

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2265

Title: Evaluation of London Enterprise Adviser Network

Executive Summary:

Approval is sought for expenditure of up to £40,000 on an independent evaluation of the impact of the Mayor's expansion of the London Enterprise Advisers Network.

Approval is also sought for this contract to be awarded, without competition, to SQW (evaluation partner for the Careers and Enterprise Company's (CEC) national evaluation of the Enterprise Advisers Network), subject to agreement being reached between the GLA and SQW on terms.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director approves:

1. Expenditure of up to £40,000 on an independent evaluation of the impact of the Mayor's expansion of the London Enterprise Advisers Network. This will be funded by £25,000 from the Skills Strategy budget, with the remaining £15,000 being sought as a contribution from LEAP (subject to endorsement by the LEAP Programme Board on 6 September 2018). Should this additional funding not be secured, the remaining £15,000 will be funded from the Skills Strategy budget.
2. The award of this contract to SQW, the national evaluation partner for the Enterprise Advisers Network, without competition, subject to agreement being reached between the GLA and SQW on the work to be delivered, and associated terms.

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: Forogh Rahmani (on behalf of Michelle Cuomo-Boorer)

Position: Senior Manager - Skills & Employment

Signature:



Date:

6/9/18.

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The London Enterprise Advisers Network (LEAN) matches senior business professionals with careers leaders in schools to support them to develop a careers strategy that recognises all sectors and pathways into employment. To date the LEAN has provided strategic support to 125 schools across 18 boroughs, through a network of over 200 Enterprise Advisers (volunteers drawn from the business community).
- 1.2. In March 2018, the Mayor approved expenditure of up to £1.4m of GLA funds to expand the London Enterprise Advisers Network to cover all schools in the London LEP area (**MD 2262**). This was matched with up to £1.268m of funding from The Careers & Enterprise Company Limited (CEC).
- 1.3. The LEAP Investment Committee (LEAPIC) also endorsed the Mayor's investment in the expansion of the LEAN, but recommended that robust evaluation arrangements be put in place to assess the impact of the London Network. In particular, the LEAPIC requested that the impact on young people be assessed. This was reflected in MD 2262, which stated that a future decision would be sought for GLA expenditure on the independent evaluation of the LEAN. In light of the above a contribution towards the cost of this evaluation is being sought from LEAP.
- 1.4. Following a full procurement exercise, CEC commissioned SQW to produce a national evaluation of the national Enterprise Adviser Network. This includes some fieldwork in London, but does not meet all of our evaluation requirements.
- 1.5. The GLA is therefore proposing to commission an enhanced evaluation of the LEAN evaluation, that goes beyond the evaluation of the national network. The London evaluation will look to assess the impact of the intervention on young people and teachers through deployment of additional survey tools; and will also include administrative data analysis that looks to identify any impact on educational, employment and progression outcomes. The evaluation will see significantly more fieldwork taking place in London.
- 1.6. The research and evaluation partner will be required to:
 - Provide professional technical advice on the research approach
 - Obtain and rigorously analyse the London cut of the CEC-commissioned national evaluation data
 - Collect and analyse additional data in London schools
 - Conduct a small number of qualitative interviews to supplement the findings of the quantitative analysis
 - Produce a mid-line report by late summer 2019
 - Produce a final evaluation report by late 2020

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The evaluation will produce insight on the impact and performance of the LEAN. This insight will be used to:
 - Inform potential future decisions on further investment in the LEAN
 - Inform decisions on management of the LEAN
 - Inform decisions on other potential investments in careers support and provision

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the GLA must have 'due regard' of the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and
 - Advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. The enhanced evaluation specification includes a requirement for the evaluation to consider any differential impact of the LEAN on vulnerable groups of young people (such as learners with SEND, care leavers, ex-offenders, BAME young people.)

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. There is a significant interdependency between the evaluation being commissioned and the national evaluation being conducted by SQW for the CEC. It is unlikely that any other organisation, other than the national evaluators (SQW) would be able to complete this work without significant additional cost.
- 4.2. Given the interdependency of this evaluation with the national evaluation, there are no other suppliers who would be able to meet the evaluation requirements within the allocated budget. The alternative would be to commission an evaluation which is completely separate to the national evaluation. This would be significantly more expensive, be more burdensome on participating schools - and would not benefit from learnings from the complementary national evaluation. This is not an acceptable alternative.
- 4.3. For the following technical reasons, it is unlikely that any other organisation, other than the national evaluators (SQW) would be able to complete this work to the required specification and budget.
- Ability to use the tools and approaches to evaluating the network that have already been developed for the national evaluation
 - Ability to access and build upon emerging findings of the complementary national evaluation also being produced by SQW
 - Ability to use existing data-sharing agreements which have been put in place for the national evaluation
 - Necessity to reduce the data collection burden on participating schools
- 4.4. It is for these reasons that no reasonable alternative/substitute exists and that the absence of competition is not the result of an artificial narrowing down of the parameters of the procurement.
- 4.5. Officers have concluded that building on the existing national evaluation is the best way to secure value for money. We will also ensure value for money through benchmarking the proposal against similar evaluations procured competitively. Awarding the contract SQW also allows the GLA to benefit from the research design and other project work that has already been done and paid for by CEC as part of the national evaluation.
- 4.6. It is therefore recommended that the Skills and Employment Unit be permitted to appoint SQW as evaluation partner for an expansion of the London Enterprise Adviser Network, without a competition, subject to agreement being reached between the GLA and SQW on the work to be delivered, and associated terms.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 This ADD seeks approval for expenditure of up to £40,000 from the 18/19 Skills Strategy budget for independent evaluation work in the interim until LEAP approves funding of £15,000 at the LEAP Programme Board in September 2018. The net funding from the 18/19 Skills Strategy budget will be £25,000 if LEAP funding is approved.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) ("GLA Act") gives the Mayor a general power to do anything which he considers will further one or more of the principal purposes of the GLA as set out in section 30(2) which are:

- (1) promoting economic development and wealth creation in Greater London;
- (2) promoting social development in Greater London; and
- (3) promoting the improvement of the environment in Greater London.

- 6.2. Sections 1 to 4 of this report indicate that:

- (1) the decision requested of the assistant director falls within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or which are facilitative of, conducive or incidental to the discharge of the GLA's general functions as set out at section 6.1 above; and
- (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 improvement of health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
 - c. consult with appropriate bodies.

- 6.3. In taking the decisions requested, the assistant director must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, namely the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation) and to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. To this end, the assistant director should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.

- 6.4. Section 9.1 of the Code requires the GLA to seek a call-off from a suitable framework where possible or, if not, undertake a formal tender process to procure such services in relation to all contracts for goods or services with a value above £10,000. However, the assistant director may approve an exemption from this requirement under section 10 of the Code upon certain specified grounds. Section 10.2 of the Code also requires the GLA to explain how it intends to obtain value for money when seeking an exemption from the Code.

- 6.5. Section 10.1 of the GLA Contracts & Funding Code (the "Code") states that one reason for an exemption is where a proposed supplier has had previous involvement in the specific current project. Officers have indicated in section 4 of this report that this ground applies, and that the proposed contract affords value for money.

- 6.6. Officers must ensure to append a completed Single Source Request Form to this decision form in accordance with section 10 of the Code.
- 6.7. On this basis the assistant director may approve the proposed exemption if satisfied with the content of this report.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract	w/c 01/10/18
Delivery Start Date	w/c 08/10/18
Interim report delivered	w/c 27/09/19
Final report delivered	Late 2020

Appendices and supporting papers:

None.

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) 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 it has been approved 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:

This form contains information the disclosure of which would prejudice the GLA's ability to secure value for money in its procurement of the required services.

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring) 31/10/2018

Part 2 - Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included 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:

Joel Mullan has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 28 August 2018.

HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature



Date

28-08-18