

Committee(s): Education Board	Dated: 17/10/2023
Subject: London Careers Festival 2024 – change of dates, budget implications	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 5, 8, & 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Director of Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Report author: Jamie Hannon, Lead Partnerships and Programmes Officer	

Summary

- The usual summer term scheduling for the London Careers Festival (LCF) booking is not available at the Guildhall complex due to space availability.
- It is proposed that the LCF move to a spring term schedule, which is proposed to be 26 February to 8 March 2024.
- This moves LCF 2024 into the same financial year as LCF 2023, and so Members are asked to make a decision on reallocation of the existing budget which would mean savings will need to be sought from existing or planned activities.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the new dates for LCF 2024
- Make a decision on the reallocation of the existing budget meaning that savings will need to be sought from existing or planned activities of a total sum of £55,000 during financial year 2023-24.

Main Report

Background

1. The LCF is an annual event which brings together employers, apprenticeship providers and further educators with learners from primary, secondary, and post-16 education. LCF 2023 connected 12,824 participants with 77 businesses over two weeks both online and in-person.

2. LCF has taken a regular summer term position in recent years which includes an in-person festival week that takes place at The Guildhall complex.

Current Position

3. The Education Strategy Unit (ESU) has been informed that the Guildhall complex is not available in 2024 for the festival's summer term booking and will not be available in subsequent summer terms thereafter.
4. An earlier spring term position is proposed which would allow LCF to retain the City's Guildhall complex as the main location for activities.
5. The current provisional dates for the in-person festival week are Monday 26 February to Friday 1 March 2024, which is followed by the online virtual festival week from Monday 4 March to Friday 8 March.
6. LCF 2023 had a budget allocation of £55,000, so it is proposed that LCF 2024 can only be delivered to the same standard if £55,000 is found within the current financial year budget. This would require reallocating existing budget which will mean savings will need to be sought from existing or planned activities.
7. Other than the financial implications described above, there are benefits to the change of timing. Partners' availability and improved synergy with independent school pupils' availability being primary additional positive considerations.

Options

8. The Education Board have the following options:
 - a. Agree for the ESU to make savings elsewhere in the budget to fund LCF 2024 which could mean that funding will need to be found from existing resources using existing budgets.
 - b. If in agreement to the above, also agree to the new proposed dates for LCF 2024.
 - c. Postpone the London Careers Festival until the 2024-25 financial year.

Proposal

9. This paper requests that the Education Board makes a decision on the new spring term dates and reallocation of budgets for the LCF 2024.

Implications

10. Delivering LCF 2024 and not postponing it would retain the continuity of the festival. Approving this option could require the ESU to reallocate current and planned activities to a sum of £55,000 to fund the upcoming festival.

11. Postponing LCF 2024 until 2025 would not require an additional reallocation of current and planned activities. However, in doing so, this could risk adverse reputational damage and loss of continuation of positive impact for young Londoners.

Conclusion

12. This paper highlights that the upcoming 2024 London Careers Festival cannot retain its usual summer term position. As a result, the paper outlines the implications and risks of postponing the festival and asks Members to make a decision on budget reallocations and agree to the new proposed dates.

Appendices

- None

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