

ADHS DECISION – ADHS24

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR OPEN CITY

Executive summary

This decision seeks approval for additional grant funding of £12,000 to Open City to deliver the Young City Makers (YCM) programme for 2026. This programme represents the additional amount required to meet the total costs of delivery across 2025 and 2026, taking into account funding previously approved under ADHS15 and subsequent confirmed programme costs.

Funding approved via ADHS15 exceeded the final costs of delivery for the 2025 programme, resulting in an underspend of £4,800. This underspend has been offset against the total programme costs across 2025 and 2026.

The total costs of the programmes delivered across 2025 and 2026 is therefore now fully reflected through:

- £30,000 under ADHS15; and
- £12,000 additional funding requested for the 2026 programme delivery.

This decision also formalises funding for programme activity that has already been delivered in 2026.

The programme builds on successful delivery in 2024 and 2025, which engaged approximately 330 pupils across six schools, including primary and Special Educational Needs (SEN) settings.

Decision

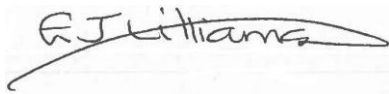
That the Director of Planning approves:

- i. the award of additional grant funding of £12,000 from the Planning Policy 2026/27 budget to Open City Education to support the delivery of the Young City Makers programme 2026.
- ii. that the funding will be subject to the terms of a grant funding agreement, including the monitoring and reporting requirements; and
- iii. that the agreement is entered into retrospectively to formalise delivery already completed

Director of Planning - Emma Williamson

I do not have any disclosable interest in the proposed Decision. It is consistent with OPDC's priorities and has my approval.

Signature:



Date: 25/06/2026

PART 1: NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

1. Background and context

- 1.1 Open City is an education charity empowering the community to learn about, experience and have a role in shaping the places where they live. Open City runs and operates the Young People's education programme which supports children and young people from under-represented communities to learn about and be empowered to pursue careers in city-making.
- 1.2 In summer 2024, OPDC sponsored two programmes (approved via DD185 for £15,000), as part of a collective initiative to engage both primary and SEN school children in city making and build awareness of their roles in shaping cities. With the use of OPDC funding and match funding from Open City, 330 children in total were engaged with from six schools in OPDC's host boroughs.
- 1.3 In 2025, further funding was approved via ADHS15 to support programme delivery for 2025 and 2026. Following reconciliation of actual delivery costs:
 - The It's My City Too programme cost £7,200
 - Young City Makers programme cost £18,000
- 1.4 Funding approved under ADHS15 exceeded the final costs of delivery for the 2025 programme, resulting in an underspend of £4,800. This underspend has been offset against the total programme costs for 2025 and 2026.
- 1.5 This programme continued in 2026, building on established partnerships with local schools and demonstrating a consistent approach to engaging young people in the built environment.
- 1.6 This decision ensures that the total funding aligns with actual programme costs across both years and represents a continuation and extension of previously approved activity and supports OPDC's objectives around community engagement, inclusive growth and increasing awareness of the built environment sector among young people.

2. The proposal and how it will be delivered

- 2.1 Open City delivered the programme between May and June 2026.
- 2.2 Open City delivered the following activities as part of the agreement:
 - organised the partnership of professional practices working in the built environment sector with one or more primary schools in or near to the OPDC area;

- created and distributed kit/craft boxes and work booklets to enable each school to complete the project;
- managed the delivery of in-school workshops for one year group of KS2 students and one site visit for each class;
- Provided a selection of photography recording the workshops for the OPDC to use for its promotional purposes.
- training for staff and/or contractors to participate in Open City Youth Engagement Training and then to mentor, facilitate or lead workshops with young people (subject to the provision of a DBS certificate);
- organised a final celebration ceremony in July 2026 at the end of the programme where OPDC can present the winners with awards and there will also be an opportunity to promote the work of OPDC at that event.

2.3 Delivery was overseen through regular engagement between OPDC and Open City, to ensure delivery remains in line with agreed objectives.

3. Objectives and expected outcomes

3.1 The programme aims to:

- Increase awareness of OPDC and its work among local schools and young people
- Promote interest in the built environment sector with pupils and teachers
- Support OPDC's wider community engagement objectives, particularly with underrepresented diverse groups and organisations

Expected outcomes

3.2 The outcomes are:

- Student visits to MEPC sites
- Volunteer opportunities with youth engagement training
- Brand recognition and trust
- Community awards exhibition/ceremony
- Reaching approximately 180 additional local children together with their teachers and parents
- Building teamwork, oracy, cultural capital
- Improve and increase understanding of participants about the built environment and its impact on their lives
- Increased awareness of OPDC, its role and opportunities for community engagement

- Increase participation of young people, including those from underrepresented groups, in the built environment. Open City will provide a report to summarise the reach and impact of the programme.

4. Strategic fit

- 4.1 OPDC has a responsibility to engage all sections of the community in its work and to promote involvement in the built environment. This project provides an excellent opportunity to involve young people in the work of OPDC and to promote involvement in the built environment.
- 4.2 This also builds on the objectives set out in our both our community Engagement Strategy and our EDI strategy. It does this through:
- Building and nurturing connections / relationships – this work will enable us to connect with different groups and use different methods to engage with them.
 - Continue to care for and celebrate the local area – members of staff will be volunteering their time to take part in the programme and this will help increase our presence in the area
 - Enabling opportunities for young people to shape the future of the area – by providing a pathway to a career in the built environment, nurturing their talent and creativity.
- 4.3 Collaboration - Fostering and promoting a collaborative approach, listening to, sharing ideas with and building relationships with our partners, stakeholders, communities and each other. This also builds relationships with local schools and gives them an opportunity to feed into our wider plans.
- 4.4 Inclusivity - Championing London's rich diversity, where everyone is welcome and valued, ensuring we create an equitable culture within the team and that the places we create do too. By working with schools, we are reaching audiences that are typically harder to reach and showing them the impact they can have on major changes in the area where they live.
- 4.5 Curiosity - This programme allows us to understand experiences of young people and their perspectives on the built environment.
- 4.6 Integrity - With some of our consultations and team taking part this shows our commitments to the community and shows our desire to hear from a wide range of audience.
- 4.7 Delivery – The work that has been completed by the schools will be fed back to the design teams and consultants.
- 4.8 Community – As OPDC is a young area (45.4% of the population is up to the age of 29) it is important that we engage with this group and understand their needs and aspirations.

5. Project governance and assurance

- 5.1 The work was overseen by the Director of Planning, the Director of Communications and Engagement and the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development.
- 5.2 Open City provided updates during the programme and at the end of the programme they will provide a summary report of the numbers of young people engaged and the feedback received from both the students and staff at the schools.

Timeline

- 5.3 The work with the primary schools has commenced and will take place over May and June of 2026.

6. Risk, Issues and Opportunities

- 6.1 Whilst previous programmes delivered in 2024 and 2025 have been successful, the following risks have been identified for the 2026 programme and will be actively managed through appropriate mitigation and oversight.
- 6.2 This initiative will be overseen by the project sponsors, there will be regular check-ins with Open City to ensure that risks are being appropriately treated to prevent them from becoming issues.

Risk description	Inherent score	Mitigations	Target score
Insufficient uptake from local schools.	Likelihood: [2] Impact: [3] Total: [6]	OPDC will engage directly with schools and leverage Open City existing relationships and networks with schools	Likelihood: [1] Impact: [2] Total: [2]
Children and parents don't attend the celebration event	Likelihood: [2] Impact: [2] Total: [4]	Early engagement with schools and clear communication of event arrangements	Likelihood: [1] Impact: [1] Total: [1]
Students may not be aware of the built environment sector to spark interest	Likelihood: [2] Impact: [3] Total: [6]	Structured programme design and collaboration with schools to support and increase awareness and engagement	Likelihood: [1] Impact: [2] Total: [2]

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Comments

- 7.1 OPDC must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to the need to advance equality of

opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 7.2 The protected characteristics and groups are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and marriage/ civil partnership status. Fulfilling this duty involves having due regard to: the need to remove or minimise any disadvantage suffered by those who share a protected characteristic or one that is connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the different needs of such people; and encouraging them to participate in public life or in any other activity where their participation is disproportionately low. Compliance with the Equality Act may involve treating people with a protected characteristic more favourably than those without the characteristic. The duty must be exercised with an open mind and at the time a Decision is taken in the exercise of the OPDC's functions.
- 7.3 The focus of this initiative is to promote education and careers in the built environment, which whilst only benefiting young people, children of all races, genders, disabilities, orientations and religions will be given equal opportunity to benefit from this scheme, and no child with protected characteristics will be held at a disadvantage.
- 7.4 Through both programmes we are able to engage with two main protected groups that are those who are young and those who are classed as disabled. This enables us to reach and engage with them in a creative way.
- 7.5 This programme is proactive and innovative to creating equitable opportunities for all regardless of background, race, age, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation or ability.
- 7.6 Delivery will be designed to ensure accessibility for SEN participants, including appropriate adjustments to workshop formats and materials.

8. Social Value and Environment

- 8.1 **Inclusive Growth** – the purpose of the grant funding is to promote education and career choices within the built environment to young people. This initiative encapsulates inclusive growth benefits for all young people.
- 8.2 **Community Engagement** – this initiative is an example of the promotion of social value, especially through community engagement and participation. This will also enable us to meet with groups that are not normally engaged in process.

9. Other considerations

Consultations and impact assessments

- 9.1 Open City ensure that all health and safety impacts are addressed.

Communications and engagement

- 9.2 This widens our engagement with the younger population and fits in with the wider strategy of engaging with a diverse audience.

Safeguarding

9.3 All staff participating in the Open City programmes will be trained and will be subject to the provision of DBS certifications.

Data protection

9.4 Apart from participation numbers, limited personal data may be processed where photography or recorded outputs are used.

9.5 Open City will be responsible for ensuring appropriate consent is obtained from schools, parents/guardians, and that all data is processed in accordance with UK GDPR requirements. Any data shared with OPDC will be managed in line with OPDC data protection policies.

10. Conflicts of interest

10.1 No one involved in the preparation or clearance of this Form, or its substantive proposal, has any conflict of interest.

11. Financial comments

11.1 This workstream is outside of the approved FY 26/27 budget allocation. However, it would be managed through the reallocation of existing resources in Planning Policy budget.

12. Legal comments

12.1 No separate legal review is required as this decision is in line with OPDC's governance policies and procedures, including its Scheme of Delegation and Contracts and Funding Code.

13. Summary timeline

Activity	Date
Workshops completed	May 2026
Awards ceremony	28 June 2026

Appendices

- None

Other supporting papers

- [ADHS15 – Open City Pathway Programme 2025](#)
- [DD185 – Open City Pathway Programme 2024](#)

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this Form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). OPDC aims to publish the Form within three working days of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the Decision (for example, impacting a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date (when it will be published). Deferral periods are kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 – Deferral

Publication of this Part 1 is to be deferred: **No**

The deferral is until: N/A

This is because: **N/A**

Part 2 – Confidential information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included in or attached to any separate Part 2 Form, together with the rationale for withholding the information at this time.

There is a separate and confidential Part 2 Form: **No**

DECLARATIONS

Drafting officer

Claire Callow, Engagement Officer has drafted this Form in accordance with OPDC procedures, including for handling conflicts of interests, and confirm that:

Advice: The Governance, Finance and teams have commented on the proposal.

CONFIRMATIONS

Section 106 funding

This use of S106 to fund the expenditure proposal was approved via a Section 106 spend proposal form on N/A

Review

This Decision was circulated for Senior Review on 19/06/2026

FINANCE AUTHORISATION: Philip Hall, Head of Finance

Financial implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this form.



Signature:

Date: 19/06/2026

GOVERNANCE AUTHORISATION: Vicki-Marie Price, Performance and Governance Manger

Governance implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this form.

Signature:



PP. Head of Governance, Martin Harrison

Date: 19/06/2026