



The Barbican Arts Centre is part of the City of London Corporation's cultural contribution to the nation

Playing our part

Making money might grab the headlines, but giving it away has long been a tradition in the Square Mile

Throughout its history, the City of London and the businesses that operate there have been closely linked to great works of philanthropy. From the charitable deeds of Lord Mayor Dick Whittington, to this year's Lord Mayor's Appeal, investment in communities, health, education and the arts, at home and overseas, has been a key City objective.

As the City has grown, so has the amount it gives to good causes. The financial and professional business services sector now donates, on average, more than £500m to community causes per year and looks to safeguard the future of charitable enterprise through organisations such as the City Philanthropy Club, which was established to encourage younger executives to get involved.

It's not just about raising money. The Brokerage Citylink is an independent not-for-profit organisation working in partnership with City employers to create a pathway to the City for young residents of London's inner-city boroughs. Working with local schools and colleges, it helps City firms to engage with students from 14–18 years old with a view to raising their future career aspirations.

Bordering the Square Mile are some of the UK's most deprived communities. The City of London Corporation is committed to funding regeneration partnerships throughout the City fringes, supporting small businesses in neighbouring boroughs and helping to engage the City's business community in projects that benefit local residents.

The City of London Corporation also

owns and funds wholesale food markets, the Guildhall School of Music & Drama, the Barbican Arts Centre and green spaces in and around the City, including Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath, many of which are provided at no cost to the taxpayer. Similarly, the Guilds and Livery Companies give more than £40m to charitable causes every year and help to train young people in skills that will benefit their, and the UK's, future.

Visitors to the capital can see the results of the City's philanthropic giving every time they cross the Thames. The City Bridge Trust maintains the five City bridges – London, Tower, Blackfriars, Southwark and the Millennium footbridge – at no cost to the taxpayer, as well as giving more than £15m a year to London causes. The Trust has provided £228m of grants to more than