

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

Request for Greater London Returning Officer (GLRO) Decision – GLRO16-22

Title: Maximum Recoverable Amount payments to Boroughs for the 2016 London Mayoral and Assembly Elections.

Executive Summary:

The Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections will take place on Thursday 5th May 2016.

The Constituencies are hosting the Elections on behalf of the GLA, with all actual and necessary costs of running the election met by the GLA.

Decision:

That the GLRO approves expenditure of £9,785,364 on the 1 April 2016 to the 14 Lead Boroughs as an initial payment to fund the costs of hosting the 2016 Mayor of London and London Assembly Elections

Greater London Returning Officer

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date 16.3.16

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The elections for the Mayor of London and the London Assembly (14 constituency members and 11 London-wide members) will take place in May 2016. There are 14 Assembly constituencies in London, each comprising multiple London boroughs, with a lead borough in each constituency. The poll will be held on the 5th May. The ballot papers from each borough are subsequently transported to one of three Count Centres, where all votes are counted. Once the votes have been counted, the results of the constituency elections are declared by the respective constituency returning officer. Once further calculations have been made, the results of the Mayoral and London-wide Assembly member elections are announced at City Hall.
- 1.2. The actual and necessary costs of running the election in each Constituency are reimbursed by the GLA.
- 1.3. The GLA provides 90% of a calculated Maximum Recoverable (an amount made available to Constituency Returning Officers to deliver the GLA elections) during April 2016, before the Election. The allocation for each borough can be found at Appendix 1.
- 1.4. To reclaim the remaining costs incurred, each borough will submit a return recording any expenditure in relation to the Election. Once the borough's claims are verified, settlement payments will be made to lead boroughs.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The objective of this decision is to provide the Boroughs with the funds required to host the London Mayoral and Assembly Elections and reimburse any necessary costs incurred. All claims are planned to be settled within the 2016/17 financial year.

3. Other considerations

a) Key risks and issues

- 3.1 The key risk in regard to this decision is that the necessary costs incurred in running the Election exceed the resources available. This will be mitigated by undertaking a thorough review of the expenditure claim forms submitted by the boroughs to ensure that only actual and necessary costs are reimbursed. The GLA also holds an Elections Reserve to fund costs incurred greater than the allocated budget.

b) Impact assessments and consultations.

- 3.2 The GLA consulted with the London Boroughs and requested estimated expenditure plans when calculating the Maximum Recoverable Amount. The GLA has communicated the funding allocated to each Constituency Returning Officer.

4 Equality comments

- 4.1 There are no adverse equality implications as this decision contains no proposed changes to new or existing services, policies or strategies.

5 Financial comments

- 5.1 The costs of funding the Boroughs to host the 2016 London Mayoral and Assembly Elections will be contained within the 2016/17 Election budget. In the event that expenditure exceeds the budget provision, additional costs will be funded from the Elections Reserve.
- 5.2 The payments will be made in two stages. The first stage payment of £9,785,364 is 90% of the total calculated Maximum Recoverable Amount. The second stage payment will be the remaining balance once the GLA has settled claims from the Boroughs post-election and will be subject to further approval.

6 Legal comments

- 6.1 Under section 36(4B) of the *Representation of the People Act 1983*, "All expenditure properly incurred by a returning officer in relation to the holding of an Authority election shall, in so far as it does not, in cases where there is a scale fixed for the purposes of this section by the Greater London Authority, exceed that scale, be paid by the Greater London Authority."
- 6.2 It appears that the GLRO is, by the measures described above, making provision to make payment for such expenditure.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Delivery Start Date [if applicable]	01/04/2016
Final evaluation start and finish (self) [delete as applicable]:	31/03/2017

Appendices and supporting papers: None

Public access to information

Although the GLRO is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act), the information in this form will be published 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 will be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods will 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 whose publication may be prejudicial or commercially sensitive 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:

Donovan Bradley has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

The Deputy GLRO has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and can be referred to the GLRO for approval

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. D. Alce

Date

16.3.16

Appendix 1 - 2016 London Mayor and Assembly Elections MRA Initial Payments

Constituency	Borough	Total MRA £'s	Initial Payment of 90% £'s
Barnet & Camden	Barnet	507,500	456,750
	Camden	289,885	260,897
Bexley & Bromley	Bromley	499,549	449,594
	Bexley	365,596	329,036
Brent & Harrow	Brent	364,211	327,790
	Harrow	368,924	332,032
City & East	Newham	334,598	301,139
	Barking & Dagenham	195,572	176,014
	City	23,886	21,497
	Tower Hamlets	321,421	289,279
Croydon & Sutton	Croydon	438,100	394,290
	Sutton	264,837	238,353
Ealing & Hillingdon	Ealing	568,613	511,752
	Hillingdon	317,460	285,714
Enfield & Haringey	Enfield	385,670	347,103
	Haringey	316,573	284,916
Greenwich & Lewisham	Lewisham	367,618	330,856
	Greenwich	333,466	300,120
Havering & Redbridge	Havering	302,729	272,456
	Redbridge	324,991	292,491
Lambeth & Southwark	Lambeth	345,448	310,903
	Southwark	304,556	274,101
Merton & Wandsworth	Wandsworth	464,703	418,233
	Merton	288,516	259,664
North East	Waltham Forest	381,013	342,912
	Hackney	289,377	260,439
	Islington	240,265	216,239
South West	Hounslow	376,788	339,109
	Kingston	237,134	213,420
	Richmond	275,773	248,195
West Central	Westminster	315,660	284,094
	Hammersmith & Fulham	267,738	240,964
	Kensington & Chelsea	194,458	175,012
	Total	10,872,627	9,785,364

