

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD 306

**Title: Payback London**

### Executive Summary of decision required:

- This MD seeks to authorise the creation of the Payback London Project across London, which would allow under-18s who abuse their free travel privilege to earn it back by participating in a day of volunteering that will benefit the local community.
- It seeks to authorise the competitive process to select a 'grantee organisation' to receive GLA funds for Payback London, totaling £1,000,000 over three years.
- Payback London will contribute to the social development of young Londoners by promoting a respect and appreciation of the value of their free travel privileges. It will also benefit London's volunteering organisations and improve Londoner's journey experience.

### Recommendation:

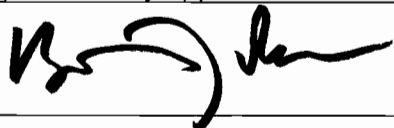
The Mayor's approval is sought to:

- (i) Authorise the provision of funding to allow the creation of the Payback London Project across London, which would allow under-18s who abuse their free travel privilege to earn it back by participating in a day of volunteering that will benefit the local community.
- (ii) Authorise the competitive process to select a 'grantee organisation' to receive funds for Payback London.
- (iii) Enter into a funding agreement with the grantee organization as recommended by the selection panel providing up to £1,000,000 in funds over three years (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12).
- (iv) To approve the transfer of funds from the Centralised Programme budget to the 'Pay Back' Project for each financial-year (where required).

### Mayor of London

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date

21/5/09

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

### Decision required – supporting report

#### 1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Mayor has made a commitment to introduce 'Payback London'. The project will create a mechanism to allow under-18s who abuse their free travel privilege to earn it back by participating in a day of volunteering that will benefit the local community and contribute to their own social and personal development.
- 1.2 By initiating Payback London the Mayor seeks to promote amongst young Londoners an appreciation and respect for their travel privileges. This is intended to deliver social development benefits to London in four ways: (i) through improving relationships between young people and other commuters; (ii) via the improvements that will be made to local communities through the volunteering activity payback participants will undertake; (iii) by supporting the work and social development aims of London's voluntary sector; and (iv) by contributing to the social and personal development of young people. In addition Payback London will contribute towards making public transport feel safer and more secure by helping tackle anti-social behaviour by young people on buses and trams, and provide restorative justice for Londoners
- 1.3 In addition, the development of this project contributes towards achieving the high-level Community Safety deliverable referenced in the Q3 update to the 2008-09 Corporate Plan: "...work with partners and stakeholders to [establish initiatives that will] reduce crime and disorder on the transport network." The project will enter implementation phase in 2009-10 and thus explicit reference will be made to it in the 2009-10 GLA Corporate Plan.
- 1.4 Through 2008-09, officers have carried out project definition and initiation activities (including: consultation and scoping with statutory and third sector agencies, options and design work) on Payback London. The Payback London Project Board chaired by the Mayor's Director of Transport Policy has agreed and recommends the following approach to fund and mobilise the roll-out of the project:
- To meet the objectives specified above at (paragraph 1.1), the project will involve the provision of funding to an organisation or charity ('grantee organisation') specialising in placing young people as volunteers with a range of London-wide charities or volunteer groups.*
- 1.5 The above approach has been recommended as it best meets the requirement under Section 30 that funding should be for the benefit of *Greater London*, as a whole. This approach will provide benefits to a wide range of London volunteer groups and a broad range of Londoners including: commuters, parents, local people who will benefit from the volunteering outcomes, individual volunteering projects and the participant young people. Additionally, this model helps to minimise risk, allows for Payback to be up and running quickly and with confidence, as well as providing consistent volunteering opportunities for young people opting participating.
- 1.6 It is proposed that the 'grantee organisation' will be selected via a competitive process, involving an advertisement requesting organizations to apply. A funding agreement will be put in place with the selected organisation once they have been chosen.

- 1.7 Although the implementation of Payback London requires the GLA to collaborate with TfL and the MPS there is no duplication in terms of work that may be done by TfL, the MPA, LFEPA or is being done by the LDA.
- 1.8 The Payback London Project is initially intended to run for three years, starting in 2009-10 ('Year 1'). During and at the conclusion of the first phase of roll-out (i.e. 'Year 1') monitoring and detailed evaluation will be carried out to assess the impact of the project, progress towards delivering the desired benefits and outcomes and to inform how the project should be configured and evolve in subsequent years (i.e. Year 2: 2010-11 and Year 3: 2011-12).

## **2. Issues for consideration**

### a) Links to strategies and Corporate Plan

2.1 As stated above (at paragraph 1.1) the objectives of the project are strategically contained under the Mayors power to further social development in London. The measurable benefits the project sets out to deliver for Londoners are as follows:

- Reduced travel costs for parents estimated at £1.4m - as young people are able to earn back travel privileges early (based on annual value of reduced travel of £360 earned back within 3 months by Payback participants) – thus affording young people the chance to fully participate in society;
- Improved journey experience for Londoners
- Avoided cost of ASB incidents to London;
- Volunteer time to charities across London estimated at £0.2m (based on 6 hours per Payback participant at £7 per hour); and
- Engaging young people with future volunteering in their communities.

Additionally, the roll-out of the project has strategic importance to TfL as it supports the effective running of the Zip Card Scheme and makes a secondary contribution to supporting safety and improving the journey experience of Londoners using the transport network.

### b) Impact assessments and Consultation

2.2 As referenced in paragraph 2.4 the project team has sought input from a range of different stakeholders throughout the development phase of the project, including dialogues with provider organisations, the youth sector, colleagues with links to the criminal justice infrastructure in London, MPS and TfL – all of which has contributed to devising the recommended model.

The project team is committed to carrying out ongoing consultation in Year 1 (2009-10) to inform the future shape of the project and how it should evolve over subsequent years. As a minimum, it is envisaged that this will include:

- Consultation with the public (to gauge public opinion and perceptions about the scheme once it is up and running);
- Seeking feedback from young people who have been involved in the scheme (to gather intelligence on the impact participation has on their attitudes and behaviours going forward);
- Formal surveying of all directly involved stakeholders and London Boroughs (to establish their perspective on the impact and operation of the scheme in it's first year).

#### Health considerations:

- 2.3 This project is not intended to deliver significant strategic health benefits. In terms of 'Health and Safety', the project board is committed to building in appropriate mechanisms to ensure that the wellbeing of young people participating in volunteering opportunities will be safeguarded and assured, including in relation to child safeguarding. This will be achieved via the funding agreement with the chosen grantee organisation.

#### Sustainable development considerations:

- 2.4 This project's primary objectives are not explicitly intended to deliver strategic, sustainable development benefits. However, by supporting the work of volunteer organisations across the Capital, Payback London will provide an indirect contribution to high-level sustainable development aims via benefits realised for participant charities, volunteer groups and residents within the areas that volunteer activity is carried out.

#### Community safety considerations:

- 2.5 This project contributes towards achieving the high-level Community Safety deliverable referenced in the Q3 update to the 2008-09 Corporate Plan: "...work with partners and stakeholders to [establish initiatives that will] reduce crime and disorder on the transport network." One of the core objectives of Payback London is to "Make public transport feel safer and more secure by tackling anti-social behaviour by young people on buses and trams" – MPS involvement in enforcing the behaviour code will support achievement of this objective. Additionally, introduction of the 'Payback' element will contribute towards making "young people value their free travel concession and use London's public transport system in an appropriate manner" – and over the full life-cycle of the project we expect to observe a reduction in the instances of ASB-type violations of the behaviour code.
- 2.6 With the exception of those engaging in criminal activity on the transport network, participation on Payback London volunteering opportunities will be open to all young people who have had their free travel privileges rescinded as a result of misconduct (in the form of behaviour code violations) or ticketing infringements on the London transport network. Thus providing equality of opportunity without bias or exception.
- 2.7 The project team will put in place provisions to monitor equalities data of those eligible for and those who actually participate on the scheme so that any disproportionate impacts (e.g. in terms of gender, ethnicity and disability) can be identified and appropriate modifications made to Payback's operation

#### c) Risk

- 2.8 The risk register is attached.

### 3. Recommendations

The Mayor's approval is sought to:

- (i) Authorise the provision of funding to allow the creation of the Payback London Project across London, which would allow under-18s who abuse their free travel privilege to earn it back by participating in a day of volunteering that will benefit the local community.
- (ii) Authorise the competitive process to select a 'grantee organisation' to receive funds for Payback London.

- (iii) Enter into a funding agreement with the grantee organization as recommended by the selection panel providing up to £1,000,000 in funds over three years (2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12).
- (iv) To approve the transfer of funds from the Centralised Programme budget to the 'Pay Back' Project for each financial-year (where required).

#### 4. Financial Comments

4.1 It is proposed that the 'Payback London Project' is delivered by a grantee organisation who will administer the funds for this project via a funding agreement. The scheme will cost up to £1m, spanning three - financial years (2009/10 to 2011/12), with the indicative expenditure profile as follows:

2009/10	-	£350,000
2010/11	-	£350,000
2011/12	-	£300,000
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>£1,000,000</b>

- 4.2 It should be noted that the GLA will fund the £350,000 required for 2009/10 and also underwrite the funding for 2010/11 and 2011/12 of up to £650,000. However, for 2010/11 and 2011/12, alternative funding will be sought from external partners / contributors to decrease the amount that the GLA will have to fund in these financial-years.
- 4.3 The funding for 2009/10 and the potential underwrite in 2010/11 and 2011/12 will be met from the Authority's Centralised Programme budget, held within the Resources Directorate (with the 2010/11 and 2011/12 Centralised Programme budgets being subject to the Corporate Planning and Budget Process for each financial – year).
- 4.4 In order to facilitate project and budget monitoring, it is proposed that the funds are accounted for within a new project/ budget code entitled 'Payback London', with GLA funds being transferred from the Centralised Programme budget each year (if required) and to account for external funding to fund the scheme in 2010/11 and 2011/12 as per paragraph 4.2.
- 4.5 Due to the nature of the project, officers have advised that project expenditure could slip, which may result in proposals for budget carry –forwards and the treatment of income as income in advance at year-end. If required, any carry forward of GLA budget and/ or income will be subject to the Authority's year-end procedures for each subsequent financial-year.
- 4.6 All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.
- 4.7 As the project will be administered via a funding agreement to the successful 'grantee organisation', officers are reminded to consult with Financial Services on the content of the funding agreement.
- 4.8 Transport for London will be providing support in kind by absorbing the administrative burden of liaising with the grantee organisation to reinstate free travel for people who successfully complete Payback London.

## **5. Legal Comments**

### **Powers**

- 5.1 Section 30 of the Greater London Authority 1999 (“the Act”) provides the Mayor with the power to do anything which the Authority considers will further one or more of its principal purposes, which are: the promotion of economic development and wealth creation, the promotion of social development and the promotion of the improvement of the environment in Greater London. Paragraph 1 states that Payback London aims to help promote social development in Greater London.
- 5.2 Section 32 of the Act provides that the power under section 30 is exercisable only after consultation with such bodies or persons as the Authority considers appropriate in the particular case. Paragraph 2 above notes the consultation that has taken place, and which will take place.
- 5.3 Section 33 of the Act requires the Authority, when exercising a section 30 power, to make appropriate arrangements with a view to securing that there is due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people. Paragraph 2 above indicates the regard that has been had to equalities implications in this case.
- 5.4 Section 30(5) of the Act provides that the Authority should exercise its section 30 powers in the way which it considers best calculated to promote the improvement of health of persons in Greater London and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom, except to the extent the Authority considers not reasonably practicable. Paragraph 2 above notes the regard that has been given to the improvement of the health of persons and the achievement of sustainable development.

### **Funding Agreement**

- 5.5 Paragraph 1 notes that the grantee will be selected by way of a competitive process which will include an advertisement and asking potential grantees to bid for the grant. This is line with Clause 21.3 of the Contracts Code of Practice which says that where a grant is given funding should be distributed:

- (a) fairly,
- (b) transparently, and
- (c) in accordance with equalities obligations.

This is also in line with Clause 21.4 which states that “a competitive or comparative element should be incorporated into the decision-making process wherever possible.” By advertising the grant and having criteria against which to judge applications this should occur. Officers must comply with the Contracts Code of Conduct when choosing the successful applicant.

- 5.6 Officers should co-ordinate with Legal about the necessary legal documentation for the funding agreement. As the uptake of participants in Payback London is unknown, any agreement will have to contain cascading clauses which will make lower grant payments should there be a lower number of participants.

## **6. Background/supporting papers**

Not applicable

**Public access to information**

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the Greater London Authority website within 1 working day of approval. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred? YES  NO

If yes, for what reason:

The Payback London Project is due to be announced in April 2009 and rolled out from September 2009. This MD306 can be made available via the GLA's publication scheme once the Grantee Organisation has been selected, as otherwise the information contained could hinder the competitive process of selecting a grantee.

Until what date: 29/4/09

Is there a part 2 form - YES  NO

**OFFICER APPROVAL:**

**Sponsoring Director:**

*click to indicate approval*

Jeff Jacobs has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.



**Mayoral Advisor:**

Kulveer Ranger has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.



**Head of Law:**

The Head of Law has commented on this proposal.



**Executive Director, Resources**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that Financial and Legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Signature: *M.D. White*

Date: 30.4.09

**Deputy Mayor, Policy and Planning**

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

Signature *[Handwritten Signature]*

Date 20.05.09.