

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2498

Title: Adult Education Budget Assurance Framework

Executive Summary:

From August 2019, the Mayor will be responsible for the commissioning, delivery and management of London's AEB allocation. In order to provide assurance to HM Government, stakeholders and the public that the GLA has in place the necessary processes to manage the AEB programme effectively, an AEB Assurance Framework has been drafted.

Decision:

That the Mayor:

Approves the Adult Education Budget Assurance Framework (see Appendix A) for publication.

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:

29/7/19

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. MD2255 – Devolution of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) to the Mayor provides further information on the Mayor's decision to accept the AEB functions.
- 1.2. In preparation for delegation of the AEB functions, the GLA was required to meet six readiness conditions to demonstrate to the Secretary of State for Education that the GLA was prepared to carry out these functions effectively. As a part of submission to the Department for Education (DfE) setting out how the readiness conditions would be met, the GLA made a voluntary commitment to publish an Assurance Framework that sets out the processes and procedures put in place to manage the AEB effectively, supporting the GLA's commitment to openness and transparency.
- 1.3. The AEB Assurance Framework builds on the National Local Growth Assurance Framework for Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) with a single pot funding arrangement and Local Enterprise Partnerships. Due to the unique arrangements in place for managing the AEB in London,¹ management of the AEB programme does not fall within the remit of this guidance and therefore the GLA is not required to publish an Assurance Framework. Nevertheless, to provide the same assurances as required by other areas, the GLA has committed to doing so.
- 1.4. The Assurance Framework has also taken into consideration MOPAC² internal audit requirements and further *Guidance for the Mayor of London and Greater London Authority* (the "London Guidance") which was written by DfE in consultation with the GLA. This guidance ensures that funding and provider management arrangements are agreed by the Mayor with providers in a way that minimises costs and maximises consistency and transparency.
- 1.5. The draft AEB Assurance Framework was endorsed by the AEB Mayoral Board at its meeting on 11 July 2019 and will be published to the GLA website once it has been formally approved by Mayoral Decision (MD).
- 1.6. This decision is being sought via MD as, due to the delegation arrangements in place for AEB, all formal AEB decisions are reserved for the personal exercise of the Mayor only under the Mayoral Decision-Making in the Greater London Authority protocol and cannot be delegated further.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The AEB Assurance Framework has been based on the requirements of the readiness conditions set by DfE and contains the following chapters:
 1. Governance and decision making;
 2. Financial Assurance and Auditing;
 3. Data Management;
 4. AEB Policy: Funding Rules and Learner Eligibility;
 5. Commissioning and Managing Procured Provision; and
 6. Grant Funded Provision.

¹ In London there are legal differences in how the functions of the AEB are delegated to the Mayor of London using Section 39A of the GLA Act 1999 and the full statutory devolution transferring adult education function to the MCAs.

² MOPAC provide the GLA's internal audit function under a shared service agreement.

- 2.2 The AEB Assurance Framework will be reviewed and updated annually, or sooner if required, However, updates that are factual and in line with national policy or decisions already considered by the Mayor will be made by the Board Secretary on an ongoing basis to ensure it remains up to date.
- 2.3 The GLA initially committed to publishing the Framework in spring 2019. However, it was agreed at the Skills for Londoners Programmes Board and noted at the AEB Mayoral Board in April 2019 that publication would be delayed to July 2019 to include details of audit and intervention arrangements that were not available at the time, and to ensure it aligned with MOPAC internal audit requirements and the London Guidance.
- 2.4 MOPAC have confirmed that the AEB Programme will be a part of its internal audit programme for the GLA 2019/20. Officers have met with MOPAC auditors to understand the audit requirements and to ensure the AEB Assurance Framework meets internal audit requirements.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 In carrying out any functions in respect of the AEB, the Mayor will comply with the public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 3.2 Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010 provides that, in the exercise of their functions, public authorities – of whom the Mayor is one – must have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic 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.
- 3.3 Relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Assurance Framework includes a Diversity and Inclusion section which references the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and states how implementation of the AEB promotes equal opportunities.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. Delivering the AEB will support the Mayor's vision to ensure that all Londoners and businesses gain the skills they need to succeed as set out in the Skills for Londoners' Strategy. It aims to meet the strategy's three aims:
- Empower all Londoners to access the education and skills to participate in society and progress in education and work;
 - Meet the needs of London's economy and employers, now and in the future; and
 - Deliver a strategic city-wide technical skills and adult education offer.

Risks arising/mitigation

- 4.2. The Assurance Framework sets out robust governance arrangements for managing the AEB to minimise any programme risks. The GLA's publishing of an over-arching framework setting out the GLA's approach to decision-making, transparency, audit, value for money and engagement can give

stakeholders confidence that any decisions are proper, evidence-based and capable of being independently scrutinised.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA arising from this report. The Assurance Framework provides the basis for robust governance of the programme and the GLA's commitment to openness and transparency in policy and decision-making relating to the Adult Education budget.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Section 39A of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 permits the delegation of ministerial functions to the Mayor, subject to certain limitations and conditions. This forms the basis for the delegation of AEB functions from the Secretary of State for Education to the Mayor.
- 6.2. In taking the decision requested, the Mayor must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. To this end, the Mayor should have particular regard to section 3 (above) of this report.
- 6.3. The Assurance Framework the Mayor's approval of which is sought includes: Governance and Decision Making; Financial Assurance and Auditing; Data Management; Funding Rules and Learner Eligibility; Commissioning and Managing Procured Provision; and Grant Funded Provision. These are matters which it is proper for such a document to cover.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 7.1. Next steps are set out in the table below:

Activity	Timeline
Publish the Assurance Framework	July 2019
Assurance Framework annual review	July 2020 (or sooner if required)

Appendices and supporting papers:

Appendix A – AEB Assurance Framework (draft)

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? NO

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

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:

Rachel Greenwood has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Debbie Jackson has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Jules Pipe 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 22 July 2019.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. D. Bellamy

Date 22.7.19

CHIEF OF STAFF:

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

Signature

D. Bellamy

Date 25/7/2019.

