

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2589

Title: Developing solar support proposals

Executive Summary:

The Mayor is committed to making London net zero by 2030. The Mayor's Solar Action Plan sets out several actions to increase the deployment of solar in London, including by helping Londoners install solar on their homes and workplaces through programmes and funding.

The Mayor's main programme at present is Solar Together London, a collective purchasing approach to increase domestic rooftop solar in London. This is currently in its fifth phase.

This Assistant Director Decision seeks approval to procure research into options for future Mayoral support programmes for solar in the able-to-pay sector.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Environment and Energy approves expenditure in 2022/23:

- Expenditure of up to £49,000 to fund delivery of consultants to provide options for Mayoral support for solar PV through programmes and funding.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name:

Catherine Barber

Position:

Assistant Director, Environment and Energy

Signature:



Date:

1 August 2022

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Mayor is committed to making London net zero by 2030. The Mayor's Solar Action Plan sets out a series of actions to increase the deployment of solar in London including by helping Londoners install solar on their homes and workplaces through Mayoral programmes and funding. Under the 2030 net zero modelling it was suggested a 1.5 GW target is needed for solar PV by 2030, along with increased action to support rooftop solar.
- 1.2. To support the Mayor's goals, Solar Together London has tested a collective purchasing approach to increase domestic rooftop solar in London. Currently Solar Together London is in its fifth phase and the second operating on a pan-London basis. Solar Together London involves working with London boroughs and a service provider to promote the scheme through marketing and identifying properties to target. Interested able-to-pay households within the private sector register their interest in having solar PV installed to secure a better price through collective purchasing. A 'reverse auction' day is then held where pre-approved solar PV suppliers bid to deliver solar installations at the lowest price possible whilst agreeing to meet certain quality standards.
- 1.3. The Mayor is keen to increase deployment of solar and the fifth phase of Solar Together London has had even higher take-up than previous rounds, which shows residents are interested in this measure. To date Solar Together London has resulted in an estimated 4.5MW of installed solar capacity – this excludes potential installations under the fifth round where around 3,500 have signed up. Despite the cost-of-living crisis many households are still able to afford solar PV, and for those households rising energy prices can act as a trigger to consider it.
- 1.4. To date each phase of the programme has been delivered by a contracted service provider. The GLA wants to explore whether this is the best approach for such programmes. The current phase of Solar Together London is delivered through a Concession Agreement which has had some benefits but also some limitations from a management perspective. Another delivery approach for future programmes could potentially give the GLA more management control, as well as greater flexibility in the technologies deployed.
- 1.5. It is therefore proposed that the GLA commissions consultants to develop options for further Mayoral solar support programmes. This Assistant Director Decision seeks approval for the procurement of an organisation to conduct research to develop options for future support.
- 1.6. Given the competitive nature of the decarbonisation consultancy sector, a market testing exercise is being undertaken to understand costs and capability. The amount requested is currently considered to be higher than required but will allow flexibility to respond to the market. Other procurement exercises for consultancy support have struggled to appoint organisations because of increased demand.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The overall goal of the piece of work would be to develop some options for further Mayoral support programmes for solar in the able to pay sector.
- 2.2. Objectives
- 2.3. Specific tasks identified as part of the work include:
 - horizon scanning to identify examples of other mechanisms and programmes used to support the take-up of solar

- identifying potential mechanisms the Mayor could use to encourage the deployment of solar in the able-to-pay sector
- scoping out other carbon reduction measures which could be complementary and be included in any offers
- assessing whether options which support deployment of solar in the able-to-pay sector can also be used in other sectors – e.g. social housing or the privately rented sector
- providing options for future Mayoral support programmes to increase the deployment of solar in the able to pay sector
- considering how equality and diversity considerations can be integrated into the design of options

2.3 The outcomes of the work are intended to:

- provide some options to identify how the Mayor can further support the deployment of solar in the domestic sector through his programmes
- inform the procurement approach to further solar support programmes
- support delivery of Mayoral ambitions for solar deployment and delivery of net zero

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The public sector equality duty requires the identification and evaluation of the likely potential impacts, both Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the “Equality Act”) as public authorities, the Mayor and the GLA must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act comprise age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status.
- 3.2. This piece of work will explicitly ask consultants to consider how programmes could be developed to integrate equality and diversity considerations in to design and delivery.

4. Other considerations

a) Key risks and issues

Risk/issue	Mitigating actions
1. Unable to find consultants who can deliver the work	Scope of works has been kept focused to allow more organisations to be able to bid Longer procurement timeframes will be allowed Early engagement with Procurement to explore procurement options to maximise chances of securing good quality bids
2. Solar supply chain challenges make delivering any offer difficult	Consultants will be asked to assess the impact of this risk on the options proposed

Link to Mayoral Strategies and Priorities

- b) This work is designed to support delivery of the Mayor’s London Environment Strategy, Solar Action Plan and target for London to be zero carbon by 2030.
- c) Green New Deal and London Recovery work:

The Green New Deal Mission has been designed in collaboration with London Councils, taking account of the views of Londoners and stakeholders. The mission has set the challenge of tackling the climate and ecological emergencies and improving air quality by doubling the size of London's green economy by 2030 to accelerate job creation for all. The mission identifies the opportunity to support London’s recovery through tackling huge city challenges like improving London’s homes and workplaces to reduce their energy demand and carbon emissions.

- 4.1. There are no conflicts of interest to note for any of the officers involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision form.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is being sought for expenditure of up to £49,000 to procure specialist consultancy services to provide a series of options for Mayoral support for solar through programmes and funding.
- 5.2. This expenditure will be funded from the approved 2022-23 Environment Programme budget, specifically from the budget allocation earmarked for the 'Solar & Community Grants' Programme.
- 5.3. All appropriate budget adjustments will be made

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. This sets out the proposed timetable

Activity	Timeline
ADD approved	1 August 2022
Contract award	1 September 2022
Interim report	28 October 2022
Final report	25 November 2022

Appendices and supporting papers:

None

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? YES

If YES, for what reason:

To obtain best value in the procurement process

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring) March 31 2023

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:

Sarah Fletcher has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 1 August 2022

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

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

Signature



Date

1 August 2022