

Committee(s)	Date:
Resource Allocation Sub Policy and Resources Committee Education Board	6 July 2017 6 July 2017 20 July 2017
Subject: City of London Learning & Engagement Forum (LEF) – establishing a cultural education partnership	Public
Report of: Chair of City of London Learning & Engagement Forum	For Decision
Report author: Sharon Ament, Chair of Learning & Engagement Forum	

Summary

The City of London Learning & Engagement Forum (LEF) was established in 2014 to **enable the cultural organisations of the City to work together on an unprecedented scale** (a publication on the activities of the member organisations will be shared at the meeting). It is now ready to establish and transition into the City of London’s cultural education partnership, “**Cultural Hub Learning**” (the words ‘cultural hub’ will be amended to the new brand name for the hub, currently embargoed until 20 July). This will position the cultural hub at the forefront of learning and engagement in England and as specialist in the **fusion of creative, technical, educational and emotional skills** needed for 21st Century success. Its development is a **prioritised action under Objective 1 of the Education Strategy (“to establish a City of London cultural education partnership”)**, and is critical to the success of the cultural hub. Further information is available on request.

This report therefore seeks **approval to release the provision of £150,000** which forms part of the City Corporation’s medium term financial forecast, to fund the work required to implement Cultural Hub Learning initiative. This is subject to the Education Board’s approval of a more detailed business case.

Recommendation

Members are recommended to **approve the provision of £150,000** to implement the City Corporation’s Cultural Hub Learning initiative, subject to approval of a more detailed business case by the Education Board.

Main Report

1. Following a development phase funded by the Education Board until July 2017, the cultural education partnership for the City of London, Cultural Hub Learning, is now **ready for implementation from August 2017**. Resources of £150,000 are now required to take the project to this next stage. In view of the Education Board’s support, the cost already forms part of the MTF.

RATIONALE

2. Cultural Hub Learning responds to **extensive research and consultation** that took place between January-June 2017 which highlighted:

- Arts Council England's **cultural education partnership model** offers the opportunity to ensure alignment across multiple sectors in order to provide high quality cultural opportunities for pupils most in need, by building on the specialisms and assets of a local area
- Inequality in London is stark and **access initiatives** which really make a difference to disadvantaged groups are desperately needed
- Opportunities are increasingly required for **lifelong learning** across the economy
- Workforces across the City and beyond need diversifying and employers are reporting it increasingly difficult to find people with the **fusion of creative and technological skills** that they need to stay innovative. We have significant expertise in both these areas within the City but connections are not yet being made across these sectors.
- There is potential for our creative learning/skills capabilities and assets to offer a **unique proposition for the cultural hub**. Whilst some are beginning to see the opportunity, no other London cultural quarter has yet adopted this as a USP
- Members of the LEF recognise that whilst we have started to work in partnership, a major cultural shift is now required in how we work together to enable us to **provide a more joined up offer** and maximise our impact

PROPOSAL

3. In order to address these needs and opportunities, we propose that the current LEF transition and expand into Cultural Hub Learning to become **one of the 50 cultural education partnerships (CEP) in England** at the forefront of learning and engagement. Cultural Hub Learning will position the cultural hub as a **world-leading learning destination**, specialising in the **fusion of creative, technical, educational and emotional skills** needed for 21st century success. This will be achieved through a programme of targeted, high-quality, learning opportunities (live and digital) that focus on enabling access and progression for disadvantaged and underserved groups, so promoting social cohesion and social mobility. Given the identified need, it is proposed that the remit of Cultural Hub Learning would extend beyond solely young people to include life-long learning.
4. We propose a series of flagship initiatives that address the identified needs and opportunities. The first of these, **Cultural Hub Challenge** will be the focus for this financial year and will use the groundbreaking and entrepreneurial challenge prize model. This model catalyses and spurs innovation through competition- no other cultural partnership in England has yet used this approach. **We would like to promote this at the cultural hub public launch (20th July)** to give us first-mover advantage. It will focus on one of the most urgent issues emerging from our research and consultation (our working theme is, "given the high levels of long- term unemployment amongst young Londoners, how can under-represented Londoners develop the fusion of skills required for success within London's future workforce"), and challenge multi-discipline teams to devise **innovative solutions**.
5. By 2020, further flagship programmes that deliver against the Cultural Hub Learning vision will be developed and those currently being scoped include:

- **Cities of Learning:** Using the principle of digital technology to connect formal and informal learning. A wide range of learning activities from across the City would be accessed using a digital platform to enable high quality learning achievements and accreditation.
- **Cultural Hub Lab:** Engaging and supporting sectoral leaders to explore how to tackle generational disadvantage through culture and learning, and how to develop pathways for fusion skills and real world learning. Potentially a programme of events could be developed, with action learning, collaborative initiatives and a physical presence within the cultural hub.
- **Proximity Partnerships:** With economic and social disadvantage being concentrated in certain parts of London, proximity partnerships would align activity with a small number of critical places where partnership can make a real difference. Activities would respond to local needs, target priority groups identified through local partners, and test how creative opportunities can significantly change life chances

OUTCOMES

6. A set of draft outcomes have been proposed for Cultural Hub Learning:

- London's **disadvantaged** children, young people and adults have developed **fusion of skills** needed for 21st century success
- We have a stronger capacity to **work intensively with other London boroughs** to promote social cohesion and collaborate around issues of disadvantage to make a real difference to life chances, developing interventions within and beyond the City
- Pathways are in place that ensure these young people and adults are able to **access** high quality cultural experiences, develop the fusion of **skills** for success and **thrive** within the future workforce
- We have a stronger capacity to work collaboratively **across the public, voluntary and private sectors** within the City of London and London as a whole to strategically maximise our assets and impact
- The **physical and digital infrastructure** that will enable access to cultural experiences and progression of fusion skills has been developed, closely aligned with the wider cultural hub plans
- A **sustainable business model** for the partnership is in place

7. Cultural Hub Learning is keen to develop an **evaluation framework** with series of KPIs that measure success against these outcomes (at an individual, societal and economic level), together with a baseline analysis. However, additional funding will need to be found for this.

8. This proposal **progresses the City of London's strategic priorities** for the Corporate Strategy (Place, People and prosperity objectives around building a world-class cultural hub), Education Strategy (Objectives 1 and 3 around the City's cultural offer enriching London learners and ensuring young Londoners have opportunities to progress into fulfilling careers), Employability Strategy (objective to ensure Londoners are better prepared for work) as well as Future City and Smart City initiatives.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFFING

9. It has been agreed that progress updates will be reported at **each Education Board meeting**. Further monitoring of progress will be undertaken by the proposed Steering Group for Cultural Hub Learning and Cultural Hub Learning **operational staff will work closely with City of London** education, economic development, cultural hub and other related teams to ensure alignment.
10. During this financial year it is proposed that the Strategic Partnerships team hosted at the Barbican provide the initial **central resource** required to drive forward and initiate Cultural Hub Learning. As this team leads on partnerships for the cultural hub and other collaborative cultural initiatives across the City, **added value** would be gained from their ability to connect Cultural Hub Learning into these initiatives. The staffing and overheads costs required are:

Strategic and income generation lead (1 day a week @£350)	£9,800
Project management (2 days a week @£260)	£14,560
Partnership co-ordination (3 days a week @£210)	£17,640
Cultural Hub Learning programmer (2 days a week @£260)	£14,560
Overheads	£440
TOTAL	<u>£57,000</u>

11. £150k was held in the **Medium Term Financial Forecast** to put the Cultural Hub Learning vision into practice. Investment is required towards the ambitious Year 1 flagship programme *Cultural Hub Challenge*, initiatives to strengthen shared practice/systems, ongoing consultation mechanisms and seed funding towards a shared infrastructure.

12. Budget breakdown:	TOTAL	<u>£150,000</u>
Year 1 flagship programme: Cultural Hub Challenge	£56,000	
Communications	£10,000	
Collaborative Learning Programme for CoL LEF members	£7,000	
Shared data and systems seed funding	£10,000	
Ongoing user consultation	£10,000	
Staffing/overheads for partnership and programmes set up	£57,000	

13. Whilst Cultural Hub Learning aims to develop a sustainable funding model in the longer term, further requests for the City to **contribute to the seed funding** of flagship programmes are likely over the next 2 years.

MILESTONES

14. Key activities over the autumn / spring term are expected to be:
- Autumn term:** Establish structure, initiate systems, plan Cultural Hub Challenge, initiate Collaborative Learning Programme, research income generation options, develop communications
- Spring term:** Consultation, launch campaign and delivery of Cultural Hub Challenge, scope Year 2 flagship programmes, test income generation options

SUMMARY

15. To conclude, Cultural Hub Learning will position the cultural hub as a **world-leading learning destination**, specialising in the **fusion of creative, technical, educational and emotional skills** needed for 21st century success. This directly address the need for access initiatives, fusion skills, a joined-up offer and the opportunities around cultural education partnerships and positioning for the cultural hub identified in our research and consultation. Members are recommended to implement the City Corporation's Cultural Hub Learning initiative.

Sharon Ament

Chair, City of London Learning & Engagement Forum