

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD3113

Title: London Borough of Culture Round Three 2023-28 and Liberty 2024-27

Executive summary:

In 2017, the Mayor established a London Borough of Culture award, inspired by the European Capital and UK City of Culture programmes, through which winning boroughs celebrate their unique arts, culture and heritage. MD2107 and MD2287 approved expenditure of £4.537m to launch the first competition, and MD2450 approved expenditure of £4.86m for round two. Since 2019, Liberty, the Mayor's flagship festival for D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts, has developed into a touring festival taking art to local communities. It has been delivered in London Borough of Culture-winning boroughs – Waltham Forest (2019), Lewisham (2022) and Croydon (2023) – under cover of MD2850, and in partnership with Arts Council England.

This decision seeks approval for expenditure of £4m for London Borough of Culture round three, from 2023-24 to 2027-28; running a competition to identify the two title award-winning boroughs for 2025 and 2027; and to provide three Cultural Impact Awards. The sum of £100,000, for preparatory work, is already approved under cover of DD2609. The decision also seeks approval for: expenditure of £320,000 from 2024-25 to 2027-28, to embed and deliver Liberty festivals as part of London Borough of Culture round three; and to seek and spend £200,000 from Arts Council England to enhance the Liberty festivals in 2025 and 2027.

Decision:

That the Mayor approves:

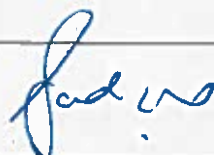
- expenditure of: £4m (2023-24 to 2027-28) for the London Borough of Culture programme; and £320,000 (2024-25 to 2027-28) on Liberty festivals for the delivery of activities set out in sections 1 and 2 of this Mayoral Decision
- permission to seek and spend £200,000 from Arts Council England for Liberty festivals
- a delegation of authority to the Executive Director for Good Growth to:
 - seek and spend additional financial contributions from third parties to enhance programme delivery, set out in sections 1 and 2
 - approve expenditure plans for the youth programme strand, outlined in this decision, once full details have been developed, via director decision(s).

Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

11/5/23

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

London Borough of Culture overview

- 1.1. The Mayor launched the London Borough of Culture programme in 2017. It is a key commitment in his Culture Strategy, Culture for all Londoners, to bring Londoners together. The Mayor wants to help build stronger, more resilient and more creative communities, ensuring Londoners have pride in their local areas, enhancing their health, wellbeing and prospects, and supporting the capital's economic and social recovery from the pandemic. Round one was approved under cover of MD2107 and MD2287, and round two under MD2450.
- 1.2. London Borough of Culture delivers ambitious cultural programmes that are underpinned by the active engagement of residents. It places culture at the heart of communities, inspiring new and diverse talent, and drawing visitors from across the city and beyond. Programmes focus on young people, community and civic engagement, health and wellbeing, and jobs and skills. The programme works strategically with councils to embed culture for the long term across borough strategy and policy.
- 1.3. Since its inception, London Borough of Culture has become a successful flagship cultural programme and cornerstone of the capital's culture calendar. Waltham Forest held the title in 2019, and Brent in 2020. Lewisham delivered its programme in 2022, and Croydon holds the title in 2023. The move from an annual to a biennial model was to enable greater development time between rounds and opportunities to reflect on and share learning. Smaller but targeted, strategic projects have also been supported through Cultural Impact Awards in Camden, Barking and Dagenham, Kingston, Lambeth, Lewisham, and Merton in round one; and Hammersmith and Fulham, Haringey, and Sutton in round two.
- 1.4. So far, the programme has:
 - supported over 2,200 artistic partners
 - leveraged more than £18.8m from over 20 programme funders
 - created 3,370 volunteers
 - worked with 315 schools
 - delivered over 7,600 employment and leadership opportunities for young people
 - supported and delivered culture programmes in 12 boroughs.
- 1.5. Councils have been empowered through London Borough of Culture to use culture to deliver other services, from regeneration to health and young people. As a result, the programme's impact is felt well past the title year, and it has levered significant capital and revenue investment. In Waltham Forest, culture is now embedded across all policies including the Local Plan. The then Leader of Waltham Forest Borough Council, Councillor Clare Coghill, called the award 'life-changing' for the council in 2019. In Brent, the programme pivoted during COVID-19, and young people shaped and led all aspects of it. In 2019, Waltham Forest won the MJ Award for Local Authority of the Year, given by the Municipal Journal, and Brent went on to win it in 2020. The legacy ambitions of Lewisham 2022 are shaping the development of the borough's new cultural strategy.
- 1.6. London Borough of Culture demonstrates the Mayor's commitment to tackling low cultural engagement rates and working in areas of significant deprivation and with a need for 'levelling up' within London. The culture sector has been hit hard by the pandemic. The cost-of-living crisis and

levels of poverty in London mean it has become harder than ever for boroughs to support culture. Council expenditure on cultural services has fallen by 50 per cent across England since 2010, from £118 per person in 2010 to just £59 in 2022. London's Arts Council England funding between 2023 and 2026 is significantly lower than in previous rounds. London cannot bid for either UK City of Culture or, following Brexit, European Capital of Culture. This means it will be significantly harder to make sure all Londoners have access to culture on their doorstep. London Borough of Culture, with its track record of reaching into communities, is needed more than ever. Led by local people, it is empowering communities and reaching diverse Londoners. In round one, in Waltham Forest, 67 per cent of its audience were residents and one in 10 had a life-limiting illness or disability. Brent, where 149 languages are spoken, designated itself the London Borough of Cultures (plural) and involved more than 15,000 local people in designing and shaping its programme.

Liberty overview

- 1.7. Launched in 2003 (in the context of the European Year of Disabled People) as one of the Mayor's flagship programmes, Liberty is now established as a unique, high-quality festival, commissioning and showcasing the work of D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists.¹ It has played a key role in raising the profile of this sector, and in developing artists and audiences in London and beyond; and has served as an inspiration for other festivals and events, including the Unlimited programme and the Paralympic Games opening ceremony in 2012.
- 1.8. Liberty programmes have a strong focus on access and inclusion and include the provision of services and facilities to enable the widest possible access for everyone, regardless of disability, across sites such as Trafalgar Square, the Southbank and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- 1.9. In 2018, Liberty became a touring programme, taking disability arts to local communities. The establishment of London Borough of Culture in 2019 created further opportunities to bring Liberty to the heart of local communities, with the first collaboration taking place in Waltham Forest. Due to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, Liberty was paused; it was subsequently revived as part of Lewisham 2022, and will be held in Croydon in 2023, under cover of MD2850.
- 1.10. As a trailblazer for disability arts, the GLA has successfully raised funding for Liberty from Arts Council England. In 2020, £200,000 was awarded by Arts Council England to the GLA to support Liberty's development as part of a touring programme and linked to London Borough of Culture. This funding was originally awarded for Liberty 2020 in Brent, and Liberty 2022 in Lewisham. Unfortunately, Liberty in Brent was cancelled due to COVID-19. With approval from Arts Council England, the funding was deferred to support Liberty in Lewisham in 2022 and in Croydon in 2023.

London Borough of Culture round three and Liberty 2024 to 2027

- 1.11. This decision requests approval for expenditure of up to £4m, within the Culture and Creative Industries Unit budget, from 2023-24 to 2027-28 to deliver a third round of the London Borough of Culture programme. An additional £100,000 is already approved under cover of DD2609 for planning and preparatory work.
- 1.12. This decision also requests approval for expenditure of up to £320,000, from the Events for London budget within the Strategy and Communications Directorate, from 2024-25 to 2027-28 to embed and deliver the Liberty programme as part of London Borough of Culture; and to seek and spend the income (potentially £200,000) from Arts Council England to enhance the Liberty festivals in 2025 and 2027, and develop research and development projects from the D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts sector in 2024 and 2026, to support subsequent Liberty Festivals.
- 1.13. The development of the third round has been informed by evaluation and feedback from boroughs and the London Borough of Culture Strategic Partners' Board. Round three will deliver:

¹ 'Deaf' with a capital refers to Deaf culture. It is capitalised to acknowledge it is a community of people that share a language and a culture. Some people with hearing loss identify as deaf, but not as part of Deaf culture - perhaps they don't use BSL, for example.

- two title winning London Borough of Culture Awards of £1.35m: one in 2025 and one in 2027
- the embedding of Liberty Festival in the 2025 and 2027 London Borough of Culture programmes
- research and development grants for D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists to create work for the festival, during the planning years 2024 and 2026
- three Cultural Impact Awards of £200,000, to three further boroughs
- a programme of cultural partnerships and youth programmes in local areas
- capacity building and training for boroughs, through a borough support and engagement programme, including grants to aid the development of high-quality bids
- an evaluation, and a dissemination programme to share the impacts and support legacy planning.

1.14. This level of funding has proven successful in supporting the development of ambitious borough-wide programmes, including enabling extensive outreach and community engagement, such as local grant making. It has also helped lever substantial funding to the title-winning boroughs:

- £4m for Waltham Forest
- more than £2m for Brent
- £2m for Lewisham.

Embedding Liberty Festival in title awards

1.15. Disabled Londoners were disproportionately impacted as a result of COVID-19, including those working in the disabled arts sector. To support the growth of the disabled-led creative community, the GLA Culture and Events teams jointly piloted a research and development grants programme to support projects by D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse artists in 2022, which formed part of Lewisham 2022's opening events, as well as delivery of the Liberty Festival as part of the summer programme. Due to the success of the pilot, the research and development grants programme will be a permanent feature of future Liberty programmes.

1.16. In London Borough of Culture round three, boroughs will be required to outline their vision and approach to delivering Liberty as part of their London Borough of Culture application, so that if successful in winning a title award, they will be expected to deliver Liberty as part of their core programme. A full proposal will be developed once the winners are announced. Each title winning borough will receive £70,000 for delivery of the Liberty Festival, in 2025 and 2027, which has the potential to be match-funded with £70,000 from Arts Council England. A further £70,000 budget will be available to support artists with research and development grants between £3,000 and £10,000, during the development years of 2024 and 2026, culminating in a showcase forming part of the title years.

Cultural Impact Awards

1.17. Cultural Impact Awards are a core component of the London Borough of Culture programme to fund smaller transformative projects across London. The awards provide strategic investment at a hyper-local level to address a social policy related issue through culture and enable boroughs to pilot a new creative project or idea. Cultural Impact Awards support activity that will leave a lasting legacy for the borough and its residents. For example, in round one, Barking and Dagenham's New Town Culture project focused on improving experiences within the social care system and continues four years on with funding secured from within the council. In round two, Hammersmith and Fulham's project celebrates local musical talents with a borough-wide and far-reaching participative programme.

- 1.18. Nine awards have been made since 2019. In round three, a further three Cultural Impact Awards will be supported, with grants of £200,000 each. These awards will enable more boroughs to benefit from the London Borough of Culture programme, and engage more Londoners.

Cultural partnerships and young people's programme

- 1.19. Cultural partnerships and youth programmes may also be developed and delivered alongside round three of London Borough of Culture, maximising the benefits to young Londoners. Plans for this investment will be subject to a further decision for expenditure when a detailed programme is in place. In round one, for example, this budget supported The Agency, the young creative entrepreneur programme, to work in partnership with local arts organisations and young people. In Waltham Forest, this fueled a gear change in Blackhorse Workshop's engagement with local young people, resulting in the creation of a Youth Board. In round two, the project A Big Conversation brought together Lewisham-based young creatives to voice their thoughts regarding mental health, and empowered young people to develop their skills while influencing policy about them.

Borough support and engagement activities

- 1.20. Providing strong borough support is the foundation of the programme's wider outcomes and results in high-quality bids being submitted. Using feedback from rounds one and two, a more intensive support programme is being developed that will include an opportunity to receive feedback on bids in draft form before the final submission date.
- 1.21. As in previous years, funds will be made available to support boroughs to access specialist support for developing applications. Discussions are taking place with London Councils to administer this, as in rounds one and two. Specialist artistic advisers will be matched with borough applicants to support bid development such as facilitating cross-council discussions/partnerships, designing the look and feel of the programme, generating creative ideas for the programme, and sharing experience of developing similar projects of scale. A series of workshops, events and area-based surgeries will be offered to boroughs during the bidding process. Where consultants or delivery partners are required, fair and open procurement exercises will be undertaken to appoint suppliers.
- 1.22. A stakeholder engagement budget will support the title boroughs and Cultural Impact Award winners to launch their programmes and achieve diverse stakeholder engagement, ensuring the profile and impact of the programme is maximised. This will include support for audience development events and research, and to produce engagement information and activities. Where consultants or delivery partners are required, fair and open procurement exercises will be undertaken to appoint suppliers.

Application, assessment and evaluation

- 1.23. The application will be a one-stage bid but will include an interview stage, which was introduced in round two. This will allow for further in-depth assessment of the proposals and partners involved. On the basis that the programme launches in May 2023, applicants will have up to seven months to develop and submit their applications, allowing time for community and stakeholder engagement in the bids.
- 1.24. The prospectus, application form and guidance notes will be reviewed and updated to support boroughs in preparing their applications. Approved programme criteria will not change, but amendments will be made to simplify the guidance.
- 1.25. Assessment and scoring of applications will be undertaken by a cross-policy panel of GLA officers, who will make recommendations on the winning boroughs. Applications will be evaluated and scored against weighted criteria, with moderation and discussion built into the evaluation process. The Strategic Partners' Board (see para 1.28) will also review and comment on the proposals. A shortlist of applicants will be invited to interview with an external panel representing the cultural sector and chaired by the Assistant Director for Culture and the Creative Industries. Recommendations will be made to the Mayor for the final decision.

- 1.26. The Liberty's research and development grants programme will be promoted through an open-call process. The evaluation, shortlisting and award of the applications will be conducted by a diverse panel including Liberty Advisory Group members, a representative from the title award borough, members of the GLA's staff Disability Network and officers from the GLA's Events for London and Culture and Creative Industries teams.
- 1.27. The Audience Agency was contracted to deliver the evaluation framework for previous rounds of London Borough of Culture. For round three, in accordance with the GLA Contracts and Funding Code, a full open procurement process will be undertaken to appoint suppliers.

Governance

- 1.28. The programme team sits within the Culture and Creative Industries Unit, and works with the Events for London team, responsible for the delivery of Liberty. The programme supports wider GLA priorities for young people, community engagement, volunteering, health, environment, transport and regeneration. Engagement with officers across these policy areas will ensure delivery of Mayoral and corporate priorities; and will identify key potential partnerships across sectors to enhance the programme.
- 1.29. A Strategic Partners' Board has been established made up of senior representatives from the strategic and funding partners that have supported previous rounds since 2017. This Board will continue to advise the programme across round three. Members include the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, City Bridge Trust, the City of London Corporation, Historic England, Arts Council England, The Linbury Trust, Libraries Connected and London Councils.
- 1.30. To guide and support the future planning and vision of Liberty, the Liberty Advisory Group was established in 2022. This panel of nine experts, from a range of backgrounds, advise on best practice for D/deaf and disabled-led commissions, engagement and communication with D/deaf and disabled audiences and communities; and offer general support and guidance on the future evolution of Liberty. Their wealth of experience and expertise will help Liberty to grow talent and increase opportunities for the D/deaf and disabled-led creative community.
- 1.31. A broader Communications group – with representatives from Transport for London, London and Partners, and the GLA External Relations team – also supports the London Borough of Culture programme.

External funding

- 1.32. Discussions are under way with the Strategic Partners' Board to develop a strategy that will generate further investment to support the winning borough programmes in round three. In addition, grant funding will be sought as a direct contribution to the London Borough of Culture and Liberty programmes and budget, as outlined in this decision. Any income received by the GLA will be spent on enhancing London Borough of Culture and Liberty programme delivery and impact across the winning boroughs.
- 1.33. Additional financial contributions from third parties, which may include sponsorship, will also be sought. Any income to the GLA, additional to that outlined in this decision, will be spent on enhancing London Borough of Culture and Liberty programme delivery and impact, and related additional expenditure will be subject to a separate decision.
- 1.34. As in previous rounds, applicant boroughs will be expected to provide a match-funding commitment to the programme in the region of 30 per cent; and this will include in-kind funding and reallocation of existing budgets, as well as new funding.
- 1.35. The table below sets out the proposed expenditure excluding any anticipated income from external partners:

Grants to boroughs: two title awards	£2,700,000
Grants to boroughs: three Cultural Impact Awards	£600,000
Grants to boroughs: two Liberty Festivals	£140,000
Grants to boroughs: research and development grants in 2024 and 2026	£140,000
Cultural partnerships and young people's programme	£400,000
Borough support and engagement	£80,000
Stakeholder engagement	£60,000
Evaluation and competition delivery	£125,000
Liberty access budget and programme contingency	£75,000
Total	£4,320,000

1.36. All commissioned services will be in accordance with the GLA Contracts and Funding Code.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1. Investment in the next phase of London Borough of Culture and Liberty will deliver:

- a competition and engagement phase providing substantial training and capacity building for boroughs, and engaging their residents
- two title award winners (2025 and 2027), delivering ambitious creative and community-led programmes for up to a year in each borough, using arts, culture and heritage activities to transform people's lives
- Liberty as a core component of London Borough of Culture, showcasing the best of D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts in London
- active engagement with and creation of new work by the D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts sector in new settings, and as part of mainstream events and cultural programmes
- promotion of Liberty as a model of good practice regarding access and disability equality
- three Cultural Impact Awards, delivering a range of high-quality creative interventions across the city that celebrate culture and communities, and encourage participation and positive change
- a programme of work with young people at its heart, offering training, development and creative participation experience for diverse young Londoners
- partnerships with major cultural organisations across the city to create a bespoke cultural offer to build the profile, experience, capacity and participation activity of each title-winning borough; and to widen the scope, and extend the reach, of Liberty
- partnerships with businesses, community and educational organisations to develop new collaborations across boroughs
- significant funding levered directly to the boroughs, benefiting residents and businesses
- a high-profile PR and media campaign, raising the profile of the borough and supporting its economic development
- development of an evaluation framework for the award over the four-year programme
- a programme of dissemination to share what is learnt from developing and delivering London Borough of Culture and Liberty.

2.2. The expected outcomes prepared through the existing evaluation framework are:

- culture and creativity embedded across borough practice, policy and strategy
- cultural activity which is designed to be representative, relevant and empowering, and which uses appropriate models for delivery and/or partnership delivery
- a more resilient creative and cultural sector
- improved social integration leading to greater social cohesion across the boroughs
- an increased number of people accessing culture on their doorstep
- an increased number of active citizens within communities
- increased wellbeing contributing to thriving communities, with culture and creativity acting as an integral part of life in the boroughs
- improved perception/positioning of the boroughs as a cultural destination, and a positive profile for London, encouraging economic investment and tourism
- increased diversity of potential cultural leaders in London, achieved through investing in providing young people with creative skills, knowledge, creative experience and networks
- capacity building for local organisations in the five funded boroughs, contributing to the legacy of London Borough of Culture
- disabled Londoners are more empowered and engaged in the Mayor of London's work
- increased skills through volunteering and development opportunities via the research and development grants programme
- increased awareness of the D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts sector and wider community, supporting positive social benefits
- a developed and improved understanding, among GLA staff, of access provision, both at events and in communicating and engaging with people with disabilities, which can be shared across other events and programmes.

2.3. The successful boroughs will set their own output targets. In Spring 2023, the full evaluation report for Lewisham 2022 will be published. This, along with reports from Waltham Forest 2019 and Brent 2020, will be available to the 2025 and 2027 title winners to share learning and impacts from the programme as they develop their plans, supported by the GLA and the Strategic Partners' Board.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the Mayor of London must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between people who have a 'protected characteristic' as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and those who do not.
- 3.2. The programme has local communities and London residents at its heart. It aims to increase Londoners' engagement with culture, and shine a light on the rich and varied stories of London's diverse communities. Led by local people, the programme has been effective in reaching the communities the Mayor is elected to serve. In Waltham Forest, in 2019, the programme reached over 500,000 people at more than 1000 events. In Brent, in 2020, 15,340 local people were involved in shaping the programme, which reached audiences of 843,481 (live and digital).

- 3.3. In round one, boroughs delivered over 600 employment and leadership opportunities for young people. Lambeth's Cultural Impact Award, Elevate, supported diverse talent in the creative workplace; and engaged 26 cultural partners to inspire the next generation of creative leaders, and enable young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities to build careers in the arts. Barking and Dagenham's pioneering programme, New Town Culture, brought the power of art and culture into social care services for children and adults. To date it has involved 400 looked-after young people and care leavers; and 814 adult social-care users. Lewisham's Age Against the Machine, a festival of creative ageing, included 275 events, attended by over 16,500 people. And in round two, Lewisham's 2022 programme reached 7,000 young people. Funding for round three will specifically support activity to ensure that attendance at events is diverse and reflects the population of the borough; and that diverse young people are engaged with positive activities to help them fulfil their potential, and to steer them away from trouble and towards education and employment.
- 3.4. Round three of the competition will be open to all London boroughs to apply for and receive grant funding if their application proves successful. The evaluation of all applications will be fair and transparent, and scored and evaluated to the same criteria, giving all applicants an equal opportunity to access the grant funding outlined in the main body of this report. Assessment of need, in line with the borough's level of deprivation, will form part of the funding criteria. Applicants will have to outline how their programme and approach to engaging communities will achieve this.
- 3.5. All London boroughs will be made aware of the development fund, alongside access to an arts consultant and an engagement programme to support them during the bidding process. This funding will be distributed fairly and openly to all those who wish to apply for this fund.
- 3.6. Liberty is planned to be inclusive and aimed at all Londoners, culturally and socially. This will be achieved through the programme content; the broad and targeted approach to marketing channels; and enhanced access facilities at the event, thereby further removing barriers to disabled people participating in the event. Liberty invites different communities to come together to enjoy the arts on offer, thereby supporting social integration and the fostering of good relations between people that have disabilities and other protected characteristics, and those who do not.
- 3.7. As a showcase of D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts, as well as specifically targeting disabled audiences, Liberty takes steps to meet the differing needs of disabled people specifically – thereby encouraging disabled people to participate, where participation in public events is disproportionately low.
- 3.8. In addition, Liberty engages directly with specific D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse community stakeholders via the Liberty Advisory Group, a diverse group of experts in disability arts and the disabled community, as well as wider D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent networks via the GLA's Communities and Social Policy teams, ensuring the needs of the disabled community are understood and met at Liberty.

4. Other considerations

Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.1. The Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board advises the Mayor on issues and opportunities in culture, the creative industries and 24-hour London that impact across the GLA's programmes and initiatives. These in turn support the following recovery missions and foundations, to help London recover from the impact of COVID-19:
- High Streets for All mission
 - Health and Wellbeing mission
 - Building Strong Communities mission

- Engaging Londoners foundation
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) foundation
- Supporting Businesses, Jobs and Growth foundation.

4.2. The Mayor's Cultural Leadership Board led the development in draft of the Mayor of London's Culture Strategy, Culture for all Londoners. This outlines a vision to ensure all Londoners can engage with and contribute to the capital's rich cultural offering on their doorsteps. London Borough of Culture is the flagship programme within the Love London chapter of this strategy. Other Mayoral strategies with a strong emphasis on culture and the creative industries are as follows:

- Inclusive London, the Mayor's EDI Strategy, ensuring there are opportunities for all Londoners to engage in the programme, regardless of age, social class, disability, race, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or marital status
- the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy and Health in All Policies approach, creating opportunities for Londoners to feel comfortable talking about mental health, reducing stigma as well as empowering people to improve their own and their community's health and wellbeing.
- the Mayor's Social Integration Strategy, enabling people to have more opportunities, through culture, to connect with each other positively and meaningfully; and supporting Londoners to play an active part in their communities and the decisions that affect them
- the Mayor's Vision for London as a 24-Hour city, diversifying London's night-time cultural offer; and making it more safe, welcoming and accessible for a wider range of people.

Impact assessments and consultations

- 4.3. The London Borough of Culture programme was developed in consultation with the Strategic Partners' Board and continues to be reviewed in close contact with this group. The board is made up of representatives from strategic and funding partners, including Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Linbury Trust, City Bridge Trust, Historic England, London Councils and Libraries Connected.
- 4.4. Improvements to the proposed competition process for round three have been informed through feedback from the applicant boroughs from rounds one and two, and the Strategic Partners' Board. Extensive engagement and consultation with communities take place during the application development phase to ensure the programme reflects the needs of residents and robust evaluation is undertaken by title award boroughs, with findings feeding into the commissioning of future rounds.
- 4.5. London Borough of Culture forms part of the Mayor's Culture Strategy, which was subject to a 12-week consultation with stakeholders and the public.
- 4.6. Liberty Festival is supported by the Liberty Advisory Group, a dedicated group of experts and prominent figures in the D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse arts and community sector, who will advise on the content, format and direction of the event. Other organisations from the wider sector – such as Attitude is Everything, Artsline and Shape – will also be engaged on the plans for Liberty as they develop.
- 4.7. The research and development grant applications will undergo a robust assessment process with members of the Liberty Advisory Group and GLA Staff Disability Network taking part in the evaluation.
- 4.8. The operational impact assessment of Liberty Festival will be through a steering group and a multi-agency planning process in respect of licensable activity. Key agencies will be consulted as part of this multi-agency process.

Risks

4.9. The key risks and mitigating actions are outlined below.

Risk	Mitigating action	RAG rating
Boroughs do not have sufficient time to develop strong applications	Boroughs have been notified of the round three competition ahead of the formal competition launch in Spring 2023, so that they can begin planning. A detailed and robust borough engagement plan is being developed, to provide intensive support to boroughs in developing their bids.	Amber
Ability to raise funding	Significant investment has already been committed by major funders to previous rounds of the programme and further discussions are in progress. Borough proposals will need to demonstrate that they are scalable, and boroughs will also be expected to fundraise for the programme.	Green
Artistic quality/ readiness to deliver	Overseeing officers have substantial experience of delivering high-quality large-scale programmes. Previous rounds have proved to be highly successful and have received extensive positive media coverage. Specialist artistic advisors will be matched with applicants to ensure programmes are developed in line with the ambition. Bids will be assessed on the quality of both the artistic programme and the experience for communities.	Green
Financial mismanagement	Officers adhere to internal financial management and procurement processes as set out in the Contracts and Funding Code, and in financial regulations. Payment is only made on achievement of milestones.	Green
Disabled community not supporting Liberty, and the reputational risk to the Mayor associated with this	Engagement is made with the D/deaf, disabled and neurodiverse community in the form of the Liberty Advisory Group, who can feed into the appropriateness and creative content of the event. Officers monitor issues directed via the GLA's Public Liaison Unit, to ensure this is addressed.	Green
Access facilities at the events are not of an appropriately high standard to fully meet the needs of all D/deaf, disabled or neurodiverse artists and audience	Close working with the local authority partners and the Liberty Advisory Group to ensure the planning approach and delivery of access facilities is robust. Dedicated budget to cover a British Sign Language translation; a palantypist; audio description; an easy-read translation; and other access requirements as required.	Green

Conflicts of interest

- 4.10. The Strategic Partners Board members declare conflicts of interest in accordance with the GLA's policy and guidance for registering and declaring interests.
- 4.11. There are no conflicts of interest to note for any of the officers involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision form.

5. Financial comments

5.1. Approval is requested for the following:

- expenditure of £4m (2023-24 to 2027-28) for the London Borough of Culture programme; and of £320,000 (2024-25 to 2027-28) on Liberty festivals for the delivery of activities set out in sections 1 and 2 of this Mayoral Decision
- Permission to seek and spend £200,000 from Arts Council England for Liberty festivals
- a delegation of authority to the Executive Director for Good Growth to:
 - seek and spend additional financial contributions from third parties to enhance programme delivery, set out in sections 1 and 2
 - approve expenditure plans for the youth programme strand, outlined in this decision, once full details have been developed, via director decision(s).

5.2. The funding for London Borough of Culture is held within the Culture and Creative Industries Unit. The funding for 2023-24, and the indicative plan for 2024-25 and 2025-26, are included in the approved Mayor's budget for 2023-24.

5.3. The funding for Liberty Festivals is a combination of budget held within the Major Events Unit, and anticipated match funding from Arts Council England (not yet agreed). A plan for 2024-25 and 2025-26 is included in the approved Mayor's budget for 2023-24.

5.4. For both plans, funding for 2024-28 will constitute a pre-existing commitment against these budgets when the formal budget-setting process is undertaken; but will need to be approved as part of the Mayor's budget-setting process. Whilst indicative budgets have been set for 2024-25 and 2025-26 no indicative budgets have yet been prepared beyond this point. Therefore, for 2026-27 and 2027-28 budgets will need to be fully prepared and approved as part of the budget setting process before any expenditure commitments can be made for those periods.

5.5. To mitigate any risk of the programme not being sufficiently resourced in future years to cover costs following the budget-setting process, any contractual agreements will include the usual break clauses that could potentially be exercised if required.

5.6. The phasing of the proposed expenditure is summarised below, excluding any income from external partners:

	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	Total
London Borough of Culture	£146,000	£402,000	£1,548,000	£667,000	£1,237,000	£4,000,000
London Borough of Culture DD2609 (already agreed)	£100,000					£100,000
Liberty Festival		£80,000	£80,000	£80,000	£80,000	£320,000

5.7. Any changes to this proposal will be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process. All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.

6. Legal comments

6.1. The foregoing sections of this report indicate that:

- the decisions requested of the Mayor concern the exercise of the GLA's general power, falling within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or that are facilitative of, or conducive or incidental to, the promotion of social development
- in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought, officers (including the Executive Director of Good Growth) have complied with the Authority's related statutory duties to:
 - pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people
 - considers how the proposals will promote the improvement of health and persons, health inequalities between persons and contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom
 - consult with appropriate bodies.

6.2. In taking the decisions requested, the Mayor must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty – namely the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010 and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (race, disability, sex, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion) and persons who do not (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). To this end, the Mayor should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.

6.3. If the Mayor makes the decisions sought, officers (which would extend to the Executive Director of Good Growth) must ensure that, to the extent the expenditure concerns the:

- award of grant funding, it is distributed fairly, transparently, in a manner that affords value for money and in accordance with the requirements of the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code and grant funding recipients before a commitment to fund is made
- payment for services, those services are procured in liaison with TfL Procurement and in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code; and contracts are put in place between and executed by the GLA and contractors before commencement of such services
- variation of current agreements, such variations are agreed, documented in accordance with the corresponding provisions of those agreements and executed by the GLA and the counterparty(ies) before any commitment to vary is made.

6.4. The foregoing sections of this report indicate that the decisions requested of the Executive Director of Good Growth concern the exercise of the GLA's general powers, falling within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or that are facilitative of, or conducive or incidental to, the promotion of economic development and wealth creation, social development or improvement of the environment, in Greater London.

6.5. Section 1 of this report indicates that part of the sought budget will amount to the provision of funding. Officers must ensure that the funding is distributed fairly; transparently; in accordance with the GLA's equality policy and subsidy control rules; and in a manner that affords value for money in accordance with the GLA Contracts and Funding Code. Officers must ensure that an appropriate funding agreement is put in place and executed by the GLA and the recipient before any commitment to funding is made.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Launch competition and build awareness for round three of London Borough of Culture	May 2023
Competition closes for applications	November 2023

Activity	Timeline
2025 and 2027 application assessment	December 2023 to February 2024
Announcement of title winners and Cultural Impact Awards	February/March 2024
Liberty research and development grants programme	2024
2025 title winner and Liberty programme delivered	2025
Liberty research and development grants programme	2026
Three Cultural Impact Awards delivered	2026
2027 title winner and Liberty programme delivered	2027
Final evaluation	Spring 2028

Appendices and supporting papers:

None.

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 be published either 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: Activity is not in the public domain and would be compromised through publication at this stage. Details of the budget allocated for services under various budget lines is also commercially sensitive; this publication may unduly influence the GLA's ability to achieve value for money through it tenders. Therefore, the publication will need to be deferred until all procurements are over.

Until what date: 01 October 2023

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under the 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:

Coral Flood has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Phil Graham has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Justine Simons has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 9 May 2023.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature:

D. Gane

Date:

09/05/2023

CHIEF OF STAFF:

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor.

Signature:

D. Jellany

Date:

09/05/2023

