

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2094

### Title: Pan-London Review of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

#### Executive Summary:

The London Area Review and Adult Community Learning Review recommended that a pan-London review of post 16 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities should be conducted to establish an accurate picture of demand and of services' capacity to meet that demand. The Department for Education have agreed to accept an application for up to £50,000 for Transition Grant funding to conduct such a review in London. In line with eligibility criteria, Kingston College have agreed to submit the funding application on behalf of services and providers across London. The work will then be contracted out. It is proposed that the GLA provides the requisite 25% financial match, as the work will inform the London Skills Strategy, ahead of devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Mayor from 2019/20.

#### Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Economic and Business Policy approves expenditure of £12,500 from the skills devolution budget, to provide grant funding to Kingston College as a contribution to a pan-London review of SEND needs, which the college will be commissioning on behalf of services and providers across London, aligning with the GLA's planning for devolution of the Adult Education Budget.

#### 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:** Mark Kleinman

**Position:** Assistant Director, Economic and Business Policy

**Signature:**



**Date:**

20/3/2017

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

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

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

During the London Area Review, it was agreed that data on educational need and provision in London for those aged 16+ with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was incomplete and out of date, and that priority should be given to developing an up-to-date picture of demand and of services' capacity to meet that demand.

The London Adult Community Learning Review, which ran in parallel with the London Area Review, also recommended that further work should be done to determine future SEND need and how to address it.

The Department for Education have agreed to accept an application for Transition Grant funding for up to £50,000 to conduct such a pan-London SEND review. This funding is made available to support implementation of Area Review recommendations. The deadline for the application is 31 March 2017. Financial match of 25% (£12,500) must be provided.

The outline for the proposed review and Transition Grant application has been developed collaboratively between the GLA, London Councils and the Association of Colleges, and consulted on widely to ensure that it meets the needs of services and providers across the capital and well as the needs of London Government.

In line with the eligibility criteria established for the Transition Grant, Kingston College has agreed to submit the application on behalf of services and providers across London and to handle the subsequent tendering process for the review which is to be contracted out. The college will not charge a management fee for this.

Outputs of the proposed SEND Review will, in addition to assisting providers across London, inform the development of a post-16 London Skills and Education Strategy ahead of devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Mayor from 2019/20 (subject to readiness conditions). It is therefore proposed that the GLA provides the requisite financial match of 25% (£12,500), should Kingston College's application be successful, as a contribution to the costs of undertaking the Transition Grant funded activity.

Subject to approval of the Transition Grant application, this would result in a total contract value of £62,500 to be procured through a competitive tendering process by Kingston College on behalf of services and providers across London.

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

The objective is to conduct a London-wide review to identify the SEND education supply gap in London and produce a robust and sustainable methodology for analysing projected demand for post-16 provision to inform annual planning cycles.

The expected outputs and outcomes of the project include:

- Robust analysis of projected SEND education demand in London for the next five years
- Identification of what targeted and specialist services are needed to meet this demand
- Analysis of current SEND education provision by type and location
- Identification of robust datasets for future demand analysis and planning of provision
- Recommendations for London government, colleges and the Department for Education on a sustainable approach to developing responsive SEND provision.

The research findings will be used to inform the post-16 London Skills and Education Strategy, and ongoing curriculum and service planning across London.

### 3. Equality comments

The proposed SEND Review focusses specifically on identifying and addressing the needs of those with protected characteristics, namely those with special educational needs and / or disabilities. The review will cover demand for and supply of all types of SEND from Alternative Provision, through to provision for young people with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities, behavioural difficulties, or mental and physical health conditions.

### 4. Other considerations

#### a) Key risks and issues

Key risks associated with this proposal are:

- i. The application for Transition Grant funding is rejected  
Mitigation: An outline of the proposed application has been shared with the Department for Education ahead of submission.
- ii. The GLA does not have appropriate influence over the procurement process or the management of the review contractor in line with its financial contribution to the project.  
Mitigation: GLA officers have been liaising with Kingston College over the terms of the procurement process and subsequent contract management and will ensure that the funding agreement with the college records the GLA's requirements in this regard. This can include linking our financial contribution to specific output such as completion of the tendering process and completion of the final report.
- iii. An appropriate contractor cannot be found to complete the work  
Mitigation: Potential contractors with the requisite skills and resources to complete the work have already been identified.
- iv. The review does not meet London's needs  
Mitigation: Consultation has taken place with stakeholders across London on the proposed aims and scope of the review (see below).

#### b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

The proposed pan-London SEND Review links to several of the Mayor's manifesto commitments including to:

- Develop a city-wide, strategic approach to skills, identifying gaps in provision
- Use the local area review process to ensure FE provision meets the needs of London's economy and is of the high-quality that Londoners deserve
- Support the development of, and protect schemes which expand opportunities for people with disabilities to work and gain skills

The proposed SEND Review will respond to recommendations from the London Area Review and Adult Community Learning Review, and the findings will help to inform the development of a post-16 London Skills and Education Strategy ahead of devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Mayor in 2019/20.

#### c) Impact assessments and consultations

GLA officers have consulted widely on the aims and scope of the proposed SEND Review including with the Department for Education, the sub-regional partnerships of boroughs, Directors of Children's Services and Directors of Adult services via London Councils, and London colleges via the Association of Colleges. The agreed outline will form the basis of the specification when the work is put out to tender.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1 The proposed grant of £12,500 to Kingston College will be funded from the Skills Devolution budget held within the Economic Business Policy Unit in 2017-18, specifically from budget provision re-profiled from 2016-17.

## **6. Legal Comments**

No legal comments required

## **7. Planned delivery approach and next steps (assuming application successful)**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Application for Transition Grant funding submitted	By 31 March 2017
Decision on Transition Grant funding award received	By 7 April 2017
Award of GLA grant funding and execution of grant funding agreement by the GLA and Kingston College	By end April 2017
SEND Review put out to tender	By 10 May 2017
Contractor in place	By 7 June 2017
Work commences	June 2017
Interim report	September 2017
Final report	December 2017

**Appendices and supporting papers: None**

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) 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 approval 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:

Publication would undermine the ability to complete a procurement process by revealing the full funding that will be available for the review, which is to be contracted out.

Until what date: 31 May 2017

**Part 2 Confidentiality:** Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be 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:**

Souraya Ali has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and –if relevant- Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

**Corporate Investment Board:**

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed this proposal on 20 March 2017.

**HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:**

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

**Signature:**



**Date:**

20.03.17

