

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2632

Title: Evaluation of the London Multiply Programme

Executive Summary:

This Assistant Director Decision (ADD) form asks the Assistant Director to approve spend of up to £150,000 on an externally commissioned evaluation of the London Multiply programme. The London Multiply evaluation will enable the GLA to understand how well the programme met the intended outcomes and identify successful elements and best practice that can be integrated into London's skills provision, including Adult Education Budget (AEB) numeracy provision. This delivers on the Mayor's commitment in the [Skills Roadmap for London](#) to ensure that skills provision in London is impactful by evaluating the social and economic benefits and best practice of the London Multiply programme.

An ADD is being sought as [MD3035](#) (Management and Administration of the 2022-24 Multiply Programme) delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Skills & Employment to make all further programme-level decisions via ADD Form as necessary. It was noted within the MD that the GLA would conduct an evaluation of the London Multiply programme that would focus on how the programme meets local priorities such as learner progression. This decision form approves the final scope and budget for that evaluation.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director, Skills & Employment approves expenditure of:

- up to £150,000 for externally commissioned elements of the London Multiply evaluation (£50,000 in financial year (FY) 2023-24 and £100,000 in FY 2024-25) to deliver a qualitative analysis of the Multiply interventions delivered by skills and training providers, an evaluation of the Local Community Numeracy Roadshow, and a final programme evaluation report.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

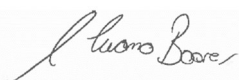
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Michelle Cuomo-Boorer

Position: Assistant Director – Skills & Employment

Signature:



Date:

22/05/2023

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The London Multiply programme is a circa £41m numeracy skills programme that supports free learning opportunities for Londoners who are aged 19+ and have no to low numeracy qualifications. The programme is being delivered by local authorities and colleges working in partnership with employers, schools, and community organisations, and will support a minimum of 31,000 Londoners to improve their numeracy skills across 57 providers. As a condition of funding from the Department for Education (DfE), Multiply provision is not permitted to duplicate existing Adult Education Budget (AEB) provision.
- 1.2. To ensure the programme delivers value for Londoners, it is important for the GLA to understand the impact of the programme on participants, including social and economic outcomes. It is also important for the GLA to understand the effectiveness of the London Multiply programme in reaching those outcomes, especially the significant engagement activity being delivered, so that future provision of adult skills and training can incorporate best practice.
- 1.3. The GLA will analyse quantitative data that will be able to ascertain some outcomes of the programme. However, an external evaluation is also needed to gain a more robust and in-depth understanding of the London Multiply programme and its impacts on Londoners, wider stakeholders and delivery partners.
- 1.4. [MD3035](#) (Management and Administration of the 2022-24 Multiply Programme) delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Skills & Employment to make all further programme-level decisions via ADD Form as necessary. It was noted within the MD that the GLA would conduct an evaluation of the London Multiply programme (using up to £210,000 funding) that would focus on how the programme meets local priorities such as learner progression. This decision form approves the final scope and budget for that evaluation.
- 1.5. The GLA will conduct an open procurement exercise to commission an evaluation organisation in line with the GLA Contracts and Funding Code. This process will ensure that the successful evaluation organisation will offer suitable value for money, specialist knowledge, and experience of working with the adult education sector.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The GLA will procure an external evaluation organisation to conduct an evaluation of the London Multiply programme to understand how well the programme met the intended outcomes, helping to meet the Mayor's ambitions to make adult learning in London more impactful. As the programme is supporting new activity that does not duplicate existing AEB provision, the evaluation will also consider what effective new practice could be incorporated into the Mayor's skills policy and funded provision, including AEB, in the future.
- 2.2. Through the evaluation the GLA aims to :
 - understand London Multiply numeracy provision, what activity was delivered and where, how it was different to existing adult numeracy provision, the impact of provision, and how it can be embedded into future programmes
 - understand the economic and social outcomes for learners who participated in London Multiply provision

- evaluate the effectiveness of varied outreach approaches to engaging those with attitudinal barriers to maths and those with low numeracy confidence, including whether the programme has worked to address those attitudes
- understand the impacts of the programme on community organisations and employers, referral pathways that have been created, the impact of these, and how likely they are to be sustained beyond the life of the programme
- understand successful practice that can be integrated into ongoing policy development and skills delivery, to ensure successful approaches are built upon and support a legacy of good numeracy learning in London.

2.3. The London Multiply evaluation will include the following elements for which the GLA will seek an external evaluation organisation at a cost of up to £150,000:

2.3.1. Qualitative research of provision and outcomes, which will include:

- Analysis and individual case studies that reflect the experiences of learners on the London Multiply programme.
- Analysis and case studies of how providers are delivering the London Multiply programme, how their interventions differ from existing provision, the lessons they are learning from the London Multiply programme, and the best practice that they will continue beyond the programme.
- Analysis and case studies of how supporting partners, such as community organisation and employers, have been involved in London Multiply, their experiences and impact of the programme, lessons for future cross-sector partnership working, and how likely they are to sustain relationships established through the programme.

2.3.2. Evaluation of the Local Community Numeracy Roadshow that will highlight reach, participation levels, impact, effectiveness in reducing attitudinal barriers to numeracy, and learning on local engagement.

2.3.3. Final programme evaluation report synthesising the findings from each strand of evaluation work, including:

- Relevant learnings and data from the evaluations the Skills for Londoners (SfL) Community Outreach programme and SfL Employer Engagement programme both supported by London Multiply funding.
- Relevant learnings and data from quantitative analysis conducted by the GLA.
- Policy and practice recommendations for the GLA and providers on how to sustain best practice from London Multiply beyond the life of the programme.

2.4. Quantitative analysis and commentary of the Individualised Learner Record (ILR), the London Learner Survey (LLS), and regular reporting from London Multiply providers will be conducted by the GLA. This analysis will be incorporated into the final programme evaluation report delivered by the commissioned evaluation organisation.

3. Equality comments

3.1. To ensure the London Multiply programme meets the Public Sector Equality Duty an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out to demonstrate how equality groups and equalities impact

were considered in the development of the programme and set out the likely impact delivery would have on equality groups and address wider issues of socio-economic inequality.

- 3.2. The London Multiply programme will give Londoners without Level Two numeracy qualifications the opportunity to learn and develop essential numeracy confidence and skills they need in life and work. From the EqIA, the GLA knows those without a Level Two qualification are more likely to be low-income, older, disabled, or from a minority ethnic background. As such, this provision is likely to reach groups sharing a protected characteristic under the Equality Act and support them to upskill, supporting progression into further learning and good work.
- 3.3. As a result of this focused work to support equality groups, it is expected that any evaluation of London Multiply will pay particular attention to understanding the impacts of the programme on different equality groups and their ability to access adult numeracy training.
- 3.4. The evaluation is also seeking to explicitly incorporate the voices and experiences of Londoners from equality groups through the qualitative research and evaluation of the Local Community Numeracy Roadshow. This will ensure that those most likely to face inequalities in education and skills are represented strongly in the evaluation of adult numeracy provision in London.
- 3.5. The outcomes of this evaluation will also be used to ascertain best practice and adapt future delivery of adult education in London to ensure that it is more accessible to those less likely to participate in adult education, including those from equality groups.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. A competitive exercise will be conducted, in line with GLA and TfL procedures, to ensure that the procured evaluation organisation will offer suitable specialist knowledge and experience of working within the adult education sector, which will offer unique value for money.
- 4.2. The budget for this activity is £150,000. This has been benchmarked against other evaluations conducted on behalf of the GLA, including the evaluation of the AEB.

Key risks and issues

	Risk Description	Mitigation / Risk Response
1	The procured organisation risks underperforming against the objectives of the evaluation and not delivering outputs to the required standard or in a timely fashion.	The GLA has benchmarked the budget for this evaluation against previous high-quality evaluations of adult education in London. In addition, the GLA will undertake a competitive procurement process in line with TfL standards to award the evaluation to the organisation most likely to deliver the objectives of this evaluation. The Multiply delivery team will also robustly performance manage the successful organisation to ensure that delivery of the evaluation is aligned with the evaluation plan.
2	GLA procurement timelines risk a delay to the work strands and a resulting underspend this financial year.	GLA officers will work closely with governance and TfL colleagues to ensure procurement timelines are met.
3	The ILR and LLS is not able to capture all quantitative outputs of the programme, including outreach, engagement, and short non-substantive interventions.	Quarterly reporting from providers which captures engagement activity will be examined alongside other datasets. The qualitative elements of the review will also focus on the impact of these activities

4	The DfE is conducting a national evaluation of the Multiply programme over a similar timeframe, which may overlap with the delivery of the London Multiply evaluation.	The GLA will work with the DfE to reduce duplication of participants and reduce the burden on partners in taking part in multiple evaluations.
5	The London Multiply programme, including management and administration, is funded by the DfE. Programme delivery and staff posts will come to an end in March 2025. Due to the timings of ILR and LLS data, the final summative report of London Multiply will need to be delivered after this point.	The GLA will properly consider unit staffing prior to March 2025 to ensure that the evaluation outputs are delivered, and the legacy of London Multiply can be absorbed into ongoing numeracy delivery.
6	The GLA has a yearly funding agreement with the DfE, and grant determination letters are signed for each financial year (FY). As a result, funding may change.	The GLA does not expect the funding amount to be reduced, but as these funding commitments are contingent on future grant determination letters, officers will build in flexibility to adjust proposals if the funding amount is reduced.
7	The DfE retain the right to reclaim any unspent funding at the end of each FY.	The GLA will take steps to ensure funding is spent in the FYs, in line with its investment plan. This includes clear deadlines and milestones in delivery partners contract(s) and GLA officers with project management responsibilities.

Links to Mayoral strategies & priorities

- 4.3. The [Skills Roadmap for London](#) outlines the Mayor's strategy for ensuring that the learning that City Hall funds makes an impact and leads to positive economic and social outcomes.

We want the learning we fund to transform people's lives, making an impact and leading to positive economic and social outcomes.

- 4.4. This evaluation will support this priority by measuring the social and economic benefits of the London Multiply programme, which will give the GLA greater understanding of best practice and interventions that support Londoners to develop the essential numeracy skills and confidence they need for everyday life, to progress in learning, and access good work.

- 4.5. This evaluation will also support the Mayor in making skills provision more locally relevant.

Making skills provision more locally relevant means providing a more joined-up skills and employment offer that meets the needs of Londoners and the local economy, including businesses and employers.

- 4.6. This evaluation will directly support this priority by giving insight into how adult education providers in London have used the London Multiply programme to build partnerships and collaborative work with local organisations, and how they have supported learners to progress into further learning and good work. This insight into best practice will be integrated into London's skills provision, including Adult Education Budget (AEB) numeracy provision, going forward.

- 4.7. There are no conflicts of interest to declare from those involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. This Assistant Director Decision (ADD) seeks approval for the expenditure from the London Multiply programme budget of £150,000 for externally commissioned elements of the London Multiply evaluation (£50,000 in FY 2023-24 and £100,000 in FY 2024-25).
- 5.2. MD3035 noted that up to £210,000 funding would be used for the evaluation of the London Multiply programme and delegated authority to the Assistant Director – Skills & Employment to make all further programme-level decisions via an ADD, as necessary.
- 5.3. The split of the expenditure by FY is set out in the table below.

	2023-24	2024-25	Total
London Multiply Evaluation	£50,000	£100,000	£150,000

- 5.4. There is sufficient budget in the 2023-24 financial year to meet the expenditure of £50,000 from the London Multiply Programme budget.
- 5.5. Budget allocation for future FYs (2024-25) will be subject to the annual budget setting process and is subject to change.
- 5.6. Any contracts that commit the GLA in future years are subject to appropriate break clauses.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. The next steps are summarised below:

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract	June 2023
Announcement	July 2023
Delivery Start Date	August 2023
Interim Evaluation Report Delivered	April 2024
London Multiply Delivery End Date	March 2025
Final Evaluation Report Delivered	May 2025
Project Closure	June 2025

Background documents:

- [MD3035 Multiply Programme 2022-24](#)
- Equality Impact Assessment for London Multiply Programme

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES

If YES, for what reason: In order to receive value for money, publication of the decision will be delayed so that the budget is not released prior to the appointment of an evaluation partner.

Until what date: 30 June 2023

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Olly Offord has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 22 May 2023.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature:

Ana Gustaf

Date:

22/05/2023