

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD212

Title: Immigration, Asylum and Integration Post

Executive Summary:

Approval is sought for the funding of a temporary Grade 10 post on immigration, asylum and integration in the Diversity and Social Policy team for the period August 2014 to end of March 2015 at a cost of £42K, to be funded from the central programme budget. This approval only covers the budget, and approval of the post itself will be done through the usual processes.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Health & Communities approves the funding of a temporary Grade 10 post on Immigration, Asylum and Integration in the Diversity and Social Policy Team for the period August 2014 to end of March 2015 at a cost of £42K, to be funded from the central programme budget.

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
Communities and Intelligence**

Signature:

Date: 22 July 2014

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

The proposed new role will:

- lead delivery of the Mayor's Integration Strategy, top priority of which is the GLA's strategic work on English Language provision in London
- develop and deliver a strategic engagement programme to secure future funding for the London Strategic Migration Partnership (LSMP)
- lead on engagement with strategic partners on asylum policy in London.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

The top priority workstream of the Mayor's Integration Strategy is English Language, recognising that lack of English is the biggest barrier to migrants and refugees being able to integrate well into mainstream society and to their finding and retaining work.

Demand far exceeds supply of ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) in London; provision remains patchy and uncoordinated; standard ESOL courses are notoriously ineffective in giving people adequate levels of English. Since 2011 the GLA has been undertaking strategic research into English Language, pursuing policy asks with Government, bringing partners together to achieve a more co-ordinated approach and pursuing avenues for additional resources. The GLA and LSMP are now recognised as the strategic leader across London for all partners in this field, and by Government.

Expected outcomes of this post are:

- Future funding strategy for LSMP agreed with the Home Office
- Better co-ordinated and more strategic approach to ESOL provision pan-London
- Improved provision of services for Asylum-Seekers in London

3. Equality comments

GLA research has shown that the groups most disadvantaged by recent changes in ESOL funding are women with young children, vulnerable migrant workers in low paid, low skilled employment, and asylum-seekers. Creation of this post will allow the GLA to pursue strategies designed to have a positive impact on these disadvantaged groups.

4. Other considerations

This post will drive forward the Mayor's Integration Strategy: London Enriched

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought for the funding of a temporary Grade 10 post on Immigration, Asylum and Integration in the Diversity and Social Policy Team for the period August 2014 to end of March 2015.
- 5.2 For the 8 month period of the post until the end of March 2015, costs equate to £42,000 (inclusive of on-costs), which will be funded via a virement from the Central Programme budget for 2014-15.
- 5.3 Given that the post is to be recruited on a fixed term contract basis, the GLA may become liable for redundancy and / or pension capital costs if the appointee has on-going continuous service from a local authority or equivalent body. Such costs cannot yet be quantified but will be contained within existing budget provision allocated to the Health & communities Unit and if applicable will be

subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process. All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.

- 5.4 The post-holder will be located within the Health & Communities Unit (Communities & Intelligence Directorate).

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Set out how the project will be delivered and complete the outline timetable

Activity	Timeline
Recruitment to post	August 2014

Appendices and supporting papers:

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**

If YES, for what reason:

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:

Terry Day has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance team has 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:

21 July 2014