

MDA No.: 1623

Title: Cost of Living Working Group Conference 2023

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 At the GLA Oversight Committee meeting on 19 July 2018 the Committee resolved:

“That authority be delegated to the Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee to approve, following consultation with the Deputy Chair of the GLA Oversight Committee and, where appropriate, the relevant Assembly Committee Chair (and any other member as deemed necessary), any non-routine expenditure in relation to the Assembly’s scrutiny functions, with the exception of expenditure for polling, which is subject to separate procedures, as outlined in the Assembly’s Decision-Making Framework.

- 1.2 Accordingly, the Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee is now asked, following consultation with other Assembly Members as detailed below, to approve expenditure of up to £6000 to meet costs associated with hosting a conference in relation to the work of the Assembly’s Cost of Living Working Group.

2. Decision

- 2.1 **That the Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee approves expenditure of up to £6000 for the purposes of hosting the Cost of Living Working Group conference 2023.**

Assembly Member

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:



Printed Name: EMMA BEST AM

Date: 2 October 2023

3. Decision by an Assembly Member under Delegated Authority

Background and proposed next steps:

- 3.1 The Cost of Living Working Group was re-established by the Assembly in May 2023. Its membership is: Len Duvall OBE AM, Lord Bailey of Paddington AM, Zack Polanski AM and Hina Bokhari AM. The Working Group aims to examine activities relating to the cost-of-living crisis and its impact on Londoners.
- 3.2 Through meetings and visits this year, the Group has heard from service users and providers, charities, and policy makers on the challenges the cost-of-living has brought to Londoners.
- 3.3 The Working Group has agreed to hold a conference as the major event in its work programme this year. The conference will be led by the Working Group and partner organisations the Policy Institute (King's College London), Citizens Advice London, Thrive LDN and Centre for London. Between 60-80 participants will be invited to hear presentations and discuss the impact of, and potential policy solutions for, the cost-of-living crisis in London.
- 3.4 The conference will be hosted at City Hall and the proposed date is Thursday 19 October 2023.
- 3.5 Approval is sought for the necessary expenditure on associated costs, as this is considered non-routine spend. Spend will cover standard conference costs such as catering, printing, and travel / stipend costs for participants as needed. There will be no payments for speakers.
- 3.6 The Assembly party Group Leaders have also been consulted on this proposed decision and have not raised objections.
- 3.7 The exercise of delegated authority will be formally reported to the GLA Oversight Committee at its next appropriate meeting.

Confirmation that appropriate delegated authority exists for this decision:

Signature (Committee Services): N.Kemp

Printed Name: Nikoleta Kemp

Date: 31 May 2024

Financial Implications:

The cost of the event was up to £6,000. There was sufficient budget within the Scrutiny non-staffing budget in 2023-24 to meet the cost of this event.

Signature (Finance):



Printed Name: Leo Pellicci, Finance Business Partner

Date: 3 June 2024

Legal Implications:

The Chairman of the GLA Oversight Committee has the power to make the decision set out in this report.

Signature (Legal):



Printed Name: Rory McKenna, Monitoring Officer

Date: 3 June 2024

Email: rory.mckenna@london.gov.uk

Supporting Detail / List of Consultees:

- Len Duvall AM
- Caroline Russell AM
- Caroline Pidgeon AM MBE
- Neil Garratt AM

4. Public Access to Information

- 4.1 Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the FoIA, or the EIR and will be made available on the GLA Website, usually within one working day of approval.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 **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?

Part 2 – Sensitive Information:

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA or EIR should be included in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form? NO

Lead Officer / Author

Signature:



Printed Name: Zoe Oliver-Watts

Job Title: Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Investigations

Date: 8 September 2023

Countersigned by Executive Director:

Signature:



Printed Name: Helen Ewen

Date: 3 June 2024