

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD2790

### Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation – Delivery of grants 2026-27

#### Programme: Accommodation and Wider Support for Those Who Need it Most

#### Executive summary:

Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 includes a duty on Tier 1 authorities (in London, this is the GLA) to support survivors of domestic abuse, and their children, in refuges and other safe accommodation. Key elements of the duty are to produce a strategy; and give effect to that strategy. [Statutory Guidance](#) pursuant to Part 4, section 60 of the 2021 Act sets out that giving effect to the strategy is through commissioning/decommissioning decisions. Through Mayoral Decision (MD) 2902: Domestic abuse support in safe accommodation, the London Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) Strategy was published in December 2021. MD2892: Domestic abuse support in safe accommodation (November 2021) approved a commissioning approach. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) allocates funding to the GLA yearly, to support the discharge of its duty. Through MD3321: Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation call-off 2 contract extensions (January 2025), approval to receive and spend the funding allocation from MHCLG for 2025-26 was delegated to the Executive Director of Housing and Land. MHCLG granted the GLA £26,868,976, as DASA funding, for 2025-26; and £27.1 million for 2026-27. MD3321 also approved spending up to £6,416,268 to extend the funding for the DASA continuation grants into 2025-26.

This Director Decision seeks approval to receive and spend £27.1 million of funding from MHCLG for delivery in 2026-27. Approval is also sought to deliver existing DASA grant funding in 2026-27. This covers approval to extend and vary the agreement for the Casa Project grant (£460,000) and uplift a continuation grant for the London Borough of Lambeth (£123,622), from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. Further approval is sought for a direct grant-funding award to the Traveller Movement (£215,163), to cover the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

#### Decision:

That the Executive Director of Housing and Land approves:

1. receipt of the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation programme budget (£27.1 million) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for 2026-27; and expenditure under this budget for 2026-27
2. expenditure of up to £460,000 to extend and vary a grant-funding agreement with Solace Women's Aid, to expand the remit of the provision supported by the Casa project grant, from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027
3. expenditure of up to £123,622 to uplift a continuation grant for the London Borough of Lambeth covering the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027
4. expenditure of up to £215,163 to provide direct funding to the Traveller Movement for 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

#### AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

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:** Tim Steer

**Position:** Executive Director Housing and Land

**Signature:**



**Date:**

30 March 2026

pp on behalf of Tim Steer

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

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

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

- 1.1. Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the 2021 Act) came into force on 1 October 2021. It confers a statutory duty on Tier 1 authorities (in London, the GLA) to support survivors of domestic abuse, and their children, in safe accommodation. The Domestic Abuse Support (Local Authority Strategies and Annual Reports) Regulations 2021 (the 2021 Regulations) also came into force on 1 October 2021. The key functions required of Tier 1 authorities – as outlined in the 2021 Act, the 2021 Regulations and statutory guidance – include preparing, publishing and keeping under review a strategy for accommodation-based support for survivors of domestic abuse, and their children. They also require Tier 1 authorities to effect the strategy in carrying out their functions through commissioning and decommissioning decisions.
- 1.2. The following Mayoral Decisions (MDs) approved the GLA's receipt and spend of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG):
  - MD2788: Domestic abuse duty and funding (March 2021) and MD2842: Domestic abuse duty (September 2021): £20.688 million of funding, to cover administration and support, for 2021-22
  - MD2967: Domestic abuse support in safe accommodation – funding (March 2022): £20,745,496 for 2022-23
  - MD3082: Funding for domestic abuse safe accommodation support (March 2023):
    - £21,160,496 for 2023-24
    - £21,559,735 for 2024-25.

The Mayor also approved, via MD2788 and MD2842, the GLA entering into a shared-services arrangement with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). Through this arrangement, MOPAC supports the GLA to undertake the activities associated with the new duty.

- 1.3. The following decisions are also relevant to this work:
  - MD3321: Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation call-off 2 contract extensions (January 2025) approved receipt from MHCLG, and spend, of £26,868,976 for 2025-26.
  - MD2467: Move-On Programme: support provision (May 2019) approved spend of £3.12 million; this was funded by the revenue element of £50 million allocated by the Mayor for a move-on programme, from government funds received under MD2052: Homes for Londoners: Affordable Homes Programme 2016-21 (November 2016)
  - Assistant Director Decision (ADD) 2797: DASA programme – Delivery of commissioned services and grants 2026-27 (December 2025) gave the Assistant Director of Housing and Land approval to extend the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation (DASA) continuation grants for 2026-27; and spend the associated £6,476,041.
- 1.4. MD3386: Delivery Plan – Accommodation and Wider Support for Those Who Need It Most (August 2025) appointed the Assistant Director, Housing Programmes and Partnerships, as the senior responsible owner for the Accommodation and Wider Support for Those Who Need it Most (AWS) delivery plan. As per paragraph 1.3 of MD3386, the DASA programme falls within the AWS. That decision also delegated authority to the Assistant Director, Housing Programmes and Partnerships (in consultation with the Executive Director for Housing and Land, the Executive Director for Communities and Skills, and the Mayoral Delivery Board), to approve the receipt of additional funding from central government, to expand or extend certain existing schemes contained in the delivery plan (including through DASA), where the parameters of the scheme remain the same or similar, after

consulting with legal advisers and the GLA’s Chief Finance Officer, and subsequently securing agreement from the Mayoral Delivery Board.

- 1.5. As the result of a change to management reporting lines, the above-named Assistant Director for Housing and Land had asked the Executive Director for Housing and Land – initially as a temporary measure – to act in their place as the senior responsible owner for the AWS delivery plan. The temporary change has been made under the provisions of sections 7.4 and 7.5 of Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA (Acting Senior Members of Staff). Therefore, temporary delegated authority has been provided to the Executive Director, to make decisions sought in this decision form. All the decisions requested fall within the AWS delivery plan. The Mayor’s approval to any permanent change would be sought in due course.
- 1.6. The objectives of DASA funding remain the same as when its receipt was approved via the decisions at paragraph 1.2, above. On this basis, it is considered that the parameters of the programme remain the same or similar. The GLA’s legal advisers, and the Chief Finance Officer, have been consulted regarding the proposed additional funding; and the Mayoral Delivery Board’s agreement has been secured in respect of the same. The Executive Director of Housing and Land, acting under the arrangements described at paragraph 1.5, above, has therefore delegated authority set out under MD3386 to make the decisions sought in this decision form.
- 1.7. On 13 February 2026, MHCLG announced a multi-year settlement for the DASA programme. This will be received by the GLA as part of a consolidated settlement in the form of the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant. The table below sets out allocations for 2026-27 to 2028-29; and indicates how much of this will be allocated to the DASA programme. This Director Decision (DD) seeks approval to receive and spend this MHCLG funding for 2026-27. To confirm, the funding for the contract variation for Solace Women’s Aid, the uplift to the London Borough of Lambeth’s continuation grant and the direct funding to the Traveller Movement will be funded from the DASA underspend that we hold in reserves.

	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>2028-29</b>
Total consolidated Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant allocation for the GLA	£62.6m	£66.6m	£71.1m
Amount that is DASA programme grant	£27.1m	£27.6m	£28.1m

The Mayor’s Move on Programme

- 1.8. In 2016 the Mayor made up to £50 million of capital funding available for the Mayor’s Move On Programme (MMOP). This aimed to deliver homes for people moving on from homelessness hostels and refuges (MD2052). The MMOP supported a typical model of move-on accommodation, where self-contained units are provided as a “stepping stone”, with the expectation that clients are supported for two to three years and then move on to independent living.
- 1.9. In 2017, the Mayor successfully lobbied MHCLG to convert £3.12 million of the £50 million capital funding into revenue funding, to be spent on supporting services for people transferring into the move-on homes (approved via MD2467). This meant that, where housing providers secured capital funding through the MMOP, they or a partner organisation could also bid for revenue funding to pay for support services.
- 1.10. MD2467 approved granting up to £0.7 million to Solace Women’s Aid (at that time, the lead organisation within the London Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Consortium), enabling it to act as the accountable body for the GLA’s funding. Solace distributes this funding to Consortium members, so they can provide support to victims of domestic abuse housed through the MMOP programme. Solace has distributed the funding across three different projects, each with its own grant-funding agreement in place:

- **The Nest Project (L&Q units):** In 2022, the GLA awarded Solace Women’s Aid £183,596 to provide three years of floating support for ten units; London and Quadrant Housing Association is the landlord for these. These units provide dispersed, pan-London accommodation for women and children with medium-support needs, who are fleeing domestic abuse.
- **The Casa Project:** In 2019, Solace Women’s Aid secured a revenue allocation of £749,600, on behalf of the London VAWG Consortium, to provide support for up to 63 units for survivors of domestic abuse delivered through the MMOP. Each unit received up to three years of funding, to provide support until 2022. In 2022, the GLA awarded additional revenue funding of £701,511 to extend the Casa Project until 31 March 2026.
- **The Hope House project (Newlon units):** In 2022, the GLA awarded Solace Women’s Aid grant funding of £106,798, to provide three years of floating support for women leaving refuges, who had ongoing support needs. This support provided for seven units in Enfield; Newlon Housing Association is the landlord for this. Solace Women’s Aid was in contract for the Newlon units until March 2025.

#### Contract variation for Solace Women’s Aid (Casa Project)

- 1.11. The budget for the MMOP has now been exhausted. This means the MMOP cannot accommodate any further grant funding for the domestic abuse support provided by Solace.
- 1.12. Paragraph 1.7 of MD2467 noted that the MMOP revenue funding allocation of £3.125 million was “unlikely to be sufficient to cover the costs of support for at least three years for all the homes developed through the programme.” Considering this, MD2467 approved delegation to the Executive Director of Housing and Land to authorise (via Director Decisions) increases in the quantum and duration of funding for housing providers, or their partners, or the London VAWG Consortium, should further funding become available.
- 1.13. Although MD2467 approved this delegation, in relation to the further funding of MMOP projects, we are not making use of it. This is because the delegation related to spending under the MMOP specifically; it cannot be applied to decisions related to DASA programme funding under our current governance frameworks. Instead, this DD seeks approval for an extension and contract variation to the Casa Project grant agreement, with an associated spend of £460,000. This approval would cover:
  - the extension of funding and timelines of the Casa Project grant agreement, to allow for continued support to the Casa project until 31 March 2027, using DASA programme budget
  - variation of the Casa project grant agreement to include support to the Nest and Hope House projects – effectively consolidating Solace’s move-on support under one grant agreement; and extending the timelines of these projects in line with the Casa Project, to end on 31 March 2027.
- 1.14. The rationale for supporting an extension of Solace’s MMOP domestic abuse support, through DASA funding, is to ensure that vital domestic abuse safe accommodation in London remains available. Now that the MMOP has ended, and the associated funding has been spent, the extension of the Casa, Nest and Hope House projects falls in line with the Mayor’s priorities, as outlined in the DASA Strategy 2025-28.
- 1.15. Using DASA funding to further fund the Casa, Nest and Hope House provision projects relates to the Mayor’s intention to create a “clear and coordinated network of support in safe accommodation for all victims/survivors”. It also addresses his priority to provide “services and accommodation that are physically and psychologically safe, and of high quality; and use up-to-date and appropriate practice”. It was therefore recommended that support of the provision should be extended using DASA programme budget. This is because the provision falls within the [Secretary of State’s definition of safe accommodation](#), which the Mayor is required to commission under Part 4 of the 2021 Act.
- 1.16. The timing of this grant variation and extension enables the GLA look to our future commissioning plans. It also means we can consider how the end of the MMOP contracts could be factored into our

phased commissioning (due to open in summer 2026), while ensuring continuity of provision where that is desirable.

#### DASA continuation grant

- 1.17. The Mayor also funds 31 continuation grants under the DASA programme; these are separate from the commissioning framework. They are legacy grants, transferred to the GLA from MHCLG in 2021, when the Domestic Abuse Part 4 Duty came to the GLA. When MHCLG launched the grant fund, applicants went through a competitive application process to obtain funding. The grants constitute a mixture of projects, including direct victims' services; advocacy; refuge accommodation; and housing-related support to access accommodation and longer-term housing. The GLA has continued to fund these projects to support stability in the sector.
- 1.18. From April 2022 to date, the continuation grants have been extended annually, at a total value of £23,001,300. ADD2797: Domestic Abuse Support in Safe Accommodation call-off 2 contract extensions (January 2025) approved extending the DASA continuation grants from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, with an associated spend of £6,416,268. This included an inflationary uplift of 3.2 per cent in 2025-26, to reflect changing service demands and costs. ADD2762: Approval for additional spend on Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation programme 2025-26 (June 2025) approved an uplift to the spend figure for the continuation grant extensions – from £6,416,268 to £6,476,041.

#### London Borough of Lambeth – Uplift in continuation grant

- 1.19. Following a Domestic Abuse Duty Internal Governance Group (DADIGG) meeting on 12 December 2025, a decision was approved, in writing, to provide a continuation grant uplift to the London Borough of Lambeth (LB Lambeth). The decision was made as a recommendation, due to the overall risk of borough disinvestment from safe accommodation – the key impact being a loss of bedspaces across London.
- 1.20. Many commissioned contracts and grants under DASA are awarded to local authorities. These, in turn, sub-contract voluntary and community sector partners and specialist agencies to deliver support services in their boroughs. In some cases – particularly with continuation grants – DASA services are being delivered with mixed funding streams, including DASA duty funding and local authorities' own funding.
- 1.21. The DASA landscape has also changed significantly since 2017; and the cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated service costs. As a result, several boroughs are facing financial pressures that have led them to focus solely on delivering statutory services, and to disinvest from DASA.
- 1.22. LB Lambeth is receiving £250,000 in 2025-26 through a DASA continuation grant. Until March 2025, its continuation grant allocation was £98,100, used to fund services in 19 out of 46 bedspaces. In September 2024, LB Lambeth approached DASA to explain it could not support services in those 19 bedspaces. LB Lambeth funded these services through the continuation grant; and its London Crime Prevention Fund allocation (which they were could not guarantee for 2025-26). The total funding LB Lambeth required was £250,000. The DASA team approved this uplift to its continuation grant allocation for 2025-26.
- 1.23. Approval is now sought to fund the uplift in a continuation grant to LB Lambeth, as per the DADIGG decision in December 2025, to maintain the provision of its 46-bed service from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027. This comes with an associated spend of £123,622. The total funding is therefore £373,622. This will cover the shortfall in service costs and avoid decommissioning these bedspaces.

#### Direct grant-funding award to the Traveller Movement

- 1.24. In 2025, the Traveller Movement (TTM) applied to the DASA-led 'by and for' grants fund. The bid requested funding of £383,568.40 over three years, to enable existing services to continue. Following a thorough assessment process, TTM was unsuccessful in its application. This is because it did not

score within the fundable range, according to the DASA programme’s robust and transparent assessment process.

- 1.25. The GLA has carefully considered the outcome of the led ‘by and for’ grants fund allocation, and the anticipated direction of travel for future procured services. It has found a significant risk that the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Irish Travellers will not be adequately met.
- 1.26. Phase two of the commissioning model is currently in development and is expected to open from summer 2026. However, due to increased competition in this next phase, and uncertainty of eligibility criteria for various proposed lots, it is not guaranteed that Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller organisations will be successful in the bidding process. Further, the led ‘by and for’ grants process has closed and will not be reopened for new applications.
- 1.27. MOPAC and the GLA intend to establish a review of similar gaps in provision for other groups in the future. However, at present there is no guarantee that other groups will fall under this category; or that there will be budget available. Despite this, GLA officers believe the position for Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller communities is unique, as they are currently unserved by the DASA funding provision.
- 1.28. The recommended intervention will support short-term continuity only for provision that is in line with DASA funding requirements. This will enable essential activity to continue while a full competitive commissioning process is prepared and delivered.
- 1.29. Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller communities also face systemic discrimination. Victims and survivors in these communities have specific housing requirements that traditional and generic DASA-funded services cannot provide for. The recommended intervention will not only achieve the strategic objective of preventing further inequality in service access for Gypsy, Roma and Irish Traveller communities; it will also bridge the identified gap in current provision and ensure the continuity of specialist support, in line with the DASA strategy’s key objectives.
- 1.30. Approval is sought to provide direct grant funding to TTM to cover the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029, with an associated spend of up to £215,163.
- 1.31. The table below, outlines the grant funding profile for the next three years:

<b>Year 1: 2026-27</b>	£71,721
<b>Year 2: 2027-28</b>	£71,721
<b>Year 3: 2028-29</b>	£71,721

**2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1. All grants in the DASA programme will implement policies and proposals in London’s DASA Strategy (2025-28). All grant funding will align with those policies and proposals, whose objectives include:
  - a clear and coordinated network of support in safe accommodation for all victims/survivors
  - accessible and inclusive services that meet the diverse needs of all victims/survivors
  - services and accommodation that are physically and psychologically safe, and of high quality; and use up-to-date and appropriate practice
  - a DASA system (made up of various organisations – such as those from the VAWG and housing sectors, and local authorities) that works across specialties and geographies, and is centred on victim/survivor outcomes
  - a sustainable and robust sector, funded to best meet victims’/survivors’ needs.

### 3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as public authorities, the Mayor and the GLA are subject to a public-sector equality duty (PSED) and must have due regard to the need to:
  - eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
  - foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. Protected characteristics under section 149 of the Equality Act are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination)..
- 3.3. Consideration of the PSED is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision, at the time of taking a decision, and after the decision has been taken, to ensure that equalities impacts are kept under ongoing review.
- 3.4. Protected characteristics of victim/survivors of domestic abuse based on national data, the 2024 pan-London DASA Needs Assessment, and the EqIA for the DASA Strategy are as follows:
  - Sex: women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high-risk or severe domestic abuse. Three-quarters of domestic abuse homicide victims in London between 2005 and 2020 were women. The 2024 pan-London DASA Needs Assessment also found that 96 per cent of those receiving mayoral commissioned services in 2022-23 were female.
  - Age: younger people are more likely to be subject to interpersonal violence. The 2024 pan-London DASA Needs Assessment data shows that victim/survivors who reported are disproportionately likely to be aged mid 20s to mid 30s. Those aged mid-30s to mid-40s also have a high level of need compared to the general London population.
  - Pregnancy: nearly one in three people who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant. Domestic abuse is likely to increase during pregnancy.
  - Race/ethnicity: Black and Minoritised individuals are disproportionately affected by domestic abuse in relation to their White counterparts. Black and Minoritised victims/survivors also face additional barriers at all stages to seeking support and accessing safe accommodation and housing support.
  - Disability: Deaf or disabled people are more than twice as likely to experience some form of domestic abuse (11.8 per cent) than non-disabled survivors (4.6 per cent). Amongst women, this figure is higher, with 14.7 per cent of victims of domestic abuse being Deaf or disabled.
  - Religion: In the 2024 pan-London DASA Needs Assessment, it was noted how different power and family dynamics, religious beliefs, or social stigma within a wide range of different communities can act as a barrier to accessing safe accommodation-based services. Practitioners identified that specialist provision is valued and should be kept according to monitored need. The wider evidence base sets out that religious beliefs are compounded by fear of reporting abuse to statutory services – as seen within Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities.
- 3.5. Additional characteristics of victims and survivors of domestic abuse are also outlined below:

- Separation: domestic abuse is highest amongst those who have separated, followed by those who are divorced or single.
- Drug and alcohol use: victims of abuse have a higher rate of drug and/or alcohol misuse (whether it starts before or after the abuse); at least 20 per cent of at high-risk victims of abuse report using drugs and/or alcohol.
- Mental health: 40 per cent of at-high-risk victims of abuse report mental health difficulties.

3.6. A [guide on improving service provision for GRT victim/survivors](#) of abuse stated that these communities face unique barriers in accessing domestic abuse support services. For example, GRT survivors:

- do not have confidence or trust in services because services lack awareness and education of GRT survivors and culture;
- may not disclose their ethnicity to professionals for the fear of discrimination and abuse;
- may be at risk of losing family and community connections when leaving an abusive relationship and therefore need support rebuilding their lives from scratch;
- are often treated as victims of their culture and not as victim/survivors of domestic abuse;
- might be prevented from calling the police for help due to a fear of social services; and
- experience immigration as a key issue, particularly for Roma survivors who are afraid to access support and risk deportation.<sup>1</sup>

3.7. Given the above, the proposals in this paper are likely to have positive impacts on several groups with protected characteristics – particularly women, and victims/survivors from marginalised and minoritised groups, who are disproportionately impacted by domestic abuse. Specifically, the activities will ensure victim/survivors of domestic abuse maintain access to various pathways of support.

## 4. Other considerations

### Key risks and issues

4.1. The table below outlines the key risks and issues:

<b>Risk description</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Mitigating action</b>
If the direct award to TTM cannot be executed by early April, this may result in provision disruption and the loss of their women’s worker post.	Red	The GLA and MOPAC teams will work closely with TTM to ensure the funding is awarded in good time, and the provision can continue, once approval is received. The GLA and TTM have been maintaining consistent communication since January to review the risks to provision delivery; and explore viable solutions for maintaining essential provision in the event that additional funding were to become available.
There are currently no plans for future grant-funding arrangements for LB Lambeth from 1 April 2027 onwards. This will create uncertainty around the continuity and sustainability of its 46-bed service.	Red	The GLA is launching a new commissioning programme in /Autumn summer/autumn 2026. Local authorities will be eligible to apply for future funding opportunities. To help local authorities prepare for the procurement approach, the GLA and MOPAC will be hosting several engagement and market-warming opportunities, from mid-February to early May 2026.

<sup>1</sup> A Good Practice Guide: Improving service provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller domestic abuse survivors February 2022

<p>The decision to provide additional funding to LB Lambeth and Solace, and new funding to TTM, has a significant impact on the DASA programme budget for 2026-27.</p>	<p>Amber</p>	<p>The spend proposals in this DD have been assessed against the expected budget allocation from MHCLG for 2026-27; and the forecast spend on the DASA framework and continuation grants for 2026-27. It is recommended that this spend is covered from the DASA underspend budget (unspent funding received in past years), currently held as receipts in advance on the balance sheet. This will mitigate any impacts on the main programme budget.</p>
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### Subsidy control

- 4.2. GLA officers have considered the funding to be awarded through this decision against the Statutory Guidance for the UK Subsidy Control Regime (the Statutory Guidance). The spending under decision 1 is yet to be allocated to specific organisations or projects. Officers will apply the subsidy control four-limbed test and, if necessary, the seven subsidy control principles, as and when specific funding is awarded.
- 4.3. Decisions 2-4 will award grant funding, respectively, to Solace Women’s Aid (a registered charity), LB Lambeth (a local authority), and The Traveller Movement (a registered charity).
- 4.4. The Statutory Guidance states that, for financial assistance to be considered subsidy, it must meet all four limbs of the four-limbed test. Limb B requires that the funding “confers economic advantage on one or more ‘enterprises’.” Moreover, the Statutory Guidance explains that financial assistance to a recipient that does not provide goods or services on the open market, or ring-fenced grant to a charity for non-economic activities, would not be considered “economic advantage”. Therefore, this funding does not meet limb B. The Statutory Guidance further explains that financial assistance provided by public authorities, for services that are free to use, would not be considered economic activity either.
- 4.5. The grant funding to be awarded by the GLA in this decision will allow these organisations to provide services to vulnerable Londoners free of charge. Therefore, the proposed funding does not meet the requirements of the Subsidy Control four-limbed test; and, accordingly, does not constitute a subsidy for the purposes of the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

### Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.6. The objectives of the proposals are in line with:
  - the AWS delivery plan
  - the Mayor’s DASA Strategy 2025-28
  - [The Equality and Impact Assessment \(EqIA\) for the DASA Strategy](#) (2025-28)
  - the Mayor’s London Housing Strategy, policy 7.2c
  - MOPAC’s Police and Crime Plan 2022-25 (tackling VAWG is one of three priority areas for action to protect people at especially high risk of crime)
  - MOPAC’s VAWG Strategy.
- 4.7. New versions of the Mayor’s Police and Crime Plan, and the VAWG Strategy, are currently being developed.

### Consultations and impact assessments

- 4.8. Both the [London Housing Strategy](#) and the [VAWG Strategy](#) were subject to public consultation and equalities impact assessments.
- 4.9. The development of [The Mayor's DASA Strategy \(2025-28\)](#) involved extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. This included those with whom the 2021 Act requires the GLA to consult on the draft strategy:
- the London DASA Partnership Board (Partnership Board) appointed by the GLA
  - the London boroughs.
- 4.10. In October 2024, a draft of the DASA Strategy 2025-28 was published for consultation; it was reviewed by the above stakeholders, as well as wider VAWG sector stakeholders. The public consultation period ran to 10 December 2024.
- 4.11. [The Mayor's DASA Strategy \(2025-28\)](#) involved extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders. In March 2025 the draft strategy was published on the London.gov website. It was also sent to the London DASA Partnership Board, London boroughs and wider VAWG-sector stakeholders. The public consultation period ran to 10 December 2024.
- 4.12. During the consultation period, written consultation responses were received; and stakeholders were consulted at meetings and events. As MOPAC is providing professional support services to the GLA relating to the duties under the 2021 Act, it managed the consultation.
- 4.13. There was also in-depth consultation and engagement during the development of the [London DASA Needs Assessment](#). This provides much of the data and information informing the proposals in the DASA Strategy. Engagement included:
- a workshop with the Partnership Board
  - interviews with four survivors of domestic abuse
  - a provider survey
  - a VAWG coordinator survey
  - two focus groups with key stakeholders
  - 13 one-to-one meetings with key stakeholders.
- 4.14. An [equalities impact assessment](#) was also undertaken and published alongside the strategy.

#### Conflicts of interests

- 4.15. The officers involved in the drafting and clearance of this form have not identified any known conflicts of interest.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1. Executive Director's approval is sought to receive a £27.1 million government grant from MHCLG for the DASA programme for 2026-27, and to incur expenditure on the DASA programme during 2026-27.
- 5.2. Executive Director's approval is also sought to incur spend on the following:
- extension and variation of a grant-funding agreement with Solace Women's Aid, to expand the remit of the Casa Project service to 2026-27; this comes with associated spend of up to £460,000,

- uplift in a continuation grant for LB Lambeth for 2026-27; this comes with associated spend of up to £123,622
  - direct award to TTM for 2026-27 to 2028-29; this comes with associated spend of up to £215,163 for the three years (see paragraph 1.30).
- 5.3. This DD proposes funding the above from underspend of MHCLG DASA funding received in past years. This is held as receipts in advance on the balance sheet. The current funding held in advance is £20.5 million.

## **6. Legal comments**

- 6.1. Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse 2021 (2021 Act) provides a duty on tier one local authorities (including the GLA) to provide support to victims of domestic abuse, in refuges and other safe accommodation. The GLA is also under a duty to publish a strategy and give effect to the strategy. Statutory guidance issued pursuant to the 2021 Act provides that giving effect to the strategy is through commissioning/ decommissioning decisions.
- 6.2. The foregoing sections of this report indicate that officers are satisfied that the decisions requested fall within the delegations to the Assistant Director, Housing Programmes and Partnerships as set out in MD3386. Since only the Mayor can delegate the exercise of his functions, officers have indicated in paragraph 1.5 that arrangements have been properly made under paragraphs 7.4 – 7.5 of Mayoral Decision Making for the Assistant Director to permit the Executive Director for Housing and Land to act in some or all parts of the post of Assistant Director.
- 6.3. Under section 30 of Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA Act), the GLA may do anything which it considers will further any one or more of its principal purposes which are the promotion of economic development and wealth creation, social development, and the improvement of the environment in Greater London; and in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties to:
- pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people;
  - consider how the proposals will promote the improvement of health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
  - consult with appropriate bodies.
- 6.4. Under section 34 of the GLA Act, the GLA may do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any functions of the GLA. The foregoing sections of this decision form indicate that the decisions requested concern the exercise of the GLA's powers under sections 30 and 34 of the GLA Act.
- 6.5. In taking the decisions requested, the Executive Director for Housing and Land must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty; under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. To this end, the Executive Director should have regard to section 3 (above) of this report.
- 6.6. Paragraph 1.13 above indicates that the contribution of £460,000 to extend and vary the grant funding agreement with Solace Women's Aid relating to the Casa project amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for services. Paragraph 1.23 above indicates that the contribution of £123,622 to the London Borough of Lambeth to uplift their continuation grant amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for services. Paragraph 1.30 above indicates that the contribution of £215,163 to The Traveller Movement amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for services.
- 6.7. Officers must ensure that the funding for which decisions are sought are distributed fairly, transparently, in accordance with the GLA's equalities duties and within the requirements of section

12 of the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code. Officers must put in place appropriate variations to the existing funding agreements between the GLA and Solace Women's Aid and between the GLA and the London Borough of Lambeth before any of the funding is paid to the recipients. Officers must put in place an appropriate funding agreement between the GLA and the Traveller Movement before any of the funding is paid to the recipient.

- 6.8. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 requires that grant funding be assessed in relation to its four-limbed test. Officers have made this assessment at paragraphs 4.2 – 4.5 above and have concluded that the proposed funding does not amount to a subsidy. Officers must continue to observe the Subsidy Control Act 2022 where applicable in relation to the expenditure under decision 1.

## 7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 7.1. The work will be carried out according to the following timetable:

<b>Activity: TTM direct award</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Direct Grant funding Award approved	March 2026
Grant agreement commencement	April 2026
Grant agreement end	March 2029

<b>Activity: Uplift in continuation grant to LB Lambeth</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Grant funding agreement drafted and approved	March 2026 – April 2026
Grant agreement commencement	April 2026
Monitoring and assurance	April 2026 – March 2027
Grant agreement end	31 March 2027

<b>Activity: CASA Project Grant Variation</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Grant funding agreement revisions drafted and approved	March 2026 – April 2026
Grant variation commencement	April 2026
Monitoring and assurance	April 2026 – March 2027
Grant agreement end	31 March 2027

### 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.

**Strategic Programmes**

**Does this decision seek approval for activity falling within the remit of a programme delivery plan? YES**

If YES, which programme does this fall within: Accommodation and wider support for those who need it most

**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:**

Mia Crawford has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

**Assistant Director/Head of Service:**

Ellen Storrar has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

**Financial and Legal advice:**

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

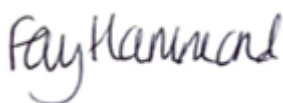
✓

**Mayoral Delivery Board**

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 30 March 2026.

**CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:**

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



**Date** 30 March 2026

**Signature**