

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2196

### Title: Research on 16-18 skills provision in London

#### Executive Summary:

The GLA has recently undertaken a procurement process to seek a contractor to undertake research on 16-18 education trajectories in London. This research will help the Mayor to make the case for devolution of the 16-18 Department for Education budget, informing the evidence base and presenting the rationale to negotiate with government. The proposed research will cover study and progression patterns for London learners at and below Level 3 and will also help to inform policy on 16-18 skills provision in the final London Skills Strategy.

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed the ADD2107 for this proposal on 18 April 2017. This approved expenditure of up to £40,000 for the research project. However, following the tendering process, all bids that were submitted were higher than the £40,000 budget. The applicant with the bid that had the highest score following the assessment process (for technical and commercial elements of the application, presenting the best value for money for the project) was invited to revise their proposed costing for the project, and agreed to reduce this to £49,910. This ADD seeks approval for expenditure of £49,910 for this research.

#### Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Skills and Employment approves expenditure of £49,910 on a research project to make a case for devolution of the 16-18 Department for Education budget and also to help inform policy on 16-18 skills provision in the London Skills Strategy.

#### 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:** Michelle Cuomo-Boorer

**Position:** Assistant Director of Skills and Employment

**Signature:**



**Date:**

5<sup>th</sup> Feb 18

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

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

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

The GLA has recently undertaken a procurement process to seek a contractor to undertake research on 16-18 education trajectories in London. The Corporate Investment Board reviewed the ADD2107 for this proposal on 18 April 2017. This approved expenditure of up to £40,000 for the research project. However, following the tendering process, all bids that were submitted were higher than the £40,000 budget. The applicant with the bid that had the highest score following the assessment process (for technical and commercial elements of the application, presenting the best value for money for the project) was invited to revise their proposed costing for the project, and agreed to reduce this to £49,910. This ADD seeks approval for expenditure of up to £49,910 for this research.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

The objective of the research is to develop further the evidence base for 16-18 provision in London, from which practical recommendations or asks of government can be drawn.

The expected outputs of this research are:

- A report assessing the current landscape of provision for 16-18 London learners, including:
  - A map of provision across the capital and beyond.
  - A set of recommendations for skills and education providers, London government and central government.
- A presentation summarising the key findings and recommendations of the report.
- A road map for implementation of the recommendations.

#### **3. Equality comments**

It is expected that the recommendations from the research commission will give consideration to how skills policy and provision in London better addresses the needs of different groups in the capital including those from different ethnic groups, BAME, gender differences, disabilities and learning difficulties.

#### **4. Other considerations**

##### **a) Key risks and issues**

- i. The timeframe for producing the research is quite tight. Access to data or data limitations could result in gaps in the research commission. Work is underway to explore accessing a data sharing agreement with government within the given timeframe. Other routes to commissioning data are also being explored.

##### **b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities**

The research links to several of the Mayor's manifesto commitments including to:

- Develop a city-wide, strategic approach to skills, identifying gaps in provision.
- Seek a devolution deal over further education which recognises the strategic importance of a London-wide approach to FE, aligned with the needs of employers and students; [and call for the devolution of further education funding for 16-18 year olds and adults to create high-performing colleges that meet the needs of London's economy and help to reduce youth unemployment.]

- Support the development of, and protect schemes which expand opportunities for people with disabilities to work and gain skills.

The findings of the proposed research will help to inform the development of a post-16 London Skills and Education Strategy ahead of devolution of the Adult Education Budget to the Mayor in 2019/20.

#### c) Impact assessments and consultations

GLA officers have consulted on the aims and scope of the proposed research with the GLA's Education and Youth Team and London Councils who will each part-fund the research. The Skills and Employment Team is working closely with officers from each of these teams/organisations to help inform the basis of the specification which will be put out to tender.

## 5. Financial comments

5.1 The total cost of this proposal is £49,910 and will be span two financial-years as follows:

- 2017-18 - £12,500
- 2018-19 - £37,410

5.2 The costs of £12,500 for 2017-18 will be funded from the GLA's Education & Youth Research & Consultancy budget. With regards to costs that fall in 2018-19; £25,000 will be funded from the GLA's Skills budget for 2018-19, with the balance of £12,410 being met via income from London Councils.

## 6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Tender specification completed	October 2017
Procurement commences	November 2017
Tendering deadline	December 2017
Contractor in place	January 2018
Work commences	January 2018
Research complete	May 2018

## Appendices and supporting papers:

N/a

**Public access to information**

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) 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 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 considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act 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:**

Sarah Waite 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.

**Corporate Investment Board:**

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed this proposal on 5 February 2018.

**HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:**

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

**Signature:**



**Date:**

05-02-18