

BLINDCRAFT CHARITABLE TRUST FUND

13th November 2020.

Present: Councillor Robert Mooney (Chair), Bailie Annette Christie, Glasgow City Council; Jennifer Alexander and Fiona Sandford.

Apology: Wendy Shannon, Glasgow City Council.

Attending: P Yule (Clerk), J McMartin, A Ross, and C Woodley, Glasgow City Council.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 The minutes of 29th November 2019 were submitted and approved.

Trust accounts 2019/20 – Financial update noted.

2 There was submitted and noted a financial update by the Head of Corporate Finance regarding the financial position of the Blindcraft Trust for the period April 2019 to March 2020, advising that

- (1) the Trust had agreed option 3 for the budget for 2020/21 and increased the expenditure to £141,000 for financial year 2020/21, as detailed in the report;
- (2) due to the delay in setting the budget for the 2020/21 financial year, there had been no expenditure during the period 1st April to 23rd October 2020.

Trust accounts 2019/20 – Trust accounts and Audit report approved.

3 There was submitted a report by Ms Jennifer Alexander of Auditors Azets regarding the annual accounts for 2019/20 and audit management report for the year to 31st March 2020, advising that

- (1) the Blindcraft Trust Fund annual accounts had been completed for the financial year 2019/20 and had been audited by Azets; and
- (2) Azets had issued their report on the accounts and a letter of representation which required to be signed by 2 Trustees prior to the accounts being signed off, as detailed in the report; and
- (3) that the current balance of the Trust Fund was £2,325,930.

After consideration, the Trustees

- (a) noted the Auditor reports for the Fund from Azets; and

- (b) approved the Trust's accounts for 2019/20.

Applicant Engagement noted etc.

4 There was submitted a report by Ms Catherine Woodley, Funding Support Officer, regarding applications for funding for 2020/21, advising that

- (1) the following 9 organisations Visibility, RSBI, Deafblind Scotland, Macular Society, Guide dogs for the blind, Playback, Rex Blind, RNIB and Forth Valley Sensory had been invited to apply for funding from the Blindcraft Trust for the financial year 2019/20 and that all funds had been approved and released with the exception of Playback who had applied for £5,200 for 2020/21, and that any funding award would be subject to available funds and receipt of paperwork from the organisation, as detailed in the report;
- (2) the Trustees were invited to select the organisations to apply for funding from the Blindcraft Trust for 2020/21 and that this could include the organisations referred to above, plus any other organisations whose objectives aligned with the purposes of the Blindcraft Trust; and
- (3) RNIB had applied in 2019/20 for a further 2 years funding of £12,912 for years 2020/21 and 2021/22 dependant on available funds.

Meeting schedule and postponement of application process

5 There was submitted a report by Ms Jennifer McMartin, Executive Legal Manager, Legal Services regarding the meeting schedule and postponement of applications for funding for 2020/21, advising that

- (1) the Blindcraft Trust meeting scheduled for 27th March 2020 had been cancelled owing to lockdown restrictions as a result of COVID-19;
- (2) in August 2020 the Chair had been briefed by Council officers from Legal Services on how applications would be processed as the scheduled meeting on 27th March 2020 did not take place and it was recognised that there would be insufficient time to invite organisations to apply for funding in the current year and given the lead-in time was around 5 to 6 months for applications; and
- (3) that it had been agreed on 25th August 2020 that a Microsoft Teams meeting would be arranged for 13th November 2020 to agree the budget and accounts and thereafter, it was anticipated that normal processing times for applications would apply from March 2021.

Date of next meeting.

6 The Trustees agreed that the date of the next meeting would be Friday 26th March 2021.