

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD199

Title: Expenditure by the Sustainable Development team for 2014/15.

Executive Summary:

This request is seeking approval to the expenditure of up to £47,000 by the Sustainable Development team within the GLA for 2014/15, which will support the delivery of several on-going and approved programmes including support for the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC), the London Leaders programme and the mainstreaming of Sustainable Development activities within the GLA.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director approves the expenditure of up to £47,000 by the Sustainable Development Team within the GLA, to deliver the activity set out in this ADD, including the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC), the London Leaders programme and the mainstreaming of Sustainable Development activities within the GLA.

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: Amanda Coyle

Position: Assistant Director, Health and Communities

Signature:

Date: 23 May 2014

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

This ADD is looking to agree a support programme budget of £47K for Sustainable Development (SD) engagement activity in 2014/15.

LSDC - £17K

The London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) is made up of a range of commissioners from public, private and third sector who provide advice on sustainability and operate in an unpaid capacity. They lead on a range of work including the well regarded London Leaders programme and new elements of work focussing on helping London achieve the economic benefits associated with sustainable development.

The new focus on jobs and growth results from a prioritisation process, with has involved discussion and agreement with the Mayor's Senior Advisor (Environment and Energy).

London Leaders Programme - £25K

The purpose of the London Leaders programme is to demonstrate and support the innovation that can tackle the sustainability challenges inherent in global cities such as London.

There are currently 12 leaders for 2013/14 tackling a range of issues. The London Leaders have a particular (although not exclusive) focus on innovation, green entrepreneurialism, resource efficiency and on projects that will help to boost London's economy whilst supporting the principles of sustainable development.

The 2013/14 projects supported include London's first underground farm in disused TFL tunnel space (using LED lighting and hydroponic technology), commercial scale production of biofuel from waste coffee grounds (supported as a former Mayor's Low Carbon Prize winner), and a short films competition for young people, run in association with the BFI. Outcomes for these projects include job creation (36 jobs in quarter 1), increasing volunteering (106 volunteers in quarter 1) – contributing directly to Team London targets, developing community cohesion, reducing environmental impacts such as reducing food and textile waste, improving energy efficiency, building and supporting green entrepreneurship and reducing CO2.

For 2013/14 the LSDC was successful in securing external in-kind support for the London Leaders programme which includes training, mentoring, and developing media and Innovation partnerships of approx. £30K. The team will be looking to secure a similar amount of in-kind support for 2014/15. This in-kind supports ensures that the London Leaders programme can be delivered for £25K.

As part of providing on-going support for the LSDC there is a requirement for budget to support various events and the day to day activities of the Commission and London Leaders such as hosting the website and media support.

Under DD937 which approved a three rolling media contract until March 2015 (with an annual break clause) the LSDC wishes to continue with consultants to provide communications and media support for the LSDC and implement the media and publicity plan for the London Leaders programme.

Budget is needed to cover the £10K annual cost for media support as approved by DD937. This is well below the market rate and the consultants have been appointed on a three year basis with an annual break clause.

£5K GLA Mainstreaming activity

Following the 2012 Games there is a growing requirement for major events in London to conform to the international sustainability standard ISO20121. The SD team ensured that City Operations successfully complied with the relevant standard for the Games and is now leading on capacity building work to ensure that this is mainstreamed within the events team - supporting bids for e.g. the Euro 2020 final. The £5K will lead to independent certification of relevant GLA events. It will pay for an external auditor to provide independent accreditation, to ISO20121 of our events. We are currently scoping out which events it will cover.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

LSDC

The following ongoing programmes have been prioritised to continue into 2014/15:

- Green Entrepreneurs (GE) – This work stream has been driven from evidence, which shows that green growth has been good for London during the recession. The project aims to demonstrate how we drive the jobs and growth agenda for London focusing on GE. The work will involve taking forward recommendations from a scoping exercise with key stakeholders such as the LEP on how GE can help drive jobs growth in the low carbon sector. An event to publish the recommendations report is planned for Q1 and will in seek to influence key stakeholders and current thinking in this area.
- Closed Loop - Secondary Materials Economy for London – This project would explore the potential to develop a secondary materials economy in London and will focus on resources, rather than waste – and make the link to London’s strengths such as design. The LSDC as part of this work stream will be advising the GLA on its own research on recycle streams in the UK and their potential, and will be developing detailed comparative research with boroughs on their waste streams.
- London Leaders – refocused to support green entrepreneurship and social action.

Additional external funding will be sought to supplement GLA funds for each LSDC project in 2014/15 through a programme of sponsorship and partnership working.

London Leaders

- In 2014/15 the LSDC wishes to continue to deliver the London Leaders programme for its 7th year. This will involve the continuation of the programme for the current cohort of London Leaders until October 2014.
- Recruitment and launch of the 2014/2015 cohort with a continued focus on green entrepreneurs and innovation.
- Programme delivery and leadership training for the London Leaders to deliver on their project commitments.
- To continue to develop the London Leader Alumni Network for the previous 6 years of London Leaders to further raise the profile of projects and help mainstream their innovative ideas.

GLA Mainstreaming activity

- To take forward the Sustainable Management approach (ISO20121) adopted during the Olympic and Paralympic Games with the Events and Facilities team. Budget is required for the purchase of the standard and auditing services.

3. Other considerations

- a) Key Risks and issues

London Leaders – failure to receive funding would mean that Leaders would not be provided with the in kind or media support that was part of the agreement and attraction of the programme.

LSDC– Failure to secure the funding would result in a failure to support the LSDC and engage with key stakeholders on issues affecting the quality of life in London. This would ultimately impact on delivery.

b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

The LSDC and the London Leaders programme support the delivery of the Mayor’s statutory duty on sustainable development. As such they also link into the majority of the Mayors priorities, strategies and the corporate plan.

c) Impact assessments and Consultation

There is no specific requirement for impact assessment or consultation, although the London Leaders were recruited following an open recruitment process and the LSDC events will support consultation with key stakeholders from across London.

4. Financial comments

Approval is being sought for expenditure of up to £47,000 by the Sustainable Development Team to support the delivery of the London Leaders Programme, GLA mainstreaming activity and supporting the LSDC in the 2014-15 financial-year (as detailed within the main body of this report). A breakdown of the proposed expenditure is detailed below:

Expenditure	£000
London Leaders Programme	25
Support for the LSDC	17
GLA Mainstreaming Activity	5
Total	47

The proposed £47,000 budget requirement for this programme will be funded by a virement from the Centralised Programme budget to the Sustainable Development budget in 2014-15.

It should be noted that additional external funds will be sought to supplement the GLA funds via sponsorship and partnership working. The receipt of additional income and the associated expenditure will be subject to further approval.

Any changes to this proposal, including budgetary implications will be subject to further approval via the Authority’s decision-making process. All appropriate budget virements and adjustments relating this proposal will be made.

The Sustainable Development Team within the Health & Communities Unit will be responsible for managing this programme of work and ensuring that all activities and proposed expenditure complies with the Authority’s Financial Regulations, Expenses & Benefits Framework, Contracts & Funding Code and Funding Agreement Toolkit.

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

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 to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Nusrat Yousuf has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance team have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE:

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

Signature:

Date: