

Committee:	Date:	Ref No.
The City Bridge Trust	4 th July 2013	11911
Subject: Strategic Initiative: Volunteering Database	Public	
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Information	
<u>Summary</u>		
<p>This paper proposes that you commission the Coalition for Efficiency to develop a web-based database of volunteer intermediary bodies in order to provide a 'one-stop shop' and navigational tool to signpost charities, businesses and individuals to the growing number of volunteer brokers.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>That the Coalition for Efficiency is commissioned to develop a web-based database and widget that will bring together the various volunteer intermediary bodies in one place, and lead to greater collaboration among them, at a cost of £6,000 to be charged against the City Bridge Trust Strategic Initiatives allocation for 2013/14.</p>		

Main Report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 There are a growing number of volunteer brokers, mostly London based though some offering a national reach, providing a spectrum of match-making services related to skilled volunteering. These range from generalist sites for individual volunteers, such as Do-it and Volunteering England, through to specialist agencies, such as Pilotlight, which recruits professionals wishing to volunteer their business skills; and TrusteeWorks, which recruits and places trustees within charities.
- 1.2 Whilst there is no shortage of services for individuals interested in volunteering (every local Volunteer Centre has a website, for example) there is no central resource for charities looking for specific skills or for CSR departments looking for employee engagement.
- 1.3 In recent years we have seen a plethora of volunteer broking agencies spring up all offering similar, though different, services creating a hugely confusing landscape that is difficult to navigate and that sees much replication.

2.0 Proposed Solution

- 2.1 The Coalition for Efficiency, whose mission is to work with existing charities to find ways of running themselves more efficiently and effectively, proposes to undertake a mapping exercise of these intermediary bodies – estimated to number more than 50 and growing – into a single database. The information would then be categorised so that users could easily find and distinguish between the types of volunteer services offered, the types of organisation that can be supported, the type of volunteering opportunities, which ones offered paid-for services and which are free etc.
- 2.2 This tool would be produced as a simple, searchable, digital database that as a web 'widget' would sit on an organisation's website.

3.0 Who Would Benefit?

- 3.1 The 'one-stop shop' approach would be of particular benefit to Corporate Social Responsibilities networks and other institutions looking to find skilled volunteer placements - including organisations such as Heart of the City, which you are funding. Such a tool would deliver greater clarity and transparency providing sign-posting and a greater understanding of the many, slightly different, services being offered. It would benefit hard-pushed charities which are in need of executive and skilled volunteers, to help them run their charities more efficiently. As it would be branded and delivered under the *City Philanthropy – a Wealth of Opportunity* initiative that you are funding, it could be used as a promotional tool to help publicise the work of that initiative in the press. It would also be a useful resource for volunteer development agencies and the volunteer intermediary bodies themselves, as it will co-ordinate existing information and bring it together in a uniform format and could encourage greater collaboration among them as well as discourage 're-invention of the wheel' Finally, it would benefit individuals who do not know how to find suitable volunteering opportunities.

4.0 Cost

- 4.1 The cost is estimated to be £6,000, broken down as follows:

Research, co-ordination and standardisation of the various relevant agencies	£4,000
Design and development of web widget	<u>£2,000</u>
Total	£6,000

5.0 Allocation from Strategic Initiatives

- 5.1 It is proposed that the cost of £6,000 is charged against your 2013/14 allocation for Strategic Initiatives of £747,500 (5% of the overall grants budget). If you approve this request, there will be a balance of £420,143 remaining for the rest of the year (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Strategic initiatives 2013/14

Strategic Initiatives	Committee date	£
Allocation of 5% of 2013/14 grants budget		747,500
Already agreed in this financial year:		
Access and Sustainability Service	18/04/2013	192,900
Ladder for London	06/06/2013	84,230
Lord Mayor's Show	06/06/2013	29,227
City Philanthropy Book	06/06/2013	15,000
	Total	323,357
Recommended at this meeting		
Web-based database of volunteer intermediaries		6,000
Balance remaining		420,143

6.0 Conclusion

6.1 This is a relatively simple proposal that will centralise information about volunteer intermediaries for the first time, thereby improving the co-ordination of volunteering opportunities, bringing greater clarity and understanding to this expanding sector.

7.0 Recommendation

That the Coalition for Efficiency is commissioned to develop a web-based database that will bring together the various volunteer intermediary bodies in one place, at a cost of £6,000 to be charged against the City Bridge Trust Strategic Initiatives allocation for 2013/14.

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Report written: 20th June 2013