

Grants Committee

Leadership in The Third Sector: The role of London Boroughs and London Councils

Item 6

Report by: Yolande Burgess **Job title:** Strategy Director, EI and Community Services'
Date: 8 February 2017
Contact Officer: Simon Courage
Telephone: 020 7934 9901 **Email:** simon.courage@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary

At its meeting of 23 November 2016 members of the Grants Committee approved the proposal that officers work with City Bridge Trust to take forward work from the review into third sector infrastructure support in London undertaken by London Funders (*The Way Ahead: Civil Society at the Heart of London*).

To steer the work of the strategic partnership between City Bridge Trust and London Councils, on behalf of the boroughs, and to effectively implement the key finding of the report - provide leadership in the third sector and influence the spend of a central pool of funding of independent funders - Grants Committee recommended that a working group of Committee members be constituted.

Recommendations

Members are asked to,

1. **Note** that the detailed work plan for leadership in the third sector was agreed by the Grants Committee in November 2016.
2. **Note** that budgetary provision of £75,000 for London Councils to undertake this work on behalf of the Grants Committee was agreed by Leaders Committee in December 2016.
3. **Agree** the terms of reference for the Third Sector Leadership Working Group set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.

Leadership in the Third Sector: The Role of London Boroughs and London Councils

1. Background

- 1.1 During the London Councils Grants Review (July 2015-March 2016) views were raised that a priority solely focused on capacity building in the third sector should not form part of the next Grants Programme (2017 to 2021). The Grants Review concluded that there was merit in pan-London support to build the third sector and a view that London Councils could continue to play an important role through its strategic leadership.
- 1.2 Subsequently Grants Committee agreed that officers develop a proposal to work with City Bridge Trust on the implementation of the review into infrastructure support to voluntary and community organisations in London (being undertaken by London Funders). This was reported to Grants Committee in July 2016, where members agreed to work with City Bridge on implementing the findings of the review - *The Way Ahead: Civil Society at the Heart of London*.
- 1.3 Members agreed the budgetary provision for London Councils to undertake this work on behalf of the Grants Committee and the detailed work plan at the November 2016 meeting of the Grants Committee. Members also asked officers to consider the governance arrangements for taking this work forward.

2. Governance arrangements

- 2.1 The Grants Committee is established through the delegation by London's boroughs of the function specified in section 48(10) of the Local Government Act 1985 (review of needs of Greater London) to London Councils.
- 2.2 The terms of reference of the Grants Committee include that the Grants Committee 'ensure the proper operation of the Grants Scheme' under these delegated powers.
- 2.3 To complement this role it is proposed that an advisory group is established to steer the work of the strategic partnership between City Bridge Trust and London Councils, on behalf of the boroughs, to provide leadership in the third sector and influence the spend of a central pool of funding of independent funders.
- 2.4 It is proposed that:
- The group will act in an advisory capacity to steer the strategic working partnership between City Bridge Trust and London Councils

- The scope of the working group will be to support the Grants Committee in ensuring the proper operation of the Grants Scheme by representing borough interests through:
 - guiding the London local government leadership role in the third sector
 - influencing the allocation of funding from independent funders for third sector support services, reflecting on local knowledge and strategic issues
 - advising on the implementation of the recommendations from *The Way Ahead - Civil Society at the Heart of London* report
 - sharing best practice and support to London boroughs in working with the third sector
- Its membership should comprise as follows (based on current membership of the Grants Committee)
 - Chair of the Grants Committee
 - Two members from the Labour group
 - Two members from the Conservative group
 - The Grants Committee representative from City of London

and that representatives from City Bridge Trust and London Funders may be invited to attend meetings.

- The group be established as the *Grants Committee: Third Sector Leadership Working Group*.

2.5 The Grants team will provide appropriate secretariat support to the group, including:

- drawing up and submitting to Grants Committee for consideration a work plan to deliver against the scope of the working group (approved by Grants Committee at its meeting of November 2016)
- keeping under review the work plan and reporting to the Grants Committee: Third Sector Leadership Working Group and London Councils from time to time on progress
- convening and servicing meetings of the Grants Committee: Third Sector Working Group

Recommendations

Members are asked to,

1. **Note** that the detailed work plan for leadership in the third sector was agreed by the Grants Committee in November 2016.
2. **Note** that budgetary provision of £75,000 for London Councils to undertake this work on behalf of the Grants Committee was agreed by Leaders Committee in December 2016.
3. **Agree** the terms of reference for the Third Sector Leadership Working Group set out in sections 2.4 and 2.5 of this report.

Financial Implications for London Councils

Provision for London Councils officer time is included in the budget report for 2017/18 agreed by Grants Committee at its meeting of November 2016.

Legal Implications for London Councils

Legal advice will be taken following members agreement.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

Equalities considerations relating to the move to a new Grants Programme were considered by members at Grants and Leaders' Committee meetings in November/December 2015 and March 2016.

Background Papers

Leaders' Committee, Proposed Revenue Budget and Borough Subscriptions and Charges 2017/18, 6 December 2016

Grants Committee, Leadership in the Third Sector, 23 November 2016

Grants Committee, Leadership in The Third Sector: The role of London Boroughs and London Councils, 13 July 2016

Grants Committee, Grants Programme 2017-21, 9 March 2016

Leaders' Committee, Grants Programme 2017-21, 22 March 2016