

BLINDCRAFT CHARITABLE TRUST FUND

By video conference, 25th November 2021.

Present: Councillor Robert Mooney (Chair), and Bailie Annette Christie, Glasgow City Council.

Apologies: Wendy Shannon, Glasgow City Council and David McKerral.

Attending: P Yule (Clerk), J Alexander, Azets Auditors Services; C Campbell, A Stewart, A McNamee, and C Woodley, Glasgow City Council.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

1 The minutes of 25th March 2021 were submitted and approved.

Trust accounts 2020/21 – Monitoring statement noted.

2 There was submitted and noted a financial monitoring statement by the Head of Corporate Finance regarding the financial position of the Blindcraft Trust for the period from April to October 2021, advising that

- (1) the Trust had agreed to limit expenditure to £125,000 for financial year 2021/22;
- (2) the total committed expenditure from April to October 2021 had been £21,287; and
- (3) the remaining budget for 2021/22 was £260,930.

After consideration, the Trustees noted the report.

Trust accounts 2020/21 – Approval of trust accounts and audit report.

3 There was submitted a report by Jennifer Alexander of Azets Auditors Services regarding the annual accounts for 2020/21 and audit management report for the year to 31st March 2021, advising that

- (1) the Blindcraft Trust Fund annual accounts had been completed for the financial year 2020/21 and had been audited by Azets Auditors Services;
- (2) Azets Auditors Services had issued its report on the accounts and a letter of representation which required to be signed by 2 Trustees, as detailed in the report, prior to the accounts being signed off; and
- (3) the current balance of the Trust Fund was £2,774,748.

After consideration, the Trustees

- (a) noted the auditor reports for the Fund from Azets Auditors Services; and
- (b) approved both the accounts and the Auditor's recommendations.

Applications for funding 2020/21 approved.

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

- (1) the Trust had made contact with the 9 previously agreed organisations namely City Building (RSBi Factory); Deafblind Scotland; Forth Valley Sensory; Guide Dogs Scotland; Scotland Macular Society; Rex Blind; RNIB; Visibility and Playback; and
- (2) 8 of the 9 organisations had expressed an interest in applying for funding from the Trust and each organisation had been invited to submit proposals based on the level of grant each had been assessed as being suitable to manage as detailed in the report.

After consideration, and having heard Catherine Woody, the Trustees

- (a) noted that a number of organisations applied for funding, namely, Guide Dogs Scotland, Scotland Macular Society, City Building RSBi, Deafblind Scotland, Forth Valley Sensory Centre, Rex Blind, RNIB and Visibility;
- (b) dealt with the applications as detailed in the report, as follows;

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Purpose of application</i>	<i>Decision</i>
City Building (RSBi)	Towards the cost to support digital services	Awarded £22,445
Deafblind Scotland	Towards the cost of staffing	Awarded £23,635
Forth Valley Sensory Centre	Towards the costs of staffing, marketing materials and a projector	Awarded £44,872 over 3 years (£15k, £15k and £14,872)
The Guide Dogs for the Blind	Towards the cost of staffing and kitchen equipment	Awarded £24,960, with an extension for grant to be spent by June 2022
Macular Society	Towards the cost of staffing and management	Awarded £25,000

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Purpose of application</i>	<i>Decision</i>
Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB)	Towards the cost of stationery and staff costs	Awarded £25,00, plus £12,912 3rd instalment of previous agreed funding
Visibility Scotland	Towards the cost of delivering projects	Awarded £50,000, over 2 years (£25k and £25k)
Playback	To purchase 7 Ipads	Awarded £3,000

Date of next meeting.

5 The Trustees agreed that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed and all members advised accordingly.