

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2699

Title: Mayor's Six Tests Assessments 2024-25

Executive summary:

This decision relates to expenditure for an upcoming project within the Health and Wellbeing team's work programme. This involves applying the Mayor's 'six tests' for major health service changes to one upcoming NHS service change proposal. The expenditure will cover independent consultancy services that will provide the Mayor with evidence on the extent to which the proposal has met the six tests.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Health, Children and Young Londoners approves expenditure of up to £25,000 to procure expert consultancy services, which will provide an independent assessment of proposals to change healthcare services against the Mayor's six tests.

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: Jazz Bhogal

Position: Assistant Director, Health, Children and Young Londoners

Signature:



Date:

22/01/2024

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Mayor has committed to championing and challenging the NHS on behalf of all Londoners, as part of his ambition for London to be the healthiest global city and to tackle health inequalities. This has been identified as a mayoral priority.
- 1.2. In 2017, in response to a report commissioned by the Mayor into London's five Sustainability and Transformation Plans (approved under ADD2067), he announced six 'tests' he expected to be met before he gave his support to any major health and care transformation or hospital reconfiguration proposals in London. These tests cover:
 - health and healthcare inequalities
 - hospital-bed capacity
 - financial investment and savings
 - impact on social care
 - clinical support
 - patient and public engagement.¹
- 1.3. This ADD is seeking approval to procure expert external consultancy services, up to the value of £25,000, to prepare an assessment of an upcoming NHS proposal to reconfigure healthcare services against the Mayor's six tests. The proposal in question is yet to be confirmed by the NHS, but is expected to go to public consultation in summer 2024.
- 1.4. The following decisions have previously been agreed for expenditure to assess major hospital reconfigurations against the Mayor's six tests:
 - ADD2408: approval for expenditure of up to £20,000
 - MD2799: approval for expenditure of up to £60,000
 - ADD2608: approval for expenditure of up to £15,000
 - ADD2647: approval for expenditure of up to £25,000.
 - ADD2664: approval for expenditure of up to £49,995.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The overall objective is to provide the Mayor with a systematic, objective and independent assessment of a major NHS service change proposal against his six tests. This will enable the Mayor to determine the extent to which the six tests have been met and to identify where he would like to see changes and improvements to the scheme in order for it to better meet the six tests. On this basis, the Mayor will seek to influence the development of these service changes to ensure that they are in the best interests of all Londoners and help to tackle health inequalities.

¹ For full details of the Mayor's six tests, see [Champion, challenge, collaborate](#).

- 2.2. The assessment conducted by the consultants will highlight positive evidence towards the tests being met, as well as areas where there is a lack of evidence of the tests being met. It will also critically assess key assumptions on which the proposals are based; and highlight any areas in need of further development or challenge.
- 2.3. The assessment will form part of an overall briefing for the Mayor to inform his response to the proposed service change. The Mayor's response, which will refer to the assessment, will be published on the GLA website. The Mayor's response will be expected to result in positive changes being made to the proposed service changes, so that they better meet the needs of Londoners and tackle health inequalities.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Reducing health inequalities underpins most of the health and wellbeing team's work, including the Mayor's six tests. Health inequalities are differences in health that are unnecessary, avoidable, unjust and unfair. They often disadvantage groups of people with protected characteristics; people who experience poverty; and people who experience socioeconomic deprivation.
- 3.2. Assessments against the Mayor's six tests include a specific focus on reducing health and healthcare inequalities. The first test² specifically aims to ensure that proposals make the most of every opportunity to reduce health and healthcare inequalities; and that they set out an evidenced plan for further action. The assessment will enable the Mayor to champion and challenge the NHS accordingly.
- 3.3. This work aligns with the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Objectives (2022). It particularly aligns with objective 12, which commits to address the reasons for health inequalities that cause some groups to experience poorer physical and mental health outcomes. The specific groups that will benefit from this spend will vary depending on the nature of the proposals, but in previous six tests assessments have included people experiencing socioeconomic deprivation and people with minority ethnic backgrounds.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The procurement of consultants will be in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code. A transparent and open tendering process will be used,

Risks and issues

- 4.2. The timetable for the six-tests assessments are determined by the timelines of different NHS teams and organisations. This presents the risk that, if the NHS timelines are delayed, the timelines for the assessments will also be delayed. In mitigation, officers will ensure that consultants bidding for the contracts to conduct the assessments are aware of this risk and can build appropriate flexibility into their delivery timelines.

Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.3. This work contributes to the Mayor's Health Inequalities Strategy, which sets out plans to tackle unfair differences in health to make London a healthier, fairer city. Applying the six tests to major health service changes will promote the implementation of the Health Inequalities Strategy by helping to address London's health inequalities, and to reduce the number of years Londoners live in poor health.
- 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.

² For the full text of the first test, see [Champion, challenge, collaborate](#).

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is sought for the expenditure of up to £25,000 to procure expert consultancy services, which will provide an independent assessment of proposals to change healthcare services against the Mayor's six tests.
- 5.2. This expenditure of £25,000 would be funded from the Mayor's six tests programme budget in 2024-25 financial year.
- 5.3. Funding for future financial years will be subject to the annual budget setting process and is subject to change. The expenditure of up to £25,000 from the Mayor's six tests programme budget in 2024-25 financial year is assumed to be affordable and can only be confirmed when the budget allocation is formally approved in February 2024.
- 5.4. Any contracts that commit the GLA in future financial years are subject to appropriate break clauses.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. The schedule for the six-tests assessment is as follows:

| Activity | Timeline |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Procurement of external consultant | May 2024 |
| Delivery of first assessment report | Summer 2024 (before the public consultation on the proposals is closed) |
| Delivery of second assessment report | Autumn 2024 (within one month after the NHS decision-making business case is published) |

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:

Ethan Williams has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 22 January 2023.

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature:

Anna Custodt

Date:

22/01/2024