Resettlement of ex-offenders has been a priority area of the Trust for the last 5 year programme of grant making and many supported organisations will be working on this campaign in future, including CBT grantee, The Clink.
- 5.2 The Clink restaurant is located within the grounds of HMP High Down and offers a unique dining experience with high-quality food whilst providing prisoners with positive training and the genuine prospect of full time employment within the hospitality industry upon release. In October 2012 you agreed a three year grant to The Clink for a mentoring programme supporting ex-prisoners back into society and the workplace in the London area. The Clink has achieved some extraordinary results and the reoffending rate of Clink graduates is significantly lower than the national average of 47%. In 2012 88 prisoners were trained, and 26 were released into employment. To date only one of these has reoffended. In order to accurately compare the reoffending rate against the national average, we will have to wait until December 2013, as this is a full 12 months after prisoners have been released, however, considering 75% of ex-offenders who leave prison without employment go on to reoffend within the first two years of release, these are very positive results.
- 5.3 The Clink has secured not only support from the hospitality industry and the general public but has entered into a partnership with HMPS that will help The Clink Charity to expand its reach across the UK over the next five years.

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Report written: 19th June 2013