1. The invitation to submit a Full Application stated that all bids remain competitive at this stage. Does this mean that any expenditure undertaken by an applicant is undertaken at risk until funding is awarded?
Yes

2. Conversely, where an applicant is unsuccessful, is the applicant expected to carry the cost of any expenditure (design and other professional fees, planning costs etc) undertaken?
Yes, unfortunately we have extremely limited revenue funds and cannot take the risk of abortive costs

3. Where an applicant may have extraordinary (operational) financial circumstances, is there any support that could be provided to meet the costs and/or offset or share the risk?
While we are sympathetic to the costs incurred by applicants, unfortunately we have extremely limited revenue funds and cannot take the risk of abortive costs.

4. When will projects be able to draw down grant funding?

Unless in exceptional circumstances, the LEAP / GLA will not release any funding against project costs until a scheme and any associated enabling development has received full planning consent. Planning consent is defined as the achievement of a decision on all relevant detailed planning applications (generally subject to reserved matters or conditions although this remains at the GLA’s total discretion to consider these as material to risk in deciding whether to release funding).

5. To what extent can the moderation and a decision on funding allocation take place when planning is not in place (nor been applied for)?

The GLA will not accept claims for funding until the scheme and any enabling development is fully consented, however a funding agreement may be entered into subject to the provisions of point 4 above.

6. When can costs be drawn down from?

Should the application be approved and funding awarded, project costs are eligible from the point at which the Expression of Interest was approved (31 July 2017).

7. What process do we need to follow regarding site acquisition?

A red book valuation should be provided for all acquisitions.

8. Is a Costed Risk Register required for all projects?
Where possible, a costed risk register should be provided for all schemes. All larger schemes (in excess of £5m grant value) must provide a full Costed Risk Register in the application submission.

9. Are site visits/college presentations included in the application stage?

Site visits will not be conducted due to time constraints. During the decision process, applicants may be asked to present the scheme to approval boards, however, GLA Officers will be in touch if this is deemed necessary.

10. What are the dates/times regarding application process deadlines?

GLA Officers are currently working out the deadlines for decision making, with a view to achieving the timelines as set out in the prospectus. However, the GLA can’t guarantee timeframes as this is dependent on the scheduling of various decision making boards.

11. Is there an expected RIBA stage that projects should reach before making an application?

The prospectus states that projects should be developed to RIBA stage 2 at the full application stage.

12. Do we need BREEAM assessments for different sites?

Depending on the nature of the project, it is at the discretion of the project to decide how best they should present their BREEAM assessments for different sites. However, applicants should note that the minimum requirements set out in the prospectus for all projects, which is BREEAM ‘Excellent’ for new build projects and ‘Very good’ for refurbishments. Applications will be scrutinised for their BREEAM commitment at the full application and applications of a large scale should submit a BREEAM assessment(s) for the entire project.

13. How long is the fund alive for?

Whilst the fund lasts until March 2021 (4 years), projects should aim to deliver within a 2 year duration. If this isn’t possible then projects must explain/justify why more time is required.

14. Does the GLA have a view on how any Institute of Technology (IoT) programme might influence Skills for Londoners funding and whether IoT bids might have access to future rounds of (additional or separate) capital funding?

The Prospectus states that organisations applying to government for IoT funding support may also make an application to the SfLCF for funding support to match this.
However we await further information from government on the timeframes and call, and will provide more guidance in due course.