

## **OFFICER DELEGATED DECISION 19 JANUARY 2022**

**Report title:** ELEVATE programme – Contain Outbreak Management Funding 2022-2023

**Wards:** All

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture: Councillor Sonia Winifred

**Report Authorised by:** Eleanor Purser and Sara Waller: Strategic Directors for Sustainable Growth and Opportunity

**Contact for enquiries:**

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### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report presents recommendations and reasoning for the distribution of £496,000 funds to strategic and programmatic ELEVATE activity over 2022-2023 to support the wellbeing of Lambeth young people who have been profoundly affected by COVID. The recommendations are based on ELEVATE's experience of designing and delivering targeted provision for vulnerable young people and have been informed by the professional expertise of colleagues across the council including Education, Children's Commissioning, and the Children's Participation team. Additional guidance and support in the development of project aims has been received from external youth, community and cultural partners.

### **FINANCE SUMMARY**

The activity detailed in this report will be fully funded by the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) which provides revenue funding to local authorities in England to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and support local public health. £496,000 in COMF funding will be distributed before the end of March 2022 to support delivery in the remainder of this financial year and across 2022-23.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. To approve that £496,000 in COMF funding is used to support delivery of the ELEVATE programme activity as detailed in this report.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Economy, Culture and Skills to agree final funding allocations.

# 1. CONTEXT

- 1.1 Due to the COVID pandemic Lambeth young people have faced nearly two years of upheaval, loss, physical separation, and disconnection. This has hit less advantaged groups especially hard. The generation of Lambeth young people at school or who finished compulsory education during COVID face additional barriers to progressing their learning and/or careers including a lack of knowledge on opportunities, decreased community connections, and increased mental health issues.
- 1.2 At the same time, a growing weight of research shows that cultural participation contributes to better health and wellbeing outcomes; the pandemic has reaffirmed the important role creativity plays in healing, distracting, entertaining and empowering our young people.
- 1.3 ELEVATE's mission is to open up the creative and cultural sector for every young person in the borough. We want to enrich young people's lives through creativity. The COVID pandemic presents a particularly urgent moment for young people's creativity to be recognised and nurtured. After an incredibly difficult period and facing feelings of uncertainty about their futures, we want to support young people to feel positive and powerful.
- 1.4 As a culture sector specific initiative, we relate to a wide-reaching network of professionals from children's services, schools and settings, and Lambeth's creative and digital industries. The COMF funds will enable the council to mobilise local agencies and networks to lead creative projects that raise young people's wellbeing and self-esteem, nurture their aspirations, and reconnect them with their communities. We also want to support them to increase their understanding of the viability in pursuing career pathways within the creative industries and provide valuable guidance on accessing them.
- 1.5 We will do this via two strands of the ELEVATE programme:
- 1.6 **ELEVATE Education** is a strategic, cross sector partnership strengthening creative and cultural education for all children and young people who live and learn in Lambeth. It aims to enrich young people's lives and give them tools to succeed. Developed in collaboration with Education colleagues, it designs universal and targeted provision with nurseries, primary, secondary, Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and Special Education Needs (SEN) schools. Activity aligns with existing education priorities to ensure relevant and inspiring content. Through our relationships with teachers working across the borough we are aware of the high prevalence of mental health issues that have been exacerbated by COVID.
- 1.7 **ELEVATE Neighbourhoods** focuses on young people in their communities. Developed in collaboration with the Council's Children's Services and in particular the Youth & Play team, it contributes to making Lambeth one of the best places to grow up, where it's possible to discover a love and talent for creativity and through that grow in confidence and mental wellbeing. Its pilot phase launched just after the first Covid lockdown, April 2020, and its delivery has proved particularly important in supporting young people to reconnect with their community through COVID recovery to date.
- 1.8 **Via sector specific, targeted provision, ELEVATE contributes to wider strategic Council objectives:**
- 1.9 ELEVATE is a primary mechanism for delivering Action 5 in the Creative and Digital Industries Strategy to; *tackle inequality in the creative and digital industries, working hand in hand with*

*employers to forge a positive future for new generations, including a commitment to provide skills, jobs and opportunities for young people and those underrepresented in the creative workforce.*

- 1.10 It is aligned with Lambeth's Economic Resilience Strategy that aims to create an inclusive and resilient economy that creates opportunities for local people. Working with our creative and cultural industries to improve pathways to employment, including for those who face systemic inequalities – including black, young and disabled residents. It is also closely aligned with the Council's Employment and Skills Strategy and will improve pathways from school to training and work for all young people.
- 1.11 ELEVATE also delivers on several goals identified in Future Lambeth: Borough Plan; contributing to growth and development in the borough, ensuring that growth increases community resilience and commissioning and delivering in partnerships which promote care and independence, including:
- 1.12 **Inclusive Growth:** ELEVATE is aligned with Lambeth Made / Children and Young People's Plan (2018-22) which is committed to ensuring all Lambeth children and young people can fulfil their potential. It aims to support a growing number of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and socio-economically, or otherwise disadvantaged young people, up to the age of 30 into the creative and digital industries and to ensure every young person is able to access and benefit from Lambeth's rich creative offer.
- 1.13 **Reducing Inequality:** With a focus on education, skills and employment, ELEVATE is committed to supporting a number of priority groups at key moments in their growth and development, including, those from BAME backgrounds those from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds, those at risk of exclusion or not in education, employment and training, and children looked after, care leavers and those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).
- 1.14 **Strong and Sustainable Neighbourhoods:** ELEVATE contributes to making Lambeth a place where people want to live, work and invest. It harnesses energy and helps build networks that can drive innovation and improve outcomes for residents. In bringing residents, schools, colleges and employers together it generates greater cohesion and connection between communities.

## **2. PROPOSAL AND REASONS**

### **2.1 What we are proposing**

This report seeks approval to spend £496,000 COMF funds across two strands of ELEVATE (Education & Neighbourhoods). Initiating a grants application process, we will allocate funds within the 2021-2022 financial year to cultural partners who will design and deliver targeted community-based support for vulnerable groups including:

- a. Ethnically diverse people and those who experience racism
- b. People who self-identify as deaf/disabled or neuro diverse
- c. People who self-identify as LGBTQI
- d. Those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds
- e. Girls and women

### **2.2 Activity will include:**

- Developing opportunities for young people to create, curate, celebrate and perform
- Offering trauma informed practice training to all ELEVATE partners
- Giving young people access to diverse and inspiring role models

- Building cultural capital to address the attainment gap
- Providing accessible progression routes for underrepresented young people
- Increasing the influence young people have on creative developments in the borough (aligning ELEVATE with Lambeth's wider mission to become a Child Friendly Community).

2.3 The urgency with which we need to on board partners, in addition to the limited timescale to allocate COMF funds across both Education and Neighbourhoods, leads us to propose a grant process inviting existing ELEVATE partners to participate. This will maximise both the efficiency of the distribution process and the impact of the COMF investment by ensuring that ELEVATE is engaging organisations who are aligned with the programme's mission, embedded in their communities, and experienced in managing funds via a grant agreement.

2.4 The following section of the report provides more detail on these specific areas of the proposed programme, which are:

- ELEVATE Education
- ELEVATE Neighbourhoods
- Elevators
- Project support

## 2.5 ELEVATE Education

For ELEVATE Education we propose to allocate funds to a range of existing cultural partners who are already leading the strategic development of our five education priorities. These partners will be invited to submit a proposal detailing how additional funding will enable them to increase the impact of their work both in terms of participation opportunities for young people, and in supporting the capacity and sustainability of the ELEVATE network.

2.6 ELEVATE Education activity will take place across five thematic areas identified in Lambeth's Cultural Education Strategy:

- **Building children and young people's cultural participation**, increasing the influence young people have on creative developments in the borough
- **Joining up Lambeth's cultural offer for schools and promoting creativity as a tool to improve wellbeing** - increasing awareness and access to a coherent, inclusive, rich and dynamic arts and cultural offer
- **Nurturing a network of creatively confident teachers, to lead and ignite creativity in Lambeth schools**
- **Growing understanding of progression routes and careers in the cultural sector** - connecting young people with a variety of progression routes and diverse role models in the cultural sector
- **Developing a more diverse and representative cultural offer for children and young people**, promoting best practice in diversity, access & inclusion

2.7 At the core of ELEVATE Education is Lambeth's Cultural Education Partnership, a network of over 30 partners across the borough. Allocating ELEVATE Education COMF to partners across the themes listed will enable us to mobilise partners and promote associated projects that align with our aims, towards activity specifically supported by COMF.

## 2.8 ELEVATE Neighbourhoods

ELEVATE Neighbourhoods focusses on reaching young people in their communities. Out of school opportunities provide a host of possibilities: to expand experiences, make connections and learn new things.

The development of outputs and outcomes for ELEVATE Neighbourhoods activity funded by COMF are directly informed by the evaluation of the pilot year of ELEVATE Neighbourhoods (2020-2021). This evaluation was conducted by London Southbank University and sets out a series of recommendations that we will be incorporating, including:

- Investigating how to best work with local communities who are not already engaged in creative activities such as partnerships bringing highly skilled creative practitioners/organisations to smaller, locally focussed organisations.
- Providing a brokerage model (e.g., pairing a Young Carers group with a visual artist/company; or a Youth Club with a defined music production project).
- Encouraging project partners to ensure youth voice is at the heart of their work with a stronger focus on youth-led approaches to project development and implementation.
- Embedding clear evaluative framework and reporting structure to every project for clear end of project data analysis.
- Showcasing the achievements of young people: invitations to speak at cohort meetings, short pieces on ELEVATE's website, using the voice of participants as Ambassadors for change.
- Expanding the age range for the strand.

**ELEVATE Neighbourhoods priorities have been identified on a needs basis.** Activity will be designed (but not limited) to support children and young people who we know have been profoundly affected during COVID including:

- Children under five and their parents/carers, specifically young children with SEND
- Care experienced children and young people and care leavers
- Migrant and refugee girls and young women
- Children and young people who identify as LGBTQ+

## 2.9 Neighbourhoods grant proposals will be invited from existing ELEVATE Neighbourhoods delivery partners that are:

- Embedded in the community it is serving and responds directly to their needs
- Involved with collaboration between at least one cultural partner and one community/youth partner. This is to strengthen cross sector collaboration and facilitate more direct access to young people via existing youth/community networks.
- Have robust youth participation embedded in the design and delivery of the project.

In addition, partners must commit to working towards these outcomes for participants:

- Lives enriched by engagement in creative activity and contact with creative resources
- Improved skills in:
  - Leadership e.g., decision-making, problem solving, negotiating, etc.
  - Personal resilience e.g., confidence and self-esteem
  - Creativity e.g., making, producing or facilitating art and/or creative products

## 2.10 Elevators

Youth leadership is at the heart of the ELEVATE programme. Receiving COMF investment enables ELEVATE to recruit, train, and pay a new group of Elevators, our youth advisory group. To have the new group in place in time for them to have a meaningful impact on the projects we are proposing, we need to start the recruitment process straight away so we can have a welcoming, inspiring, and genuinely developmental programme in place.

## 2.11 Project management, monitoring and evaluation

ELEVATE will dedicate 2021-2023 to bringing together expert cultural and education partners to improve young people's wellbeing, nurture their self-esteem and develop their talents. Partners will coordinate projects, celebrations and events that bring young people together across the

borough, building a sense of belonging and community. To ensure activity is consolidated and clearly communicated across our audiences (schools and settings, young people, the wider community) we will work with an experienced cultural producer who is familiar with ELEVATE aims and activity.

Each grant agreement will include specific outcome and output targets that we will monitor throughout the design and delivery of projects. An external evaluation partner will also be commissioned at the outset, helping to ensure consistency across the programme, tracking outcomes and promoting best practise.

For COMF funded activity, monitoring the impact of provision on the wellbeing of participants is particularly important. This is also beneficial for the long-term development of ELEVATE as we are committed to interrogating the introduction of formal elements of social prescribing to our programmes, connecting to Lambeth’s health and life sciences sectors and other service areas such as CAM (Children’s Mental Health Service) and to external cultural partners such as Southbank Centre and their work with NASP (National Academy for Social Prescribing).

### 3. FINANCE

- 3.1 The activity detailed in this report will be fully funded by the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) which provides revenue funding to local authorities in England to either (a) help reduce the spread of coronavirus and / or (b) support local public health following the effects on the pandemic.
- 3.2 £496,000 in COMF funding will be distributed across the Education and Neighbourhoods strand as follows. Funding will be provided before the end of March 2022 to support delivery in the remainder of this financial year and across 2022-23.

#### **ELEVATE Education**

Community building/network coordination	£20,000.00
Creative inclusion & participation	£60,000.00
Creative careers	£40,000.00
Project management	£40,000.00
Evaluation	£18,000.00
Trauma informed practice training	£12,000.00

**Total** **£190,000.00**

#### **ELEVATE Neighbourhoods**

Community projects	£196,000.00
Elevators’ leadership	£30,000.00
Project management	£30,000.00
Organisational support – capacity building	£30,000.00
Evaluation	£20,000.00

**Total** **£306,000.00**

**Total ELEVATE COMF** **£496,000.00**

## 4. LEGAL AND DEMOCRACY

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, which provides the Council with the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. This power can be used for commercial purposes. The Council may exercise this power for, or otherwise than for, the benefit of the authority, its area, or persons resident or present in its area.
- 4.2 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides powers for a local authority to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
- 4.3 Should any of the awards fall under the purview of the Public Contract Regulations, then, as the services are to do with education, training, social matters, the “Light Touch Regime” would apply only if the value of any individual arrangements exceeded £615,278 in value. For awards below that threshold, the Council’s duty is to act reasonably and proportionately when identifying candidates and evaluating the efficacy of making awards to particular service providers.
- 4.5 The Council’s Constitution requires that all key decisions, decisions which involve resources between the sums of £100,000 and £500,000, and important or sensitive issues, must be published on the Council’s website for five clear days before the decision is approved by the Cabinet Member or Director concerned (Constitution, Part 2, Section 3). Any representations received during this period must be considered by the decision-maker before the decision is taken.

## 5. CONSULTATION AND CO-PRODUCTION

- 5.1 **ELEVATE Education’s** strategy and action plan were written during the pandemic, in collaboration with Education and Cultural partners. This means our aims and activity are highly attuned to the current needs of Lambeth’s schools and settings. In producing the strategy, five priority workstreams were identified. A team of lead partners from across Lambeth’s cultural education landscape are developing projects and partnerships in each of these areas.
- 5.2 **ELEVATE Neighbourhoods** proposal have been developed in close collaboration with colleagues across the Council, specifically Children’s Services and the Youth and Play team, to identify groups of young people who will particularly benefit from creative enrichment opportunities and community/youth partners who work directly with these young people.

## 6. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The main risks that impede on the successful delivery of this programme are:

**Table 1 – Risk Register**

Item	Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Score	Control Measures
1	The impact of COVID means projects cannot take place physically and	3	2	6	The closure of schools due to COVID is a last resort so ELEVATE Education projects can continue, engaging young people in bubbles if required.

	must be delivered online, impacting negatively on the engagement of young people and the opportunities we can provide				ELEVATE Neighbourhoods delivery partners have experience of delivering projects online in creative and inspiring ways and can continue to do so if necessary.
2	ELEVATE Neighbourhoods Partnership brokerage is problematic	2	2	4	Officers will support the development of all Neighbourhoods partnerships and ensure that responsibilities and requirements of partners are represented in each grant agreement.
3	A partner is unable to deliver on their responsibilities	2	1	2	The advantage of a collaborative approach involving multiple partners means that partnership agreements can be adjusted if one partner is unable to meet their delivery requirements. The partnership agreement will provide guidance on the sharing of information so the risk of a knowledge gap is considerably reduced in these circumstances.
4	COMF monies are expected to be spent before the end of March 2022 and therefore if we are unable to conclude grant agreements in time, we may not be able to fund some projects	2	2	4	Engaging existing ELEVATE Education partners puts us in a good position to safeguard the allocation and distribution of COMF investment by March 2022. The brokering approach we are taking for ELEVATE Neighbourhoods enables us to move with speed and flexibility to ensure we can allocate funds to lead partners with the confidence of knowing they are experienced in managing grant funding.

### Key

<b>Likelihood</b>	Very Likely = 4	Likely = 3	Unlikely = 2	Very Unlikely = 1
<b>Impact</b>	Major = 8	Serious = 4	Significant = 2	Minor = 1

## 7. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 This programme addresses priorities and actions identified in Creative Ways to Grow, Lambeth's CDI strategy and the Economic Resilience Strategy. As these strategies underwent a full EIA process, including review by an Equalities Impact Assessment Panel, an additional EIA is not required for this stage of the programme. The ELEVATE programme has been devised in response to the Equalities Commission report recommendations (2017). The programme will have a particular focus on those who are economically and socially disadvantaged and those with additional needs including socially excluded groups, engage with disabled residents and work in partnership with local, grassroots VCS organisations who work with particular target communities.

7.2 Equalities data will be collected and monitored on an ongoing basis to review how far the Fund is being accessed by Lambeth's diverse communities. Data assessed will include protected characteristics of fund beneficiaries including gender and ethnicity.

## 8. COMMUNITY SAFETY

8.1 By providing young people creative engagement opportunities in their schools and communities, ELEVATE is aligning with the Lambeth Made Safer strategy to *'improve the safety, and health and well-being, of children and young people across the borough and to reduce the number of young people and young adults impacted by violence'*.

## 9. ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

### Environmental

9.1 Not applicable

### Health

9.2 The projects described above are being designed to improve the wellbeing of Lambeth's children and young people.

### Corporate Parenting

9.3 One ELEVATE Neighbourhoods project is being designed in collaboration with Lambeth's Children in Care council (Visions of Success). It will support the creative wellbeing of care experienced young people and care leavers. Colleagues in the Participation team will be advising us throughout development and delivery of the project.

### Staffing and accommodation

9.4 The Business, Culture and Investment team, predominantly the Cultural Education Manager and Cultural Development Manager, will oversee and manage this programme. There are no new staffing requirements arising from this report.

### Responsible Procurement

9.5 Not applicable.

## 10. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 The table below details the stages and deadlines for implementing the recommendations:

Activity	Proposed Date
Publication on Decisions online	11 January 2022
Officer Decision	20 January 2022
Partnership brokering	December 2021- January 2022
Partner proposals submitted and Grants Awarded	January – February 2022
Payments made to projects	March 2022
Project delivery and monitoring	March 2022- March 2023

## AUDIT TRAIL

Name and Position/Title	Lambeth Directorate	Date Sent	Date Received	Comments in paragraph:
Councillor Sonia Winifred	Cabinet Member for Equalities and Culture	14.12.21	20.12.21	Complete
Eleanor Purser / Sara Waller, Strategic Director	Sustainable Growth and Opportunity	31.12.21	6.1.22	Complete
Matthew Blades, Interim Director Economy, Culture and Skills	Sustainable Growth and Opportunity	10.12.21	13.12.21	Complete
Matthew Gaynor, Finance	Finance and Property	14.12.21	14.12.21	Complete
Michael O'Hora Legal Services	Legal and Governance	14.12.21	14.12.21	Complete
Marianna Ritchie, Democratic Services	Legal and Governance	14.12.21	20.12.21	Complete

## REPORT HISTORY

<b>Original discussion with Cabinet Member</b>	20.12.21
<b>Report deadline</b>	NA
<b>Date final report sent</b>	NA
<b>Key decision report</b>	No
<b>Date first appeared on forward plan</b>	N/A
<b>Key decision reasons</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Background information</b>	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contain-outbreak-management-fund-2021-to-2022/contain-outbreak-management-fund-guidance-financial-year-2021-to-2022#guidance">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/contain-outbreak-management-fund-2021-to-2022/contain-outbreak-management-fund-guidance-financial-year-2021-to-2022#guidance</a>
<b>Appendices</b>	EIA Economic Resilience Strategy refresh

## **APPROVAL BY CABINET MEMBER OR OFFICER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

**I confirm I have consulted Finance, Legal, Democratic Services and the Procurement Board, and taken account of their advice and comments in completing the report for approval:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**Post:** Alice Edwards  
Cultural Education Manager

**I approve the above recommendations:**

**Signature:**

**Date:**

**Post:** Matt Blades  
Interim Director, Economy, Culture, and Skills

**Any declarations of interest (or exemptions granted):** None

**Any conflicts of interest:** None

**Any dispensations:** None