

<b>Committee:</b> City Bridge Trust	<b>Dated:</b> 27 <sup>th</sup> July 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). You are asked within this report to note updates on the following:

- Strategic Review update
- London Metropolitan Archives and CBT's historic records
- Stepping Stones Fund
- London Emergencies Trust update
- The Way Ahead
- London's Giving
- Charity Commission charging consultation
- Charity Commission Charity Governance Code
- Human Resources update.

### 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. Rather than invite a speaker to this meeting, David Farnsworth will be providing a brief verbal update on his and other team member's contributions to the Grenfell Fire Emergency Response team.

#### Strategic Review Update

2. Since our last meeting, your Head of Strategic Review has presented the finalised strategy to the City of London Corporation's Chief Officers' Group, which met on 21 June. The strategy was very well-received, and your CGO has been invited to a meeting later in the year to discuss in more detail potential options for various departments from across the Corporation to support with its implementation.

3. Furthermore, the strategy has now been converted in to publication, thanks to the design expertise of 'Verde Creative', and it will be available as a hard copy and for download from our website in mid-to-late July. This is alongside a separate plain English, shortened version of the strategy, which was produced to an equally high standard by a user-led charity called 'People First (Self-Advocacy)'.
4. The strategy will be recommended for agreement to the Court of Common Council on 20 July. Given the level of engagement to date, we hope that it will be well-received and supported by Court, and we look forward to turning our attention fully to the implementation of the strategy from this date onwards. Indeed, the focus of our July team away day, scheduled for 20 July also, will consider carefully the implementation of the strategy in terms of the types of work we will support, the processes we will use, the skills needed to implement the strategy successfully and an opportunity to explore what the strategy means to the team as a whole and at an individual level.
5. By now, you should all have received an invitation to the event that we are organising on 24 July jointly with Trust for London. The event intends to update guests on the next funding strategies of CBT and the Trust and thank them for their support with this work.

### **London Metropolitan Archives and CBT's historic records**

6. The grant making arm of Bridge House Estates has been operational since 1995, making 7,676 awards with a total value of £370m. Detailed records are produced for each grant awarded, including not only what is provided to the Trust by way of application and subsequent monitoring, but also what is produced by officers following assessment and site visits. Files are kept at the Trust's offices until accounts are received from the grantee covering the full period of funds drawn down and spent. At this point paper records are scanned and the hard-copy documents sent to secure storage.
7. Quite extensive records now exist in secure storage, with many grant files dating much further back than the mandatory minimum 6 year retention period stipulated by the 2011 Charities Act. The oldest files have no practical value for grant management purposes, and are now are very unlikely to ever be required for purposes of fraud investigations or any legal action. However, as London's largest independent grant-making Trust, the City Bridge records contain a rich history of the capital's voluntary and community sector, and could be of significant interest to researchers.
8. Discussions are now underway with London Metropolitan Archives as to how this material may be preserved.

### **Stepping Stones Fund**

9. The fourth round of the Stepping Stones Fund is well underway. This is our social investment readiness programme run in partnership with UBS. Stepping Stones has distributed £2.2m to 49 organisations so far. Officers are

assessing detailed applications from 24 finalists ahead of interviews at UBS towards the end of July. We will be joined during the assessment process by representatives from several other organisations with an interest in the social investment space, including B Corps, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Trust for London and the Goldsmiths Company. £550,000 is available in the current round, although this amount may increase following writebacks and revocations on some previous awards where the full grant amount was not needed.

### **London Emergencies Trust update**

10. The London Emergencies Trust (LET) is tremendously grateful to the City Bridge Trust for the support that it has provided in terms of manpower, resources and expertise to support our work. LET is the authorised distributor of funds collected by the British Red Cross and others for the bereaved families and hospitalised survivors of the three recent terrorist attacks in London (Westminster, London Bridge and Finsbury Park) as well as for the Grenfell Tower disaster.
11. We are working closely with the Metropolitan Police, their family liaison officers, humanitarian assistance centres, Victim Support and a range of keyworkers, community centres and support staff, to ensure that we reach all those who are eligible for our funding. LET is one of three distributing bodies – alongside the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation and the London Community Foundation (the latter in partnership with the Evening Standard), although our remit, working with the bereaved and hospitalised is unique.
12. LET builds on the expertise and experience of staff and trustees who ran the disaster fund in the wake of 7/7, which is proving to be incredibly helpful in framing how we work. LET is also in close contact with those running the We Love Manchester fund and advised them in their earliest days about best practice and operation.

### **Further strengthening the voluntary sector**

13. You may re-call that you funded research, commissioned through your grantee London Funders (the membership network for funders and investors in London's civil society), into the future of infrastructure support for London's voluntary. London Funders led this research, working in close partnership with two key infrastructure bodies, London Voluntary Services Council (LVSC: (the umbrella body for the council of voluntary service network) and Greater London Volunteering (GLV: which co-ordinates local volunteer centres) . The resulting report, *The Way Ahead*, was launched in April 2016 at Guildhall.
14. The starting point for this research was three beliefs: first, that London needs a vibrant civil society to prosper; second, that in order to achieve a strong and vibrant civil society, just as any other sector in London, civil society needs access to appropriate business, technical and enterprise support, as well as a 'voice' within the on-going debate about London, its governance and the issues it faces; and third that the challenges presented by the current

economic situation provide opportunities to review and re-think how that support is provided to London's civil society.

15. At your November 2016 Committee meeting, you received a report recommending that two funds be established to support the infrastructure of London's civil society. This is to update Members of progress since then.
16. The first of the two funds, *The Bridge Fund*, comprised £1m to enable London-wide civil society organisations to engage with the development of *The Way Ahead*, with grants of up to £50,000 per organisation. In the event, 15 grants were awarded through Delegated Authority, totalling £737,000.
17. The second fund, *The Cornerstone Fund*, is a sum of £1.5m per annum for two years, making £3m in total, to enable the Trust to work with other funders and key stakeholders, to support the infrastructure underpinning London's civil society. The parameters for this fund are currently under development.
18. Following the launch of *The Way Ahead*, a 'Systems Change' group was established with representation from public, private and voluntary, community and social enterprise sectors, to take the report's recommendations forward. In addition, five 'task and finish' groups were established to look at the following topics:
  - Co-production
  - Triage and connect
  - Voice and campaigning
  - Data
  - Consistent commissioning
19. These groups are now complete with their respective reports and recommendations published.
20. LVSC and GLV have been working together to establish the London Hub, which will replace the functions of these two organisations, as well as taking forward the wider ambitions of *The Way Ahead* report, with GLV being the vehicle for this new body. This is on track to be set up by September 2017.
21. A stakeholder conference was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017, attended by around 120 organisations, in order to update the sector on progress with *The Way Ahead* and at which the Deputy Chief Grants spoke from the Trust's perspective.
22. The Deputy Chief Grants Officer is leading on the development of the Cornerstone Fund, working closely with London Funders. We are in the process of commissioning Rocket Science to undertake a mapping exercise of what civil society infrastructure support is already in place, to help identify gaps in provision and also to identify who is funding what in this arena. Although pockets of information exist, there is no central picture. It is hoped that the mapping will not only help the development of the Cornerstone Fund but that it will also be beneficial to the sector more widely.

23. A reference group for the Cornerstone Fund has been established which has its first meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The group comprises representatives from London Funders, London Voluntary Services Council, Greater London Volunteering, Heart of the City, Partnership Young London, Greater London Authority and London Councils. It is hoped that other funders will join the group in time.
24. Bilateral discussions are starting with other funders who may be interested in collaborating with the fund, be this directly or indirectly. Following these discussions, it is hoped to hold a round table for funders in September, jointly with London Funders. The date for this is yet to be confirmed. Following this it is planned to hold a consultation meeting for relevant voluntary sector organisations.
25. Whilst the exact parameters and governance arrangements for the Cornerstone Fund remain in development, it is anticipated that the first funding decisions can be made early in 2018. However, before that, it is highly likely that funding will be needed to be approved in September 2017 towards the first year's costs of the London Hub. A full report on this will be brought to that meeting.

## **London's Giving**

26. You may recall that at your March 2017 meeting you approved a grant of £300,000 over three years for London Funders to continue the development of the London's Giving place-based giving initiative. The grant was subject to two conditions. Firstly, that a consultancy contract be awarded following an open tendering process. The second was that the post of Project Manager within London Funders (filled with a temporary contract at the time the grant was awarded) be filled through an open recruitment process.
27. With regard to the consultancy to deliver the next phase of London's Giving, bids were invited to deliver one or more of the following objectives:
- To provide tailored support for local giving schemes
  - To maintain and extend the learning network
  - To develop a knowledge hub on place-based giving
  - To establish a sustainable future for place-based giving in London.
28. Eight bids were received, four of which were shortlisted for interview. The Deputy Chief Grants Officer was part of the panel, with interviews taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017. The successful applicants were Clare Thomas and Deborah Xavier (who had undertaken the first phase of this project) together with Rocket Science.
29. With regard to the second condition of grant, in the light of the recent resignation of the current London Funders' Director, together with the impact on the organisation of recent, tragic events in London, a variation of grant has been approved to allow for continuity in the organisation by retaining the

current, temporary Project Manager until six months into the appointment of the new Director of London Funders.

30. In addition to supporting the strategic development of London's Giving, you are also supporting the development of a number of local giving schemes. Most of these grants were one-year awards and some of these are now approaching the fund for continuation funding. It is recommended that you take each request on its merit based on an assessment of the extent to which further support from you will enable the scheme to get to the next stage of its development and the extent to which further support from you will enable the scheme to leverage funds from other sources. The first of these, Lewisham Local (applicant: Rushey Green Time Bank) is amongst the grant recommendations in today's papers. A proposal from Sutton Giving is currently under assessment for a decision by delegated authority, as the amount requested is less than £50,000 and a request is anticipated from Camden Giving.

### **Charity Commission Charging consultation**

31. William Shawcross, chair of the Charity Commission, has said that the regulator is "about to embark on a more formal process" of consulting the sector about plans to introduce a levy to help fund the regulator.
32. The consultation has been hotly anticipated within the sector, with the regulator often promising that it would launch soon. However the regulator has been awaiting approval from the government.
33. Mr Shawcross said that he had some "regret" over charging, but in his view it was "inevitable" to make the Commission sustainable. The Commission said that it considered charities with an income under £100,000 to be too small to pay but that they were looking at a graduated levy system with the smallest charities paying £75 and the largest £1,750.
34. The Commission have no proposals for how to treat charities whose income may be slightly over £100,000 one year due to a one-off payment, but then drop back, but that it could be considered in the consultation process.

### **Charity Commission Charity Governance Code**

35. The Charity Commission has now launched the new Charity Governance Code, with the previous guidance known as the Hallmarks of an Effective Charity being withdrawn. The new code introduces a principle of 'apply or explain' which will require charities to explain in their annual report where they do not comply with the Code.
36. The Head of Charity & Social Investment Finance will be undertaking a review of the implications of the changes that this will bring to the governance of CoLC's various charities over the coming weeks, bearing in mind that there are 2 versions of the Code – one aimed at larger charities (basically over £1m

income, although other complexities may need to be considered) and one at smaller charities.

37. For those of you keen to know more in advance of this, details can be found at - <https://www.charitygovernancecode.org/en>.

### **Human Resources Team Update**

38. Head of Philanthropy Strategy: The interview process is still on-going for this role and an update will be provided to this Committee once the post has been filled.
39. Grants Administrator: Elizabeth (Lily) Brandhorst has now been recruited to the 12 month fixed term Grants Administrator role. Lily currently works for the Nordiff Robins Music Therapy charity and will be in post by September 2017.
40. Social Investment Fund Associate: 4 candidates have been shortlisted and interviews have been scheduled for the 5th and 14th July. Further updates will be provided to this Committee once an appointment has been made.