

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1118

Title: London Schools Excellence Fund Round 1 Window 1 Awards

Executive Summary:

MD1132 contains the Mayor’s approval of the establishment of the London Schools Excellence Fund (the “Fund”) to help London schools make progress in raising school standards in literacy, numeracy, science, technology, engineering, maths and modern foreign and ancient languages.

This DD seeks approval from the Executive Director, Communities and Intelligence (C&I), for the award of grant funding to the twenty six organisations recommended by the Award Panel for Round 1, Window 1 of the Fund. The total recommended value is up to £6,737,616.

The individual value of each award will be finalised in the individual grant agreements following further discussion with applicants.

Decision:

The Director is asked to approve the allocation of up to of £6,982,557 of London Schools Excellence Funding for the recommended Round 1, Window 1 applications as set out in Appendix A.

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: Jeff Jacobs

Position: Executive Director of Communities and Intelligence

Signature:

Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor's Education Inquiry was established as a task-and-finish Inquiry in December 2011 to bring together evidence and ideas, and develop practical solutions to further improve educational outcomes in primary and secondary schools in London. Its final report published on 19 October 2012 made 12 recommendations where it was believed regional action could have the greatest effect on young people's lives and provide clear added value in areas in which the Mayor can have a direct influence.
- 1.2 The establishment of the Fund was one of the 12 recommendations. The aims of the Fund are to:
- I. Cultivate teaching excellence through investment in teaching and teachers so that we refocus attention on knowledge-led teaching and curriculum through the creation of new resources and support for teachers;
 - II. Support school-to-school and peer-led activity to raise achievement in priority subjects (English, mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, history, geography, languages), at primary and secondary schools;
 - III. Support development of activity which has already been tested and has some evaluation (either internal or external) where further support is needed to develop the activity, scale up and undertake additional evaluation; and
 - IV. In the longer term create cultural change and raise expectations in the London school system
- 1.3 In January 2013 the Mayor (under MD 1132) approved:
- receipt of £20 million from the Department of Education (DfE) in accordance with the terms of a proposed funding agreement with the DfE to fund a London Schools Excellence Fund;
 - GLA contribution to the Fund of £2.65m of new funding over three years;
 - scope of the Funds' activities as approved at IPB which includes the First Phase Initiatives and open bidding rounds;
 - development of the London Curriculum with a budget of £267,000 between 2012/13 to 2015/16
 - agreed £137,000 to identify exceptional schools that are 'bucking the trend' by are succeeding with all pupils, including the most disadvantaged, in different contexts. The Gold Club involves sharing the lessons of these successes with other schools across London.

AND delegated authority to the Director of Communities and Intelligence to:

- agree and to sign the funding agreement with DfE referred to above and any subsequent reports, amendments or variations to it;
- procure services and sign grant agreements and contracts to deliver the above activities following the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code.

Application Process

- 1.4 The London Schools Excellence Fund Prospectus was launched on the 27th March 2013. The application process for Round 1 was in two stages. Applications were received from 139 organisations with a total of 145 applications across all of the priority subject areas. The total value of the requested funding was £22,460,534.
- 1.5 All stage 1 applications were initially logged and collated by subject area. The applications were then assessed by GLA officers. Applications were assessed against the published criteria including

the aims and objectives of the project and how it met the core requirements of the Fund, the desired outcomes and impact, the evidence base for the project and experience of delivery. Quality assurance to ensure that all officers were implementing the assessment criteria consistently was undertaken on 25% of applications.

From the initial 139 applications, 72 were recommended to go forward to the second stage, where the applicants were asked to submit a more detailed application.

- 1.6 Every Stage 2 application was assessed twice; once by a GLA Officer and once by an external expert - either a nominated Specialist Leader of Education (SLE) or other education expert. Interviews took place with the highest value bids (21 applications, about one third), plus a further nine phone interviews were conducted. 18 applications were also quality assured using the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) members or a further assessment taking place (12 applications) using either GLA or SLE/education expert. There was a high level of agreement amongst the scorers on each application and similar points raised in the scorer feedback. However, where there have been divergent views this has been managed through the quality assurance process and through dialogue with the EAG and/or further advice being sought from either DfE or the EAG.
- 1.7 As well as being individually assessed, applications were looked at across subject and phase to ensure there is a good balance and no duplication. The applications were scored against the agreed assessment framework (set out in Annex 1 of the prospectus). The interviews explored three overarching areas in more detail:
 - Leadership - does the application show evidence that they will successfully deliver to time, cost and quality by meeting the proposed outcomes
 - Sustainability – is there evidence that the project can be sustained after funding ceases or the skills / products developed during the project will continue to provide a lasting legacy
 - Pupil Attainment – does the application clearly express the outcomes and improvements sought for pupils.
- 1.8 A sub group of the EAG met twice to provide advice and make recommendations on:
 - The proposed ranking order of applications across subject areas: Maths, English, Computer Science, Science and Languages.
 - The proposed full or partial awards for the recommended applications.
- 1.9 The EAG also made a number of general comments across all the applications which will be addressed as the programme moves forward. A key area of discussion has been the budgetary impact of supply/cover costs for teachers and the model of delivery.
- 1.10 The applications recommended by EAG were then presented to an Award Board comprising Jeff Jacobs, (Chair) Head of Paid Service and Amanda Coyle, Assistant Director, Health & Communities who were supported by Russell Walters, Education Adviser to Deputy Mayor and Jasbir Sandhu, Principal Accountant. Caroline Boswell, Susan Crisp and Katie Myhill attended from the Education and Youth Team to provide detailed responses to queries. The Award Panel approved the recommendations for funding for the projects set out in Appendix A.

2. Objectives and Expected Outcomes

- 2.1 This DD seeks approval for expenditure of an aggregated amount of £6,737,616 to fund grants to the 26 successful bidding organisations set out in Appendix A for the London Schools Excellence Fund Round 1.

2.2 This first tranche of LSEF grants is expected to have a positive impact on the teaching of Computer Science, Literacy, Maths, Sciences and Modern Foreign Languages in more than 1,000 schools. Subject to final negotiations with applicants, the projects may involve up to 8,000 teachers which will, in turn, benefit in excess of 250,000 London pupils on the successful completion and roll out of the approaches.

3. Issues for consideration

a) Links to strategies and Mayoral and corporate priorities

In the published 'Mayor of London's Response to the Education Inquiry Panel's Final Report', the Mayor set out that a strong education system is vital to delivering jobs and growth for London, which is the main priority of his second term. He stated the need to make London state schools be amongst the best in the world if our young people are to grasp new economic opportunities in London and compete with the talent our city attracts from around the globe.

The delivery of the Inquiry recommendations on the London Schools Excellence Fund is aligned with existing programmes and activities the GLA supports for young people, including investment of £14m on existing youth initiatives and the Mayoral Academies programme.

The Mayor's renewed agenda for children and young people ('Young Londoners – Successful Futures', 2010) set out the Mayor's wider strategy in this area. This cited a key area of focus as providing young people with the opportunities to make successes of their lives. The strategy highlighted education's vital role in economic development, wealth creation and social development, from 'getting schooling right to promoting the high-end skills that are crucial to London's competitiveness'.

b) Impact assessments and Consultation

Extensive consultation was conducted during the life of the Education Inquiry on the school improvement (and other) themes, which influenced the Panel's final recommendations. This included a launch symposium, formal call for evidence over two months, workshops and seminars, a survey of 530 London head teachers and meeting with teaching union and association representatives.

Throughout the Education Inquiry, including the call for evidence, consideration was given to factors of economic and ethnic disadvantage, gender differences and special needs and disabilities (SEND). Key analysis was subsequently published in the first report of the Inquiry (February 2012).

In the development of the London Schools Excellence Fund consultation with head teachers, teachers, school improvement networks, subject specialists and networks, local authorities has continued to ensure that the fund takes account of the impact of the fund on all schools, teachers and pupils.

c) The table below outlines the main risks associated with delivery of the Round One projects.

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation
Lack of capacity in the team: there are significant resource requirements in delivering a programme of this size effectively.	3	2	A HOPS form has been submitted to seek appointment of two further Project Officers to administer and manage the grant programme.

Engagement / Buy in of Schools: Projects may have difficulty ensuring schools are fully engaged in delivery.	3	2	All organisations put forward to Stage Two were required to provide written evidence of confirmed engagement with Headteachers of participating schools.
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(5 high, 1 low)

4. Financial comments

- 4.1 Approval is being sought for the allocation of up to £6,737,616 of the London Schools Excellence Fund (LSEF) in the form of grant funding to twenty six organisations (as detailed in Appendix A of this report) recommended by the LSEF Award Panel for Round 1 of the LSEF Programme.
- 4.2 MD1132 approved the London Schools Excellence Fund (LSEF), including a gross budget of £24.25m, which comprises of £20m external income from the Department of Education and a GLA budget totalling up to £4.25m. The overall LSEF programme, including the gross budget is scheduled to span 4 financial-years from 2012-13 to 2015-16, with the budget held within the Health & Communities Unit. It is from within this approved budget provision that the proposed Round 1 grant awards (totalling £6,982,557) will be funded from.
- 4.3 The exact phasing of the total Round 1 Awards is not yet known as this is dependent upon the individual payment milestones agreed with the twenty six successful grant applicants. The phasing of the Round 1 grant awards, will, however be in line with the LSEF Programme Lifetime as approved by MD1132. Officers are currently in the process of agreeing the payment schedules with the successful applicants and finalising the individual funding agreements that will govern the grant award.
- 4.4 Any changes to this proposal, including budgetary implications will be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process. All appropriate budget adjustment will be made.
- 4.5 The Education & Youth Team within the Communities & Intelligence Directorate will be responsible for managing the proposed grant awards and ensuring all the associated expenditure & grant monitoring arrangements comply with the Authority's Financial Regulations, Contracts & Funding Code, Expenses & Benefits Framework and Funding Agreement Toolkit.

5. Legal comments

- 5.1 Sections 1 to 4 of this report indicate that:
 - 5.1.1 The decisions requested of the director (in accordance with his delegated authority granted pursuant to MD1132) fall 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 economic development and wealth creation and social development in Greater London; and
 - 5.1.2 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 person, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
- consult with appropriate bodies.

5.2 Section 1 of this report and Appendix A indicates that the contribution to be made to each of the organisations amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for services. Officers must ensure that the funding is distributed fairly, transparently, in accordance with the GLA's equalities and in a manner which affords value for money in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code.

Officers must ensure that an appropriate funding agreement is put in place with each of the organisations listed in Appendix A and executed by the GLA and the recipient before any commitment to fund is made.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix A

Subject	No.	Name	Schools	Borough	Teachers - Face to Face	Pupils	Total Project Budget	Maximum GLA funding*
Computer Science	LSEFR1105	UKIE Digital School House	350	10 hubs different boroughs - schools to be confirmed	700	18,900	£450,000	£450,000
Computer Science	LSEFR1026	Apps for Good	40	Pan-London	400	10,000	£390,000	£250,000
Computer Science	LSEFR1094	Queen Mary/KCL	80+	Pan-London	480	1000 – 3000	£768,635	£554,252
Science	LSEFR1031	Physics Factory/Sydney Russell School	55	Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Tower Hamlets	50	>2000	£443,000	£443,000
Science	LSEFR1104	Imperial College	71+	Pan-London	1120	33,000	£667,175	£498,115
Science	LSEFR1123	Field Study Council	32	Greenwich, Lewisham, Newham, Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest	128	5,760	£203,563	£166,215
Science	LSEFR1141	Horniman Primary	6	Lewisham	14	600	£74,600	£74,600
Science	LSEFR1064	Holy Family Catholic School	4	Waltham Forest	30	1,100	£203,403	£150,000

Subject	No.	Name	Schools	Borough	Teachers - Face to Face	Pupils	Total Project Budget	Maximum GLA funding*
Science	LSEFR1091	Royal Society of Chemistry	17 listed (300 stage 1)	Pan-London	800	166,000	2,080,000 (national)	£300,000
Science	LSEFR1121	MyScience	40	Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Camden, Islington and Barnet.	356	12,301	£1,054,490	£500,000
Science	LSEFR1027	Design Shed	4	West London				£100,000
Maths	LSEFR1001	ARK Schools	140	Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Brent, Camden, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Havering, Hillingdon, Islington, Kensington & Chelsea, Lambeth, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Westminster	560	16,800	£1,361,356	£595,500
Maths	LSEFR1040	Camden	90	Camden, Westminster, Brent, Barnet, Islington and Haringey.	270	16,200	£524,917	£499,417
Maths	LSEFR1081	Lampton	100	LB Hounslow; LB Barnet; LB Camden; LB Wandsworth; LB Richmond	150	4,000	£438,292	£130,964
Maths	LSEFR1085B	Primary Advantage	42	Hackney	350	8,157	£291,000	£220,500

Subject	No.	Name	Schools	Borough	Teachers - Face to Face	Pupils	Total Project Budget	Maximum GLA funding*
Maths	LSEFR1115	Lewisham TSA	14	Lewisham	34	839	£212,550	£180,550
Maths	LSEFR1136	Ridgeway Primary	25	Croydon	300	3,200	£75,880	£75,880
MFL	LSEFR1032	Twyford Multi Academies Trust	15	London Borough of Ealing	120	5124	£165,740	£124,740
MFL	LSEFR1148	Pembroke College, Oxford	29	London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Westminster City Council, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.	127	1107	£193,052	£174,498
MFL	LSEFR1147	Classics for All	90	Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Barking & Dagenham, Havering & Redbridge, and Newham.	90	1500	£452,000	£250,000
MFL	LSEFR1082	British Film Institute	20	Barking & Dagenham; Hounslow; Southwark and Lambeth	217 (includes 175 trainee teachers)	2300	£257,859	£150,000
Literacy	LSEFR1059	Mulberry School for Girls	6	Tower Hamlets	100	2000	£460,684	£300,204
Literacy	LSEFR1024	Barnet Partnership for School Improvement	65	Barnet Local Authority and two neighbouring Local Authorities	96	25,703	£294,922	£224,480
Literacy	LSEFR1034	The Compton-Barnet Teaching School Alliance	10	Barnet	24	1224	£99,200	£99,200

Subject	No.	Name	Schools	Borough	Teachers - Face to Face	Pupils	Total Project Budget	Maximum GLA funding*
Literacy	LSEFR1118	Gladesmore Community School	12	Haringey Barking & Dagenham Hackney	460	2500	£560,000	£250,000
Literacy	LSEFR1020	St Michael's Catholic College	6	Southwark	18	365	£192,000	£150,000
							TOTAL	£6,737,617

*This is the maximum funding that can be awarded, and is subject to final negotiations.

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) 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 approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? Yes**

If YES, for what reason: Final funding amounts have not yet been agreed with applicants and it would not be reasonable to publish maximum figures until discussions with all parties are complete.

The team expect to be able to make a formal announcement in mid-October and publication should not precede that.

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring) 8 October 2013

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be 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:

Lin Seeds has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Amanda Coyle 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.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

Date