

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD1304

Title: Team London young volunteers into employment

Executive Summary:

Team London is a Mayoral programme which aims to make volunteering easier to do, easier to find out about and rewards and recognises the work of everyday Londoners, voluntary groups and charities.

A key component of Team London is ensuring that, volunteers, including those that are young and unemployed, are able to volunteer at major events in London.

Team London is proposing to use £100,000 of Team London programme budget and £100,000 of ESF under-spend, to grant fund an organisation(s) up to £200,000 to provide a training programme that would build on the experience at major events that would give unemployed and economically inactive volunteers, particular young people, the skills they need to find paid work.

The Mayor is requested to authorise the expenditure of £200,000 which will, following a competitive bidding round, be used to grant fund one or more organisations to deliver the training.

Decision:

That the Mayor

1. Approves the allocation of £100,000 of the GLA's Team London programme budget, to be matched by £100,000 of European Social Fund, to the Volunteers into Employment project which will provide training to young, unemployed and economically inactive volunteers to enable them ultimately to access paid employment
2. Approves the entry into a funding agreement with one or more organisations following a competitive bidding round, up to a maximum expenditure of £200,000.

Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision, and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Team London is a Mayoral programme which aims to make it quick and easy for Londoners to give their time, find volunteer opportunities and do great things for their city.
- 1.2 Building on all the work that is already taking place in the capital, Team London focuses efforts on areas where volunteers can make the biggest impact. These areas are:
- Making London a better place to live, which includes making it greener and cleaner, increasing healthy living, strengthening local communities, and getting involved in cultural and sporting events across the capital.
 - Increasing opportunities for young people by giving them the chance to gain experience and skills.
 - Building on the legacy of 2012 Games volunteering so that it continues into 2013 and beyond.
- 1.3 Team London currently provides circa 2000 volunteers to major events in London per annum. To ensure that the events, such as the UEFA Champions League, provide the most benefit to Londoners, there is a requirement that the event organisers take on unemployed people aged 16 or older, with the aim of helping them to develop skills which may enable them to access employment.
- 1.4 Experience has shown that these volunteers must be provided with a training programme if they are to benefit fully from their volunteering and achieve longer-term employment outcomes.
- 1.5 Having researched the market there is clear potential for a training programme to be implemented, drawing on the learning and good practice developed by existing providers, that specifically utilises this volunteering experience provided at major events. The training programme would look to build on this experience and give young people the skills that they need to find paid work, particularly in the hospitality, business administration and customer services sector.
- 1.6 In relation to the proposed ESF Match funding for this project; on the abolition of the LDA, the Beneficiary Agreements between DWP and the LDA and the corresponding ESF allocations were transferred to the GLA, along with responsibility for delivery and closure of the LDA's ESF Youth projects which were in Grant. The current ESF allocation under this Agreement¹ is £23,604,471. £22.6m of this has been claimed by the LDA and GLA. DWP have agreed that £100,000 of the remaining £1m ESF allocation may be allocated to this Team London project.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The aim of the project is to fund a training programme that will enable unemployed and economically inactive Team London volunteers, aged 16+, to improve their employability, achieve qualifications, access further training or education and ultimately get back into work.
- 2.2 These volunteers will be available to volunteer at major events in London through Team London.

¹ Beneficiary Agreement reference no. 08037RLN1

- 2.3 At least 120 volunteers will be supported on the training programme and the aim is that circa 67 will have been in paid work, education or training for a minimum of six months by September 2015. The final date for outcomes to be reported on the ESF programme is September 2015 and this cannot be extended. Therefore these outcomes, in particular the 6 month sustained period, may be subject to change if there are any unforeseen delays with the competitive bidding or contracting process.

3. Planned delivery approach

- 3.1 Following authorisation of expenditure the GLA will initiate a competitive process inviting organisations to submit proposals regarding how they will achieve these objectives. Team London will grant fund one or more organisations to deliver the programme. Team London will be supported by the ESF Delivery Unit, who will manage the competitive bidding process and the projects which are awarded funding. Compliance with both ESF and GLA requirements will be monitored on a quarterly basis, together with progress against milestones and outcome targets. Funding will be awarded on a payments by results basis.

4. Other considerations

a. Links to strategies and Strategic Plan

- 4.1 The Team London Service Plan sets out the Mayor's priorities for volunteering.

b. Impact assessments and Consultation

- 4.2 The Team London service plan was informed by an equalities impact assessment and was based on consultation with the sector and teams across the GLA to ensure that the plan contributes to all of the Mayor's legal duties. Diversity (and more recently employment information) is collected when volunteers register and is monitored to ensure that all Londoners have the opportunity to benefit from volunteering through Team London.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought for the GLA's entry into funding arrangements with an organisation(s) following a competitive bidding round up to a maximum value of £200,000 in order to provide training to young and unemployed volunteers.
- 5.2 The total gross cost of this proposal is £200,000, with the GLA net cost being £100,000. The balance of £100,000 will be funded by ESF funding, specifically £100,000 of ESF funding via DWP from the GLA's 2007-10 Programme that was previously approved by the London Development Agency's Board on 23 April 2008.
- 5.3 In relation to the GLA contribution to the Programme, this will be funded from the existing Team London Programme budget as approved by MD1177. For information, the Team London budget was approved for a three-year period from 2013-14 to 2015-16 totalling £1.697m for this duration. As officers within the ESF Delivery Unit will be responsible for project management, £100,000 will be vired from the Team London budget to a separate cost centre within the ESF Delivery Unit to facilitate financial & project management of this programme.
- 5.4 The phasing of the budget across financial-years (2013-14 to 2014-15) is dependent upon the delivery model implemented and agreed with the preferred delivery partner(s) and will be incorporated into the agreed funding agreement(s). All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.

- 5.5 Officers within Team London & the ESF Delivery Unit will be responsible for managing this project and ensuring that the proposed expenditure adheres to the Authority's Financial Regulations, Contracts & Funding Code, Expenses & Benefits Framework and Funding Agreement Toolkit (wherever applicable).

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 Sections 1-4 of this report indicate that:

6.1.1 the proposals in respect of which the Mayor's approval is sought relate and may be considered to fall within the GLA's powers to do such things as are facilitative of or conducive to the promotion of social and economic development in Greater London;

6.1.2 in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties to:

- (a) Pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people;
- (b) Consider how the proposals will promote the health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
- (c) Consult with the appropriate bodies.

6.2 Officers must ensure that funding is distributed fairly, transparently, in accordance with the GLA's equalities and in a manner which affords value for money in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code.

6.3 Officers must ensure that appropriate funding agreements are put in place and executed by GLA in respect of the funding and any funding granted to other parties.

6.4 Officers should not procure services unless and until funding has been won and awarded.

7. Investment & Performance Board

Stage 1 and 2 papers for Team London were discussed and approved in principle at IPB (11 September 2013)

Appendices and supporting papers: None

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 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 to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Patrick Feehily has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following have been consulted on the final decision.

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

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

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Jeff Jacobs has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Veronica Wadley has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

Date

CHIEF OF STAFF:

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor

Signature

Date