

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD2658

### Title: Pan-London Internet of Things project

#### Executive summary:

The London Borough of Sutton acting as “lead authority” for the South London Partnership is piloting a pan-London approach to supporting boroughs to deliver Internet of Things projects. The approach leverages pilots commissioned by the ‘InnOvate’ project to improve local council services and outcomes for Londoners through aggregation of data. This contributes to the sustainable growth of London’s economy and creates economic opportunities for Londoners.

The London Borough of Sutton will be supported by the Greater London Authority and the London Office of Technology and Innovation (in respect of which London Councils acts as lead authority) to take forward three workstreams. These will address important gaps in transferring knowledge and encouraging collaboration across borough boundaries.

#### Decision:

That the Executive Director of Good Growth approves expenditure of £120,000 in the form of grant funding to support the London Borough of Sutton in delivery of:

- an online library of Internet of things (IoT) pilot projects commissioned by InnOvate
- a coalition of London boroughs using IoT
- a business case to commission IoT programmes across the city.

#### AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

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:** Philip Graham

**Position:** Executive Director - Good Growth

**Signature:**



**Date:**

30/10/2023

PP Niran Mothada on behalf of Philip Graham

## **PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1. The South London Partnership (SLP) is a sub-regional collaboration of five London boroughs: Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames and Sutton. The SLP champions, and seeks to build on, the strengths of South London as a place for people to live, work and thrive. The SLP were awarded £4m by the Strategic Investment Pool (SIP), as approved by the Mayor under MD2358 to deliver the InnOvate project in 2018.
- 1.2. The SIP is a pooled fund of retained business rates across London authorities which is re-invested in projects increasing sustainable economic growth. The InnOvate project created a multi-purpose Internet of Things platform connecting sensors across borough boundaries, addressing challenges in communities and opportunities to help people live better, healthier lives and live independently for longer. The 18 month programme generated 150 Internet of Things (IoT) ideas and trialled 47 IoT use cases. 31 of these use cases became mainstream services, and 21 were shared across more than one borough.
- 1.3. Following the programme's success, the SLP and the London Borough of Sutton (LBS) (as "lead authority") are proposing to work in partnership with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the London Office of Technology and Innovation (LOTI) (hosted by London Councils) to pilot a pan-London approach supporting other boroughs with IoT projects.
- 1.4. The project will be delivered between August 2023 and February 2024. It is proposed that the GLA provide grant funding to LBS of £120,000 as a contribution to the costs of the project.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1. The decision will:
  - create a case study library to share the InnOvate IoT approach on the LOTI website, including details of a successful model of IoT procurement for boroughs and other stakeholders
  - convene a London IoT coalition between boroughs, and other public and private-sector stakeholders committed to the principles of joint working and IoT projects, to ensure that data can be aggregated across London
  - generate a business case for phase two funding that will commission IoT programmes across London to support the meeting of the borough's objectives
- 2.2. The project is expected to:
  - address key challenges faced by residents, businesses and boroughs (for example, cost-of-living crises, the climate emergency, economic growth, support for vulnerable residents, etc)
  - empower officers with baseline data to improve local services
  - promote a unified approach to IoT across boroughs
  - increase collaboration on IoT projects across boroughs
  - facilitate shared procurement routes for boroughs
  - advance London's status as a global smart city by encouraging the spread of IoT practices across London government.

2.3. The project will be measured by the following:

| Outcome                                                                      | Measurement                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Increase in London boroughs trialling IoT solutions                          | Number of boroughs engaged                 |
|                                                                              | Number of boroughs trialling IoT solutions |
| Improved collaboration, knowledge sharing and joint working between boroughs | Number of shared-use cases implemented     |

### 3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Public authorities, such as the GLA and boroughs (including LBS), 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 relevant protected characteristic and those who do not, under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This involves having due regard to the need to remove or minimise any disadvantage suffered by those who share a relevant protected characteristic that is connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the different needs of such people; and encouraging them to participate in public life or in any other activity where their participation is disproportionately low.
- 3.2. The relevant protected characteristics under section 149 of the Equality Act are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, sex, religion or belief, and sexual orientation. Compliance with the duty may involve treating people with a protected characteristic more favourably than those without one. The project put forward for funding will contribute to the sustainable growth of London’s economy; and will directly or indirectly help create economic development opportunities for a wide variety of Londoners. Several InnOvate use cases are focused on creating better health outcomes and addressing health inequalities.
- 3.3. Compliance with the public sector equality duty is necessarily iterative and ongoing. It includes carrying out a process, at a level proportionate to the decision being taken, to identify and actively consider potential detrimental impacts (if any) that may arise for individual protected groups and what mitigations (if any) could be implemented to address them. The public authority that will be delivering the project is required to carry out this process in the planning and implementation of the project.
- 3.4. Officers have considered the likely impact of this proposed decision on groups with protected characteristics, and have concluded that there are no adverse impacts, and that impacts are likely to be positive.

### 4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The project is in line with the Mayor’s Economic Development Strategy to ensure growth benefits all Londoners and improves the infrastructure that underpins growth by funding key growth sectors and increasing partnerships through funding and convening.
- 4.2. The project delivers part of the work envisioned by the Mayor’s “Smarter London Together Roadmap”, published in 2018; and the report, “London – A global leader in advanced digital technologies”, published in July 2020.
- 4.3. Key risks and issues are listed below

| Risks | Mitigation |
|-------|------------|
|-------|------------|

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The programme team might not have all the necessary subject-matter expertise required to deliver all technical aspects of the programme, even though they are a well-established delivery team. There is no additional budget available for this. | The team will work with experts across the sector, locally, nationally and internationally making use of its strong relationships with partners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Interest from London boroughs (and their service teams) may not be as high as expected, which could result in low engagement rates for workshops and other programme activities.                                                                  | <p>Support from all partner organisations such as LOTI and the GLA will help drive communications to borough leaders.</p> <p>The programme will focus resources on organisations that engage and take part. This will allow those who are eager to drive ahead to take part immediately and cater for organisations that require more time to participate.</p> <p>Benefits to local authorities will be shared widely and publicised. This, in turn, will help to drive further engagement from others.</p> |

- 4.4. There are no conflicts of interest to declare for anyone involved in the drafting or clearance of this decision.

## 5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is requested for grant funding of up to £120,000 to the London Borough of Sutton for the pan-London Internet of Things project.
- 5.2. The planned breakdown of expenditure is shown below.

| <b>Deliverables</b>                                        | <b>Budget</b>   |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Case study library                                         | £35,000         |
| London IoT coalition                                       | £50,000         |
| Phase two business case                                    | £25,000         |
| External costs for workshop facilitation and communication | £10,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                                               | <b>£120,000</b> |

- 5.3. The budget for this expenditure will come from the Technology and Innovation budget within the Economic Development Unit's approved 2023-24 budget.
- 5.4. All expenditure will be incurred by the 31 March 2024.

## 6. Legal comments

- 6.1 The foregoing sections of this report indicate that the decisions requested of the Executive Director of Good Growth (the Director) concern the exercise of the GLA's general powers, and fall within the GLA's statutory power to do such things considered to further or that are facilitative of, or conducive or incidental to, the promotion of economic development and wealth creation within Greater London.

In formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought, officers have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties to:

- pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people;
- consider how the proposals will promote the improvement of health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
- consult with appropriate bodies.

- 6.2 In taking the decisions requested of him, the Director must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty; namely the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment) and persons who do not share it (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). To this end, the Director should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.
- 6.3 Officers have indicated that the expenditure proposed amounts to the provision of grant funding as a contribution to related third party project costs and not a payment for services to be provided. They must therefore ensure, that the proposed funding is disbursed in a fair and transparent manner in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code and a funding agreement is put in place between and executed by the GLA and the London Borough of Sutton before any commitment to provide the funding is made.

## **7. Planned delivery approach and next steps**

- 7.1. The project will deliver the following activities within the timeline stated:

| <b>Activity</b>                              | <b>Timeline</b>        |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Build the case study library on LOTI website | August – December 2023 |
| SLP projects close                           | September 2023         |
| London IoT coalition kick-off                | September 2023         |
| Smart Cities Expo - Barcelona                | November 2023          |
| London IoT coalition declaration             | November 2023          |
| Business case for Phase 2 finalised          | December 2023          |

## **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 be published either 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 the 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:

Ahmad Bismillah has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

### Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Alex Conway has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

### Financial and Legal advice:

Matthew Moore and Stephen Fernandes-Owen have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

### Corporate Investment Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 30 October 2023.

✓

## INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

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

**Signature:**



**Date:**

30/10/2023