

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD409

Title: Purchase of Royal Mail data from TfL to help understand population change

Executive Summary:

In 2015 Transport for London (TfL) purchased data for their transport modelling work. This data includes residential moves, business moves, and just built properties. It has the potential to improve our understanding of migration into and out of London, as well as the population implications of new developments within London and will be used to compare with ONS migration rates derived from the 2011 Census data to understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of this additional data source.

TfL included GLA usage of this data in their licence. The Intelligence Unit has consulted with the Census Information Scheme authorities (which will fund this purchase) and they have consented for this project to go ahead.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of the Intelligence Unit approves:

1. Expenditure of £15,000 to purchase Royal Mail data from Transport for London (TfL).

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT:

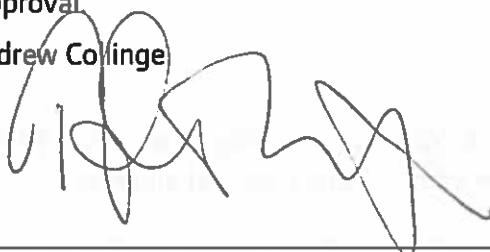
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval

Name: Andrew Collinge

Position: Assistant Director of the Intelligence Unit

Signature:



Date:

21/3/16

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

Both ONS and GLA population projections rely on 2011 Census data to provide the underlying migration patterns between local authorities/Boroughs. Although the migration data are updated annually based on the latest migration levels regionally, the underlying distribution between authorities is reliant on the decennial data collection. As such it tends to become less reliable towards the later part of the decade.

The Royal Mail makes data available to purchase with the postcode details of residential moves, business moves and 'just built' properties. Given the growing significance of migration to understanding London's population, these data have the potential to improve our understanding of migration in and out of London as well as to understand the population implications of new developments within the city. The Demographic and Policy Analysis team wish to compare the data with ONS migration rates derived from the 2011 Census data to understand the relative strengths and weaknesses of this additional data source.

Transport for London (TfL) has purchased these data sets to inform their modelling analysis. As part of this purchase they have included the GLA's potential usage of these data in their licence. Should we agree to share the costs, the total cost to the GLA for access to this data (which is backdated to 2005) is £13,750. If the GLA wishes to purchase an additional year's data for 2016, this would cost a further £1,250.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

To analyse Royal Mail data on residential moves, business moves and 'just built' properties (between 2005 and the present), and compare these with ONS Census-based estimates to assess their value in improving the GLA's demographic outputs.

- To assess the quality of the Royal Mail data and understand its relative strengths and weaknesses compared with other sources
- To compare how this data adds to our understanding of migration based on 2011 Census data
- To compare how this data adds to our understanding of population implications of developments

3. Equality comments

As the work is purely technical and the data already procured, there are no equality implications of this work. Improving our understanding of migration to and from London will benefit some groups of the population who are more likely to be migrants.

4. Other considerations

n/a

5. Financial comments

5.1 Approval is being sought for the GLA to contribute £15,000 to acquired Royal Mail data from TfL to help understand population change. TfL included GLA usage of this data in their licence.

5.2 This cost will be funded from the 2016-17 Census Information Scheme budget within the Intelligence unit (Health & Communities allocation).

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Set out how the project will be delivered and complete the outline timetable

Activity	Timeline
Purchase of data	April 2016
Analysis of data	Draft report October 2016
Work complete	December 2016

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:

n/a

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:

Vivienne Avery 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:

21.03.16

