

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2254

### Title: A world leading Social Evidence Base to support policy making

#### Executive Summary:

The development of a Social Evidence Base for London will collate and publish a comprehensive range of evidence to support Mayoral priorities. The Social Evidence Base will bring together existing and new sources of intelligence on social policy so that teams have consistent information for briefing, policy making and monitoring. This will address current fragmented evidence sources and develop better data tools and measures of human and social progress for London.

The Social Evidence Base will:

- set out current knowledge of the socio-economic situation in London;
- provide a sound rationale for policy and programmatic interventions; and
- enable monitoring and evaluation of progress.

#### Decision:

That the Mayor approves the expenditure of up to £375,000 to deliver the Social Evidence Base Programme for 2018/19 as detailed in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.5 including:

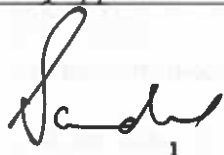
- Expenditure of £175,000 for the procurement of a contractor to carry out fieldwork interviews for a survey of Londoners;
- Expenditure of £120,000 for the procurement of a contractor(s) to carry out policy research in the areas specified; and
- Expenditure of £80,000 on purchase of new data sources and analysis to support our understanding of social integration including analysis of social media data and consumer research data.

#### 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:

8/5/10

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

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

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

1.1. The Social Evidence Base refers to collating and publishing a comprehensive range of evidence to support Mayoral priorities and inform better policymaking. This is required to address the gaps in the evidence base related to current Mayoral priorities such as social integration, and the need to develop better measures of human and social progress for London in order to track progress and maximise impact.

1.2. The Social Evidence Base will:

- set out current knowledge of the socio-economic situation in London;
- provide a sound rationale for policy and programmatic interventions;
- enable monitoring and evaluation of progress.

1.3. The Social Evidence Base is part of the wider MD2091 for the Communities and Social Policy Unit.

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

2.1. The objectives of the Social Evidence Base are to:

- set out current knowledge of the socio-economic situation in London;
- provide a sound rationale for policy and programmatic interventions;
- enable rigorous monitoring and evaluation of progress.

2.2. The expected outcomes will be:

- A coherent evidence base that supports current and future policy and programmes;
- Publication of new measures of social integration, equality, fairness, diversity and inclusion across London to measure progress;
- The creation of a public-facing social evidence presence on the London Datastore on the GLA website, to make it easier for professionals and the public to find evidence accessible in one place (including data, analysis, tools, research publications, reviews of evidence such as the forthcoming Diversity and Inclusion evidence base);
- An evaluation of the effectiveness of current policies and programmes e.g. ESOL support and Sport Unites;
- An understanding of the key drivers of social and economic outcomes for Londoners;
- International city leadership and influence on wider measurement work on integration, fairness and diversity, and disadvantaged groups (e.g. low-income households).

2.3. The key output in 2018/19 will be a new survey of Londoners to collect data on social integration not available elsewhere, but also to cover other significant evidence gaps around diversity and inclusion, household food security, digital literacy, economic fairness and financial inclusion. The survey will include a representative population sample but will also be designed to report separately on low-income households and groups of interest, including those with protected characteristics, for whom we cannot get data using existing data sources. The survey will be commissioned in conjunction with London Boroughs and civic society funding bodies where we have a mutual interest in the same topics. The fieldwork for the survey will be procured from a suitably qualified professional organisation.

2.4. Individual research projects will be procured for 2018/19. One of these will be a cumulative impact assessment of recent welfare reform changes on disabled Londoners and other vulnerable groups to assess the cumulative impact of a raft of changes since 2011. Another will be qualitative research on the lived experience of children in insecure rented accommodation which can impact on education, health and environment. Research into the role of civic and community spaces will explore their role in social integration. It will identify which spaces promote social integration and gain insight into how community spaces are changing.

2.5. In order to develop sustainable data sources for the future, the survey will be complemented by work looking at developing new data sources to measure behaviour. This includes specific projects using social media data to measure social networks and develop measures of integration (linking to other work in this area by the Opinion Research team and Digital teams), and also to explore the use of use of consumer data to gain a better understanding of voter registration patterns and electoral turnout. These will be commissioned externally as appropriate, e.g. through the purchase of data and/or analytical services in conjunction with TfL Procurement.

2.6. The proposed work programme and budget:

Table 1

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Indicative Cost in 2018/19</b>
<b>Social integration/Food poverty and other measures</b> Fieldwork for a survey of Londoners	£175,000
<b>Policy Research</b> Cumulative Impact Assessment of welfare reform changes  Lived experience of children in insecure rented accommodation  The role of civic and community spaces in social integration	£120,000
<b>Developing new data sources</b>  Using social media data to understand social networks, and produce measures of social integration  Consumer research to look at characteristics of voter registration	£80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£375,000</b>

2.7. Following the work programme for 2018/19, any further work will be subject to a separate Mayoral Decision.

### 3. Equality comments

3.1. The evidence from the Social Evidence base will be used to fill evidence gaps relating to groups with protected characteristics, and other vulnerable and marginalised groups within London. This will enable the development of sound interventions to improve outcomes for these groups.

3.2. The GLA has given due regard to its duty in respect of section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:

“149 Public sector equality duty

- (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- (2) A person who is not a public authority but who exercises public functions must, in the exercise of those functions, have due regard to the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

- (3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
  - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
  - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- (4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
- (a) tackle prejudice, and
  - (b) promote understanding.
- (6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- (7) The relevant protected characteristics are –
- age;
  - disability;
  - gender reassignment;
  - pregnancy and maternity;
  - race;
  - religion or belief;
  - sex;
  - sexual orientation.
- (8) A reference to conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act includes a reference to
- (a) a breach of an equality clause or rule;
  - (b) a breach of a non-discrimination rule.
- (9) Schedule 18 (exceptions) has effect.”

#### **4. Other considerations**

- 4.1. The evidence created from this evidence base will feed directly into the implementation and measurement of outcomes for GLA strategies including:
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;
  - Social Integration;
  - Economic Development;
  - Food.

#### **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1. Approval is being sought for the overarching expenditure for the Social Evidence Base Programme for 2018/19 of 375,000.
- 5.2. Specific approval is sought for expenditure of £375,000 in 2018/19 to undertake the following projects listed in Sections 2.2–2.5

- Expenditure of £175,000 for the procurement of a contractor to undertake fieldwork interviews for a survey of Londoners;
- Expenditure of £120,000 for the procurement of a contractor(s) to carry out policy research in the areas specified;
- Expenditure of £80,000 on purchase of new data sources and analysis to support our understanding of social integration including analysis of social media data and consumer research data

5.3. The expenditure of £375,000, will be funded from the Social Evidence Base budget within the Communities and Social Policy unit, as approved by MD2091.

## 6. Legal comments

The foregoing sections of this report indicate that:

- 6.1. 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; and
- 6.2. the decisions requested of the Mayor (in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code) 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; and in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the Authority's related statutory duties to:
  - 6.2.1. pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people;
  - 6.2.2. consider how the proposals will promote the improvement of health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
  - 6.2.3. consult with appropriate bodies.
- 6.3. 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, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment) 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.
- 6.4. The services required must be procured by Transport for London Procurement who will determine the detail of the procurement strategy to be adopted in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code. Officers must ensure that appropriate contract documentation is put in place and executed by the successful bidder(s) and the GLA before the commencement of the services.

## 7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Initial indicator sets and evidence bases published for relevant strategies and then updated annually	March-June 2018
Survey and research projects tendered	June 2018
Survey/research fieldwork	August-October 2018

First publication of outputs from Survey of Londoners including updated indicator sets	December 2018
Policy research projects published	October 2018-March 2019

**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? 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:**

Vivienne Avery has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

**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:**

Matthew Ryder 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 23 April 2018.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:**

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

Signature

*M. D. B. C.*

Date

23.4.18

**CHIEF OF STAFF:**

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

Signature

*D. Bellamy*

Date

23/4/2018.

