

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD2462

Title: City Operations Unit – IT Data Platform

Executive Summary:

The City Operations Unit delivers a situational awareness function, based on responses to developing issues or incidents that may impact on London or Londoners. To continue to deliver this first alert capability, access to a certain social media monitoring platform is required. The cost of ten licences for such access is anticipated to be £150,000.

Decision:

That the Executive Director of Strategy and Communications approves:

Expenditure of up to £150,000 for ten licences for access to a Social Media monitoring web platform.

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: Niran Mothada

Position: Director Strategy and Communications

Signature:



Date:

17/3/20

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor has an important, strategic role in leading and communicating on events that affect the life of Londoners in all respects - transport, social, health, business, security etc. This responsibility has been especially important when a major disruptive incident has occurred. In such circumstances, Londoners expect to hear from the leader of the city and it is critical that the Mayor has at his disposal the most accurate and current information to enable him to speak with authority and lead London in a crisis situation.
- 1.2 The City Operations Unit provides a situational awareness capability with the ability to identify, process, analyse and comprehend the critical elements of information about what is happening and turn this information into actionable intelligence.
- 1.3 As part of the core capabilities of the team, there is a need to access data platforms with the ability to analyse open-source data. City Operations procured these licences for the budget period 2019/2020 and there is now a requirement to renew this subscription for the year 2020/2021.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 Once purchased and renewed these licences will continue to form part of the day to day operational delivery outputs of the unit.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The GLA is aware of its duties under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 (it 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, sex, 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. The potential impacts have been assessed and reviewed and no adverse impact is expected on equalities issues or any people with relevant protected characteristics under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 No risks or issues have been identified.
- 4.2 This work of City operations is linked to the Mayor's responsibilities as a Category One responder as defined under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Executive Director's approval is sought for expenditure up to and including £150,000 for ten licences for access to a Social Media monitoring web platform. The cost of this is to be funded from London Situational Awareness Team's (LSAT) 2020-21 budget agreed as part of 2020-21 budget setting process.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLA Act), the Mayor has the power to do anything which it considers will further any one or more of the GLA's principal purposes. The principal purposes of the GLA are the purposes of (a) promoting economic development and wealth creation in Greater London; (b) promoting social development in Greater London, and (c) promoting the improvement of the environment in Greater London. Under section 34 of the GLA Act, the Mayor may do anything (including the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any functions of the GLA exercisable by the Mayor.
- 6.2. Under section 31 of the GLA Act, there are limitations on the section 30 power; the GLA must not incur expenditure in doing anything which may be done by Transport for London, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, or the London Fire Commissioner; nor must it incur expenditure in providing education, health or social services which may be provided by another public body. However, under section 31(6), this does not prevent the GLA incurring expenditure in co-operating with or facilitating or coordinating the activities of, the bodies mentioned (TfL, MOPAC, LFC, other public bodies).
- 6.3. If providing a situational awareness capability will further one of the GLA's principal purposes, or will facilitate or be conducive or incidental to, the exercise of functions by the Mayor to further one or more of those purposes, then such provision will be within the power under section 30 of the GLA Act, and there is no indication that it breaches the limitations under section 31 of the GLA Act.
- 6.4. The Mayor's role as a Category One responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 is referred to at section 4 of this paper.
- 6.5. The Mayor's public sector equality duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 is acknowledged in section 3 of this paper. On the basis of the information supplied, there is no reason to suppose that the purchase / renewal of data platform licences requires further consideration against that duty.
- 6.6. The officers must ensure that they comply with the requirements of the Authority's Contracts and Funding Code when they facilitate the Authorities procurement of the data platform licences.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Delivery Start Date	April 2020
Delivery End Date	March 2021

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? NO

If YES, for what reason:

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 – YES

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Dominic Beattie has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Niran Mothada 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

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 9 March 2020.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. J. Allen

Date

18 March 2020