

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1305

Title: English The Key to Integration in London – extended grants

Executive Summary:

The *English: The Key to Integration in London* programme was approved by the Mayor's Investment and Performance Board on 11 September 2013 and by MD1264 on the 26 September 2013. The project is funded by £1.5m from the European Integration Fund [EIF] which is administered by the Home Office and £0.5m DfE funding (DD1281, 05/11/2014) through the Mayor's London Schools Excellence Fund [LSEF] approved by MD1132.

The purposes of objectives 3 and 4 of the project are to develop the capacity of schools in London to increase the levels of literacy of non-EU pupils with English as an Additional language [EAL] and to evaluate the impact of increasing non-EU national mothers' level of English involvement in the school community.

This DD seeks approval to allocate grant funding up to a maximum of £385,212 following the successful extended competitive grant award process for objectives 3 and 4 (as confirmed by DD1252 from 20 October 2014) which took place in November 2014.

Decision:

The Executive Director of Communities and Intelligence approves the allocation of grant funding up to a maximum of £385,212 to four delivery partners for the delivery of the *English: The Key to Integration in London* projects listed.

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, Communities & Intelligence

Signature:

Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1 Introduction and background

- 1.1 The *English: The Key to Integration in London* programme was approved by IPB on 11th September 2013 and by MD1264 on the 26th September 2013. It is funded £1.5m from the European Integrated Fund [EIF] which is administered by the Home Office and £0.5m DfE funding (DD1281, 05/11/2014) through the Mayor’s London Schools Excellence Fund [LSEF] approved by MD1132.
- 1.2 The main goals of the project are to improve the quality of teaching provision for non-EU pupils in primary and secondary schools, their knowledge of English and the English of non-EU mothers and their involvement in school.
- 1.3 The purposes of objectives 3 and 4 are to develop the capacity of schools in London, to increase the levels of literacy of non-EU pupils with English as an Additional Language [EAL], and to evaluate the impact of increasing non-EU national mothers’ level of English and their involvement in the school community.
- 1.4 *English: The Key to Integration in London* formed the third round of the LSEF. Approval to offer these awards was given in DD1173 from 11th March 2014).
- 1.5 Following completion of the competitive selection process the Arbour Youth Centre was allocated funding of £387,146 under objectives 3 and 4; however during the grant award process they withdrew. The remaining 9 projects proceeded and are now in their delivery phase.

Delivery Partner	Maximum value of Grant Award
Vauxhall Primary School	£82,998
London Borough of Enfield	£102,759
Lampton School	£111,984
Bethnal Green Academy	£122,292
Springfield Community Primary School	£124,273
Glebe Primary School	£153,310
Burnside School	£161,012
Learning Unlimited	£385,264
London Borough of Harrow	£105,759
Total	£1,349,651

- 1.6 GLA officers were unable to reallocate the funding awarded to the Arbour Youth Centre or the remaining £1,203 of unallocated funding to any of the remaining applicants due to the quality of their applications, leaving a residual unallocated amount of £388,349.
- 1.7 The remainder of the total approved programme budget of £2,000,000 is allocated to external evaluation (£80,000) and GLA programme management and administration (£182,000).
- 1.8 DD1252 from 20th October 2014, granted formal approval for the reallocation of grant funding through an extended competitive grant award process for up to £385,212, with the remainder to

be used for future networking events and consultancy support, education and pedagogy expertise for the grant award process.

1.9 The extended grant award process started in September 2014 with the launch of the Request for Proposals and followed the same rigorous process as the initial grant award process (outlined in DD1173, 11/03/2014) to ensure transparency and consistency. Applications were only accepted for Objectives 3 and 4 as the Arbour Youth Centre would have delivered to these objectives, which are;

- Objective 3 : improve the English language skills of non-EU mothers with beginner or Entry level ESOL
- Objective 4: increase the involvement of non-EU national mothers in their children’s school, in supporting their children’s education and learning at home

1.10 Following the clarification interviews, the panel recommends to allocate funding to four new organisations:

Delivery Partner	Maximum value of Grant Award	Ranking Place	Non-EU EAL mothers attending ESOL classes	Non-EU EAL mothers involvement activity
Renaisi – Social Enterprise currently involved in the implementation of a number of community projects	£100,234	Joint 1st	108	108
London Borough of Harrow	£110,359	Joint 1st	120	240
Camden School for Girls	£83,242	3rd	63	63
Waltham Forest Adult Learning Service (part of the London Borough of Waltham Forest) –	£91,377	4th	126	126
Total	£385,212		417	537

1.11 The Home Office has been informed and is supportive of the process. In line with the previous competitive grant awards process, any new grant awards will be subject to the Home Office’s confirmation of project activities and budgets.

2 Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1 The *English: The Key to Integration in London* programme is currently being delivered in 10 London Boroughs: Barnet, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Lambeth, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest. The four new organisations recommended for funding will be delivering further in the following London Boroughs: Barnet, Westminster, Lewisham and Camden.

2.2 Details of the proposed new delivery partners’ projects are provided in Annex 2. The breadth of their methodologies will enable a robust assessment of their effectiveness.

2.3 In summary the current projects aim to deliver the following outputs:

Output	Number Directly Supported
Non-EU EAL mothers attending ESOL classes	417
Non-EU EAL mothers attending an involvement activity	537

2.4 Payments are, and will continue to be, based on defrayed expenditure or accrued expenditure supported by eligible evidence, for example: invoices, payment receipts, payroll information, timesheets etc. (replicating the Home Office arrangements for GLA payments) and progress against target milestones and outputs.

3 Equality comments

3.1 The *English: The Key to Integration in London* programme is advancing equality of opportunity by providing activities to improve the English language skills of non-EU mothers with EAL and beginner or Entry level ESOL.

3.2 The projects' activities are also helping to support non-EU national mothers with EAL to understand the education system, encourage interaction with others and participate more widely in the school community. The aim is to encourage the mothers to become involved in school activities (e.g. volunteering at the school), in addition to supporting their children's education and learning at home. This will help to address the disadvantages experienced by having EAL and underrepresentation of non-EU national mothers with EAL in the school's community activities.

3.3 Due to the nature of the project and what it is trying to achieve it is considered that any unintended adverse impacts are likely to be minimal and the project will make a positive contribution to equality.

4 Other considerations

Risks and Issues

Risk Identified	RAG Status	Actions to mitigate risk
Delivery Partners unable to deliver the outputs and outcomes as required by Home Office overall grant agreement due to severely shortened delivery period (January to June 2015)	Amber	It is the intention to award grants to 4 delivery organisations to enable outputs and outcomes to be reached as outlined in the GLA grant agreement with the Home Office. All negotiation meetings with the partners have been held and the delivery team have sought to ensure that the outputs are realistic and the partners have sufficient time and resources to achieve them. All new grant agreements are expected to be sent in January 2015.
The Home Office does not approve the new delivery partners for the extended round	Green	The Home Office is supportive of the action proposed by the GLA ESF Delivery unit to utilise the full grant from the European Integrated Fund. The extended grant awards process will follow the same procedure as outlined in DD1173 to ensure

		transparency and consistency. This will minimise the risk of the Home Office not approving the new delivery partners.
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Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.1 The *English – Key to Integration in London* programme, launched on 1st February 2014, is a £2 million investment over one and a half years, and constitutes the 3rd bidding round of the London Schools Excellence Fund (LSEF).
- 4.2 The main goal of the programme is to improve the quality of teaching provision for non-EU pupils in primary and secondary schools, their knowledge of English and the English of non-EU mothers and their involvement in school. The project aims to increase the levels of literacy of non-EU pupils with EAL; to improve the EAL support provided by their teachers and to facilitate pupils' integration into school by improving the integration of their mothers into the life of the school.
- 4.3 The project is also aligned to the aims of the London Strategic Migration Partnership 2013/14 business plan.

Consultations

- 4.4 GLA officers undertook desk based research and interviews with EAL specialists along with wider education funding experts (see DD1173 for further information on this).

5 Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought for the allocation of grant funding totalling £385,212 to the four delivery partners noted within the main body of this report for the delivery of the 'English: The Key to Integration in London Programme'.
- 5.2 MD1264 approved the English: Key to Integration in London Project including a gross budget of £2m, which comprises of £1.5m external income from the Home Office and a GLA budget totalling up to £0.5m from the overall LSEF budget approved by MD1132. The overall programme, including the gross budget was approved and scheduled to span 3 financial-years from 2013-14 to 2015-16, with the budget held within the Health & Communities Unit. It is from within this approved budget provision that the total cost of this proposal will be funded (£385,212).
- 5.3 The exact phasing of the grant awards is not yet known as this is dependent upon the individual payment milestones agreed with the successful grant applicants. The phasing of the grant awards, will, however be in line with the programme lifetime as approved by MD1264. 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 awards.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Officers within the ESF Delivery and Health & Communities Units will be responsible for managing the proposed grant awards and ensuring that all the associated expenditure & grant monitoring arrangements comply with the Authority's Financial Regulations, Contracts & Funding Code, and Funding Agreement Toolkit.

6 Legal comments

6.1 The foregoing sections of this report indicate that:

6.1.1. the decisions requested of the Executive Director fall within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things as maybe considered facilitative of or conducive to the promotion of social and economic improvement in Greater London.

6.1.2. in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the Authority's related statutory duties to:

- a) pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people;
- b) 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; and
- c) consult with appropriate bodies.

6.2 Section 1 above indicates that the contribution of up to £385,212 amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for works, supplies, or services. Officers must ensure that:

6.2.1. The funding is distributed fairly, transparently, in accordance with the GLA's equalities and in manner which affords value for money in accordance with the Contracts and Funding Code; and

6.2.2. an appropriate funding agreement is put in place between and executed by the GLA and the recipient of the funding before any commitment to fund is made.

7 Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Market Warming (completed)	September 2014
Competitive Grant Award Process (completed)	October/November 2014
Issue Grant Agreements	January 2015
Delivery Partners' Induction workshop	January 2015
Delivery Start Date [for projects]	1 st January 2015
Project Evaluation start and finish [self and external]	Start January 2015 End 30 th June 2015
Delivery End Date [for projects]	30 th June 2015
Project Closure [for programme]:	30 th September 2015

8 Appendices:

Appendix 1: Assessment criteria at stages 1 and 2

Appendix 2: Summary of Projects' Delivery Proposals

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:

European funding rules require that the details of all of the organisations awarded grant funding are published simultaneously following completion of the Grant Award process. Publication is therefore deferred until the Grant Agreements have been completed and signed by the selected delivery partners, thereby confirming the Grant Awards.

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring): 1 April 2015, or the date upon which all Grant Agreements have been signed if later.

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:

Lubomira Anastassova-Chirmiciu has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Head of Service:

Julie Sexton 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