

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2302

Title: Research and consultancy to support the development of an outcomes-based funding approach for the Adult Education Budget

Executive Summary:

In the Skills for Londoners Strategy, the Mayor set out his plan to take a more strategic approach to commissioning the Adult Education Budget (AEB) following delegation of certain AEB functions to London in 2019/20. This will include ensuring that funding is targeted to better meet need through shifting the AEB to focus more closely on learner outcomes.

To support the development of an outcome-based commissioning model, City Hall will now procure external research and consultancy support to develop and test an initial set of outcomes measures.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Skills & Employment approves:

Expenditure of up to £50,000 on research and consultancy to support the development an outcomes-based approach to investing the AEB across London.

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: Michelle Cuomo Boorer

Position: Assistant Director – Skills & Employment

Signature:



Date:

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03.

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 In the Skills for Londoners Strategy, the Mayor set his plan to take a more strategic approach to commissioning the AEB following the delegation of certain AEB functions and funding to London in 2019/20, ensuring that funding is targeted to better meet need.
- 1.2 This included a commitment to move incrementally, and over time, towards outcome-based commissioning. This will ensure that funding is focused on effective skills provision in London that supports adults to gain the relevant skills they need to enter in to and progress in employment, as well as wider social outcomes. Further detail on the options being considered to take this work forward was set out in the Skills for Londoners Framework
- 1.3 City Hall is now beginning work to develop an approach to outcome-based commissioning in London. We have established an Outcomes for Londoners Advisory Group as a subordinate body of the Skills for Londoners Board that comprises sector stakeholders and relevant experts to guide this work.
- 1.4 To support the development of the approach to outcome-based commissioning City Hall will now appoint, through a competitive procurement exercise, a suitably qualified organisation to provide research and consultancy support.
- 1.5 Although related to the AEB, the Mayor does not need to directly take this decision as this activity is funded by the GLA and does not directly relate to implementing the AEB into the GLA, or to allocations to providers.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The organisation appointed will develop an outcomes framework for London's AEB. The outcomes contained within the framework must be robust, validated and tested; and not too onerous to collect. It is expected that for some outcome areas, particularly for social outcomes, new outcome measures may need to be developed, trialled and evaluated.
- 2.2 Indicative deliverables for this include:
 - Delivery of a series of stakeholder consultation workshops to gather sector perspectives to inform design of the approach;
 - Development of a list of potential outcome measures and metrics – including an interim report setting out findings and recommendations for consideration by the Outcomes for Londoners Advisory Group;
 - Further development, design and verification of the selected outcome measures – which must include testing the measures with a small group of adult education providers; and
 - Delivery of a final list of validated outcome measures, which will then to be piloted more widely across the provider base.
- 2.3 A maximum of £50,000 is available for this work.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 This project will give due regard to diversity and inclusion with a focus on considering social as well as economic outcomes for Londoners. Social outcomes will be especially relevant to people who may be disadvantaged and therefore for whom employment is not a realistic or immediate outcome. This may include people with learning difficulties or disabilities, where English is not the first language, older people or people with very low skills. This outcomes work aims to ensure that the impact of learning is recognised for all Londoners who access provision funded by the delegated AEB.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 This project takes forward one of the key priorities for reform set out in the Mayor's Skills for Londoners Strategy.
- 4.2 The procurement will be critical to development of City Hall's approach to transitioning the circa. £311m AEB to an outcome-based commissioning model. It allows us to draw upon expert technical advice and support that will reduce the risks associated with moving the AEB to an outcome-based funding model.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 The cost of up to £50,000 for this proposal will be funded from the Skills Strategy budget held within the Skills & Employment Unit for 2018-19.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

| Activity | Timeline |
|---|----------------------|
| Development of specification for stage 1 research | Nov-Dec 18 |
| Publish specification for stage 1 research | Jan 2019 |
| Stage 1 research delivery start date | Mar 2019 |
| Interim report to Outcomes Advisory Group | May 2019 |
| Presentation to SfL Board | Jun/Jul 2019 |
| Testing of developed measures with sub-set of AEB providers | July – December 2019 |

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? YES

If YES, for what reason:

To ensure GLA is able to get value for money in forthcoming procurement.

Until what date: 31 March 2019

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:

Joel Mullan has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 3 December 2018.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature



Date 03/12/2018

ANDREW LOW ON BEHALF OF TOM MIDDLETON