

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2776

Title: City Operations

Executive Summary:

The Mayor has a strategic role in showing leadership and communicating to London and Londoners about events and incidents that may affect the capital in all respects. This includes events in relation to London's social development, its economy and its environment. Incidents can relate to transport, social, health, business and public safety.

The Greater London Authority's City Operations Unit has responsibility for informing the Mayor and stakeholders within the GLA regarding such events and incidents and it is vital that the Mayor has the most accurate, current information at his disposal to enable him to speak with authority and lead London in a crisis. This responsibility is especially important when significant disruption is possible in London and to the lives of Londoners, who rightly expect to hear from the Mayor particularly where a major disruptive incident has occurred.

In order to deliver this function, the City Operations Unit requires access to certain data services and platforms to enable the development of an accurate information picture on how disruption, protests, events and demonstrations are affecting the city.

This decision delegates authority to the Head of City Operations, to approve further arrangements for this.

Decision:

That the Mayor approves:

The delegation of authority to the Head of City Operations to approve the procurements and related expenditure of up to £250,000, as well as any receipt and spend of income, for the purpose of subscriptions and licences in relation to the work of the City Operations Unit for financial years 2021-22 to 2024-25.

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:

17/3/24

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Mayor has a strategic role in leading and communicating on events that affect the life of Londoners including in relation to London's social development, its economy and its environment.
- 1.2. The GLA and the Mayor (in exercising the functions of the GLA) have responsibilities as a Category One responder as defined under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This includes assessing the risk of emergencies occurring and maintaining arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency. This is recognised in the London Resilience Forum's Strategic Coordination Protocol, which confirms the Mayor's role to act as the 'voice of London' in response to an incident.
- 1.3. The GLA also has responsibility for the management of selected locations in London including Parliament Square Garden and Trafalgar Square. The GLA's functional bodies such as Transport for London have broad-ranging related responsibilities e.g. in terms of land holdings, infrastructure and management of London's transport network more generally. It is therefore important that there is capacity to monitor and scan for any incidents on GLA Group-managed land, as these may require particular action and response from the Mayor and GLA.
- 1.4. The GLA's City Operations Unit has the responsibility of informing the Mayor and stakeholders within the GLA regarding events and incidents that might cause disruption in London and it is vital that the Mayor has the most accurate, current information at his disposal. This is to enable the Mayor to speak with authority and lead London in a crisis, and further the GLA's objectives with regard economic development, social development and improving the environment in London. It also facilitates and is conducive to the exercise of the functions of the GLA exercisable by the Mayor.
- 1.5. In order to ensure that these responsibilities are met, the City Operations Unit are able to monitor and collate an accurate information snapshot and horizon scan for upcoming incidents or events in London.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The City Operations Unit in the GLA provides a situational awareness capability. The objective is to identify, process and analyse information about what is happening in London and provide this information to the Mayor and to stakeholders.
- 2.2. Obtaining information on incidents and events in London, particularly when disruption to London is a possibility, would allow City Operations to support the Mayor in his strategic role as well as the operations of its functional bodies for which the GLA has a facilitative and coordinating role.
- 2.3. The outcome of this decision is for authority to be delegated to the Head of City Operations to approve procurement and related expenditure for subscriptions and licences in relation to the work of the City Operations Unit and also if deemed necessary, for any related exemption from section 9 of the Contracts and Funding Code to the requirements to seek competitive tenders, where an exemption applies as set out in section 10 of the Code.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (the "Equality Act"), as a public authority, the Mayor and the GLA must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Protected characteristics under the Equality Act comprise age,

disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (the duty in respect of this last characteristic is to eliminate unlawful discrimination only).

- 3.2. The potential impacts of this decision have been considered and no adverse impact is expected on equalities issues or any people with relevant protected characteristics under section 149 of the Equality Act.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. This decision is related to the GLA and Mayor's responsibilities as being the 'Voice of London' and communicating to Londoners about events and incidents that may affect them. The Mayor's role in London's strategic incident coordination arrangements were agreed through consultation by the London Resilience Forum.
- 4.2. There are no conflicts of interest from those involved in drafting this decision or its clearance.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Mayoral approval is being sought for the delegation of authority to the Head of City Operations to approve the procurements and related expenditure of up to £250,000, as well as any receipt and spend of income, for the purpose of subscriptions and licences in relation to the work of the City Operations Unit for financial years 2021-22 to 2024-25. The annual expenditure of up to £250,000 will be funded from City Operations 2021-22 budget and/or income receipts. Future years' budget for this will be subject to each year's budget setting process.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. The foregoing sections of this report indicate that:

- the decisions requested of the Mayor concern the exercise of the GLA's general powers, falling within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or which are facilitative of, conducive or incidental to, the promotion of economic development and wealth creation, social development or the promotion of the improvement of the environment in Greater London;
- in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the Authority's related statutory duties to:
 - pay due regard to the principle that there should 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 toward the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
 - consult with appropriate bodies.

- 6.2. In taking the decisions requested, the Mayor must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty; namely the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, and to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (race, disability, sex, age, sexual orientation, religion) and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010). To this end, the Mayor should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.

- 6.3. The Mayor may, under section 38 of the Act, delegate the exercise of the GLA's functions to the Head of City Operations as proposed.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

7.1. The subscriptions and licences are expected to be operational by December 2021.

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 either be published within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral**Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES**

If YES, for what reason: Until the procurement exercise for the 2021-22 subscriptions has been completed.

Until what date: 31 December 2021

Part 2 - Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under 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:

Jon-Paul Graham has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

Sponsoring Director:

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

Mayoral Adviser:

David Bellamy has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 15 March 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

D. Gove

Date

15 March 2021

CHIEF OF STAFF:

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

Signature

D. Bellamy

Date

15 March 2021

