

<b>Committee:</b> City Bridge Trust	<b>Dated:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
<b>Subject:</b> Progress Report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Grants Officer	<b>For Information</b>

### **Summary**

This is a regular report by the Chief Grants Officer (CGO). Following an introduction to the external speaker for this Committee from your grant recipient the Bike Project, you are asked within this report to note updates on the following:

- The Work Continues.
- Strategic Review update.
- Lord Mayor's Show.
- Human Resources team update.
- Stepping Stones.

### **Recommendation**

- a) That the report be noted.

### **Main Report**

#### **Introduction**

1. You will recall that you have agreed that each of the City Bridge Trust (CBT) Committee Meetings will begin with a presentation on a particular aspect of the work you support. Today's speaker is Jem Stein from the Bike Project. The Bike Project has been providing refugees of all ages and backgrounds with refurbished bikes, giving them a free, healthy and sustainable method of accessing vital services whilst providing skills training on bike mechanics. Jem will provide an overview of the work being undertaken.

#### **The Work Continues**

2. Whilst we undertake our 5 year Strategic Review (see update at paragraph 4) the CBT's core work continues in every London Borough. Your CGO continues to make Friday visits to see some of the 500+ charities you are supporting at any one time throughout Greater London and Members are reminded they are very welcome to join any of the visits.
3. Most recently he visited Derman. Your grant funds the salary of a part-time bi-lingual Counsellor and project running costs of a mental health counselling service for Kurdish and Turkish-speaking Londoners. The organisation is

client-centred and professionally run with strong relationships with mainstream referral agencies. It also takes a strongly collaborative approach and works within different partnerships. The challenge of this is that a relatively small organisation is required to feed service data into several different databases (the requirements of each founded partnership stream) – the resource implications of this should not be overlooked.

### **Strategic Review Update**

4. Since your last meeting, your Head of Strategic Review has incorporated the changes requested by this Committee to the proposed funding strategy for 2018 to 2023. Additionally, it has been recommended that in the proposed strategy we make clearer that as well as improving the access individuals and communities have to philanthropy; we wish to increase the level and effectiveness of philanthropy too. We intend to include this change (subject to any other view of the Committee). A final draft version of the strategy will be circulated to the Committee in the week prior to this meeting.
5. We have also been working with partners to convert the strategy into a publication that can be shared on our website and as a hard copy by mid-July 2017. It is our intention to have an easy-read version of the strategy available by mid-July 2017 too.
6. In the coming months, your Deputy Chief Grants Officer will be directing the implementation of the strategy. This work is being further developed by your officer team and will be honed at an officer away day on 20<sup>th</sup> July. A part of the implementation will be how to further commit City Bridge Trust to extend its current activities to beyond that of simply grant-making (the total asset approach). Therefore, the Committee is asked to note that as part of the implementation you will be asked to consider your Terms of Reference (ToR), and any changes that you would like to recommend. These can then be considered as part of the usual corporate governance cycle for approving Committee ToR which, as you know, are approved by the Court of Common Council in April/May annually, having first already being approved by the Policy & Resources Committee.

### **Lord Mayor's Show 2017**

7. Your officers are working with three current grantees to design a float to participate in the Lord Mayor's Show 2017. Those grantees are; Core Arts, Rambert and the London Symphony Orchestra (who are also one of the beneficiaries of the Lord Mayor's Appeal 2017). In alignment with the theme of Educate, Support, Inspire; our entry for the show aims to provide visible representation of how central these items are to the Trust's aim of tackling disadvantage in London.
8. Our float will be a blending of music and dance, working with a range of ages, abilities and ethnicities to showcase the best of our diverse city. The design for the float will reflect the current five year Strategic Review. Discussions are taking place with Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) having worked with them in

2015. EEA specialises in outdoor performance work. Detailed costings are almost finalised and will be reported back to Committee.

9. The final costings will be less than £50K and therefore to be approved by delegated authority.

### **Human Resources Team Update**

10. Head of Philanthropy Strategy: The advert for this post was circulated on 12th May 2017 with the closing date for applications being 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. A total of 43 applications were received for this position. The interviews will be held on 14th and 22nd June. A further update will be provided on the candidate appointed to the position at a later date.
11. Grants Administrator: The interviews for the 12 month fixed term Grants Administrator role will be taking place on the 9th June. Applications are currently being reviewed and a shortlist for interview prepared. A verbal update on the outcome will be provided at Committee.
12. Social Investment Fund Associate: This post is currently out to advert. The closing date for applications has been set as 19th June. This Committee will be advised when an appointment has been made.

### **Stepping Stones Fund**

13. You receive regular updates on this grants programme. We launched Stepping Stones in 2014 for charitable organisations who wish to prepare themselves for social investment, recognising that there is merit in encouraging people to think about as wide a range of finance options at a time when income is often constrained. For those unfamiliar with the term, social investment is finance used to generate both social and financial returns. Stepping Stones is concerned with investment readiness and is run in partnership with UBS. To date, the programme has disbursed £2.2m to 49 organisations across three funding rounds, typically supporting business development, market research, financial modelling, and piloting new services.
14. This current round of Stepping Stones is the fourth and opened on March 20th. We received 56 first-stage proposals with a total value of £2.5m, which is comparable to previous rounds. Following an initial review by your officers, 25 organisations were invited to submit a full case and 31 were recommended for rejection (details of these appear elsewhere in today's papers).
15. Each organisation, whether shortlisted or not, is offered feedback. Those who are asked to provide full details of their request have until June 28th to do so, following which selection interviews take place at UBS in late July. Final grant recommendations will be made in September and a total of £550,000 is available.