

# GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD3330

### GLA: Mayor Budget 2025-26

#### Executive summary:

Following the budget setting exercise from Summer 2024 to February 2025 and the London Assembly's approval, without amendment, of the GLA: Mayor component budget council tax requirement at its meeting on 25 February 2025, the Mayor is invited to approve the detailed Greater London Authority (GLA) Mayoral budget for 2025-26.

This decision presents a gross revenue budget for the GLA: Mayor in 2025-26 of £904.1 million. The budget is now presented under fourteen programmes plus core activities, which will be the basis for performance and finance reporting in the new financial year. Programmes account for £787.9 million of expenditure and core activities accounts for £116.1 million. The budget also sets out a capital programme of £1.8 billion for the year.

#### Decision:

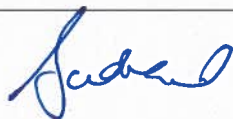
That the Mayor approves the GLA: Mayor budget for 2025-26 as set out in the Appendix.

#### Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

31/3/25

## **PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR**

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

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

- 1.1. This final GLA: Mayor budget (“final budget”) which the Mayor is invited to approve is structured around 14 “programmes” and “core” activities, that will become the basis of reporting into the future. This marks the next step away from the Recovery Missions implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic and aligns with a change in approach in governance within the GLA, as it moves towards a portfolio approach to delivery.
- 1.2. When the draft budget was published in November, a small reduction in the underlying allocation of base funding was anticipated and this position has not altered. However, an allocation of £170.0 million has been made from GLA Group resources, and together with the use of external income, supports a total revenue expenditure budget for 2025-26 of £904.1 million, as well as the capital programme of £1.8 billion. This group allocation ensures the continuation of the Universal Free School Meals programme for the next three academic years.
- 1.3. This final budget allocates revenue and capital against the 14 strategic, high-level programmes. It does not present the detailed activity of each Delivery Plan being produced in response to the Mayor’s mandates for each programme. These Delivery Plans will be published as Mayoral Decisions following the approval of this budget. The 14 programmes outlined in the budget document are as follows:
  - 1 Building more homes
  - 2 Making best use of land
  - 3 Improving London’s housing stock
  - 4 Reducing inequalities
  - 5 Accommodation and wider support for those who need it most
  - 6 Reducing non-residential emissions
  - 7 Delivering a greener, more climate-resilient London
  - 8 Cleaning London’s air
  - 9 Supporting Londoners to benefit from growth
  - 10 Supporting and inspiring young London
  - 11 Boosting London’s growth sectors
  - 12 Helping local economies to thrive
  - 13 Upgrading London’s infrastructure
  - 14 Celebrating London.
- 1.4. This focus on programmes replaces the reporting under themes presented last year and aligns with a change in the governance approach to delivery across the GLA. The budget is also presented by directorate. The programmes account for £788.0 million of the gross revenue expenditure, whilst core activities account for £116.1 million.
- 1.5. A capital programme of £1.8 billion is also confirmed with £1.6 billion of that allocated to the Affordable Homes Programme and other housing-related investments.
- 1.6. The GLA: Assembly budget is approved separately by the London Assembly’s GLA Oversight Committee and so is not included in this decision. The funding flows to the London Stadium, following the Mayor’s decision that it will transfer from LLDC to the GLA, are as set out in the GLA Group Final Budget 2025-26 and not shown in this budget.

## **2. Objectives and outcomes**

- 2.1. The final GLA: Mayor budget for 2025-26 sets out the financial envelope for the GLA's Mayoral operations for the year. The final GLA: Mayor budget will be deployed to meet the Mayor's priorities for the GLA. The appendix describes the programmes through which this will be achieved.
- 2.2. The capital strategy sets out spending plans from 2025-26 to 2028-29 along with aspirations and plans to implement the Mayor's policies over the longer term to 2043-44.

## **3. Equality comments**

- 3.1. The equality impacts are set out in the appendix.
- 3.2. The Mayor and the GLA are required to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 in the exercise of their functions. This requires them to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the 2010 Act, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
- 3.3. The duty will be complied with on an ongoing basis, and equalities impacts will continue to be assessed and taken into account, as appropriate when individual programmes and project specifications are developed and approved through the GLA's decision-making framework.

## **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1. An assessment of the environmental impact of the budget is set out within the appendix.
- 4.2. The budget setting process has been carried out in accordance with the statutory requirements in the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA Act). The London Assembly approved without amendment the GLA: Mayor component budget council tax at its meeting of 25 February 2025.
- 4.3. It is recognised that all GLA officers have an interest in the budget as it funds their employment. This budget has been developed in a process overseen by the Mayoral Delivery Board to ensure that it is driven by Mayoral priorities rather than those of any individual or team.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1. Financial issues are integral to this decision and are presented in detail in the appendix. There are risks and uncertainties inherent in programmes reliant on government/external funding and government policy on council tax and business rates in the medium term. The budget development, consultation and approval process has arrived at a reserve position which is judged to be reasonable, necessary and prudent. This will be kept under review.

## **6. Legal comments**

- 6.1. As confirmed at paragraph 4.2 above, the budget setting process has been conducted in accordance with the statutory provisions in Part III and Schedule 6 of the GLA Act 1999.

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

- 7.1. The budget will come into effect on 1 April 2025.

### **Appendices and supporting papers:**

Appendix 1 – GLA: Mayor budget for 2025-26.

**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 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:**

Anna Casbolt has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirm the following:

✓

**Sponsoring Director:**

Fay Hammond has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities

✓

**Mayoral Advisor:**

David Bellamy has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations

✓

**Advice:**

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

**Mayoral Delivery Board:**

This decision was agreed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 31 March 2025.

✓

**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:**

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

**Signature:****Date:**

31 March 2025

pp. Anna Casbolt, Assistant Director, Financial Services, on behalf of the Chief Finance Officer

**CHIEF OF STAFF:**

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor.

**Signature:****Date**

31 March 2025

