

**REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1183**

**Title: Red Trust - Team London Micro-Volunteering and Work Platform**

**Executive Summary:**

The GLA was awarded £3m from the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) towards a Smart Cities Demonstrator Programme (MD1247), which includes the development and delivery of a Micro-Work and Volunteering platform. The online portal supports the Mayor's Volunteering Strategy and his vision for a *Smart London*; one that puts technological innovation at the heart of efforts to address challenges that global cities face. There are two strands to the online platform: the first is to give Londoners the flexibility to volunteer in ways that fit their busy lifestyles. The second is to connect young people to work experience – be it through volunteering or paid work.

In this regard the GLA wishes to enter into a funding agreement between Red Trust (charity number 1117891) and Team London to support the development of a micro volunteering and work platform up to a maximum of £125,000

To fund the technological development, DD1132 authorised the virement of £125,000 (of TSB funding) from the Environment team to Team London. With the additional funding, Red Trust will be able to build new functionality for the Do-it national volunteering platform. This will also integrate with the Team London website, enabling Londoners to take part in Micro Volunteering and Work opportunities.

**Decision:**

That the Executive Director of Development, Enterprise & Environment approves entry into and execution of a funding agreement between Red Trust (charity number 1117891) and Team London to support the development of a micro volunteering and work platform up to a maximum of £125,000.

**AUTHORISING DIRECTOR**

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:** Fiona Fletcher-Smith

**Position:** Executive Director D, E & E

**Signature:**

**Date:** 18 March 2014

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

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

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

Red Trust

Red Trust (charity number 1117891) are the new owners of the national volunteering website Do-it.org which hosts over one million volunteering opportunities. The lead partner in the trust is a charity called IVO. After consultation it became apparent that there was significant synergy between development objectives of the new national volunteering database and the micro volunteering and work project. Red Trust have proposed that they would be able to enhance the re-launched volunteering platform, to include the required micro volunteering and work enhancements, with support of additional funding from Team London.

Working in partnership with Red Trust represents an opportunity. The development work is projected to represent value for money as it ties in with a wider development project and reduces overall costs. It ensures site integration with the national database. It will also result in greater access to stakeholders.

We arrived at this option after consultation with our Micro Volunteering and Work steering group. The steering group is made up of a selection of stakeholders from third sector, GLA and technology specialists.

With additional funding Red Trust will be able to develop additional functionality that will enable people interested in volunteering to more effectively search for short term 'Micro Volunteering' opportunities that are close in proximity and also available when the user has free time. Micro Volunteering opportunities are intended to be short term and of a 'one off' nature. The new functionality will enable young Londoners who gain experience from volunteering to be matched with paid work opportunities.

This will be available at a National level through the redeveloped Do-it platform.

- Booking and notification tool to allow users to make bookings via mobile phones
- Interactive search function including an interactive map.
- Enables single registration to allow volunteers to easily search multiple websites for volunteering opportunities
- Improved reporting capabilities
- Improved integration with social networking platforms
- Supports Peer to Peer volunteering opportunities.

It will also provide the following.

- Seamless integration with Team London site
- Integrates and updates the Team London Volunteer CV

It will also enable the Team London website to more effectively integrate with the London Legacy Development Corporations Time Banking website (ECHO), Selfless volunteering platform and Environmental and Community platform Project Dirt.

This will help Team London achieve the objectives of the Micro Volunteering and Work platform.

- 1) Making it easier for people to fit volunteering around their busy schedule through a match-making, scheduling and booking service.
- 2) Enabling young people to build their CVs through volunteering and work opportunities.

- 3) Encouraging employers to release small parcels of work through the portal.
- 4) Encouraging employers to recognise the skills and experience gained through volunteering and for young people to see volunteering as a route to employment.

We arrived at approximate costing (£125,000) by consulting with technology consultants and the web development team at GLA. We also received projected costs from Cloud Red, our current website developer, if they were to complete the development work. Additionally we received a breakdown of projected costing's from the development team at Red Trust.

Without additional funding Red Trust would be unable to build in this additional functionality.

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

The primary objective is to bring together those seeking short or flexible volunteering or employment opportunities with those providing them. The key outcomes will include working and volunteering hours created through the platform; conversion rate of volunteering activity to paid work; and self-sustaining models implemented at a pan-London level.

## **3. Other considerations**

### *a) Risk and Issues*

Micro Volunteering represents a new way of the third sector engaging with volunteers. There is a risk of inadequate supply of Micro Volunteering opportunities to meet demand. To mitigate this risk GLA Officers will continue to engage with third sector stakeholders to drive usage of the new facilities. There are over five hundred volunteer involving organisations registered on the current Team London database which will also be engaged with. Team London also has a planned Marketing campaign planned for August 2014.

### *b) Links to Mayoral Strategies and Priorities*

Volunteering is one of the great success stories of the London 2012 Games and Central to the 2012 Legacy Commitments. Enabling Micro Volunteering through an improved platform will help drive more Londoners to engage with volunteering. The development of the platform, by Team London, is also a commitment in the Smart London Plan.

## **4. Financial comments**

- 4.1 Approval is being sought to grant fund the organisation Red Trust (Charity number 1117891) up to the value of £125,000 to support the development of a micro volunteering and work platform.
- 4.2 DD1132 approved a virement of £125,000 from the Environment budget to the Team London Unit for the first phase of the micro volunteering and work platform in 2013-14. It is from within this allocation that this grant award will be funded. The programme will be phased into the 2014-15 financial-year. Consequently, officers will have to seek a budget carry forward to fund milestone payments scheduled for 2014-15. It should be noted, however, that budget carry forward requests are subject to the Authority's closing of accounts process and are not guaranteed. In the event that the carry forward request is rejected, costs that fall in 2014-15 will have first call on budget provision allocated for the Team London Unit in 2014-15.
- 4.3 Any changes to this proposal, including budgetary implications will be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process. All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.

- 4.4 The Team London Unit within the Communities & Intelligence Directorate will be responsible for managing this project and ensuring that the expenditure complies with the Authority's Financial Regulations, Contracts & Funding Code and Funding Agreement Toolkit.

## **5. Legal comments**

### **5.1**

Sections 1-3 of this report indicate that:

- 5.1.1 the proposals in respect of which the Director's approval is sought may be considered to fall within the GLA's powers to do such things as are facilitative of or conducive to the promotion of economic and social development in Greater London;
- 5.1.2 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.

5.2 Section 1 above indicates that the contribution of up to £125,000 amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for works, supplies or services. Officers must ensure that:

- 5.2.1 the 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 Contracts and Funding Code; and
- 5.2.2 an appropriate funding agreement is put in place between and executed by the GLA and the recipient of the funding before any commitment to fund is made.

**6. Investment & Performance Board**

Stage 1 and 2 paper discussed and approved in principle at IPB (8 March 2013).

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

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Funding agreement	February 2014
Scoping exercise	February 2014
Testing	May 2014
Functionality go-live	August 2014
Final evaluation start and finish	August 2015

**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 Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? YES**

If YES, for what reason: We are agreeing funding terms with both Red Trust and Cloud Red. Publication of the DD at this stage would make it public the total funding amount available. To ensure the best value funding agreement is put in place we request that the publication is deferred.

Until what date: (25/06/2014)

**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:**

Dominic Bloomfield has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

**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.

✓

**Financial and Legal advice:**

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:**

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

**Signature**

**Date**