

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD2548

Title: Phase 2 funding for Kitchen Social to support local authorities deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Executive summary:

This DD seeks the Director's approval to provide £47,812 grant funding to the Mayor's Fund for London as a contribution to its costs of continuing to support London's local authorities to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in the summer and Christmas holidays in 2021 with the aim of: better understanding the implications of current policy design; increasing the knowledge and capacity of London's local authorities and partners in this space for future years; and helping shape advocacy efforts around the future of HAF funding. Phase 1 of support was approved under cover of ADD2497; the funding totalling £49,000 and ending in June 2021.

If approved the Mayor's Fund will use the funding to commission research, develop learning materials, deliver training and events and build an evidence base to inform government funding and policies relating to holiday food and activities provision.

Decision:

That the Executive Director of Communities and Skills approves:

Expenditure of £47,812, awarding phase 2 grant funding to the Mayor's Fund for London as a contribution to its costs of continuing to support London's local authorities to deliver the HAF programme in 2021 and collate learning from across London. This takes total aggregated expenditure to £96,812.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

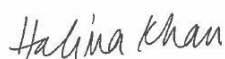
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Halima Khan

Position: Executive Director,
Communities and Skills

Signature:



Date:

16 August 2021

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. This DD seeks approval of the award of an additional £47,812 grant funding to the Mayor's Fund for London (the Mayor's Fund) as a contribution towards its costs of supporting London's local authorities to successfully deliver the national Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme in 2021. The funding will also enable the Mayor's Fund to collate learning from across London in order to inform future delivery, advocacy and policy design. The support will be provided through the Mayor's Fund's Kitchen Social initiative.
- 1.2. This funding will support phase 2 of a two-phased support programme for local authorities to deliver HAF. The first phase was funded through the London Recovery Programme and totalled £49,000, approved under cover of ADD2497.
- 1.3. In November 2020, the government announced a funding package to help alleviate child food poverty in the UK in response to sustained pressure from a range of campaigners including the footballer Marcus Rashford. One element of that package was a £220m extension of the HAF programme to cover the whole nation, making provision available in all local authority areas over the 2021 Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays. Under the programme, local authorities are receiving grant funding to coordinate free holiday provision for eligible children (that is, those receiving benefits-related free school meals). This is a role many had not played before 2021. As a result, there is a risk of varied quality of provision across London.
- 1.4. The GLA funded the Mayor's Fund to provide training, materials and quality assurance in advance of local authorities receiving this funding and commissioning provision (phase 1). This additional 2021/22 funding (phase 2) will begin in July 2021 and run until December 2021. It will enable the Mayor's Fund to continue supporting local authorities to deliver high-quality HAF programmes throughout 2021, building on ongoing and already-completed work.
- 1.5. By providing strategic support to local authorities across London, this programme aims to improve the quality of HAF delivery. It will also collate learning from across London with the aims of better understanding the implications of current policy design; helping shape advocacy efforts around the future of HAF funding; and increasing the knowledge and capacity of London's local authorities and partners in this space for future years.
- 1.6. By virtue of its position as the largest provider of holiday food and activities for children in London, Kitchen Social – a holiday food and activity programme consisting of a network of community organisations across 24 boroughs and run by the Mayor's Fund – is uniquely well-placed to support London's local authorities.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The expenditure authorised by this decision will be incurred by way of the award of grant funding to the Mayor's Fund to commission research and collate learning that will inform the design and delivery of holiday food and activities provision in future years and use the Kitchen Social initiative to continue to support London's local authorities to deliver the DfE's HAF Programme in 2021.
- 2.2. Phase 2 of the programme will build on the work undertaken to date. The funding will provide the Mayor's Fund with much needed capacity to achieve three main programme objectives:
 - support local authorities to continue delivering the HAF Programme in London throughout 2021

- create a body of research and learning about HAF delivery during 2021, aimed at: helping local authorities, partners and others develop better provision in future years; and understanding the merits of such provision
- establish a clear set of recommendations to support advocacy, including making recommendations of the action needed by central government, aimed at improving programme design and extending government HAF funding post-2021 (which is currently not secured).

2.3. The funding will enable the Mayor's Fund to deliver a range of activities and associated outcomes to facilitate achievement of these goals:

Activity	Outcome	Cost
Production of pen portraits across boroughs • agreement of key questions and design of research • research detailing HAF delivery across local authorities • write-up and publication of report	• A body of information for posterity detailing the approach of London boroughs delivering HAF which can be used in future years to aid individual borough programme design and implementation. • A means of seeing overall patterns and trends, which can then be used to make the case for future funding. • A body of information that highlights which local authorities have learning/experiences which can be mined in the Mayor's Fund for London deep-dive research.	£4,200
Delivery of research into London HAF experiences, including youth voice project • appointment and management of external research, including stakeholder interviews and engagement with delivery hubs • development, delivery and management youth experience project • research steering group and terms of reference established • agreement of key research questions by steering group • secretariat to agree steering group agendas and circulate minutes • material review and input	• A body of research that gives the GLA, local authorities and key partners insight into a range of key questions related to the design and implementation of holiday provision, which can be used to shape provision in future years • Information on how children perceive HAF provision, including whether there are any unintended negative consequences of how it has been designed and implemented (particularly around stigmatisation), which can then help improve provision in future years. • A robust evidence base with which to hold meaningful conversations with central government about the design and future of HAF funding, on issues such as widening the eligibility criteria. • A body of learning that can be used by local authorities and others about how HAF can further broader social outcomes, which might make the case for local as well as national funding.	£24,150

Activity	Outcome	Cost
• collaborative development of policy recommendations • management of report production and design costs		
Local authority learning event, training support and updated resources portal • design, management and delivery of local authority learning event. • Christmas holiday support and training package for local authorities • update of resources portal to reflect learning from pen portraits and deep-dive research, including the production of video content	• Local authorities gain a pan-London view of the HAF experience (rather than only knowing their own borough) and are better placed to implement changes in the event of HAF funding for 2022 and beyond. • Reduced risk of any elements of poor delivery being repeated in future provision. • Increase DfE understanding of what has worked and not worked. Position London as a model of best practice for HAF delivery. • Better quality support at Christmas, which has traditionally been overlooked by holiday provision. • Production of recorded video presentation and uploading of event write up and research.	£9,900
TOTALS		Subtotal: £38,250 Mayor's Fund for London overheads, including senior management/admin/finance support (20%): £9,562 TOTAL: £47,812

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the GLA must have 'due regard' of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), that is the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
 - advance equality of opportunity
 - foster relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. The Survey of Londoners in 2018-19 revealed that 1.5m adults and 400,000 children in London were experiencing food insecurity before Covid-19. Single parents, disabled Londoners and Black Londoners were found to be more likely to experience low or very low food security. Local authority and voluntary and community sector reporting through the response to the COVID-19 pandemic showed that this need has increased significantly.
- 3.3. Obesity prevalence is twice as high for children living in the most deprived areas in London compared to those living in the least deprived areas.
- 3.4. The HAF Programme is a targeted intervention to reduce inequalities experienced by London's children and young people from low-income households during the school holidays. Working in partnership with the Mayor's Fund for London will help local authorities to reduce the risk of poor-quality food being delivered to London's most disadvantaged children.

4. Other considerations

Key risks and issues

- 4.1. The Food team will manage the grant agreement with the Mayor's Fund to ensure outcomes and outputs are delivered on time and within budget. A member of the Food team will also join the research steering group. The key risks and issues are outlined below:

Risk	Mitigation	Risk rating
The Mayor's Fund fail to deliver resources to expected quality or to time	GLA officers will build in a series of milestones into the grant agreement and will maintain regular communication with the Mayor's Fund to monitor progress.	Green
The Mayor's Fund are not able to engage London boroughs	The Mayor's Fund has developed strong relationships with almost all boroughs through phase 1 of the programme and GLA officers are able to provide additional support if needed.	Green

Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.2. This programme will contribute towards the Mayor's London Food Strategy (chapter 1) which aims to 'help all Londoners eat well at home and tackle rising levels of household food insecurity'. It will contribute towards two key missions in the London Recovery Programme: Healthy Food, Healthy Weight and a Robust Safety Net.
- 4.3. As stated in the Mayor's manifesto '*Inequalities between young Londoners, that affect their chances in life and the opportunities that come their way, are being made worse by the pandemic.*' This programme will help to '*improve the health of all Londoners and close the inequality gap*'.

Conflicts of interest

- 4.4. There are no conflicts of interest to note for any of the officers involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision form.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is sought for expenditure of £47,812 in grant funding to the Mayor's Fund for London to continue to support London's local authorities to deliver the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme in 2021-22.
- 5.2. The expenditure will be funded from the 2021-22 Communities and Social Policy Team's Programme budget (specifically the Low-income & Food budget)
- 5.3. This programme falls under the 'A Robust Safety Net' recovery mission.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. The foregoing sections of this report indicate that the decisions requested of the Director concern the exercise of the GLA's general powers, falling within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or which are facilitative of, conducive or incidental to the promotion of social and economic development and wealth creation in Greater London, and in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought, officers have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties to:
 - pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people
 - 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
 - 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 (race, disability, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity, and gender reassignment) 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 of this report.
- 6.3. Should the Director be minded to make the decisions sought, officers must ensure that an appropriate funding agreement is entered into and executed by the GLA and the Mayor's Fund before any commitment is made to the award of funding.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Funding letter signed	August 2021
Production of pen portraits across boroughs	September 2021
Delivery of research into London HAF experiences, including youth voice project	October 2021
Local authority learning event, training support and portal resources	November 2021
End of contract	December 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 –NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Liam Weeks has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Tom Rahilly 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.

✓

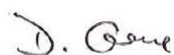
Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 16 August 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature



Date

16 August 2021