

Committee:	Date:
The City Bridge Trust	3 rd October 2013
Subject:	Public
Amendments to Investing in Londoners criteria	
Report of:	For Decision
Chief Grants Officer	

Summary

This report requests that you approve two amendments to the funding criteria for the Trust's new Investing in Londoners programmes; and that you approve the opening of two of the funding strands at a later date, in October 2013, to allow for promotional, partnership, events.

Recommendations

That you

- a) Remove the criterion whereby organisations with a turnover of £10m or more could apply only for a maximum of 50% of the project costs, thereby considering all applications on an equal basis.
- b) Allow organisations with branches and/or running discrete activities in different parts of London to apply for/hold up to a maximum of three grants.
- c) Defer the formal opening of your Quality Standards in Youth Work and your Arts Apprenticeships programmes until late October 2013 to enable promotional, partnership, events.

Main Report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 After a year-long process of review and research your new Investing in Londoners programmes were scheduled to open in late September 2013.
- 1.2 Following your approval of the new grant programmes and policies in June 2013 (and the agreement of the Court of Common Council in July) officers have been of implementing your decisions, including drafting the new programmes and related resources for the website.
- 1.3 In the course of scrutinising the existing policy framework and its application your officers were made aware of two specific aspects which were agreed during your previous review process but which, in hindsight, may not best serve the needs of your new stakeholders.

- 1.4 In addition, officers consulting with partner agencies for the delivery of two strands of Investing in Londoners (viz Quality Standards in Youth Work; and Arts Apprenticeships), request that you defer the opening of these strands until late October 2013 to enable the Trust to take full advantage of promotional events planned by the partner agencies.

2.0 Funding for large charities

- 2.1 Your Committee had agreed the criterion for the old Working with Londoners programmes that "*grants to charities with a turnover of £10m or more will not usually be for more than 50% of the total project costs*".
- 2.2 However there has been less pressure on your grants budget than was anticipated when this criterion was introduced and, in the current economic climate, it seems unnecessarily restrictive to treat large charities in this way, whilst we will continue to encourage applications from small and medium sized charities across London. It is sometimes the case that large charities are uniquely placed to deliver some very specific outcomes (e.g. Barnardo's specialist work with sexually exploited young people). Officers recommend, therefore, that you remove this clause and consider all applications on an equal basis.

3.0 Charities with branches and/or running discrete activities

- 3.1 In finalising the criteria for applicants ahead of the opening of your new programmes, officers realised that a criterion had been amended which, in retrospect would be better remaining as was.
- 3.2 It relates to the funding of charities with branches and/or which run discrete activities in different parts of London. An example of such a charity would be Victim Support whereby all local, borough-based, branches now come under the single charity number of the parent body. In the Working with Londoners programmes you allowed such organisations (subject to satisfactory assessment and due diligence) to hold up to three grants at any one time. However, the new criteria restrict funding to one grant per organisation regardless of the circumstances. Given the position of the Trust as London's largest independent funder and your new focus on, for example, reducing poverty where the provision of high-quality debt advice is likely to emanate from a few, key, specialist organisations, we recommend that you reinstate the original criterion to allow certain organisations to apply for/hold up to three grants.

4.0 Deferred opening of Partnership-based programmes

- 4.1 As you will know the new Investing in Londoners programmes are due to open to the public in the week commencing Monday 23rd September. However, the partner agencies in two of your programmes – the Quality Standards in Youth Work (London Youth); and the Arts Apprenticeships

schemes (Creative & Cultural Skills) – have recently and independently identified excellent promotional opportunities (one with a member of the Royal Family and one with a Government Minister) at the end of October 2013 which could serve as very good vehicles for bringing these new schemes to a very wide and relevant audience. It is recommended, therefore, that you defer the opening of these two programmes until the end of October 2013.

Recommendations:

That you:

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- b) Allow organisations with branches and/or running discrete activities in different parts of London to apply for/hold up to a maximum of three grants.
- c) Defer the formal opening of your Quality Standards in Youth Work and your Arts Apprenticeships programmes until late October 2013 to enable promotional, partnership, events.

David Farnsworth, Chief Grants Officer
020 7332 3713
david.farnsworth@cityoflondon.gov.uk
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