

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2077

Title: Fuel Poverty in London: Research and Policy Report

Executive Summary:

The Mayor in his election manifesto committed to 'Lead on work to cut energy bills for Londoners by promoting the roll out of smart meters and exploring the business case for potential savings on bills by bulk-buying energy'. The Mayor also committed in Mayor's Question Time in October 2016 to produce a fuel poverty action plan.

Approval is sought to procure a consultant to develop a comprehensive understanding of the state of fuel poverty in London, current fuel poverty alleviation programmes, and options available for additional support at a pan-London scale.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Environment approves:

The expenditure of up to £49,000 on a consultant to develop a comprehensive understanding of the state of fuel poverty in London, current fuel poverty alleviation programmes, and options available for additional support at a pan-London scale.

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: Patrick Feehily

Position: Assistant Director of Environment

Signature:



Date:

1-2-2017

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor in his election manifesto committed to ‘Lead on work to cut energy bills for Londoners by promoting the roll out of smart meters and exploring the business case for potential savings on bills by bulk-buying energy’. The Mayor also committed in Mayor’s Question Time in October 2016 to produce a fuel poverty action plan.
- 1.2 The fuel poverty action plan will be one of many outputs of the Energy for Londoners programme, an umbrella programme for all of the Mayor’s activities on energy efficiency, fuel poverty, low carbon energy generation and climate change mitigation. The fuel poverty action plan will set out what is currently happening in London on fuel poverty alleviation, what more needs to happen and who is best placed to undertake the actions. The action plan will also set out what the Mayor, GLA and GLA family will do to alleviate fuel poverty directly.
- 1.3 In order to develop the fuel poverty action plan a comprehensive understanding of the state of fuel poverty in London, current fuel poverty alleviation programmes and options available for additional support at a pan-London scale needs to be undertaken.
- 1.4 Approval is sought to procure specialist consultants to undertake a Research and Policy Report on Fuel Poverty in London in line with the GLA’s Contracts Code.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The primary objectives of the project are to:
- provide a detailed assessment of fuel poverty in London
 - identify and assess the fuel poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in London
 - make policy and delivery recommendations in order to inform the development of the Fuel Poverty Action Plan
- 2.2 Specifically the project will provide:
- A comprehensive analysis of the state of fuel poverty in London, identifying any trends or specific areas support programmes should address as a priority
 - An inventory of the fuel poverty alleviation programmes currently supporting Londoners, including those run by boroughs, charities and other organisations
 - An assessment of the funding available to support fuel poverty alleviation, particularly through the provision of household energy efficiency improvements
 - An understanding of the potential of benefits entitlement checks and energy company/tariff switching to improve fuel poverty levels, including the fuel poverty gap
 - Recommendations on how the GLA can contribute to fuel poverty alleviation support, adding value without duplicating the efforts of those currently running programmes
 - Recommendations of policy changes that could improve fuel poverty levels in London
 - Recommendations of how current and planned GLA energy delivery programmes could better support action to alleviate fuel poverty
 - Recommendations on any other actions the GLA could take

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 The proposal is in accordance with the Greater London Authority's Equalities Framework in relation to this procurement. Consultants will be asked to demonstrate how they comply with the Mayor's Equality and Diversity Policy Statement and related documents.
- 3.2 The Energy for Londoners programme and the fuel poverty action plan has equality at its core and the successful bidder will be required to assess each of the options against a number of equality indicators

4. Other considerations

a) *Key risks*

- 4.1 No-one tenders for the project
- 4.2 The project does not capture a true reflection of the state of London's fuel poverty situation
- 4.3 The actions required to tackle fuel poverty are not in the gift of the Mayor and the GLA family

b) *Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities*

- 4.2 The Mayor, in his manifesto, committed to the establishment of a not-for-profit company, Energy for Londoners, to offer fairer and more affordable energy bills for Londoners and to increase the generation of low carbon energy.
- 4.3 The developing Mayor's Environment Strategy will reflect the manifesto pledge and the outcome of the fuel poverty action plan.

c) *Impact assessments and consultations*

- 4.4 The recommendations of this report and the fuel poverty action plan will be consulted on with stakeholders, including boroughs in spring 2017.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought for expenditure of up to £49,000 to commission a specialist consultant to research and produce a report on fuel poverty in London. The cost will be funded from the Environment Programme Budget 2016-17.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Tender issued	w/c 30 January 2017
Deadline for bids	13 February 2017
Bidder clarification meetings (if required)	w/c 13 February 2017
Bidders informed of procurement decision	w/c 13 February 2017
Contract awarded	w/c 20 February 2017
Inception meeting	w/c 20 February 2017
Interim (report) milestone 1:	20 March 2017
Presentation of interim report to internal audience	w/c 20 March 2017
Final report milestone 2:	31 March 2017

Appendices and supporting papers: None.

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:

Andrew Richmond has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and –if relevant- Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

Corporate Investment Board:

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed this proposal on 30 January 2017.

HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature:



Date:

31.01.17