

**Press Notice**

**CBILS - 29 June 2020**

## **Mayor of London's Greater London Investment Fund announces CBILS accreditation**

Since its launch in May 2019, the Greater London Investment Fund (GLIF) has invested £12.5m in 33 early-stage and high-growth companies through its equity and loan funds. Although the fund was established to support high growth companies in achieving their potential, since the end of March SMEs have had to refocus their strategies on resilience until the UK is able to resume normal economic activity. Therefore, GLIF has been working with FSE Group to enable our funds to support SMEs in this time of crisis.

We are delighted to announce that the Greater London Investment Fund has become an accredited lender under the British Business Bank Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS). This accreditation means that GLIF funds managed by The FSE Group will repurpose £4.3m funding to provide Coronavirus Resilience Loans (CRLs). CRLs is a temporary measure to support London's SMEs who wish to preserve or adapt their existing capacity and strengthen their business during the exceptional COVID-19 impacted environment, to ensure they are able to maximise growth opportunities as market conditions recover. The CRL product will benefit from the support for businesses that the Government has put in place, and will be made available to London-based SMEs who would otherwise struggle to access finance through other channels.

We expect that the CRL product will be available from 29<sup>th</sup> June until the end of September (in line with the CBILS guarantee).

***Kala Desai, Head of Funds for The FSE Group, who manage the £55 million GLIF debt fund on behalf of Funding London, comments:***

*"Together with the Fund's core growth loans the CBILS product provides us with the opportunity to support SMEs to both sustain through the current market conditions, and also to position themselves to capitalise on future growth opportunities. It is key to remember that UK businesses are both resilient and creative, and whilst the coming months will be challenging, we look forward to be able to offer debt facilities to assist London's innovative high growth SMEs"*

***Maggie Rodriguez-Piza, CEO at Funding London, comments:***

*"The need for alternative sources of funding has never been greater than in the current circumstances. We are delighted that GLIF's loan funds have been accredited by the British Business Bank to repurpose funding to support businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Alongside our partner, FSE Group, we have the systems in place to start deploying the capital allocated under CBILS"*

*and will continue to do so over the coming months, ensuring start-ups and scale-ups receive the necessary support.”*

GLIF is a £100m initiative to help address the SME finance gap in Greater London, promoting economic growth through enterprise and an inclusive and sustainable economy. £55m of debt funding is available, via loans between £100,000 and £1m, to early-stage and established SMEs looking to scale-up and realise their growth ambitions. GLIF is financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), London Waste & recycling Board (LWARB) and Funding London.

To find out more, visit the website:

<https://www.thefsegroup.com/fund/greater-london-investment-fund-glif/>

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **Greater London Investment Fund**

The Greater London Investment Fund (“GLIF”) operates as a £100 million fund of funds, managed by Funding London. GLIF supports economic growth by providing loan and equity finance for London’s SMEs, through its investments in three sub-funds. For more information please click <https://glif.co/>

### **European Regional Development Fund**

The GLIF will receive up to £35 million from the England European Regional Development Fund (EDRF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. In London, Greater London Authority is the Intermediate Body responsible for European Regional Development Fund. Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regeneration.

### **Funding London**

Funding London was established in 2004 to provide venture capital and loans, on behalf of the Mayor, to SMEs that have previously found it difficult to secure such funding. So far, the organisation has invested more than £66 million into 672 SMEs, secured £400 million in outside investment for small businesses and created or safeguarded more than 5,900 jobs.

### **The FSE Group**

The FSE Group is a community interest company providing fund management services to investors from both the private and public sectors, delivering debt and equity gap funding to high growth SMEs.

### **European Investment Bank**

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is the lending arm of the European Union and the world's largest multilateral lender. The GLIF will receive £50 million from the EIB.