

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD2761

**Title: Support for community, cultural and sporting events in London 2026-27 and 2027-28**

**Programme: Supporting community, cultural and sporting events in London**

### Executive Summary:

In September 2025, the Mayor, under Mayoral Decision (MD) 3392 approved: the delivery plan for the strategic programme, Supporting community, cultural and sporting events in London (SCCS); assigned the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, as the Senior Responsible Owner; and delegated authority to the said Executive Director to approve the receipt of any additional funding, and to approve expenditure in line with MD3392.

The GLA's Civil Society and Sport unit encourages active participation in community and civic life. It supports Londoners of all ages to volunteer, live active lives, and take action to improve London.

This Decision seeks approval for expenditure of up to £310,000 for projects increasing diversity in volunteering, providing opportunities to volunteer, and collaborating with the National Lottery Community Fund to deliver the Mayor's Community Weekend. It also seeks approval for the receipt and expenditure of income of up to £170,000 for Visitor Welcome and Major Event work costs incurred during the deployment of volunteers.

### Decision:

That, pursuant to the delegated authority provided by MD3392, the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications approves:

- expenditure of up to £310,000 (consisting of up to: £130,000 in 2026-27 and £180,000 in 2027-28) for projects that ensure community representation, that encourage the participation of Londoners, and promote volunteering.
- receipt and expenditure of income of up to £170,000 (consisting of up to: £70,000 in 2026-27 and £100,000 in 2027-28) for Visitor Welcome and Major Event work costs incurred during the deployment of volunteers at events as part of the Visitor Welcome and Major Events volunteer offer.

### AUTHORISING 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:** Chandru Dissanayeke

**Position:** Executive Director of Strategy and Communications



**Date:** 30 March 2026

**Signature:**

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. In September 2025 Mayoral Decision (MD) 3392 approved the delivery plan for the strategic programme, Supporting community, cultural and sporting events in London (SCCS). This programme contributes to the following core London-level outcomes:
  - Londoners feel able to take part in the city’s cultural life
  - London is a world-leading global city.
- 1.2. The delivery plan sets out how the GLA will continue to ensure community representation and the celebration of our city’s diversity, helping people to express pride in the city they call home, and support them to feel represented in their city, and how to work best in partnership with communities, charities and the creative sectors to deliver for Londoners. It includes plans to support major events of global and national significance, to continue to work to attract major sporting events to London, and to encourage the participation of Londoners, and a sense of pride. The plan recognises that volunteering has multiple benefits for Londoners, and that it should be accessible to all, and outlines how the GLA’s work will focus on promoting volunteering and how to give Londoners the opportunity to participate more directly in London’s cultural offer. The delivery plan also includes a focus on local events and celebrations, with consideration of how access to community events and cultural activity in all parts of London can be achieved.
- 1.3. The Mayor, under MD3392 approved the establishment of the SCCS programme; and assigned the role of Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) to the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications. It also approved the delivery plan for the SCCS programme, including the resources allocated to it: namely, £66.571 million revenue funding and £39.770 million of capital funding across 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 (as set out in the delivery plan). Under MD3392 the Mayor also delegated authority to the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, to approve the receipt of any additional funding from central government, or other sources, to expand or extend existing approved projects contained in the SCCS 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. The Mayor also approved, under MD3392, (where not already covered by a delegation in an existing MD) the delegation of authority to the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications, to approve expenditure funded by the resources allocated to the delivery plan, or income under the terms set out in MD3392, for projects listed in paragraphs 1.16 and 1.17 of that MD.
- 1.4. The GLA’s Civil Society and Sport unit (CSS) delivers on the Mayor’s priorities to work with communities and civil society groups across London, to encourage active participation in community and civic life. It supports Londoners of all ages to volunteer, live active lives, and take action to improve London. CSS projects contained within the SCCS delivery plan are as follows:
- 1.5. This Decision seeks approval to spend funds on activities that will support Londoners and civil society. These activities will focus on bringing the sector together for various projects; promoting volunteering; and enhancing opportunities for all Londoners to volunteer. The aim is that all Londoners feel welcome in, and can play a full and equal part in the life of our city.
- 1.6. It is proposed that the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications approve expenditure totalling £310,000 for the delivery of the projects listed in paragraph 1.17 of the SCCS delivery plan. This is so the GLA can deliver activity that supports the priorities set out in paragraph 1.2. This work contributes to the objectives and expected outcomes of the SCCS delivery plan. This budget is allocated to projects as set out in the table below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>Total</b>
Simply Connect volunteer website	£20,000	£20,000	£40,000
Mayors Community Weekend	-	£50,000	£50,000
Supporting the volunteering sector	£25,000	£25,000	£50,000
Visitor Welcome and Major Events volunteering	£85,000	£85,000	£170,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£130,000</b>	<b>£180,000</b>	<b>£310,000</b>

1.7. Further to the expenditure as set out at paragraph 1.6, it is proposed that the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications approve the receipt of third-party income of up to £170,000 for the Visitor Welcome and Major Events work (see paragraphs 2.10 to 2.14 below). As part of the process of approving Mayoral Delivery Plans, the governance around spending has also changed for Delivery Plan Senior Responsible Officers (SROs). In Delivery Plans, there are three categories of projects:

1. where the project is already set out in detail in an approved MD and the SRO has delegated authority to proceed to make expenditure decisions included in that legacy decision form;
2. where the project budget is defined in the delivery plan and the delivery plan MD, 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);
3. where the project is less well-defined at present and will need a further MD to set the strategic direction of the budget.

The requests for the Mayor's Community Weekend project and the volunteering deployment project fall under category No.2, in that the project budget is defined in the delivery plan and the delivery plan MD (paragraph 1.17).

## **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

*Simply Connect volunteer website: £40,000 (consisting of up to £20,000 in 2026-27 and £20,000 in 2027-28)*

- 2.1. Between 2013 and 2024, the GLA delivered the Team London Volunteering website as a key platform for volunteer brokerage across the capital. Following a strategic review, it was determined that the GLA would not maintain the Team London site as a long-term offer. To ensure continuity for users and avoid a gap in London's volunteer infrastructure, CSS sought proposals from organisations that were seeking to develop a platform which aligned with GLA priorities, and having reviewed their proposed project a £50,000 grant (ADD2561) was awarded to Simply Connect Solutions Ltd. This new platform, Simply Volunteer London, launched in March 2024. An additional £11,000 (via MD3033) was approved to fund inflation-related costs and improve site accessibility and user experience. In 2023-24, a further £32,000 was granted for site maintenance, operation, and development, followed by an additional £23,000 in 2024-25 and £20,000 in 2025-26 (DD2758) to support ongoing operational delivery of the platform. This brought the GLA's total investment since 2022 to £136,000.
- 2.2. A grant of up to £20,000 per year in 2026-27 and 2027-28 to Simply Connect Solutions Ltd will fund service delivery, site maintenance, operational and development costs. This will support improvements to the user journey based on sector feedback, address technical issues, and allow for continued exploration of future platform development. The investment aligns with the GLA's commitment to promoting volunteering and ensuring all Londoners have equitable, high-quality access to volunteering opportunities and can play a full and equal part in the life of our city.
- 2.3. The development, launch and continued GLA support of Simply Volunteer London contributes to the continued free of charge availability of a citywide volunteer brokerage website following the closure of the Team London platform. Since its launch, the site has supported thousands of Londoners in finding and engaging with volunteering opportunities, while enabling voluntary and community organisations to connect more effectively with prospective volunteers. Planned updates will build on

this foundation to improve the user journey, enhance accessibility, and strengthen the platform's long-term sustainability. This work celebrates London by fostering civic participation, strengthening community connections, and helping ensure that all Londoners can take part in and benefit from volunteering and will be used to highlight causes and opportunities that support Mayoral priorities.

*The Mayor's Community Weekend: £50,000 in 2027-28*

- 2.4. The Mayor's Community Weekend is a collaboration between the Mayor of London and The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF). The Mayor's Community Weekend delivers events and activities designed to bring Londoners together and celebrate the city's vibrant culture, communities and diversity, with TNLCF providing small grants to community groups across the capital. The initiative was first held in June 2023, when £250,000 was awarded to 185 community groups. Following its success, the Mayor's Community Weekend was again planned for September 2025, with £385,000 of National Lottery funding supporting over 200 community organisations across London. This work celebrates London and Londoners, with City Hall providing participating groups with guidance and support. Returning again in the summer of 2027, expenditure of up to £50,000 will assist organisations to increase the impact of their events. Procured in accordance with the GLA Contracts and Funding code, this includes access to branded event materials and promotional merchandise, the distribution of event packs to grantees, training Team London volunteers to become filmmakers and videographers and photographers to record groups before and during the events, as well as costs associated with delivering and evaluating this project.
- 2.5. 2025 plans included the first deployment of the Mayor's Team London Volunteers to support events, with some volunteers trained as volunteer filmmakers, to interview, capture and share the experience of volunteers from funded groups. This deployment is in line with the outcomes and recommendations of the 2025 Team London Volunteer Review to provide opportunities for Londoners to participate in community events in line with Mayoral priorities. A similar deployment is anticipated for the 2027 event.
- 2.6. The Mayor's Community Weekend 2027 will deliver meaningful outcomes by supporting an anticipated 200 community-led events across London, directly engaging thousands of Londoners through activities that reflect the city's diversity, bring communities together and enabling Londoners to participate in culture and community events across the city. Groups will benefit from practical support, enhancing awareness of their work in their communities. The mobilisation of Team London Volunteers to support selected events will deliver additional capacity for the events. Furthermore, the cohort of trained volunteer filmmakers capturing compelling stories from community organisers and volunteers, will amplify community voices and celebrate grassroots impact. This work celebrates London by showcasing the richness of London's cultures and communities, encouraging civic participation, and building pride in local neighbourhoods with volunteer stories added to the London Lifelines website (a sector resource that highlights and showcases the positive experiences and value of volunteering in London).

*Supporting the volunteering sector: £50,000 (consisting of up to £25,000 in 2026-27 and £25,000 in 2027-28)*

- 2.7. CSS will deliver support to, and promote volunteering in London. Work will primarily focus on reward and recognition, and increasing equity and accessibility in volunteering to give Londoners the opportunity to participate more directly in London's cultural offer and to build skills. This will include convening the Equitable Volunteering Forum, which brings together volunteer managers from across the sector to share best practice, build inclusive approaches, and strengthen efforts to engage underrepresented groups, delivered via a new series of forum events. CSS will also explore policies and interventions to improve trustee diversity within the boards of London's civil society organisations. In addition, volunteer reward and recognition will celebrate the contributions of those who give their time to support communities. This initiative will highlight the impact of volunteering through targeted campaigns, storytelling, and inclusive recognition events to ensure volunteers feel valued. Together, these activities will promote a culture of appreciation, support greater inclusion, and help grow participation in volunteering across the capital.

- 2.8. Expenditure of up to £25,000 per annum will be used to procure (in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code) event requirements and associated costs of convening the Equitable Volunteering Forum. It will also be used to procure research data and convene sector experts to feed into the work on improving trustee diversity as well as testing ideas to reduce the financial burden of trusteeship. Expenditure will also be used for the development of communications materials, event delivery, and outreach, and to support mayoral visits and communications (including professional videography and photography) for work on supporting Volunteer Reward and Recognition. This work directly supports the Mayor's aim to celebrate London by promoting equitable access to volunteering, civic pride, and greater social connection across the capital.
- 2.9. The Equitable Volunteering Forum events will provide a consistent platform for volunteer managers to share best practice, and work with the sector and experts will explore policy and practical interventions resulting in strengthened inclusive approaches across the sector and improved trustee diversity within civil society organisations. CSS will utilise key sector moments throughout the year, (including the Mayor's Community Weekend, Trustees' Week, Volunteers' Week, and International Volunteer Day) to recognise and celebrate the contribution of London's volunteers. These coordinated activities will support the Mayor's ambition for a stronger, more inclusive volunteering ecosystem by building sector capacity, increasing visibility, and encouraging participation from underrepresented communities.

*Visitor Welcome and Major Events volunteering: GLA budget of £170,000 (consisting of up to £85,000 in 2026-27 and £85,000 in 2027-28), income of up to £170,000 (consisting of up to £70,000 in 2026-27 and £100,000 in 2027-28)*

- 2.10. The CSS volunteering team (Team London Volunteering) create accessible and rewarding volunteering opportunities. An annual programme of events includes volunteering for major sporting and cultural events and supporting strategic partnerships to promote the city as a leading global destination. Events and high-profile partnerships in recent years include Formula-E, Champions League football and European Rugby. These events increase the opportunity to boost the reputation of London as a welcoming global city. As well as the advantages to London, the volunteering opportunities can bring significant benefits to volunteers. The National Council for Voluntary Organisations' (NCVO) Time Well Spent research points out several benefits of volunteering – such as reduced isolation, increased contact with people from different backgrounds or cultures, improved health and wellbeing, and new skills and experiences (NCVO, 2023). The Mayor's volunteering team aims to bring the benefits of volunteering to all Londoners. Following a strategic review of this work in 2024-25, future volunteering deployments and volunteering opportunities became more aligned with mayoral priorities, such as providing positive opportunities for young people during school holidays and term time and a refined major events volunteering project provided more diverse opportunities for volunteers to support at sporting and cultural events.
- 2.11. To enhance opportunities for all Londoners to support each other and their city through volunteering, expenditure will be used for project delivery and management costs. The external funding will be sought from event organisers to support costs related to deploying volunteers at their events. This value has been estimated using the roster of events in previous years. This expenditure covers delivery costs such risk assessments; volunteer expenses to ensure that opportunities are accessible (not cost-prohibitive) and equitable; training events including equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI); customer service-specific training and materials; uniform; and technical equipment. Expenditure will also cover accessibility (such as British Sign Language interpreters/taxis/additional transport) to reduce barriers to participation; temporary staff to support delivery at peak times; and a specialist volunteer management system. These resources are used throughout the year across numerous events including the London Marathon and previously at the New Year's Eve fireworks; and for multiple sporting and cultural events, as well as for the deployment of volunteers who support London's crisis response as required. These support requirements will be procured in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code. Where the income is raised by the provision of discretionary services, the charges for the services will not exceed the costs of providing the services.
- 2.12. The programme of events anticipates delivering over 7,500 volunteering hours each year, with additional opportunities to be added throughout the year. Volunteers will support the delivery of

major events and projects aligned with Mayoral priorities. 2025 plans saw the first core integration of Team London volunteers with wider GLA (non-event based) programmes, in order to deliver more benefits to both GLA programmes and the volunteers themselves. As part of Holiday Hope (providing young people with positive opportunities during school holidays) volunteers were offered the opportunity to support young people's development by delivering mock interviews and career talks, helping to build essential employability skills. Future years work will similarly continue to increase the benefit and impact of wider GLA (non-event based) programmes.

- 2.13. The Major Events volunteering strand will continue to position London as a global host city by mobilising trained volunteers to support the successful delivery of international and Mayor of London run events. Having deployed volunteers for the UEFA Champions League Final and the men's and women's UEFA EUROs as part of London's host city obligations, this area will expand to offer a broader range of roles both within and beyond the event venues. 2026-27 and 2027-28 plans include at least one major international event and up to ten Mayoral events being supported annually, enabling Londoners to gain valuable experience while enhancing the city's reputation for excellent event delivery. This work also contributes to developing a skilled, inclusive volunteer workforce that reflects London's diversity and civic pride.
- 2.14. Summer 2027 plans also include the deployment of the Mayor's Team London Volunteers to support a select number of events for the returning Mayor's Community Weekend. This deployment is in line with the outcomes and recommendations of the 2025 Team London Volunteer Review, to provide opportunities for Londoners to participate in community events in line with Mayoral priorities. This work will also enable volunteers to celebrate London, connect with fellow Londoners of diverse cultures, and take part in events within their local communities.

### **3. Equality comments**

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the 2010 Act), as a public authority, the GLA must have 'due regard' to the need to: eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and any conduct that is prohibited by or under the 2010 Act; and advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (the duty in respect of this last characteristic is to eliminate unlawful discrimination only).
- 3.2. Simply Volunteer London targets inequality in access to volunteering by improving how individuals connect with volunteering opportunities. Informed by sector research, including the experiences of disabled Londoners and those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, the platform's design supports inclusive volunteering through clear, accessible features and functionality. The GLA's continued investment in the platform reflects its commitment to ensuring volunteering infrastructure meets the needs of a diverse population. The platform helps to remove digital and structural barriers to participation and supports organisations in reaching and engaging volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds. This work advances equality of opportunity and fosters good relations between groups by enabling more Londoners to engage meaningfully with their communities through volunteering.
- 3.3. The Mayor's Community Weekend provides an opportunity for Londoners from all communities to participate in and benefit from local community events. The project encourages applications from grassroots organisations that work with communities under-represented in civic life, including ethnic minority communities, disabled Londoners, LGBTQ+ people, and faith-based groups. Monitoring of grant recipients includes equalities data to help assess reach, identify participation trends and adjust approaches where required. This aligns with the Public Sector Equality Duty by removing barriers to participation, advancing equality of opportunity, and fostering good relations between different communities across London.

- 3.4. The Civil Society and Sport unit previously commissioned research to look at the barriers and challenges involved in enabling Londoners to participate in volunteering. This was to ensure that volunteering and social action projects are structured in a way that is as appealing, equitable and accessible as possible. The GLA’s work to support inclusive volunteering builds on this research to strengthen good practice in removing the barriers to volunteering; and, thus, ensure that volunteering is open to all. As part of the selection and recruitment process, the work takes specific steps to monitor the participation of volunteers from ethnic minority groups, and those who identify as disabled and adjust approaches where required. This work aims to ensure that the make-up of volunteers represents London’s population in relation to ethnicity and disability. The 2019 Survey of Londoners showed that volunteering and social action participation improves social integration. As such, increasing accessibility of opportunities will improve rates of social integration experienced by volunteers – thereby meeting the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty to foster good relations between groups.
- 3.5. Delivering accessible volunteering opportunities for Londoners is the focus of this volunteering work, and extensive work is undertaken to reflect the diversity of London in our volunteer pool. In 2022 a working group of Team London volunteers who identified as Black, Asian or Minority ethnic, disabled and/or neurodiverse came together (with the support of Team London staff and EDI consultants) to discuss their experience and put together a set of recommendations about how the volunteer experience can be improved. The recommendations of the group were implemented in 2023-24 and continue to be reviewed and updated.
- 3.6. After a comprehensive review of the focus and purpose of the Mayor’s Team London Volunteer programme and the deployment of volunteers, the outcome confirmed a refocus of volunteering opportunities aligning with Mayoral priorities, developing volunteering offers in partnership with global events hosted in the capital, and improving the volunteering journey, with the intention of creating a high-quality volunteering experience and a skilled and diverse volunteer workforce.

#### 4. Other considerations

##### *Key risks and issues*

- 4.1. The key risks, and mitigations, are listed in the table below:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>	<b>RAG rating (Red, Amber, Green)</b>
Low engagement from communities could impact the scale and visibility of the Mayor’s Community Weekend.	The Civil Society and Volunteering Team will issue timely guidance and provide ongoing support to grantees. Additional promotional activity from City Hall and The National Lottery Community Fund will also help build momentum and increase public engagement.	Green
Proposed interventions or recommendations to improve trustee diversity may not be adopted by civil society organisations, limiting the impact of the work on improving board diversity.	Early stakeholder engagement through dedicated sector challenge sessions and use this feedback to shape practical, actionable guidance. By co-developing approaches with the sector, the GLA can build buy-in and increase the likelihood of adoption.	Green
Equitable Volunteering Forums are ineffective in driving systemic change,	Strengthen the influence and accountability of Equitable Volunteering Forums by embedding equity goals into organisational policies and	

leading to limited adoption of inclusive and accessible volunteering practices by organisations, and ultimately resulting in low participation from diverse communities.	providing follow-up engagement for inclusive volunteering practices.	
The Simply Volunteer London site does not keep up with the pace of change in technology resulting in low usage.	Ongoing funding and support will help the platform remain technically current and user-friendly. Additional investment and technical expertise will be explored to provide added resource to the site.	Amber
Volunteering work fails to build a relationship with a large scale, high-profile events resulting in a significant reduction of volunteering roles and reputational damage of not following through with the outcome of the recent review.	Early stakeholder engagement with event providers through the Major Sports Events team and other networks will allow the team to promote their work to a range of potential events. A successful delivery of the event workforce for two World Table Tennis events in 2025 and 2026, as well as support for wider GLA programmes will provide evidence of Team London's previous success.	Green

4.2. The projects outlined in this decision support the following Mayoral strategies and priorities:

- Increasing opportunities for Londoners to volunteer; and for communities to connect, come together and celebrate. This supports the Mayor's aim for London to be a city for everyone; and a place where all communities are welcome, respected and celebrated, and can engage in the opportunities that the city has to offer, including through volunteering.
- Seeking to make London a fairer city by tackling structural inequalities. This will be done by investing in partnerships with civil society organisations; and using intelligence, insights and trends from the sector to help shape potential interventions.
- Providing positive opportunities for young people during school holidays and term time. This will be done by deploying adult volunteers to GLA programmes in order to increase impact and outcomes.
- Positioning London as a global leader in hosting sporting events. This will be achieved through an enhanced major events volunteering offer which is planned to be scaled up to support events such as UEFA EURO 2028 and position Team London Volunteering so it can play a role in major events bids, including a potential bid for the 2040 Olympic Games.

#### Subsidy control

- 4.3. The proposed award to further funding (£40,000) to Simply Connect Solutions Ltd as a contribution of its Simply Volunteer London volunteer brokerage website (as described in paragraphs 2.1 - 2.3) has been considered by GLA officers in line with the GLA's obligations under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
- 4.4. Officers do not consider that the proposed award constitutes a subsidy. This is because the award does not meet all four limbs of the subsidy test set out in the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Specifically, the proposed award fails to satisfy Limb 2 (providing an enterprise with an economic advantage) and Limb 4 (capable of having an effect on competition or investment within the UK or between the UK and another country) of that test, because the funding:

- is ringfenced for non-economic purposes, the brokerage website service is not-for-profit, free to use, and with the benefit of the funding accruing to end-recipients rather than meeting general costs for core operational function.
  - will not have a genuine effect that is more than incidental or hypothetical on competition or investment in the UK, or on international trade or investment.
- 4.5. Simply Connect Solutions Ltd was first established as a Voluntary Action group and moved into creating software to support community development, working across sectors to bring people together and build delivery partnerships, design digital pathways, and provide online services to deliver sector and community support.
- 4.6. The Simply Volunteer London platform is a unique service for the London civil society sector, creating vital capacity that the sector needs, and opportunities to volunteer that deliver multiple benefits for Londoners. This funding is required to allow this vital service to continue which would otherwise not exist.

#### Conflict of interest

- 4.7. There are no conflicts of interest arising from those involved in the drafting and clearance of this decision form. If any conflicts of interest arise during the delivery of initiatives contained in the SCCS delivery plan, they will be handled in line with the GLA policy on registering and declaring interests.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1. This decision seeks approval for expenditure of up to £480,000 and receipt of up to £170,000 external income (consisting of GLA budgets totalling up to £310,000, comprised up to £130,000 in 2026-27, and up to £180,000 in 2027-28, and external income of up to £70,000 in 2026-27 and £100,000 in 2027-28) for projects that encourage active participation in community and civic life, support Londoners of all ages to volunteer, ensure community representation and celebrate London and Londoners.
- 5.2. Expenditure of £310,000 will be funded by the following Civil Society and Sport unit programme budgets: Website and awareness (£20,000 in 2026-27 and £70,000 in 2027-28); Reward and Recognition (£25,000 in 2026-27 and £25,000 in 2027-28) and Visitor Welcome (£85,000 in 2026-27 and £85,000 in 2027-28). External income of up to £170,000 will be sought from third parties in relation to the programme-related expenditure.
- 5.3. The GLA funded expenditure totalling £310,000 is allocated to projects as set out in the table below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>Total</b>
Simply Connect volunteer website	£20,000	£20,000	£40,000
Mayors Community Weekend	-	£50,000	£50,000
Supporting the volunteering sector	£25,000	£25,000	£50,000
Visitor Welcome and Major Events volunteering	£85,000	£85,000	£170,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£130,000</b>	<b>£180,000</b>	<b>£480,000</b>

- 5.4. Budget commitments for future years are subject to the annual budget setting process and any contracts that commit the GLA in future years will be subject to appropriate break clauses.

## **6. Legal comments**

- 6.1. The foregoing sections of this report indicate that the decisions requested of the Director concern the exercise of the Authority's general powers; falling within the Authority'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 and social development in Greater London; and in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the Authority's related statutory duties to:

- 6.1.1. pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people
  - 6.1.2. consider how the proposals will promote the improvement of health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom
  - 6.1.3. consult with appropriate bodies.
- 6.2. In taking the decisions requested, the Director 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 (age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation) and persons who do not share it (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). To this end, the Director should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.
- 6.3. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 requires that proposed award of grant funding to Simply Connect Solutions Ltd be assessed in relation to its requirements. Officers have made this assessment and have set out at sections 4.3 to 4.6 above and have concluded that the funding proposed does not amount to an unlawful subsidy.
- 6.4. The GLA may seek sponsorship when exercising its section 30 general power via its power to charge third parties for discretionary services under section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 provided that the charges levied do not exceed the costs of provision.
- 6.5. If the Director makes the decisions sought, officers must ensure that:
- no reliance is placed upon, nor commitments made to expenditure which relies upon future years budgets or as yet unsecured third-party funding until they have been approved and secured;
  - any sponsorship is sought in accordance with the GLA's sponsorship policy and to put in place appropriate sponsorship agreements between the GLA and sponsor(s) before any reliance is placed on the sponsorship income and/or in-kind benefits;
  - to the extent that expenditure concerns the award of grant funding, it is distributed fairly, transparently, in manner that affords value for money and in accordance with the requirements of the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code; such awards meet the requirements of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 where applicable and grant funding agreements are put in place between, and executed by, the GLA and recipients before any commitment to fund is made; and
  - to the extent that expenditure concerns the purchase of services, supplies or works they are procured 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 supplies or works.

## 7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

### 7.1.

<b>Activity: Mayor's Community Weekend</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Programme design	Summer 2027
MCW 2027	September 2027 (estimated)
Delivery End Date	March 2028

<b>Activity: Simply Volunteer London</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Issue funding agreement	May 2026
Develop and monitor support	May 2026 – Nov 2027
Final evaluation start	December 2027

<b>Activity: Improving Equitable and Accessible Volunteering</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Programme design	May 2026
Announcement	September 2026
Delivery Start Date	September 2026
Final evaluation start and finish (self)	January 2028

<b>Activity: Team London Volunteering</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Programme design (as part of Volunteering Review)	Spring 2025
Programme of opportunities	Spring (annual)
Review of opportunities and request for volunteers	Ongoing
Delivery Start Date	Summer 2026
Review of procurement requirements and planning	October (annual)
Final evaluation start and finish (self)	February 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 either be published 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? YES**

If YES, which programme/s does this fall within: Supporting community, cultural and sporting events in London

**Part 1 - Deferral**

**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO**

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

**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:**

Karen Reed has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

**Assistant Director/Head of Service:**

Alice Wilcock has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

**Financial and Legal advice:**

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

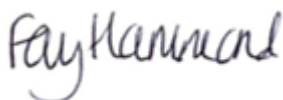
✓

**Mayoral Delivery Board**

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 30 March 2026.

**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:**

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



**Signature**

**Date** 30 March 2026