

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2744

Title: WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities (ULEZ and Air Quality improvements)

Executive Summary:

This MD seeks approval for the Greater London Authority to receive prize money from the WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities. The GLA have been selected as a finalist for the WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities and the winner will be announced in February 2021. The Prize for Cities awards US \$250,000 (approx. £185,000) to the winner and US \$25,000 (approx. £18,500) each to finalists.

There are no direct costs arising from this recommendation. The GLA will receive this money and intends to spend it on an innovative project(s) tackling air pollution, climate change and environmental inequalities, which will be agreed by the Executive Director for Good Growth.

Decision:

That the Mayor authorises:

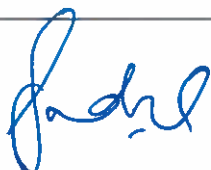
1. the receipt by the GLA of any WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities prize money up to a total of (US) \$250,000 (approx. £185,000);
2. that this funding be carried forward into 2021/22 within the GLA's air quality budget, where it will be used on a number of special air quality, climate change and/or environmental inequalities projects, which are currently being developed; and
3. that the approval of these projects and the use of the funding be delegated to the Executive Director for Good Growth.

Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

23/2/21

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities is the premier global award celebrating and spotlighting transformative urban change. The prize seeks to inspire urban change-makers across the globe by elevating trailblazing initiatives and telling impactful stories of sustainable urban transformation. The prize was open to Businesses, NGOs, community groups, local governments and collaborations of all types of organizations and individuals from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The Prize for Cities awards US \$250,000 (approx. £185,000) to one winner and US \$25,000 (approx. £18,500) each to four finalist runners-up.
- 1.2. The GLA entered the WRI Ross Centre Prize for Cities in Spring 2020 using the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and the evidence of the impact the ULEZ has had on air quality, climate change and inequalities in London. Transport for London was cited as a contributor to the project.
- 1.3. In November 2020 the GLA were notified that their entry was successful and the GLA had been selected as one of the five finalists for the Prize. As a finalist the GLA has won \$25,000 (approx. £18,500). The other finalists are DistrioTec (Mexico), Kibera Public Space Project (Kenya), Sustainable Food Production for a Resilient Rosario (Argentina) and Women's Action Towards Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor (India)
- 1.4. In February 2021 the WRI Ross Centre Prize for Cities will select the winner, who will receive \$250,000 (approx. £185,000) in total. This is not in addition to the finalist prize money. This will be announced to the public in April 2021.
- 1.5. The GLA intends to use the WRI Ross Centre prize money (either as a finalist or as the winner) towards an innovative air quality, climate change and/or environmental inequalities related project (or projects) that extend beyond business as usual activities. These projects are currently being developed for consideration by the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy and the Executive Director for Good Growth. The Executive Director for Good Growth will approve the allocation of the available funding to deliver these projects.
- 1.6. The air quality team intend to spend the money in financial year 2021/22 so approval for carry forward of the funding is required within the air quality budget (GE.0330.007.06).

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. This MD seeks the Mayor's approval for the GLA to receive prize money and for it to be used towards an innovation project focused on air quality, climate change and/or environmental inequalities improvements in London. The detail of the spending will be outlined in a future Director's Decision to be approved by the Executive Director for Good Growth.
- 2.2. Accepting the prize from the WRI Ross Centre will be beneficial for the GLA's reputation, demonstrating recognition of innovation and the success of the ULEZ policy.
- 2.3. The project objective will be focused around air quality, climate change and/or environmental inequalities in London. The objective will depend on the amount of money awarded.
- 2.4. The project scope the prize will be spent on will depend on the amount of money awarded.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the Mayor of London must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic¹ and those who do not.
- 3.2. The GLA has published an analysis on exposure to air pollution undertaken by Aether which shows that not only are there huge health impacts of pollution but the way these fall on the most vulnerable means that improving air quality is fundamentally about tackling social injustice.
- 3.3. The report considers pollution exposure in London in 2013 and considers how exposure varies by age, indicators of relative deprivation and ethnic groups in London. It also looks at total exposure (broken down by borough) and exposure at schools. Through the research described in this report, City Hall is seeking to understand inequalities in access to clean air in London and to consider how this will be improved by planned air pollution controls.
- 3.4. The research shows on average that the most deprived tenth of the population are exposed to concentrations of NO₂ which are 25 per cent higher than the least deprived tenth of the population. It is important to note that hidden within this you also have pockets of extreme wealth with very high levels of exposure, e.g. those living in Westminster or in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.
- 3.5. In terms of ethnicity, whereas there is a normal distribution of exposure for white people, the pattern shows increasing exposure in areas that have higher percentage of non-white ethnic groups, with a particularly skewed distribution for the Black/African/Caribbean/Black British population. A greater proportion of mixed, black and other ethnic groups are exposed to levels of pollution that exceed the NO₂ limit value than their proportion of the total population.
- 3.6. The money received from the WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities will be spent in a way that complements the Mayor's existing air quality programme, which will benefit all Londoners but particularly Londoners with the protected characteristics set out above.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The money received from the WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities will be spent on new innovative project(s) that will complement the Mayor's existing air quality programme. The money will be spent in way to reflect the objectives of the WRI Ross Center Prize, demonstrating innovation and addressing air quality, climate change and inequalities.
- 4.2. The money will be spent to support the delivery of:

Mayor's Transport Strategy Policy 4.2.4 – The Mayor will work with the government, the London boroughs and other partners to accelerate the achievement of legal limits in Greater London and improve air quality.

London Environment Strategy Policy 4.2 – Achieve legal compliance with UK and EU limits as soon as possible, including by mobilising action from London boroughs, government and other partners.

The Green New Deal – The Green New Deal aims to tackle some of London's defining environmental challenges, including the climate emergency and air quality, whilst creating jobs, developing skills and supporting a just transition to a low carbon circular economy.

¹ These are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation and in certain circumstances, marriage and civil partnership

London Environment Strategy: The 2017 London Environment Strategy commits to achieve the WHO recommended guideline limit for PM2.5 by 2030.

- 4.3. As this Mayoral Decision is seeking to accept prize money there are no new impacts to assess.
- 4.4. Delays in undertaking activities funded by prize money could have a negative reputational risk on the Mayor. The timeline and expected cost of the project will be reviewed before it commences. In addition, a risk register will be drawn up for the project to identify and monitor risks.
- 4.5. Accepting the Prize money from the World Resources Institution carries the risk associated with accepting money from a third party. The competition entry, and terms of the prize has been reviewed and signed by TfL Legal and no conflicts of interest were identified.
- 4.6. The officers involved in the drafting or clearance of this form do not have an interest to declare in accordance with the GLA's policy on registering interests which might, or might be seen to, conflict with this Mayoral Decision.
- 4.7. The Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues is on the WRI Ross Center of Sustainable Cities Advisory Board. This position has been declared within the Register of Interests. Shirley Rodrigues has no role in the decision making of the WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Approval is being sought for the receipt of income from the WRI Ross Center Prize for Cities – prize monies as noted above. As detailed within the main body of the report, the GLA has secured US \$25,000 (approximately £18,500) as finalist and if selected as winner would receive US \$250,000 (approximately £185,000). This prize money would be received in the 2020/21 financial year and accounted for within the environment programme budget, specifically the air quality budget.
- 5.2. Officers propose utilising the funds on an innovative fund tackling air pollution and depending on the final prize money awarded, the proposed expenditure will take place in the 2021/22 financial year. As a result, this income will be carried forward into 2021/22 as part of the Authority's closing of accounts process.
- 5.3. The projects that will make the proposed innovative funds tackling air pollution are still being developed and as a result project approval that will utilise this income are to be delegated to the Executive Director of Good Growth (for which approval is also being sought via this approval).

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. The proposal to receive the prize money for the purposes set out above is consistent with the Mayor's powers relating to social development and environmental improvement under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Development of proposals for using the prize funding linked to ongoing development of the Green New Deal Mission	Feb – August 2021
Announcement	April 2021
Director's Decision agreed outlining detailed spend of money	September 2021
Delivery of projects begins	October 2021

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

Until what date:

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:

Sarah Morris has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following: ✓

Sponsoring Director:

Philip Graham has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities. ✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Shirley Rodrigues has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations. ✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal. ✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 15 February 2021.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

D. Gove

Date

17 February 2021

CHIEF OF STAFF:

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor

Signature

D. Bellamy

Date

15 February 2021

