

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2331

**Title: Immigration White Paper - consultation and engagement**

### Executive Summary:

The Social Integration Team seeks approval to spend £32,000 to support a programme of consultation with expert stakeholders across sectors at a crucial stage of national immigration policy change. The next 12 months provide a unique opportunity for the GLA to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to collect more comprehensive and detailed evidence on the impacts of immigration policy and the Mayor's response to this crucial area of Social Integration policy.

The funding will provide for a consultant to work with teams across the GLA to map and prioritise the wide range of issues and questions that stakeholders are raising, exploring cross-cutting policy issues related to the proposals in the Immigration White Paper, proactively engage with a wide range of stakeholders, and produce a report to inform the Mayor's position.

### Decision:

That the Assistant Director for Communities and Intelligence approves:

Expenditure of £32,000 on consultancy services to support a programme of consultation with expert stakeholders across sectors on immigration policy.

### AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

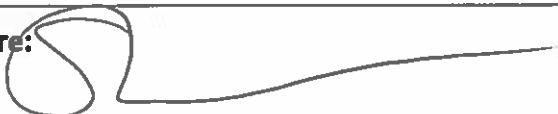
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

**Name:** Julia Slay

**Position:** (Assistant Director,  
Communities & Social Policy)

**Signature:**



**Date:**

28/2/19.

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The Government has published an Immigration White Paper<sup>1</sup> outlining its future approach to immigration after the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, the currently planned end to the transition period as the UK prepares to leave the EU. This is the single largest change to immigration policy since the adoption of freedom of movement in the EU. A year of 'extensive engagement' will now follow before Immigration Rules are published. The White Paper notes that this engagement is a 'vital avenue through which to explore and consider the social and economic needs of all parts of the UK.'
- 1.2 The Home Affairs Committee has criticised the Government for making "no attempt ... to build consensus, nor to consult with the public about the decisions that must be made and the trade-offs our country faces". The next 12 months provide a unique opportunity for the GLA to engage with a wide range of stakeholders to collect more comprehensive and detailed evidence on the impacts of immigration policy.
- 1.3 The GLA has already worked closely with businesses to respond to the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) investigation of Brexit's impact on the UK labour market. The Social Integration Team support vulnerable migrants through the EU Londoners Hub, the London Strategic Migration Partnership and the Citizenship and Integration Initiative. Work is also underway within the Skills and Employment directorate to create a robust evidence base on the skills need for London.
- 1.4 However, a holistic organisational approach to this policy area would be valuable. A consultant could fill gaps in capacity and immigration expertise in some teams, ensure consistency of engagement with stakeholders, explore cross-cutting issues such as exploitation and social integration which might otherwise be overlooked, and to effectively draw together these strands of work to ensure the work is representative. This work will enable the GLA to have a comprehensive evidence base on immigration, and to more effectively reflect the views of a wide range of stakeholders in the capital.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1 Consultant commissioned to provide capacity and expertise to the organisation engaging a wide range of stakeholders on immigration and integration policy. This consultant will:
  - Coordinate and manage a programme of consultation with expert stakeholders across sectors, using existing forums wherever possible and working with/building on the existing expertise and stakeholder strategies in teams.
  - Explore cross cutting policy issues within team's existing engagement and evidence gathering
  - Create a report with detailed analysis of the evidence collected through the consultation, looking at the crossover between different sectors and identifying opportunities, challenges and priorities for London to inform the GLA's response to the Immigration White Paper
  - Support to develop proposals to engage more Londoners in policy conversations about Brexit and Immigration through deep community engagement
- 2.2 A comprehensive and cross cutting report on the impact of the Immigration White Paper proposals for London and Londoners
- 2.3 Extensive engagement with stakeholders and Londoners themselves on immigration and integration

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-future-skills-based-immigration-system>

### 3. Equality comments

- 3.1 This programme aims to highlight and explore the equality, integration and inclusion implications of the Immigration White Paper proposals, ensuring these issues are comprehensively explored in conversations with stakeholders.
- 3.2 In order to ensure the highest standards of equality, diversity and inclusion are upheld, the GLA will use outreach and engagement approaches to target activities at particular groups that are less able to engage or face greater barriers to engagement to enable them to participate, whilst ensuring that activities are open and accessible to all Londoners. The procurement process will make clear that contractors need to comply with the GLA's Equality duties.

### 4. Other considerations

#### a) 4.1 Key risks and issues

Risk	Mitigation measures	Current probability (1-4)	Current impact (1-4)	GLA Lead
Unable to commission consultant with the right expertise to lead this work	Broad engagement to encourage applications for the work from a range of experts. Proactive project management within the social integration team to ensure project meets needs of GLA	2	4	Social Integration Team
Work doesn't meet the needs of all GLA teams/conflicts with existing priorities and research	The consultant will provide regular progress reports to senior officers within the GLA, and will proactively work in partnership with team's existing expertise and research priorities	3	3	Social Integration Team
Policy related to Brexit could change quickly, depending on the outcome of negotiations	Consultant will be commissioned with a flexible contract so that work could change focus if necessary.	3	2	Social Integration Team

#### b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.1 This work forms part of the Mayor's Social Integration Strategy, to remove barriers to integration relating to ability to access legal rights to citizenship and residence.

#### c) Impact assessments and consultations.

- 4.2 This work relates to a desire to consult more closely with stakeholders and with Londoners to understand the impact of the proposals in the Immigration White Paper.

### 5. Financial comments

- 5.1 The expenditure of up to £32,000, will be funded from the 2018-19 Social Integration budget held within the Communities and Social Policy Unit.

## 6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
1	Competitive procurement exercise	w/c 25 Feb 2019
2	Appointment of consultant	w/c 25 March
3	Commence detailed scoping work across the GLA's immigration policy and expertise	April 2019
4	Commence gap analysis in stakeholder engagement, develop relationships and organise roundtables to promote those conversations	April 2019
5	Commence community engagement activities with Londoners and make further recommendations for deeper engagement	May 2019
7	Produce interim report to inform the GLA's high level response to the Immigration White Paper proposals	August 2019
8	Final report with detailed positions on immigration policy	October 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 gain best value for money during the procurement process.

Until what date: w/c 25 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:**

Hannah Boylan 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 26 February 2019.

**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**

28.02.19

