

Chief Officer's introduction: GLA Q2 2021-22 Performance and Finance Pack

Members of the Budget & Performance Committee,

I attach the GLA Q2 performance and finance pack. This comes to Assembly Members just three days after the submission of the draft GLA: Mayor budget 2022-23 to the Budget & Performance Committee. I want to take the opportunity to point out again that the draft budget does not include the Q2 positions set out in this pack, given the timing. However, Q3 figures will be included in the final version of the GLA: Mayor 2022-23 budget when it is published in March.

In my Q1 cover note, I explained that the Q1 dashboards were not the finished product and that they would evolve over the year. Members will see further evolution in this Q2 pack. We now have dashboards for all missions and foundations (other than the Recovery Programme Support foundation which comprises just the cost of the co-ordinating team); we have also added in some new Performance Indicators and Actions to the majority of dashboards. There will be more additions at Q3.

We have also added year to date spend, mapped against Q2 budget, for all missions and foundations. This reveals that several teams have a significant amount of their annual budget to spend in the last half of the year and reinforces, again, the need for us to improve the profiling of our budget at team level. I have commissioned work to ensure that a renewed effort is made to profile expected spend by team across the financial year more accurately in the final GLA: Mayor 2022-23.

Summarising the content of this pack, you have:

- **Performance dashboards – missions and foundations (Appendix 1)**

Dashboards covering the GLA's contribution to all the recovery missions are attached. Progress across the two health missions – Mental Health and Wellbeing, and Healthy Place, Healthy Weight (renamed from Healthy Food, Healthy Weight) – are covered in one dashboard, alongside the Public Health and Health & Care Partnership foundation.

The Adult Education Budget (AEB), which supports several missions, continues to be reported separately because of its alignment with the academic rather than the financial year, the lag times built into the data, and the statutory reporting requirements.

There is a new dashboard this quarter which covers the closely-linked Engaging Londoners and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion foundations together. This means that, with the exception of the Recovery Programme Support foundation referred to above, you now have a complete set of foundation dashboards.

You will notice that 'capacity' is rated as amber on the majority of dashboards. In some cases, this is due to the recruitment delay we have experienced recently. Members will see from the HR performance report in Appendix 2 that this situation has now much improved. Although the performance indicator remains red, posts are now being advertised on average 11 days after being approved – just one day short of the corporate target. In other cases, the amber rating reflects increases in workload, such as that created when GLA teams supported partners to meet the needs of people evacuated from Afghanistan. In the case of the dashboard covering our work in health, capacity is rated red. This reflects the fact that

substantial capacity is still needed to support the GLA's response to COVID-19 – beyond that available in the newly-structured health team. We are considering again the resource needed in this team.

- **Performance report – core activity (Appendix 2)**

Our core dashboard continues to report performance against important corporate health metrics across our FM, TG, HR and statutory planning functions; as well as reflecting on the delivery of priorities and challenges such as developing shared services, our relocation to the Royal Docks and transforming our digital estate.

We continue to keep under review how best to monitor the range of activities funded from our 'core' budget. We have, for example, added three new deliverables to the External Relations' section this quarter to better track the work of that team.

- **Finance report (Appendix 3)**

As at Q1, the finance report complements the high-level financial information in the dashboards, providing more detail and also showing spend against our directorate and unit structure.

The report shows that, at this mid-point, we anticipate a revenue underspend of £13.8m, just under two per cent of our total revenue expenditure budget of £759m. This forecast underspend is largely explained by: additional interest receipts due to higher than anticipated cash balances; faster than expected implementation of our new investment strategy; and a reprofiling of £3.3m AEB funding. Capital programme spend is currently projected to be 0.6 per cent higher than we budgeted for this year.

- **Dashboard guide (Appendix 4)**

A guide to reading the dashboards (for example, explanations of charts, traffic light criteria and so forth).

As ever, I am happy to answer any questions arising from this pack.

Mary Harpley
Chief Officer