

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision – ADD-GLRO16-29

Title: Electrical Services at the Elections Count Centres

Executive Summary:

As per the Electoral commission (EC) guidance for the Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) on the delivery of key processes for the Greater London Authority elections on 5 May 2016, Mayor of London and London-wide candidates at GLA elections are required to report their election spending and donations made towards their campaign after the election.

The GLRO is required retain the documents submitted for public inspection and publish a notice of the time and place at which the returns, declarations and accompanying documents can be inspected.

This decision requests approval for expenditure to publish the inspection notice.

Decision:

Under delegation from the GLRO, the Head of Finance and Governance to approve expenditure of up to £21,000 to publish in at least two newspapers circulating in Greater London a notice of the time and place at which Mayor of London and London-wide candidates at GLA elections spending returns, declarations and accompanying documents can be inspected.

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: Tom Middleton

Position: Head of Finance and Governance

Signature:



Date:

13.07.16

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly took place on 5 May 2016.
- 1.2. There are rules on election spending by candidates at GLA elections and rules on the donations they receive towards their campaigning. The Electoral Commission monitors and provides advice to ensure candidates and their agents comply with these rules
- 1.3. The role of the GLRO is to ensure that the documents candidates and their agents have to submit are retained appropriately and are available for public inspection.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The agent for a Mayor of London candidate or an individual London-wide Assembly candidate must submit a spending and donations return together with any accompanying documents, such as relevant invoices and receipts within 70 calendar days of the date the election result is declared.
- 2.2. The declaration must be in the form set out in the election rules or in a form to like effect.
- 2.3. Within 10 days of the deadline for candidates to submit their spending returns, the GLRO must publish in at least two newspapers circulating in Greater London a notice of the time and place at which the returns, declarations and accompanying documents can be inspected.
- 2.4. The GLRO must also retain a copy of each spending return, declaration, and any accompanying documents, for a period of two years from the date on which it is received. During that period, the GLRO must make copies available for public inspection without charge at City Hall and also provide copies of the returns, declarations or any accompanying documents on request. The fee for a copy of any return, declaration or document is 20p for each side of each page.
- 2.5. At the end of the two year period, if the candidate or the election agent requests them, the returns, declarations and accompanying documents must be returned to the candidate; otherwise they are destroyed.
- 2.6. This decision is therefore required in order to comply with the requirements of the Electoral Commission.

3. Other considerations

Key risks and issues

- 3.1. The GLRO is required to publish the inspection notice within 10 days of the deadline for candidates to submit their spending returns and will be in breach of EC guidance if it fails to do so.

4. Equality comments

4.1. The notice is being published in two newspapers circulating in Greater London, as well as being published on the London Elects website.

5. Financial comments

5.1 The expenditure of up to £21,000 will be funded from the existing 2016/17 Election budget.

6. Legal comments

6.1. By section 29 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 the Greater London Returning Officer ("GLRO") is the person appointed as the proper officer for the purposes of section 35(2C) Representation of the People Act 1983 ("RotPA") (returning officer at elections of Mayor and London members). The Mayor and Assembly have appointed the Head of Paid Service the GLRO as part of his terms and conditions of employment.

6.2. The GLRO is the returning officer for the Mayoral and London Member elections, and constituency returning officers are the returning officers for the election of a Constituency Member of the Assembly. The Authority must, under section 36(4B) of RotPA, pay for all expenditure properly incurred by a returning officer in relation to the holding of an Authority election, in so far as it does not, in cases where there is a scale fixed by the Authority, exceed that scale.

6.3. The Authority's Scheme of Delegation enables the GLRO to incur expenditure for the purposes of the preparation or conduct of any anticipated election as he considers necessary or expedient for that purpose. He is also able to authorise entry into contracts, licences or other instruments, in connection with an anticipated election in accordance with the Authority's Contracts and Funding Code and Financial Regulations.

6.4. Officers should ensure that appropriate documentation is put in place and executed by the Authority and the supplier before the commencement of the services.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract [if applicable]	N/A
Announcement [if applicable]	N/A
Delivery Start Date [if applicable]	22 July 2016
Final evaluation start and finish (self/external) [delete as applicable]:	N/A
Delivery End Date [if applicable]	22 July 2016
Project Closure: [if applicable]	22 July 2016

Appendices and supporting papers :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

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

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

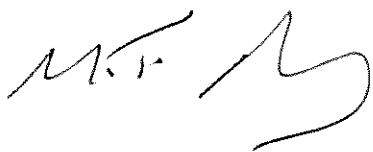
ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:**Drafting officer:**

Jasbir Sandhu 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.

HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature:



Date:

13.07.16