

Committee Finance Grants Sub Committee	Dated: 21/07/2016
Subject Update on engagement with previous Finance Grants Sub-Committee Grantees	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For information
Report author: Scott Nixon, Project Manager	

Summary

As part of the Service Based Review (SBR), a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of the City Corporation's grant-making was completed. The aim was to increase the strategic impact of grant-making, ensure that the grants are managed more efficiently and effectively, improve the consistency and quality of the customer experience and so bring consequential reputational benefits.

The recommendations arising from the review were endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee in May 2015, resolving that 'the proposed change of approach to grant giving as set out in the report be approved'. The report was subsequently supported by Committees affected by the proposed recommendations and further updates were provided to Policy and Resources Committee in November 2015 and the Court of Common Council in January 2016.

At its 9 June 2015 meeting, the Finance Committee agreed to relinquish its direct grant-giving role (exercised through the Finance Grants Sub-Committee) and adopt a strategic oversight and performance management role in respect of City Corporation Grants programmes.

In order to communicate these changes to both previous and existing grantees and conclude the work of the Finance Grants Sub-Committee, Barbara Riddell, the Grants Management Consultant who has worked for this Sub-Committee for 15 years and assessed all grant applications was commissioned in May 2016, with the task of contacting a list of pre-agreed organisations in June 2016.

This report details the outcomes of the Consultants engagement.

Recommendation

- To note the outcomes of the engagement work undertaken by the Grants Management Consultant

Background

The Grants Management Consultant was fully briefed and requested to:

- Contact all organisations that had received a grant from Finance Grants Sub-Committee between November 2013 and November 2015 (unless otherwise agreed) and brief them on changes underway to the grant giving approach of the City of London Corporation.

- Engage via the telephone as preferred means of contact, with email follow up or face to face meetings to be completed if required, so as to provide further advice, guidance and information on interim or alternative funding sources as necessary.
- Provide a short report once all organisations had been contacted, highlighting any relevant comments received during contact.
- Collate the contact details of those organisations wishing to receive details on the new Central Grants Programme and forward them to the Central Grants Unit.

Main Report

1. Members of this Sub-Committee are requested to note the below report on the engagement undertaken with former Finance Grants Sub-Committee grantees, as provided by the Grants Management Consultant, Barbara Riddell.

Engagement Report – By Barbara Riddell, Grants Management Consultant

2. This brief report is intended to complete the work of the Finance Grants Committee following its last meeting in November 2015. As the adviser to the committee for at least the last 15 years I have been asked to contact all organisations that have received a grant from Finance Grants Sub-Committee between November 2013 and November 2015 and brief them on the proposed changes to the grant giving approach of the City of London Corporation.
3. I contacted all the organisations listed by telephone, told them that Finance Grants Sub Committee will no longer have a grant giving function and gave them as much advice as I could on interim or alternative funding sources.
4. I explained to organisations that the City of London Corporation had recently undertaken a review of all of its grant-making activity with the primary aim of increasing the overall impact of the Corporation's grant-making and ensuring that future grants will be managed more efficiently and effectively "thus improving the consistency and quality of the customer experience."
5. I also explained that although no funding will be available at present, a new Central Grants Programme will draw together all existing pots of funding through the various charities, trusts and grant programmes.
6. Unsurprisingly all the organisations contacted expressed a strong interest in being contacted as and when the new Central Grants Programme is established. Although I was able to tell them about the 4 suggested funding themes a recurring question was to what extent eligibility for future funding was to be dependent on a City of London connection.
7. All the organisations I contacted expressed real appreciation for receiving a personal contact and for the opportunity to hear about the changes to grant-giving from someone they knew. Many organisations asked me to convey their warmest thanks to the City Corporation for the grants they had received in the past.
8. I emphasised that even if the Finance Grants Committee had continued to make grants there would not have been any automatic expectation of future grants. This is

understood by organisations. The exceptions to this are St Paul's Chorister Trust, Dr Johnson's House and the Sheriffs and Recorders Fund which have all received revenue grants for many years. For these organisations an expectation of a further grant is not unreasonable although they appreciate that grants may not be renewed.

9. It has been a pleasure to work for the Finance Grants Committee over 16 years and to have had the opportunity to meet so many effective and successful charities and voluntary organisations. I also want to express my appreciation to the excellent and supportive clerks who have all taken such a keen and intelligent interest in the range and variety of applications we have received over the years.

10. Below is a list of those organisations contacted for the purposes of this engagement work:

- The Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund
- The Foundling Museum
- St Paul's Chorister Trust
- Clio's Company
- Dr Johnson's House
- Crisis UK
- Quaker Homeless Action
- Personal Support Unit
- Solace Women's Aid
- Stuart Low Trust
- The Parent House
- Royal Shakespeare Company

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