

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD3103

Title: GLA: Mayor budget for 2023-24

Executive Summary:

Following the budget setting exercise in the period from Summer 2022 to February 2023, and the London Assembly's approval without amendment of the GLA: Mayor budget council tax requirement at its meeting on 23 February, the detailed Greater London Authority (GLA) Mayoral component budget for 2023-24 is submitted for the Mayor's approval.

This budget presents a gross revenue expenditure for the GLA: Mayor in 2022-23 of £857m. This supports Recovery Foundations and Missions gross costs of £751m and Core Functions gross costs of £105m. It also sets out a Capital Programme of £1.6bn. This budget proposes significant new GLA activity arising from the Mayor's final allocation of resources in his Group-wide budget.

Decision:

That the Mayor approves the GLA: Mayor budget for 2023-24 as set out in the Appendix to this decision.

Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

29/3/23

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 This GLA: Mayor budget builds on, and continues, the Mayor's ambitions for London's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and the underlying inequalities it has exposed. Londoners are now impacted by the cost-of-living crisis which has become the focus of the deployment of the Mayor's budget.
- 1.2 When this budget was prepared in draft in November 2022, only a small increase of £5m in the base level of funding for 2023-24 was anticipated. We know now that final council tax and business rates returns from London boroughs and the City were higher than forecast in the Mayor's Budget Guidance issued in the summer. This has allowed the Mayor to allocate £134m more additional funding than expected, all of which is one off. Including additional external income, this final budget lays out total revenue funding of £857m available for 2023-24 and a Capital Programme of £1.6bn in the next financial year.
- 1.3 This budget sets out the contribution the GLA: Mayor budget will make to the pan-London recovery work across a suite of 'Recovery Foundations' and 'Recovery Missions'. Alongside the investment in the GLA Group budget, this budget sets out steps to:
 - make London safer
 - deliver more affordable housing
 - support London's economic recovery
 - promote a Green New Deal for London
 - provide opportunities for young Londoners.
- 1.4 As in the 2022-23 budget, we report via 'Recovery Missions', 'Recovery Foundations' and 'Core Functions', as well as via Directorates. Core Functions account for gross spend of £105m and a net spend of £92m. This allows us to allocate £751m revenue funding to supporting London's recovery directly across eight Recovery Foundations and nine Recovery Missions.
- 1.5 We also have a confirmed capital programme of £1.6bn in 2023-24, of which £1.4bn sits in the Affordable Housing Programme and other housing related programmes funded by the government. This substantial capital investment programme is critical to supporting London's recovery.
- 1.6 This budget continues to take a different approach to previous budgets on requests for resources to be carried forward from previous financial periods. Essentially, the approval of such requests for core GLA funding will be for exceptional reasons only, with budgets being allocated to services on their capacity to deliver within the financial year. This process is to be enforced at the quarterly performance review meetings throughout the forthcoming year.

2 Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The budget sets out the financial envelope for the GLA's Mayoral operations in 2023-24. The budget will be deployed to meet the Mayor's priorities for the GLA. The Appendix describes in detail the objectives and outcomes that will be delivered.
- 2.2 The capital strategy sets out detailed spending plans from 2022-23 to 2026-27 along with aspirations and plans to implement the Mayor's policies over the longer term to 2041-42.

2.3 The budget also sets out detailed information on the GLA's staffing establishment.

3 Equality comments

3.1 The assessment of equalities impacts is set out in detail in the appendix. Pursuant to the general public sector equality duty in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Mayor is under a statutory obligation to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic¹ and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

3.2 The Act explains that having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

3.3 The Act states that meeting different needs involves taking steps to take account of disabled people's disabilities. It describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the duty may involve treating some people more favourably than others.

3.4 The equality duty covers the nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Public authorities also need to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination against someone because of their marriage or civil partnership status. This means that the first aim of the duty applies to this characteristic but that the other aims (advancing equality and fostering good relations) do not apply.

3.5 Equalities impacts and the public sector equality duty will continue to be considered when individual programmes and project specifications are developed and approved through the Authority's decision-making processes.

4 Other considerations

4.1 An assessment of the budget's environmental impact is also set out in the Green New Deal section of the Appendix.

4.2 The budget setting process has been conducted in accordance with the statutory requirements in the GLA Act 1999. The London Assembly approved without amendment the GLA: Mayoral component budget council tax requirement at its meeting on 23 February 2023.

4.3 It is recognised that all GLA officers have an interest in the budget, as it funds their employment. This budget has been developed in a process overseen by the Corporate Investment Board to ensure it is driven by Mayoral and corporate priorities, rather than those of any individual or team.

5 Financial comments

- 5.1 Financial issues are integral to this decision and are presented in detail in the appendix. There are risks and uncertainties inherent in programmes reliant on government/external funding and government policy on council tax and business rates in the medium term. The budget development, consultation and approval process has arrived at reserve provisions which are judged to be reasonable, necessary and prudent. This will be kept under review.

6 Legal comments

- 6.1 As confirmed at 4.2 above, the budget setting process has been conducted in accordance with the statutory provisions in Part III and Schedule 6 of the GLA Act 1999. The Mayor is required to approve for the purposes of its publication, and to publish, the GLA: Mayor component budget as soon as practicable (para 11, Schedule 6 of the GLA Act 1999)

7 Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 7.1 The budget will come into effect at the start of the next financial year on 1 April 2023.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix 1: GLA Budget for 2023-24

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) and will be made available on the GLA website within one working day of approval. If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision (for example, to complete a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary. **Note:** This form (Part 1) will either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 – Deferral

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form – NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

David Gallie has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Mary Harpley has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

David Bellamy has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 20 March 2023.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

I confirm that financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this report.

Signature

Date

D. Gene

24 March 2023

CHIEF OF STAFF:

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor

Signature

Date

D. Bellamy

24 March 2023

