

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2518

Title: London Festival of Ideas

Executive Summary:

The London Festival of Ideas is an engagement programme aiming to create a platform for all Londoners to shape the Building Strong Communities mission. The Festival will explore our individual and collective visions and plans for London's future through various activities, events and conversations hosted by the GLA, festival partners and community organisations. The insights from the Festival will shape the next steps of the Building Strong Communities mission and the programmes that sit within it.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Communities and Social Policy approves:

Expenditure of £20,000 on Festival related costs including event planning, design and creative outputs from the festival and costs related to the Festival's access grant programme, taking total expenditure on the Festival to £30,000.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

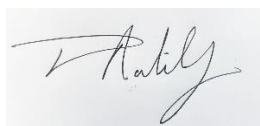
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Tom Rahilly

Position: Assistant Director of
Communities and Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

24 May 2021

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. As London's communities emerge from the pandemic and turn towards creating a better future, the Building Strong Communities mission of the London Recovery Programme is hosting a "London Festival of Ideas" to explore our individual and collective visions and plans for that future and how all Londoners can be enabled to play an active role in their communities - making London a more equal and inclusive city post COVID-19.
- 1.2. The Festival will take place between June 28 and July 23 2021 and will be made up of activities, events and conversations hosted by the GLA, partners and community organisations.
- 1.3. The Festival wants to hear from all Londoners. Recognising that for some there will be barriers to participating in and hosting an event as part of the festival, approval of £10,000 is sought as part of the access-grant programme which will look to support organisations with grants of up to £500 to plan and facilitate activities as part of the programme. Small organisations and informal community groups, with an annual turnover of under £75,000 will be eligible for the access grants. Grants will be allocated to ensure diverse representation in the community-led activity taking place, including geographically and by communities of interest. This will be targeted at supporting organisations who are led by and for groups who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This includes working in partnership with Festival partners London Plus to support grant disbursement and easier access.
- 1.4. Further approval of £10,000 is sought to cover Festival related costs including event planning, commissioning of design and creative outputs, evaluation, marketing and production of Festival outputs. This will cover the fee of the artists/designers, who will produce the branding and media assets of the Festival and produce the creative outputs once insights from the Festival have been generated. In order to promote the Festival, marketing support will be required and will be included in this budget. The GLA will host the launch and closing events as part of the Festival and the budget for speakers and participation activity, event organisation, production of a Festival summary will be covered in this sum.
- 1.5. £10,000 additional budget for the Festival delivery has already been approved via a DAR, £5,000 for Festival related costs and £5,000 for the access grants. £5,000 of this expenditure will be transferred by Team London.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The objectives and expected outcomes of the Festival are to:
 - identify activities that are taking place across the city that contribute to the Building Strong Communities mission;
 - generate a shared understanding of a community hub;
 - create spaces for partnership, collaboration and increasing connections; and
 - ensure groups disproportionately impacted by the crisis are able to take part in the festival through hosting their own activities and event.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. This project will focus on creating a platform for all Londoners to shape the Building Strong Communities mission. It will focus on understanding the ambitions and interests of diverse communities, with a focus on groups disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and the structural

drivers of this disproportionate impact. We have designed the festival in partnership with organisations who are led by and for these communities, to ensure we remove barriers to participation. Part of this budget will be used to fund access grants, supporting small organisations and informal community groups, with an annual turnover of under £75,000 will be eligible for the access grants. Grants will be allocated to ensure diverse representation in the community-led activity taking place, including geographically and by communities of interest.

- 3.2. These considerations will ensure that the programme meets the GLA's Equality Duty by ensuring groups who have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and the structural drivers of this impact, who want to participate in the Festival have a fair opportunity at taking part. In particular, the budget allocated to the access grants is aiming to remove barriers to participation for groups who are often less heard.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. This directly relates to the work of the London Recovery Board and the mission Building Strong Communities. The insights generated by this programme of work will underpin the next stages of the Building Strong Communities mission and the programmes that sit with it.

Key risks and issues

Risks	Mitigation	Current probability (1-4 – 4 is high)	Current Impact (1-4 – 4 is high)	RAG
Organisations do not apply for the access grants and we are unable to spend the approved amount	Working with partners to promote the opportunities across different levels of Civil Society. Developing a comprehensive comms plan to ensure the Festival is widely publicised to gain interest. Applications are short to ensure accessible	1	3	G
Access grants do not reach organisations/groups who face biggest barriers to participation	Working with partners to push to networks that the GLA do not often reach. Made application short and accessible.	2	4	A
Short timelines in delivering assets and events	Working with various teams across the GLA to stand up digital infrastructure and design assets. Phasing launch of elements of the programme to give time to deliver each to high standard. Working in partnership	1	1	G
Commissioned partners fail to deliver elements of Festival	Set clear and specific specifications, having open and regular communication and	1	1	G

	working with trusted partners where possible			
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4.2. There are no conflicts of interest for anyone involved in the drafting or clearance of this ADD.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is sought for expenditure of £20,000 towards the Festival of Ideas. £10,000 is for costs relating to event planning, design and creative outputs from the Festival. A further £10,000 is for the Festival's access grant programme.
- 5.2. The expenditure will be funded from the 2021/22 Civil Society Programme budget, held within the Communities and Social Policy Unit.
- 5.3. This programme sits within the 'Building Strong Communities Mission'.
- 5.4. There is also a previous DAR approval of £10,000 (£5,000 of which is funded by the Team London Unit). This approval takes the total expenditure to £30,000 for the Festival of Ideas.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Delivery Start Date	6 May 2021
Creative content for festival commissioned	10 May 2021
Grant Programme launched	17 May 2021
Grant window closes	4 June 2021
Grants distributed	14 June 2021
Events planning, speakers and resourcing	18 June 2021
Launch event	28 June 2021
Closing event	23 July 2021
Commission creative outputs and data visualisations after festival	28 August 2021

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.

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 – YES/NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Hannah Goulding has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 24 May 2021.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature



Date

24 May 2021