

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2773

London Music Fund – Music Scholars Programme

Executive summary:

In June 2025, Mayoral Decision 3380 approved the delivery plan for the strategic programme, Supporting and Inspiring Young London (SIYL). It also approved the Assistant Director (AD), Civil Society and Sport as the Senior Responsible Owner; and delegated authority to the AD to approve the receipt of any additional funding, and to approve expenditure in line with Mayoral Decision 3380.

The London Music Fund (LMF) is an established independent charity, celebrating its fifteenth anniversary in April 2026, with a reputation for providing support and opportunities for young people in the capital and achieving outstanding outcomes for these young people. The Mayor is the patron of the LMF.

The Music Scholars Programme enables 26 young Londoners from low-income families to learn a musical instrument and take part in music ensembles each year, contributing 78 specialist positive opportunities over three years from 2025-28, to the Mayor's pledge to create 250,000 positive opportunities for young Londoners.

This decision seeks approval for the expenditure of £78,000 to enable the LMF to plan and deliver the Music Scholars Programme for the next three years as part of the SIYL delivery plan.

Decision:

That, pursuant to the delegated authority provided by Mayoral Decision 3380, the Assistant Director of Civil Society and Sport, as the Senior Responsible Owner for the Supporting and Inspiring Young London (SIYL) delivery plan approves expenditure of up to £26,000 per annum in 2025-26, 2026-27 and 2027-28 (£78,000 total), to fund the support of 26 young music scholars, delivering twelve playing days and three Scholars Award days each year, comprising a total of 78 specialist positive opportunities across three years.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

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: Alice Wilcock

Position: Assistant Director, Civil Society & Sport

Signature:



Date:

18/08/2025

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. In June 2025 Mayoral Decision 3380 approved the delivery plan for the strategic programme, Supporting and Inspiring Young London (SIYL). This programme will contribute to the following core London-level outcomes:
 - children and young Londoners achieve the health and learning outcomes they need to thrive at every stage of development
 - children and young Londoners have the positive opportunities needed to be successful
 - Londoners have the skills they need to improve their lives.
- 1.2. The SIYL delivery plan describes how the Greater London Authority (GLA) will work to bridge the gap between opportunity and offer; and enhance young Londoners' ability to access these opportunities. The Mayor will work across London to bring together key partners, all delivering for young Londoners. This includes directly commissioning key programmes to work on meeting the most acute of these opportunity gaps. It includes activity towards meeting the Mayor's commitment to provide 250,000 positive opportunities for young Londoners during this Mayoral term.
- 1.3. Mayoral Decision 3380 approved the establishment of the SIYL programme; and assigned the role of Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) to the Assistant Director, Civil Society and Sport. It also approved the delivery plan for the SIYL programme, including the resources allocated to it: namely, £527.8m revenue funding across 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 (as set out in the delivery plan). Mayoral Decision 3380 delegated authority to the Assistant Director, Civil Society and Sport, to approve the receipt of any additional funding from central government, or other sources, to expand or extend existing approved projects contained in the SIYL delivery plan, where the parameters of the project remain the same or similar, and after consulting with legal advisors and the GLA's Chief Finance Officer, and having subsequently secured agreement from the Mayoral Delivery Board.
- 1.4. Mayoral Decision 3380 also approved (where this is not already covered by a delegation in an existing Mayoral Decision) the delegation of authority to the Assistant Director, Civil Society and Sport, to approve expenditure funded by the resources allocated to the delivery plan, or income under the terms set out in Mayoral Decision 3380, for projects listed in paragraphs 1.18 and 1.19 of that decision. The London Music Fund is cited in paragraph 1.19 of Mayoral Decision 3380.
- 1.5. As part of the process of approving Mayoral delivery plans, the governance around spending has also changed for delivery plans' Senior Responsible Officers (SROs). In delivery plans, there are three categories of projects:
 - where the project is already set out in detail in an approved Mayoral Decision and the SRO has delegated authority to proceed to make expenditure decisions included in that legacy decision form (Category 1)
 - where the project budget is defined in the delivery plan; and the delivery plan Mayoral Decision, once approved by the Mayor, provides delegation for the SRO to take expenditure decisions outside of the thresholds stated in the current Mayoral Decision-Making Framework (MDM) (Category 2)
 - where the project is less well-defined at present and will need a further Mayoral Decision to set the strategic direction of the budget (Category 3).

- 1.6. This request falls under Category 2, in that the amount requested is in excess of the thresholds for delegated decisions, as set out in the current MDM, but the delegation to the delivery plan SRO as set out in Mayoral Decision 3380 allows for this.
- 1.7. The London Music Fund (LMF) is an established independent charity, celebrating its fifteenth anniversary in April 2026, with an excellent reputation for providing support and opportunities for young people in the capital and achieving outstanding outcomes for these young people. The Mayor is the patron of the LMF.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The budget of £78,000 will provide opportunities for young people from low-income and diverse backgrounds to realise and fulfil their potential through musical education, increasing their confidence and skills and providing them with an equal opportunity to pursue their musical talents and ambitions, which have the potential to improve life chances.
- 2.2. Funding supports the charity's scholarship programme, allowing young Londoners to access tuition with their local Music Education Hubs. It will provide a total of 78 specialist positive opportunities for young Londoners ensuring young people are equipped to gain good employment and career progression.
- 2.3. The funding for the London Music Fund (LMF) will:
 - enable 26 young Londoners per annum to receive weekly 1-1 instrumental tuition through the LMF Scholarship programme, delivered by their local borough music service (78 specialised positive experiences for young people across the term of the funding agreement)
 - enable scholars to take part in weekend or after-school music school / ensemble activity at their local borough music service
 - enable scholars' families to attend concerts and performances in which their child is participating
 - support scholars and their families with a dedicated mentor
 - support LMF to offer free tickets to a range of professional concerts, enabling the scholars to widen their experiences.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Mayor and GLA must comply with the public sector equality duty and must have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. The London Music Fund actively promotes cultural diversity across its programmes of work, sharing good practices and case studies on access and inclusion. The programme is targeted at supporting young Londoners from low-income families and will actively ensure an ethnically diverse group of participants.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The programme outlined in this decision also links to the following Mayoral strategies and mandates:
- Culture for All Londoners – the Mayor’s landmark strategy for culture, which outlines an ambitious vision to ensure all Londoners can engage with and contribute to the capital’s rich cultural offering on their doorsteps
 - The Positive Opportunities work strand within the Supporting and Investing in Young Londoners programme.
- 4.2. The main risk, and its mitigation, is outlined in the table below:

Risk	Probability	Impact	Mitigation
Recruitment diversity targets for scholars not met. This risks reputational damage to the Mayor, the patron of the organisation, if unmet.	Low	High	Core rationale is to increase access to culture, supporting young people from low-income families into the creative industries talent pipeline. LMF will ensure that its existing music service partners and external advisors regularly review recruitment channels and external intelligence to target programme recruitment.

Conflicts of interest

- 4.3. 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. This decision is seeking approval for up to £78,000 expenditure to deliver the scholars programme over three years.
- 5.2. This will be funded as part of the Culture, Creative Industries and 24-Hour London Unit budget with £26,000 per annum (2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28). The budget was approved as part of the 2025-26 budget. Future year’s budgets will still be subject to the annual budget setting process. Any changes in the anticipated profile of spend across the years will be reflected as updates during the budget setting process.
- 5.3. This programme is included in the Supporting and Inspiring Young Londoners delivery plan (Mayoral Decision 3380). The budget aligns to this delivery plan.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. The project will be delivered according to the following timetable:

Activity	Timeline
Launch of 2025/26 Academic Programme (year 1)	1 July 2025
First sessions	September 2025
Scholars Award Day	July 2026
Evaluation and Annual report	September 2026
Launch and delivery of 2026/27 Programme (year 2)	July 2026
Interim Evaluation Report	February 2027
Evaluation and Annual Report	September 2027

Launch and delivery 2027/28 Programme (year 3)	July 2026
Interim Evaluation Report	February 2028
Evaluation and Annual Report	September 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? NO

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:

Clare Lovett has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Mayoral Delivery Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 4 August 2025.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature:



Date:

11/08/2025