

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION DD2183

Title: Active Citizenship

Executive summary:

The Social Integration team seeks approval to spend up to £80,000 on activities under the Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII). The activities aim to increase civic engagement and promote active citizenship. Key objectives for delivering this include:

- Objective 1: Create best-practice guidance for citizenship ceremonies aimed at promoting high-quality ceremonies with increased opportunities for social integration and active citizenship.
- Objective 2: Gather data and insights into citizenship ceremonies to establish baseline measures and assess interventions.
- Objective 3: Work with London Curriculum to develop political literacy resources focused on young people turning 18 and school leavers.

Decision:

The Executive Director for Communities and Intelligence approves expenditure of up to £80,000 to deliver activities related to the Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII).

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: Jeff Jacobs

Position: Executive Director, Communities and Intelligence

Signature:



Date:

7.12.17

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

1.1 In April 2017, the Mayor announced the Citizenship and Integration Initiative (ADD 2056), a pooled fund from independent trusts and foundations. The CII's objectives for the first two years are:

- Civic Engagement: encouraging the take-up of citizenship and involvement in democracy;
- Young Londoners: supporting young Londoners to secure their legal rights to residence;
- Diversity, social contact and identity: celebrating diversity and building shared identity.

This paper covers work relating to the first of these objectives and seeks approval of a maximum expenditure of £80,000 in 2017/18 from the Communities and Social Policy Unit's budget on work progressing this objective.

- 1.2 Civic engagement is an important component of social integration. Gaining formal citizenship, and involvement in democracy, are two areas where the Mayor and the GLA can make a big impact. Since 2004, there has been a steady decline in the number of citizenship ceremonies following changes to pathways for gaining citizenship. Citizenship ceremonies offer a rare moment for those that have been on the journey to becoming British for many years to finally be officially accepted into British society, but at present ceremonies are of varying quality. They have the potential to be improved and, specifically, to increase the engagement of the wider community, and embed opportunities to promote active citizenship for those becoming British Citizens.
- 1.3 Political literacy and voter registration are also important aspects of being an active citizen. Recent research has found that first-time voters, whilst engaged with political issues, feel distant from formal political processes, and have an expectation that they should be invited to participate, rather than seeking out opportunities to do so. Many young people across the UK do not know that they can register to vote from the age of 16. Evidence from the Electoral Commission suggests that ensuring young people vote in their first election makes them more likely to vote as they get older, meaning that interventions with people turning 18 can make a significant impact in the long term. There are approximately 500,000 Londoners who turn 18 and gain the right to vote over this mayoral term.
- 1.4 The activities set out in section 2 will inform further projects in 2018/19 to promote active citizenship, voter registration and a Mayoral Citizenship ceremony. These activities will be approved through a separate decisions document in 2018.

2. Objectives, activities and expected outcomes

Activities	Time frame	Potential partners	Estimated budget
Objective 1: Create best-practice guidance for citizenship ceremonies aimed at promoting high-quality ceremonies with increased opportunities for social integration and active citizenship.			
Outcome 1: Increased active citizenship (e.g. volunteering, voter registration, social action) and social integration among participants in citizenship ceremonies.			
Form an advisory group to consult and support the development of six pilot sites to work with on improving citizenship ceremonies and developing best-practice guidance	December 2017 – April 2018	Local authorities (particularly registrars), business and community stakeholders, and academics/think tanks	GLA/CII seconded officer time.

Design and deliver six pilot sites on citizenship ceremonies in collaboration with local authorities to test different active citizenship interventions, including on volunteering and voter registration. Use learning to draft best practice guidance.	January 2018 – May 2018.	Local authorities, London wide community group	£30k (£5k per pilot site)
Produce best-practice citizenship ceremony guidance materials for hosts which promote high-quality citizenship ceremonies aimed to increase social integration and active citizenship.	April 2018		Officer time only
Objective 2: Gather data and insights into citizenship ceremonies Outcome 2: The GLA has a means by which to establish and evidence effective methods for embedding social integration and active citizenship opportunities into citizenship ceremonies.			
Conduct research on Citizenship Ceremonies to establish baseline indicators and methods for embedding social integration and active citizenship opportunities into citizenship ceremonies. Research will be externally commissioned through expressions of interest (EOI) followed by interviews.	December 2017 – April 2018	Academics, think tanks and GLA IU.	£20k
Objective 3: Work with London Curriculum to develop political literacy resources for young people Outcome 3: Young people have a better understanding of active citizenship and are more likely to participate (e.g. through voting, volunteering and civic engagement).			
Work with London Curriculum to develop political literacy / voter education resources, focused on attainers and school leavers, including to: • Commission, through an EOI and interviews, an external organisation to produce London-specific resources that increase awareness about voting and democratic processes. . • Share and promote the resources in schools, sixth-form colleges and other educational institutions, alongside local authorities.	November 2017 – April 2018	GLA Education & Youth teams, schools & colleges, local authorities, providers who deliver educational materials to schools and colleges.	£30k

3. Equality comments

Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the Mayor of London must have 'due regard' to the need to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under section 149

of the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (all except the last being “relevant” protected characteristics).

Equality, integration and inclusion are the drivers behind this programme. This work is planned to develop uniform guidance that helps to introduce active citizenship for new citizens and their families and community members alike, providing an opportunity for all new citizens to be included in local volunteering and local democracy. This combats a tendency for new citizens’ voices not to be heard. The work to develop political literacy resources provides opportunities for all young Londoners, regardless of background, to understand and so to play an active role in the decisions that affect their lives.

Any commissioning processes will ask potential partners to demonstrate how their projects are inclusive of a diverse group and actively work to eliminate discrimination on the basis of the nine characteristics protected under the Equality Act 2010. In order to ensure the highest standards of equality, diversity and inclusion are upheld, the GLA will use outreach and engagement approaches to target activities at particular groups that are less able to engage, or face greater barriers to engagement, to enable them to participate, whilst ensuring that activities are open and accessible to all Londoners.

The guidance and resources will be produced in accordance with best practice for accessible communications and there will be translated outputs. The recruitment of the advisory and steering groups will meet equality, diversity and inclusion standards.

4. Other considerations

5.1 Key risks and issues

Risk	Mitigation measures	Current probability (1-4)	Current impact (1-4)	RAG	GLA Lead
Registrars and local authorities are resistant to changes and unable to do the added work of co-ordinating active citizenship offers that relate to their borough.	A small amount of grant funding will be provided to Registrars to cover the additional costs incurred through taking part in the pilot projects.	2	4	A	Social Integration team
Community organisation partners’ active citizenship offers are not coordinated and are of low quality.	Set clear and specific parameters for commission; build in regular milestones to check progress.	2	3	A	Social Integration team
Commissioned partners fail to deliver resources to expected quality or to time.	Set clear and specific parameters for commission; build in regular milestones to check progress; work with trusted partners where possible.	2	2	G	Social Integration team and Education and Youth
Financial mismanagement of any funding provided by the GLA to partners involved in the programmes outlined above.	The GLA will conduct due diligence on all partners, appropriate funding agreements will be in place before	1	4	G	Social Integration Team

	funding agreements are signed.				
Schools fail to take up educational resources.	Engage with schools early in the process; trial resources with schools before launch; make use of existing marketing channels.	1	3	G	Citizenship & Integration initiative officers, with Education & Youth: London Curriculum

5. Financial comments

5.1 The cost of up to £80,000 for this proposal will be funded from the 2017-18 Social Integration budget held within the Communities & Social Policy Unit.

6. Legal comments

6.1 The GLA has powers under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1998 (GLA Act) to promote, among other things, social development in Greater London. Under section 34 of the GLA Act, the GLA may do anything calculated to facilitate, or conducive or incidental to, its functions. The encouragement of civic engagement through the uptake of citizenship and registration to vote may be seen as calculated to promote social development.

6.2 While section 31 of the GLA Act imposes certain limitations on the section 30 power, to the effect that the GLA shall not incur expenditure in providing education services where the provision in question may be made by any other public body, under section 31(6) the GLA may still co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of, such other bodies. Work in this area, to the extent that it might be carried out by other public bodies – such as local authorities or the Electoral Commission – should therefore be limited to co-operating with, or facilitating or co-ordinating the activities of, such other public bodies.

6.3 The GLA must at all times be apolitical and take great care not to be associated in the proposed work with any political party or individual politician. Further, the proposed work must be kept distinct from the functions of the Greater London Returning Officer, whose actual and perceived impartiality is vital, and who has no role in respect of voter registration.

6.4 In taking the requested decisions, the executive director 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 persons who do not share it 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 executive director should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.

6.5 The officers are reminded of the need to comply with the requirements of the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code when procuring services, supplies or works or when allocating funding throughout the Citizenship and Integration Initiative project.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

	Activity	Timeline
1	Form an advisory group to consult and support the development of six pilot citizenship ceremonies and best-practice guidance	December 2017 to April 2018
2	Jointly develop call with London Curriculum team to commission political literacy / democratic education resources from civil society organisations or external consultancies	December 2017

3	Design and deliver six pilots citizenship ceremonies	January 2017 to April 2018
4	Commission an external agency or organisation to develop political literacy resources	January 2018
5	Produce best-practice citizenship ceremony guidance materials	April 2018
9	Conduct research to establishing baseline indicators and analyse interventions	January to April 2018
10	Launch political literacy resources and promote resources to London's schools alongside local authorities	Summer 2018

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:

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:

Paul Amuzie and Jessica Kennedy have drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Julia Slay 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.

✓

Corporate Investment Board:

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed this proposal on 4 December 2017.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. J. Elia

Date

4.12.17

