

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2335

Title: London Approach to Welcome

Executive Summary:

This ADD seeks approval to spend £30,000 from the Social Integration budget (originally allocated under DD2240 to work on welcome) to commission research on the impact of enforcing the Government's hostile environment policies on London's public services. This reflects an increased need to build the evidence base on the impact of the Government's hostile environment policies following the Windrush complications and will inform plans to progress work to support Londoners with insecure status in 2019.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of the Communities and Social Policy Unit approves:

Spending £30,000 from the Social Integration budget on consultancy services to undertake, on behalf of the GLA, research on the impact of the Government's hostile environment policies on London's public services.

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:

KATHLEEN KELLY

Position: Assistant Director,
Communities and Social Policy

Signature:

k-kelly

Date:

18/3/19

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Social integration is a core priority for the Mayor. At its core is ensuring that Londoners can be active participants in their communities and the decisions that affect them, that Londoners can have shared experiences and build relationships across difference, and that we remove the barriers and inequalities that Londoners face that would prevent social integration.
- 1.2 The Government's hostile environment policies, in place since 2010, require employers, landlords, private sector workers, NHS staff and other public servants to check a person's immigration status before they can offer them a job, housing, healthcare or other support. Landlords and employers can face fines and even criminal sanctions if they fail to do so.
- 1.3 The Mayor has challenged the Government on the discriminatory impact of its hostile environment policies on a number of occasions and called for the hostile environment to be scrapped including calling for the profit element of immigration application fees to be scrapped for children and those who have lived in the UK for a long time (e.g. young people who have lived here for more than half their lives). He has also called for reform of the current fee waiver system so that it is more accessible to those who need it, for certainty to be introduced to any fee increases (where there is a justifiable business case for increases), and for immigration cases based on human rights to be brought back into scope for legal aid. These policies could have alleviated much of the damage caused to those affected by the Windrush scandal and could prevent other groups from being left in a similar position in the future.
- 1.4 An increased evidence base of the impact of the Government's hostile environment policies is important to support the Mayor's advocacy on behalf of Londoners, his work to promote social integration and in particular his work to support Londoners with insecure status and therefore a research project needs to be commissioned.
- 1.5 Public sector workers have a professional duty to deliver support in some capacity (e.g. providing healthcare, education, or local authority housing). This piece of work will examine the extent to which the hostile environment policies prevents public sector workers from providing this support indiscriminately to all Londoners. In addition, the research will explore if/how public services are able to continue to provide support to all who require it, whilst also operating within the confines of current immigration law.
- 1.6 The budget proposed for this is up to £30,000 from the DD2240.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 Research will involve interviews with a range of public sector professions who work to enforce or are impacted by hostile environment policies.
- 2.2 Key priority groups include:
 - NHS employees (mix of doctors, nurses, and receptionists);
 - Teachers (mix of teachers in primary schools);
 - Social workers (including those who work with migrant families/adults/children);
 - Local authority housing officers; and
 - Police officers.

2.3 The research will explore:

- The impact hostile environment policies are having on the delivery of public services;
- Whether front-line staff's professional and public duties are at odds with what they are asked to carry out under hostile environment policies;
- Whether front-line staff deny people services for fear of contravening hostile environment policies; and
- What good practice exists within the confines of the law.

2.4. The GLA wishes to commission 2CV Ltd from the Transport for London Market Research Framework to deliver this research. 2CV will be responsible for conducting fieldwork, using suitable methodology, and developing a report including key findings and recommendations for future research or policy developments. The agency will conduct a debrief in-person with the GLA.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The research will look particularly at whether some Londoners are losing out from their entitlements to public services because of the Government's hostile environment policies.
- 3.2. The research will explore whether the hostile environment promotes discrimination, acts as a barrier to equality of opportunity, fosters tensions and puts up barriers to connections between communities.
- 3.3. The GLA will ensure the commissioned agency complies with the Equality Act duties.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. Social integration is one of the Mayor's key priorities and this work relates directly to his Social Integration Strategy (Policy 3.4 supporting migrants and refugees: the Mayor will challenge barriers to integration facing migrant and refugee communities).
- 4.2. A risk with all qualitative research is that the commissioned agency is unable to recruit relevant research participants. This is considered a low risk as 2CV have experience recruiting similar participants and have a strong track-record working with the GLA. Participant recruitment will be monitored on a weekly basis and the GLA will be kept informed throughout.
- 4.3. 2CV are a Market Research Society accredited research agency, so that the work produced is considered impartial and of high quality. The GLA research team will ensure a timely delivery through continued contact with the commissioned agency and working to the below timeline. However, this project does not form part of a wider body of work, and is not needed for a specific deadline, therefore can be considered low-risk.
- 4.4. The GLA research team will work closely with 2CV to ensure materials are relevant and conducive to actionable recommendations. Where needed, the GLA research team will ask the Social Integration team for input, to ensure final outputs fully address their research needs.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The expenditure of up to £30,000 will be funded from the 2018-19 Social Integration Programme budget held with the Communities and Social Policy Unit.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract	March 2019
Announcement	March 2019
Delivery Start Date	March 2019
Research and fieldwork	April – June 2019
Delivery End Date	June 2019
Project Closure:	July 2019

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 - NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer: Bella Kosmala

Bella Kosmala has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

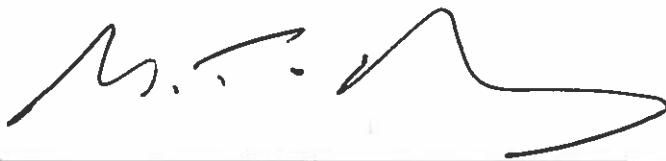
Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 18 March 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

19.03.19

