

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2684

Title: Project support with Warmer Homes programme

Executive summary:

The GLA was awarded £40.2m from the Sustainable Warmth grant by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) in 2022-23. This programme finished completing property retrofits in September 2023. The Warmer Homes team is currently managing a controlled closedown to be completed by 31 December 2023. The GLA also secured £12m from the Home Upgrade Grants Scheme (HUG2) to retrofit off-gas grid homes in 2023-25. The design of this project is complex with specific resource implications. These funds are delivered through the Mayor's Warmer Homes programme.

The delivery and eligibility requirements for both schemes are complex, with DESNZ closely monitoring the project's outputs, expenditure and closure. External support is required to meet these requirements, to support the controlled closure and realisation of benefits from the Sustainable Warmth grant, and the setting up the project management structure and service delivery design for HUG2.

The approval of this ADD will allow Turner & Townsend Ltd to continue supporting the closedown of the projects funded by the Sustainable Warmth grant; and aid the setting-up of the HUG2 project.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Environment and Energy approves:

- expenditure of up to £24,900 on project management support to ensure the successful project closure of Sustainable Warmth; and the design and controlled start of the Home Upgrade Grant 2 delivery.
- the extension of support from Turner & Townsend Ltd from the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM6314 Demand Management and Renewable Frameworks.

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: Catherine Barber

Position: Assistant Director of Environment and Energy

Signature:



Date:

27/11/2023

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. In 2021 the GLA was awarded £40.2m of national Sustainable Warmth funding (see Mayoral Decision (MD) 2900). In 2023 it was awarded a further £12m of Home Upgrade Grant 2 (HUG2) funding (see MD3132). Both funds are used to deliver the Warmer Homes programme by improving the energy-efficiency of low-income Londoners' homes. To date over 4,500 homes have been so improved.
- 1.2. These funding streams came with complex eligibility criteria for the households and their dwellings, with low-income and low energy-efficiency homes as the target. Funds are available to all tenures, but private and social landlords must contribute towards the cost.
- 1.3. The current Sustainable Warmth programme's closedown must be completed by 31 December 2023 and the HUG2 programme procured by winter 2023-24. The closure of Sustainable Warmth and the design and launch of HUG2 are resource intensive and require technical specialists and more resource capacity than GLA has in-house.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The service is completing discreet technical tasks and providing one-to-one consultancy to support the controlled closedown of Sustainable Warmth and preparation for delivery of HUG2 schemes respectively. This includes support on reviewing and reconciling the financial audit trail for the programme and assisting in completing final reports to DESNZ. Turner & Townsend Ltd is also providing strategic support due to the challenges that the GLA has been facing over the last few months, particularly on resourcing and the ambition to build a delivery model that would be replicated for future funded programmes.
- 2.2. The support would amount to approximately 35 days of consultant time. This is in addition to the 36 days of consultant time funded by the amount agreed in ADD2652.

Procurement approach

- 2.3. In line with the GLA Contracts and Funding Code an existing Crown Commercial Services Framework (RM 6314 Demand Management and Renewables Framework, Lot 5 – Carbon Net Zero Consultancy) will be used to appoint Turner & Townsend Ltd.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the GLA is subject to the public sector equality duty and must have due regard to the need to:
 - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
 - foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. Protected characteristics under section 4 of the Equality Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sex orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (all except the last being "relevant" protected characteristics).

- 3.3. The GLA is taking appropriate steps to ensure there are no potential negative impacts on those with protected characteristics in relation to the Warmer Homes programme. Those with protected characteristics will gain from the positive benefits of this scheme in equal measure should their households be eligible, and there will be equality of access to participate in the delivery and benefit from the scheme, without discrimination. Emphasis is placed on recruiting applicants from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and those with disabilities as they are disproportionately impacted by fuel poverty and its impacts. Support with delivery will help ensure that the programme reaches those most in need.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. As detailed in MD2900 and MD3132, the Warmer Homes programme has clear links to delivering on the objectives of the London Environment Strategy, the Fuel Poverty Action Plan, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and the Health Inequalities Strategy.
- 4.2. Governance arrangements will be as those outlined in the relevant MDs.
- 4.3. Key risks are listed below:

Risk no.	Risk	Likelihood (1-4)	Consequence (1-4)	Rating	Mitigation
1	Insufficient interest from the market	1	2	2	Soundings have been taken from the technical assistance provider and this is not perceived as a real risk.
2	The amount of resource commissioned is inadequate for our needs.	1	2	2	The proposal is based on discussions with potential consultants and officers' detailed knowledge of the programmes.
3	Delays in procuring a consultant	1	4	4	The use of a framework and appointment of a single contractor from this will significantly reduce this risk.

- 4.4. 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 requested for expenditure of £24,900 on procurement of project management support to ensure the successful project closure of Sustainable Warmth; and the design and controlled start of the HUG2 delivery.
- 5.2. This expenditure will be funded from the Energy Unit Retrofit London Budget.
- 5.3. All expenditure will be incurred in the 2023-24 financial year.

6 Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. The project will be delivered according to the timetable outlined below:

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract	July 2023
Delivery start date	September 2023
Delivery end date	March 2024
Project closure	March 2024

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? 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:

Chetan Lad has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

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

✓

Financial and Legal advice:

The Finance and Legal teams 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 27 November 2023.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature:



Date:

28/11/2023

PP Tricia Clark on behalf of Anna Casbolt