

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2250

Title: Social Integration Strategy

Executive Summary:

The Mayor's Strategy for Social Integration is a non-statutory strategy focused on creating a more socially integrated city in which Londoners can positively interact and connect with people who are different to themselves. It will support the Mayor to deliver on his priority to improve social integration in London and is made under his powers of social development

The strategy sets out how City Hall will work with others to help improve social integration. It covers specific social integration initiatives. It also outlines how powers and programmes across the Mayor's remit including housing, planning, environment, regeneration, policing, culture, business and early years can support improvements in social integration.

It launches the new social integration initiatives approved in MD2192 (Social Integration Programmes), and details the workstreams of the Citizenship and Integration Initiative approved in DD2176 (Citizenship and Integration Initiative) and DD2183 (Active Citizenship).

It is due to be published in March 2018.

Decision:

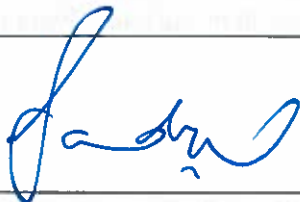
That the Mayor approves for publication the Social Integration Strategy contained in Appendix A.

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:

6/3/18

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor's strategy for social integration sets out his role in improving the state of social integration in London. It is the result of months of research and discussions with social integration experts, London's communities and civil society. It fully recognises that, with limited powers, the Mayor cannot improve social integration on his own. It therefore describes his approach to social integration, how he will exercise the powers he does have, and how he will work with others.
- 1.2 The strategy launches the new social integration initiatives approved in MD2192 (Social Integration Programmes), and details the workstreams of the Citizenship and Integration Initiative approved in DD2176 (Citizenship and Integration Initiative) and DD2183 (Active Citizenship). These decisions approved the budget required for delivering the strategy in 2017/18. The budget required for 2018/19 will be set out in a forthcoming MD regarding the allocation of the Communities and Social Policy budget.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The purpose of this strategy is to set out a vision and direction for the Mayor's role in improving social integration in London. The policies and projects described are intended to have a direct impact on the state of social integration in the city, and also to inspire others to act. The intended audience is stakeholders interested in social integration – particularly civil society organisations, engaged communities, employers, philanthropists and borough councils.
- 2.2 The following outcomes are expected through the launch of the strategy:
- stakeholders comment positively that it sets out a vision around which Londoners can unite
 - new initiatives launched in the strategy are effectively delivered (to be reviewed at the end of each financial year, complemented by evaluations of specific initiatives)
 - teams across the GLA align their work with the goal of improving social integration.
- 2.3 The delivery of policies and actions in the strategy will help to achieve the Mayor's objectives to:
- develop world-leading best practice on using sport, volunteering, arts and culture as powerful tools for social integration;
 - enable Londoners to build stronger social networks in early years and family support settings, so that more of London's families benefit from social integration
 - equip more Londoners to participate in democratic processes such as voting, public debates and citizen-led action, knowing how to engage and that their voice matters
 - reduce inequalities which could otherwise undermine social integration, working alongside partners to achieve this, particularly in the areas of skills, housing, planning, regeneration and policing
 - address specific barriers to social integration through targeted programmes such as supporting underrepresented groups to access employment, promoting pathways to citizenship, improving English language training and widening digital inclusion
 - support London's councils, central government and other partners to embed principles of social integration into their institutions
 - lobby for changes to central government policies which currently present barriers to social integration, for example the implementation of immigration policies.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 Under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the Mayor and GLA must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination,

harassment and victimisation, and any conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics under 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 (the duty in respect of this last characteristic is to eliminate unlawful discrimination only). Compliance with the Act may involve, in particular, removing or minimising any disadvantage suffered by those who share a relevant protected characteristic, taking steps to meet the needs of such people; and encouraging them to participate in public life, or in any other activity where their participation is disproportionately low, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding. In limited circumstances it may require treating people with a protected characteristic more favourably than those without the characteristic.

3.2 This strategy has a focus on tackling inequalities and barriers, including those which affect Londoners who share protected characteristics and therefore reflects the requirements of the PSED regarding removing or minimising disadvantage, encouraging participation in public life, tackling prejudice and promoting understanding. Part 1 of the strategy includes policies and actions which aim to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not – by promoting shared experiences which bring different groups of Londoners together, and creating an environment where Londoners find it easy and beneficial to have positive and regular contact with those around them. Part 2 of the strategy seeks to support Londoners from all backgrounds to be active citizens. This work will include targeted work to increase participation in volunteering and democratic processes among groups of Londoners who are currently less likely to be engaged, many of whom share protected characteristics. Part 3 of the strategy builds on the commitments to be set out in the forthcoming Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, focusing on addressing the inequalities and barriers that are particularly detrimental to social integration and require specific interventions.

3.3 The strategy furthers the social development of London and Londoners, and so falls within the Mayor's general powers under section 30 of the GLA Act 1999. Under section 33 the GLA is required to have in place arrangements to ensure that due regard has been had to equality of opportunity for all people in the exercise of those general powers.

3.4 The Mayor's strategy for social integration gives high priority to equality of opportunity for all people in London. Part 3 of the strategy sets out policies and actions to increase equality in the city – including addressing inequalities in opportunity affecting groups currently represented in London's workforce through a new initiative called the Workforce Integration Network (WIN). Through another new initiative, ESOL Plus, the strategy will address the barriers facing Londoners who lack English language proficiency. Ensuring equality of opportunity will be a key criterion for selecting partners on all new initiatives, including The London Family Fund, WIN, ESOL Plus and the Social Integration Design Lab.

4. Other considerations

a) Key risks and issues

Risk	Mitigation	Current probability (1-4)	Current impact (1-4)	RAG	GLA Risk Owner
Delivery of the strategy does not meet the vision and objectives it sets.	The strategy is clear about the limited scope of the Mayor's powers in this area and the need to partner with others to achieve his vision. It is clear that his responsibility is for the delivery of successful mayoral initiatives. A performance management dashboard has been agreed with	1	4	G	Social Integration Team

	Governance to track objectives and success measures for the mayoral initiatives.				
Financial mismanagement of any funding provided by the GLA to partners involved in the new initiatives launched through the strategy.	The GLA will conduct due diligence on all partners, and appropriate funding agreements will be in place before funding agreements are signed.	1	4	G	Social Integration Team
Community engagement delivered during the development of the strategy is not matched during delivery.	The strategy provides a list of mechanisms through which individuals and communities can stay engaged with the Mayor's work on social integration. This includes taking part in discussions about social integration, co-designing new initiatives, hosting mayoral and deputy mayoral borough visits, and partnering on projects. These mechanisms will be in place throughout the delivery of the strategy. The social integration team will work with community engagement and Talk London to ensure this.	1	2	G	Social Integration Team

b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.1 This strategy is key to delivering on the Mayor's priority on improving social integration in London.
- 4.2 It makes reference to policies and projects which form other Mayoral strategies including Housing, Environment, the London Plan, Policing and Crime, Culture, Health Inequalities and Sport – highlighting the initiatives which help to improve social integration.
- 4.3 It builds on the commitments set out in the Mayor's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy, focusing on addressing the inequalities and barriers that are particularly detrimental to social integration and require specific interventions.

c) Consultation

- 4.4 This strategy was produced through extensive engagement with a diverse range of Londoners from community groups and civil society organisations. The policies and actions described in the strategy incorporate the positives and address the barriers highlighted by this community engagement. The definition of social integration used in the strategy builds and expands on existing academic and civil society work on what social integration is, based on consultation with stakeholders.
- 4.5 Between July and December 2017, the GLA hosted a series of events and discussions with communities across London. The groups engaged included faith groups, young people, parents, older people, LGBT Londoners, EEA+ nationals (referring to the European Economic Area plus Switzerland), refugees and asylum seekers, and students. These engagement events provided important insights into Londoners'

experiences and their ideas on improving social integration and informed the strategy. In particular, they highlighted:

- the role of sport, volunteering, food, culture and family in bringing Londoners from diverse backgrounds together;
- the power of positive interactions to build connections and challenge negative assumptions, and the Mayor's role in creating the conditions in which such positive interactions can take place;
- barriers to social integration including inequalities in employment rate gaps and a shortage of affordable housing. There are also specific barriers for certain groups including digital exclusion and difficulty accessing support to learn English.

4.6 The London Strategic Migration Partnership (LSMP)¹ and Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP)² also helped advise on the development of policies and actions regarding the barriers to social integration facing migrant and refugee communities, which have been included in the strategy.

5. Financial comments

5.1 There are no direct financial implications to the GLA associated with the publication and launch of the Mayor's social integration strategy.

6. Legal comments

6.1 The strategy falls within the power in section 30 of the GLA Act 1999 as it furthers the promotion of social development in London. As it is a discretionary strategy it is not one the Mayor is required to prepare in accordance with the requirements of section 41 of the Act. In making this decision the Mayor is required to have due regard to the obligations arising under the public sector equality duty as set out in the Equality Comments in section 3 above.

6.2 The strategy includes work to promote political literacy and voter registration among young Londoners through new resources as part of the London Curriculum to be delivered in schools. Electoral law gives specific statutory responsibilities for voter registration and education about the elections to electoral registration officers (EROs) in the boroughs and the Electoral Commission. Section 31 prevents the GLA from incurring expenditure in directly providing educational services. However, promoting participation in the electoral process furthers social cohesion and promotes social improvement and the Act allows the Mayor to undertake activities, including those that involve GLA expenditure, that foster co-operation with, or facilitate or coordinate the activities of, such other bodies. The GLA's activities in this area must at all times be apolitical and not be perceived to be associated with the promotion of any political party or individual politician; they must also 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.

6.3 Before exercising his power under section 30 of the GLA Act 1999 in relation to the approval of the strategy, the Mayor is required to consider what consultation is appropriate. Section 4 (c) above sets out the steps that have been taken to consult in relation to the preparation of the strategy.

¹ The London Strategic Migration Partnership (LSMP) is funded through a Home Office grant. It brings together organisations to look at migration issues and how they impact on London and its migrant communities. LSMP's mandate covers the full range of migration in London – it makes sure that London remains internationally competitive and supports people to integrate.

² The GLA set up the Migrant and Refugee Advisory Panel (MRAP) to work with us, the LSMP and other organisations that provide services to communities. MRAP advises on the issues and challenges facing refugee and migrant communities in London.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Review of the strategy by the Mayor	6-8 March 2018
Strategy goes to print	9 March 2018
Mayoral launch of strategy	16 / 19 March 2018
Launch of new initiatives	May to July 2018
Evaluation (self & external)	Start: May 2018; Finish: March 2020

Appendices and supporting papers: The Mayor's social integration strategy – draft for approval

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:

Sarah Lyall, Social Integration Manager has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Jeff Jacobs, Head of Paid Service and Executive Director for Communities and Intelligence has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Nick Bowes, Mayoral Director for Policy 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 the 5 March 2018.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. D. Allen

Date

5.3.18

CHIEF OF STAFF:

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

Signature

D. Bellamy

Date

5/3/2018

