

## MD3285 – Appendix A

### *Rationale for direct provision of grant funding to London Citizens Advice and London Legal Support Trust*

The strategy of granting funds to two recipients, who will act as responsible bodies for the funding, is being proposed for the following reasons:

- They represent the only two London-based advice networks capable of (in partnership) delivering the range, depth and quality of advice needed to effectively support Londoners with varying advice needs in every borough.
- In combination, the two networks consist of more than 60 independent organisations – most, if not all, of whom would be likely bidders for an open grant process. Therefore, cascading funding through the two strategic partners represents the most efficient way of distributing funding to a large number of organisations.
- The cost-of-living crisis continues to require an urgent response. Funding these networks directly (rather than carrying out a lengthy competitive grant application process that would be resource-intensive for both the GLA and bidding organisations) is the quickest and most efficient way to increase advice capacity across the capital.
- The coordination role of the infrastructure organisations will allow us to effectively target the communities in London that currently have the poorest access to advice.
- Proposals include a training offer for a large number of community organisations beyond the advice providers in the two partner networks. This increases the number of beneficiaries from the funding, and helps create sustainable relationships within the London advice sector.
- It sustains and continues to build on the additional advisor capacity generated across both networks as a consequence of GLA funding in 2022-23 (see MD2991) and 2023-24 (see MD3157).

There is some overlap between these two networks – four of the London Citizens Advice offices are currently among the 38 Centres of Excellence – so it will be stipulated in the grant agreement with the LLST that their funding is for non-Citizens Advice Centres of Excellence only, to avoid duplication.

### *Rational for direct provision of grant funding to Policy in Practice (PiP)*

PiP is in a unique position to deliver the project for the following reasons:

- Through its LIFT, PiP has an established working relationship with 25 London boroughs PiP has data-sharing arrangements in place with 25 London boroughs who took part in Phase 1 and/or Phase 2 of the campaign, meaning this resource intensive side of the project has been completed.
- PiP has delivered Phases 1 and 2 of the campaign at scale, with 25 boroughs achieving a high success rate (around 20 per cent).
- PiP is used to delivering high-quality data analysis for local authorities, and has considerable skills and experience relevant to the delivery of the project in terms of data management, client relations and policy knowledge.

Given the ongoing challenges of disadvantaged Londoners face in meeting their living costs and the success of Phases 1 and 2, it is proposed to award the funding to PiP rather than running a

grant-application process. This is considered to provide value for money for the following reasons:

- PiP has delivered Phases 1 and 2 of the campaign with up to 25 boroughs, putting it in a strong and unique position to continue to deliver and expand the project. It would not be possible to create this with another organisation in the time frame available.
- PiP has developed digital solutions that can be further developed to provide councils with a self-service option for the campaign. It would not be possible for another organisation to do so in the timeframe.
- PiP has shown, through Phases 1 and 2, considerable experience working with multiple London boroughs on projects and programmes, meaning it can deliver at scale. Boroughs have reported being very satisfied with the working relationship.
- PiP has experience of carrying out the data analysis, setting up and using the communication systems, project reporting and project evaluation.
- PiP regularly works with local authorities, meaning it is used to tailoring approaches to local needs and responding to organisational requirements.
- PiP has a wide range of roles and skills within the organisation that are relevant to the project – for example, data analysts, technology experts, policy specialists and client managers.
- For a project operating at a London scale, and the potential for considerable financial gain among households, the cost of the project is reasonable.