

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

(By email)

Our reference: MGLA050722-4495

Date: 1 August 2022

Dear

Thank you for your request for information which the Greater London Authority (GLA) received on 5 July 2022. Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

You requested:

*Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request further information from the Greater London Authority on its '**Local Welcome Hong Kong Fund**' as a part of the national **Hong Kong British Nationals (Overseas) welcome programme**.*

In the DLUCH's July 2021 guidance to local authorities (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hong-kong-uk-welcome-programme-guidance-for-local-authorities#full-publication-update-history>), it was stated that a total of £43.1 million national 'Welcome Programme' will be delivered to support 'BN(O) status holders and their families to help them to successfully settle in their new communities' across the UK, of which £30.7 million of 'targeted funding' will be made available to local authorities in England.

*In the London Mayor's statement on 30 June 2022 (<https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/mayor-reaffirms-his-support-for-hongkongers>), it was stated that 'more than £200,000 has been granted to eight local authorities across London' through the **Local Welcome Hong Kong Fund** provided by the DLUCH.*

I am requesting the following information:

- the list of **London councils** which have applied for (and subsequently received) such 'targeted funding' under the HK BNO Welcome Programme/Local Welcome Hong Kong Fund
- the **amount** of funding applied and subsequently granted for
- the breakdown of funding spending

Please find attached the information we hold within the scope of your request.

If you have any further questions relating to this matter, please contact me, quoting the reference MGLA050722-4495.

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Yours sincerely

Information Governance Officer

If you are unhappy with the way the GLA has handled your request, you may complain using the GLA's FOI complaints and internal review procedure, available at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/governance-and-spending/sharing-our-information/freedom-information>

Explanatory note:

In recognition of the work being undertaken at a local level in London and the role local authorities play in facilitating welcome and integration, the Greater London Authority has established the Local Hong Kong Welcome Fund. It aims to build capacity in local authorities to reach out to, engage with and support local Hongkongers. Grants of up to £30,000 were made available to local authorities in the capital to support the delivery of work that contributes towards the welcome and integration of new arrivals from Hong Kong. This funding prioritises boroughs with the largest estimated population of new arrivals from Hong Kong, as well as boroughs that include areas of significant cultural importance to Hongkongers. However, the funding was open to all local authorities in London to apply.

Concretely, this fund aims to support the delivery of work that:

- Engages and supports local Hong Kong civil society groups; (this could include convening Hong Kong-led civil society, ensuring inclusion in 'mainstream' council fora)
- Improves local understanding of Hong Kong diaspora; (this could include data collection and analysis, and outreach/engagement/consultation activities with Hong Kong communities)
- Celebrates Hong Kong identity; (this could include events, digital communications, outreach activities with Hongkongers, translation/interpretation costs to ensure accessibility in Cantonese/Traditional Chinese)
- Enables Hongkongers to access council and other mainstream services; (this could include English language provision, destitution support, housing and employment services, internal capacity and resource to support routes into services for Hongkongers)
- Identifies, escalates and addresses issues and barriers faced by Hongkongers; (this could include school places, community safety and hate crime concerns)
- Facilitates local welcome and integration activities; (this could include welcome packs and orientation events, meet and greets, buddying, clubs and classes)

Applications were accepted between 1st March and 8th April 2022.

The GLA has worked with applicant local authorities to ensure the funded projects are targeted, impactful, and effective in supporting the integration of Hongkongers. Following unexpected delays due to the need to redirect local authority capacity to the humanitarian situation following the war in Ukraine, the GLA is currently working with local authorities to complete grant agreements and release the funding. For this reason, no projects have been launched as of yet. The funded local authorities will work to deliver their project plans between this Summer and the end of the year.

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Local Authority	Status
Barnet	Application pending submission of revised project plan
Hackney	Concluding grant agreement
Haringey	Concluding grant agreement
Kingston	Concluding grant agreement
Richmond	Concluding grant agreement
Sutton	Concluding grant agreement
Tower Hamlets	Concluding grant agreement
Waltham Forest	Concluding grant agreement

Local Authority	Amount granted
Barnet	£30,000 (Pending approval of a revised project plan)
Hackney	£29,900
Haringey	£15,000
Kingston	£30,000
Richmond	£19,342
Sutton	£28,502.00
Tower Hamlets	£30,000
Waltham Forest	£20,812
Total	£203,555

Barnet

Activity	Amount budgeted
	(Awaiting completed project plan)
Total	£30,000

Hackney

Activity	Amount budgeted
Grant funding to support local grassroots groups and Hong Kong-led organisations in Hackney	£20,000
Support the introduction of BN(O)s to Hackney and Hackney Council: organising, leading and delivering information sessions on the Council and its role, local education, and support offers	£400

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Informal language learning and community engagement - supporting the interaction between Hongkongers and the wider community in Hackney through running informal English learning sessions	£4,000
Delivery of community safety workshops - support the delivery of trauma-informed training and capacity building for VCSE organisations	£1,200
Delivery of information sessions aimed at BN(O) families - information on education pathways and available childcare support	£800
Mental Health Support - Provision of mental health support	£2,000.00
Organisation and hosting of an event to welcome and celebrate Hackney Hongkongers	£1,500
Total	£29,900

Haringey

Activity	Amount budgeted
Capacity building: Hiring of part-time support worker to deliver project plan	£10,000
Celebrating Hong Kong culture: Organising and hosting events celebrating the Hong Kong Diaspora	£2,000
Information sharing: Translation and printing of Welcome Packs for the Hong Kong BN(O) community	£1,500
Community engagement: Hiring of intepretative services to support outreach with local Hong Kong community	£1,500
Total	£15,000

Kingston

Activity	Amount budgeted
Capacity building: Hiring of a Hong Kong Project Coordinator and part-time activities assistant to deliver project plan	£20,280

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Community upskilling: Delivery of weekly advice sessions for Hongkongers, engaging and collaborating with volunteers and supporting them to achieve formal advice qualifications	£7,800
Admin fees: Use of office space for community sessions, refreshments, visits to local community sights, translation of materials to Cantonese	£1,920
Total	£30,000

Richmond

Activity	Amount budgeted
Welcome Guide: developemnt, design, and promotion of welcome to Richmond guide for Hong Kong BN(O)s.	£5,302
School Workshops and curriculum materials: development and delivery of workshops in targeted schools with the highest numbers of Hong Kong students, as well as support the production of books, audio and CD learning resources for primary and secondary schools.	£10,200
Translation: allocation of translation services to schools to be used for supporting and engaging Hongkonger parents who attend school workshops.	£3,840
Total	£19,342

Sutton

Activity	Amount budgeted
Insights and outreach: Hiring of staff to support expansion of insights and outreach work	£7,212
Supporting parents away from Social Isolation and into work: creation, design, and translation of local information packs, organising and delivering event at local childrens centre, updating council website, and leading on outreach during summer activities	£7,290
Entrepreneurship and Employment: commissioning and co-developing entrepreneurship sessions for Hong Kong BN(O)s, delivering and hosting a networking event	£14,000
Total	£28,502

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Tower Hamlets

Activity	Amount budgeted
Orientation seminars for Hong Kong BN(O)s: Delivery and preparation of seminars on life in the UK, covering topics such as transportation, housing, healthcare, work, school, and welfare rights	£5,400
Capacity Building: Hiring of outreach coordinator for intelligence gathering, coordinator to lead on social activities, and employment advisor to support with skills development.	£20,600
Miscellaneous costs: premises hiring costs, travelling expenses, material development, publicity, etc.	£4,000
Total	£30,000

Waltham Forest

Activity	Amount budgeted
Capacity building: hiring of part-time coordinator to conduct data analysis and mapping activity of BN(O)s in Waltham Forest. The coordinator will lead on targeted outreach with the community and support in the delivery of this programme.	£12,187
Admin costs: translation of info packs and welcome guides, printing of materials, and hiring of venues	£2,300
English language support: financial support for learners to complete qualifications in the English language	£6,325
Total	£20,812