

Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision – GLRO28-02

Title: GLRO Decision-Making Framework

Executive Summary:

This decision seeks approval of the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) decision-making framework in the form attached. It confirms that the GLRO is responsible for taking decisions about expenditure and policy related to the administration and coordination of the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections. It notes that there are circumstances when the GLRO's deputy or deputies would assume decision-making responsibility in place of the GLRO.

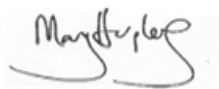
Decision:

That the Greater London Returning Officer approves the GLRO decision-making framework (at Appendix A).

Greater London Returning Officer

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date: 30/09/2025

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Greater London Authority (GLA) has a framework for [Mayoral Decision-Making in the Greater London Authority](#). It sets out the structure within which Mayoral decisions are taken and Mayoral powers are delegated. It states that decision-making by the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) and their appointed Deputy (DGLRO) or deputies is distinct from that of the GLA. This decision seeks approval to formalise the GLRO's independent decision-making framework.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The GLRO is appointed by the Mayor acting on behalf of the GLA and has overall responsibility for the administration and coordination of the Mayor of London and London Assembly elections (referred to in this document collectively as the GLA Elections). The proposed GLRO framework sets out the decision-making responsibilities of the GLRO and the circumstances when the deputy or deputies may be required to take decisions in place of the GLRO. The proposed framework notes that all decisions will routinely be taken by the GLRO except in the limited circumstances set out in the framework; and takes into account Electoral Commission guidance and relevant legislation.

3. Other considerations

Key issues

- 3.1. The existence of a GLRO decision-making framework is referenced in *Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA* (current version dated June 2024). It states that "GLRO Decisions are subject to their own process and Decision Form and while there are parallels, fall outside of this Framework"¹. Although the Mayoral decision-making framework may be updated from time to time, the proposed GLRO framework is not required to follow the same schedule. Instead, the GLRO will make updates when needed. Any changes to the framework will be made through a formal GLRO decision.
- 3.2. Oversight and implementation of the proposed GLRO framework will sit with the London Elects team, which supports the GLRO's elections work. Whilst the framework sets out the circumstances in which the DGLRO may be required to take decisions on behalf of the GLRO, the London Elects team may play a role in advising when it is appropriate for the DGLRO to do so.

4. Equality comments

- 4.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority the GLA (including the GLRO, as an appointed officer of the GLA) must have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and any conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

¹ Section 7 of [Mayoral Decision-Making in the Greater London Authority](#).

- 4.2. The proposed GLRO decision-making framework does not, itself, directly impact on matters of equality, diversity and inclusion. However, decisions taken pursuant to the framework may have equality impacts. Such matters will be addressed in individual GLRO decisions.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Section 29 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA Act) defines the GLRO as “the person who is for the time being the proper officer of the Authority for the purposes of section 35(2C) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983) (returning officer at elections of Mayor and London members).”
- 6.2. Section 35(2C) Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the returning officer at the GLA elections shall be the “proper officer” of the Greater London Authority.
- 6.3. Section 424(1) of the GLA Act states that the term “proper officer” shall be construed in accordance with s 424(2), which states: “(2) In this Act, and in any enactment applied by this Act, any reference to a proper officer and any reference which by virtue of this Act is to be construed as such a reference, shall in relation to the Authority or a functional body and any purpose or area be construed as a reference to an officer appointed by the Authority or body for that purpose or area.
- 6.4. The Mayor accordingly has appointed the GLRO to carry out the functions required of a returning officer at the GLA elections. These functions are set out in legislation, primarily the Greater London Authority Elections Rules 2007.
- 6.5. Section 35(4) Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the returning officer (in this case, the GLRO) “may by writing under his hand appoint one or more persons to discharge all or any of his functions”.
- 6.6. Accordingly, a Deputy GLRO was appointed (see GLRO decision GLRO20-01) with the power to exercise all GLRO functions.
- 6.7. This statutory power to delegate functions allows all or any of the GLRO’s functions to be exercised by those appointed by the GLRO to do so. The proposed GLRO framework is intended, in the interests of clarity and transparency, to set out the circumstances in which GLRO decisions may be taken by the DGLRO.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 7.1 GLRO decisions will be taken in line with the GLRO decision-making framework once this decision document has been approved.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix A: Greater London Returning Officer decision-making framework

Public access to information

Although the GLRO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), the information in this form will be published 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 will be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods will 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? NO

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice whose publication may be prejudicial or commercially sensitive 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
to confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Stuart Scott has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

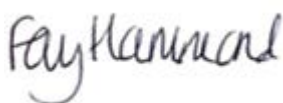
✓

The **Deputy GLRO** has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and can be referred to the GLRO for approval

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

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

Signature:



Date: 27 October 2025