

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2388

Title: Social Integration – ESOL Plus project spending

Executive Summary:

This Decision seeks the approval for £25k to be moved from the Social Integration budget to the 2019-20 ESOL Plus allocation. The allocation of funds will increase our capability to test ESOL approaches and promote partnership work between the ESOL and Culture sectors.

The initial budget for the programme was approved by MD 2461.

After two successful rounds of the ESOL Plus pilot programme, ESOL Plus Childcare and ESOL Plus Employers, we are seeking additional funding to scale up the next round of ESOL Plus with the delivery of ESOL Plus Arts, a grant programme to test approaches to delivering informal ESOL alongside creative, cultural and heritage-focussed activities. This has been shaped with input from the Skills and Culture teams within the GLA.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Communities and Social Policy approves:

Reallocation of £25,000 from the Social Integration budget to the ESOL Plus pilots, enabling more pilots to deliver projects to include a cross-sector focus working with arts organisations in 2019-20.

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: Jeanette Bain-Burnett

Position: Assistant Director,
Communities and Social Policy

Signature:

J. E. Burnett

Date:

19/11/19

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor's Strategy for Social Integration 'All of Us' sets out how he aims to improve social integration in London. Londoners not proficient in English scored lower on a number of social integration measures across these three categories when surveyed in 2019¹: relationships, equalities, and participation.
- 1.2 Over 300 languages are currently spoken on London streets². The Mayor has described the importance of English and the need for government and cities to improve the support we provide to learners, because a common language is necessary for a common life. The Integrated Communities Strategy laid out the importance of speaking and understanding English for better integration into life in the UK³.
- 1.3 The ESOL Plus programme funds innovative pilots to provide ESOL to learners who have particular needs that are currently challenging to meet through mainstream provision, such as the Adult Education Budget (AEB). The focus of the pilots is on innovation, partnership working, and the potential to scale.
- 1.4 The first round of the ESOL Plus programme focussed on learners with childcare needs (ESOL Plus Childcare) and those in low-paid work (ESOL Plus Employers). The findings from both of these programmes will be disseminated to the sector and inform future AEB policy.
- 1.5 The next round of ESOL Plus pilots will focus on promoting partnership work between the ESOL and Culture sectors. An additional £25k for the ESOL Plus Arts grant will ensure a greater capacity to enable an appropriate number of projects will take place and test different approaches. There is a good basis of work being done at the cross-section of ESOL/arts, but little thought leadership, evidence or sharing of good practice about the outcomes it can create.
- 1.6 Delivery of informal ESOL alongside creative, cultural or heritage-focussed activities can provide rich contexts for diverse vocabulary to arise alongside opportunities for individual expression and confidence-building, for example through engagement with visual and dramatic arts. Informal ESOL that integrates such activities, particularly when delivered in partnership with skilled creative professionals, can therefore not only improve language learning but also increase cultural participation and confidence for those who face barriers accessing formal provision. This is therefore an ESOL project with a true social integration purpose.
- 1.7 The allocated funds will cover a call for up to four bids of up to £15,000 or £30,000 each to deliver innovative partnership projects that involve a practitioner, organisation or institution from the culture, arts or heritage sectors. The grant will cover the costs of the project, and up to £11,000 to be commissioned for the evaluation process and sharing of the outcomes. The funds will be allocated upfront in 2019-20 for delivery in 2020-21. ESOL Plus Arts aims to provide grant funding to enable innovation in the ESOL sector.
- 1.8 This change in budget is requested in order to enable to Social Integration Team to fund the most innovative and ambitious projects after a stringent grant selection process. Previous rounds of ESOL Plus (MD2461) have funded a number of unique models of provision for vulnerable learners to access ESOL – this additional funding will enable the projects to have a much more comprehensive resource to produce valuable comparative evaluation of methods to be used by the ESOL sector.

¹ Survey of Londoners (2019)

² GLA (2017) *The Mayor's Vision for a Diverse and Inclusive City: Draft for consultation*. London: GLA.

³ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018) *Integrated Communities Strategy Green Paper*. Retrieved from https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/696993/Integrated_Communities_Strategy.pdf

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1. The Social Integration Team works with colleagues across the GLA to:

- Deliver key initiatives with social integration at their heart
- Lead policy and advocacy work to remove specific barriers to social integration
- Mainstream social integration in the organisation's strategies, projects and policies
- Partner with a wide range of stakeholders to affect change for Londoners.

2.2. Specific outcomes for the ESOL Plus project (as in MD2461)

What output, by when	Outcomes	Monitoring and evaluation
Pilot new inter-generational approaches focused on ESOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More providers considering social integration aims when assessing learner outcomes• Robust evaluation findings used as evidence to inform the Adult Education budget	<p>Evaluation cohort meetings, bringing together providers with each other and evaluation support.</p> <p>Grantees to evaluate projects and present this in a report. Learning to be presented and disseminated to the sector.</p>
Funding for partnership project between ESOL providers that work with a practitioner, organisation or institution from the culture, arts or heritage sectors. To be launched by December 2019 with delivery from 2020-21. (with original 2018-19 budget approved in MD2461)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More English language learners participating in creative, cultural or heritage-focussed activities.• More provision in London to better meet the needs of excluded groups• Model for voluntary language teaching that is well evidenced	Partners and projects collecting data through pre and post surveys with learners. They will also take part in a cohort evaluation, supported by the Intelligence team or an external evaluator. This will be analysed and shared with us in a report.

2.3. Budget changes as set out below:

Of the £100k approved via MD2461, £24k was used for the delivery of the ESOL Plus Childcare and ESOL Plus Employers pilots. The remaining £76k and £25k being approved via this decision (for a total of £101K), is proposed to be used for the ESOL Plus Arts pilot. Applicants to the ESOL Plus Arts pilot are invited to bid up to £30k per project. The GLA will look to appoint two projects for the value of up to £15k and two projects for the value of up to £30k. The remaining £11k is set aside for the evaluation of the pilots and subsequent dissemination of key learnings.

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' of the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. Equality, integration and inclusion are the drivers behind this programme. Tackling disadvantage and discrimination is a central part of programmes on social integration.
- 3.3. The programmes around ESOL are specifically designed to overcome the additional barriers that specific groups face to social integration.

- 3.4. The Survey of Londoners findings 2019 show that Londoners not proficient in English are more likely to be looking after their house/children compared with those proficient in English (14 per cent vs 3 per cent). They are far more likely to be in the lowest income quintile (less than £14,900 p.a.) than those proficient in English (44 per cent and 17 per cent respectively).
- 3.5. The findings also showed that Londoners with low proficiency in English are less likely to have participated in formal culture or events, such as visiting museums or galleries; going to the cinema, theatre or music events, compared to fluent speakers of English – 26% vs 67% ⁴.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 The grant agreement requires the GLA to have funding agreements and contracts signed by the end of March 2020. Invoices will need to be processed and projects' timelines agreed by then.
- 4.2 ESOL Plus pilots aims to deliver projects that are in line with the Mayor of London priorities as laid out in the Social Integration Strategy. In addition, ESOL Plus Arts is ambitious in providing an opportunity for the ESOL and Arts sectors to work in partnership and deliver programmes in line with the Culture Strategy for London.
- 4.3 The draft project specification, scoring criteria and guidance will be developed and shared with internal stakeholders – Team London; Skills Team; Culture Team. Final evaluations and evidence gathered will be shared with relevant teams who will discuss on next steps.
- 4.4 There is no known conflict of interest for anyone involved in the preparation of this decision.

5. Financial Comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought for expenditure of £25,000 on the ESOL Plus Arts pilot scheme programme.
- 5.2 This decision will take the approved ESOL Plus budget envelope to £125k (£100k previously approved via MD2461).
- 5.3 This £25,000 will be funded via a budget virement, within the 2019/20 financial year, from the Social Integration budget towards the ESOL Plus Programme, both within the CSP Unit.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Announcement	Launch on 02/12/2019
Deadline for applications	10/01/2020
Delivery Start Date	Timelines agreed with awarded organisations by 16/03/2020
Main milestones	July 2020
Main milestones	October 2020
Final evaluation start and finish (external):	April 2021
Delivery End Date:	March 2021
Project Closure:	June 2021 – best practice report created by GLA

Appendices and supporting papers:

None

⁴ Survey of Londoners (2019)

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.

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:

Theodora Cadbury and Silvia Perin have drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirm the following:

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 18 November

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature



Date

18.11.19

