

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2472

### Title: Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA and GLA Financial Regulations

#### Executive summary

The Greater London Authority's (GLA) key corporate governance documents are subject to regular review and updates. This decision form seeks Mayoral approval for the refreshed Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA and GLA Financial Regulations documents. Following Mayoral approval, the two documents will be submitted to the London Assembly for its Members to note.

#### Decision

That the Mayor approves the updated Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA and GLA Financial Regulations documents, as appended to this decision form.

#### 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:

29/11/17

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

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

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

- 1.1 The “Mayoral Decision Making in the GLA” document sets out the default scheme of delegation for the exercise of Mayoral Powers within GLA Structures. The Mayor may by a Mayoral Decision form (MD) amend or give specific free-standing delegations outside that framework at any time. GLA Financial Regulations is a complementary document which sets out the GLA’s approach to financial management. The paragraphs immediately below summaries the updates made to each document. The documents were last updated two years ago.

##### Mayoral Decision-Making in the GLA

- 1.2 The following changes have been made:

- General: minor updates to improve understanding and presentation, and a refresh of job titles, organisation names and other factual references, where required;
- Part C – section 7: greater clarity provided in paragraph 7.7 as to changes to job titles for senior members of staff;
- Part E – sections 8 and 9: greater clarity provided as to planning delegations to the Statutory Deputy Mayor;
- Part F – sections 12 to 15: explanation of differences between GLA-managed and Arm’s Length Companies, and a new section covering decision-making in respect of the two recently acquired Arm’s Length companies: SME Wholesale Finance Ltd and London Treasury Limited (LTL);
- Part G – section 18: amending reporting rules on variations so that it is no longer necessary to prepare a new Decision Form where expenditure *decreases*, providing that the outputs, outcomes and risk are unchanged; requiring significant GLA corporate contracts to be treated as non-routine expenditure and hence requiring a decision; and clarifying approval routes for staffing costs;
- Part G: a new section setting out arrangements for decision making in respect of the Homes for Londoners Land Fund;
- Part G: a new section summarising the specific decision-making requirements for the Adult Education Budget;
- Part I: amended to reflect the new governance arrangements in place for the London Fire Brigade (LFB); and
- Appendix 1: reserved Mayoral matters – grants to functional bodies of £150,000 or more will continue to be categorised as a reserved Mayoral matter; grants to functional bodies of less than £150,000 will not be categorised as a reserved Mayoral matter (previously all such grants were).

##### GLA Financial Regulations

- 1.3 The following changes have been made:

- General: minor updates to improve understanding and presentation, and a refresh of job titles, organisation names and other factual references, where required;
- Section 7 on ‘budget transfers’ redrafted so as to provide greater clarity and improve current practices. The term ‘virement’ has been replaced by ‘budget transfer’ which is a more widely understood use of language; and

- A new Section 8 on 'budget carry forwards' to set out the process which should be followed across the GLA.

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

- 2.1 Both documents play a significant role in the good governance of the GLA.

## **3. Equality comments**

- 3.1 There are no specific equalities issues arising.

## **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1 There are no other considerations.

## **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1 Financial issues are integral to the content of the two documents covered by this decision.

## **6. Legal comments**

- 6.1 The Mayor may delegate the exercise of Mayoral Powers to staff of the GLA and the Statutory Deputy Mayor generally or specifically and subject to conditions under ss 38(1) and (2) of the GLA Act 1999. The "Mayoral Decision Making in the GLA" document ("MDM") sets out the default framework of delegations in exercise of those powers.
- 6.2 In addition to the Mayor, certain planning powers relating to the call-in and determination of applications of Potential Strategic Importance may only be delegated to the Statutory Deputy Mayor or to one or more of the 11+2 staff appointed for that purpose. Paragraph 9.1 of the MDM sets out the Deputy Mayor posts so authorised in addition to the Statutory Deputy Mayor.
- 6.3 The Adult Education Budget was delegated to the Mayor by the Secretary of State for Education under s 39A of the GLA Act and precludes the Mayor further delegating decisions concerning that budget to GLA staff. This is recognised by an amendment to Category 1 of Appendix 1 to the MDM which lists matters reserved by law to the Mayor.
- 6.4 The MDM also satisfies good local government practice in making publicly available the list of delegations made by the Mayor.
- 6.5 The Financial Regulations also satisfy good local government practice in setting out the financial practices to be adopted by the organisation.

## **7. Planned delivery approach and next steps**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Mayoral sign-off	May or June 2019
Report to Assembly for information purposes	4 July 2019

## **Appendices and supporting papers**

- Mayoral-Decision Making in the GLA.
- GLA Financial Regulations.

**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.

**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:**

Tom Middleton has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

**Sponsoring Director:**

Martin Clarke 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 28 May 2019.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:**

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

Signature

*M. D. Clarke*

Date

28.5.19

**CHIEF OF STAFF:**

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

Signature

*D. Bellamy*

Date

28/5/2019