

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2794

Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazers

Programme: London Resilience Unit Budget (MD3421)

Executive summary:

The GLA London Resilience Unit received the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Trailblazers Fund from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in July 2025. This funding focuses on three themes: accountability; leadership; and integration of resilience in London. It is outlined in Mayoral Decision (MD)3421, which delegates authority to the Director of Resilience for spend.

As part of the LRF Trailblazers Fund work, this ADD seeks approval to spend £96,000 on extending Community Resilience Fund projects across all 32 London boroughs. The programme funds projects to improve local community-resilience practice. It does so by enabling closer collaboration and partnership working between the voluntary, community and faith sectors, and statutory agencies.

The projects will meet Trailblazers Fund aims, under the integration theme, by integrating community voices in local resilience planning. It will also seek to strengthen local leaders' accountability to communities – thus enhancing collaboration and partnership working.

Decision:

That the Director of Resilience approves expenditure of up to £96,000 (2025-2026) on extending Community Resilience Fund projects across all 32 London boroughs, with each project receiving up to £3,000.

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.

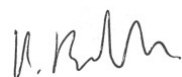
It has my approval.

Name: Katherine Richardson

Position: Director of Resilience

Signature:

Date: 18/11/2025



PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The London Resilience Unit received the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Trailblazers Fund from a section 31 grant, from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This funding was to enhance resilience leadership; accountability; and integration of resilience with other local policy. This was approved through Mayoral Decision (MD) 3421, which delegated authority to the Director of Resilience for the programme's budget and spend.
- 1.2. The London Resilience Strategy (February 2025) set seven overarching priorities:
 - place people at the heart of London's resilience arrangements
 - support the preparedness of London's communities, and a whole-of-society approach
 - enhance understanding of risk
 - support robust preparation, response and recovery
 - support integration and long-term resilience of people and place
 - learn and improve
 - enhance leadership, governance and accountability.
- 1.3. Since 2023, the Community Resilience Fund has supported community resilience projects in all 32 London boroughs. The programme has focused on increasing community preparedness to emergencies; and strengthening partnerships between statutory partners and the voluntary, community and faith (VCF) sectors.
- 1.4. The Community Resilience Fund has funded the following 32 organisations and groups:
 - Bexley Voluntary Service Council
 - the Bridge Renewal Trust
 - the Brixton Project
 - C-Change West London
 - the Commonsides Community Development Trust
 - Community Action Redbridge
 - Community Barnet (CB Plus)
 - Community Links Bromley
 - Community Southwark
 - Croydon Voluntary Action
 - CVS Brent
 - Ealing and Hounslow CVS

- Earlsfield Community Land Trust
- Enfield Voluntary Action
- Hammersmith and Fulham Volunteer Centre
- Havering Volunteer Centre
- Hillingdon Federation of Community Associations
- Kingston Voluntary Action
- Lewisham Local
- One Newham
- One Westminster
- Richmond CVS
- Thames Life
- Tower Hamlets CVS
- Voluntary Action Camden
- Voluntary Action Harrow
- Voluntary Action Islington
- Volunteer Centre Greenwich
- Volunteer Centre Hackney
- Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea
- Volunteer Centre Sutton
- Waltham Forest CVS

- 1.5. This decision will extend each project with an additional £3,000 grant to deliver on LRF Trailblazer Fund aims, focusing on themes of accountability and integration. Total spend for this programme is a maximum of £96,000. Project delivery will begin in January 2026, and conclude by June 2026.
- 1.6. Local authorities across London operate emergency planning or resilience teams, that coordinate the local authority's preparedness and response to emergencies. These teams also act as secretariats to their local Borough Resilience Forums (BRFs). Local accountability for resilience sits with local authorities and BRFs.
- 1.7. Each Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazers project will focus on integration and local accountability, by partnering with local authorities and BRFs. They will complete evaluations at the end of their projects, and submit these to the London Resilience Unit in July 2026.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The objectives of the Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazers projects are:

- to improve local community-resilience partnerships between the VCF sectors, local authority emergency planning teams and BRFs
- to increase local community preparedness through new or improved joint community emergency planning
- to strengthen local leaders' accountability to their communities, through enhanced integration and partnership working.

2.2. The expected outcomes of the Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazers projects are:

- increased community preparedness for emergencies
- improved relationships between the VCF sectors, local authorities and BRFs
- improved integration of community voices and accountability to local communities

3. Equality comments

3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the GLA must have 'due regard' of the Public Sector Equality Duty – that is, the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.

3.2. Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazers projects will improve local authority engagement with, and accountability of local leaders to, VCF sector organisations. These organisations often focus on supporting communities with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

3.3. Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazers grantees bring invaluable knowledge, insights, connections and trust with London's diverse communities. They are well placed to support in communicating and responding to emergencies.

3.4. Partnership working between local authorities and community-led diverse groups will continue to improve representation, and bring in voices excluded in policy and emergency planning places. This links to the London Resilience Strategy's top priority of centring people in resilience.

4. Other considerations

4.1. The following risks and mitigations have been identified:

Risk	Mitigation	Likelihood	Impact	RAG
Reduced take-up across Community Resilience Fund projects.	Total spend is up to £96,000 – but can be lower if fewer projects agree to continue.	2	1	Green
Projects need more time to complete their projects and submit their evaluations.	Grant agreements will be set up with extended timescales; project timelines can be adjusted.	2	1	Green

Local authority teams need capacity and support to help projects.	Demand on local authority time will be proportionate. Project timelines can be adjusted if necessary.	1	1	Green
---	---	---	---	-------

- 4.2. The Community Resilience Fund – Trailblazer projects will directly link to the London Resilience Strategy’s priorities – specifically the second priority, focused on supporting London’s communities.
- 4.3. There were no conflicts of interest identified from any Officer involved in drafting or clearing this decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is sought for £96,000 of spend to support community resilience projects in 2025-26. This will be funded from the first instalment of £335,864 for the Trailblazers fund already received from MHCLG. The project aligns to the funding agreement and conditions of the grant.
- 5.2. The programme supports the statutory functions of the core delivery plan.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. This work will be delivered according to the following project plan:

Activity	Timeline
Grant agreements produced and delivered to all projects	December 2025
Grant money distributed to all projects	January 2026
Project activity begins	January 2026
Project activity ends	June 2026
Evaluation reports delivered	July 2026
Project closure	August 2026

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.

Strategic Programmes

Does this decision seek approval for activity falling within the remit of a programme delivery plan? NO

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:

Cliff Fleming, Resilience Manager – Communities 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 17 November 2025.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Date: 12 November 2025

Signature:

