

**Mayor of London**

**GLA Group Budget and Environment Guidance  
for 2005-06**

**June 2004**

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## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 As you will be aware, the Greater London Authority Act 1999 requires the Mayor to have regard to the achievement of sustainable development in the UK in all GLA activities. In addition “promoting the improvement of the environment in Greater London” is one of the principal purposes of the GLA (GLA Act 30 2c).
- 1.2 The Mayor has also adopted the definition of sustainable development proposed by the London Sustainable Development Commission: *Sustainable development is simply about creating a better quality of life for everyone now and in the future.* This requires the GLA to seek to achieve environmental, social and economic development simultaneously with the objective of making London an exemplary sustainable world city.
- 1.3 Since the formation of the GLA the Mayor has developed several Mayoral strategies which cover the environment field. These are the Energy Strategy, the Air Quality Strategy, the Ambient Noise Strategy, the Biodiversity Strategy, and the Waste Management Strategy.
- 1.4 Consequently this year the Mayor wishes to assess ways in which your 2005-06 budget will address environmental issues. This will allow members of the GLA group to demonstrate how environmental considerations are one of the key considerations in policy and resource allocation and demonstrate the extent to which they have prioritised their implementation of the Mayor’s environmental strategies.

## **2. The Process**

- 2.1 As the budget and environment process is a new one we suggest an early meeting is held with you to identify any problems and to clarify this guidance where necessary.
- 2.2 GLA group members are asked to return the information requested, which is outlined in Section 4 below, by the end of September.
- 2.3 Budget and Environment review meetings will be scheduled for each member of the group during October and November. The purpose of these meetings is to enable GLA officers to have a clear idea of the plans, priorities, costs and targets for the GLA group.
- 2.4 A short report by the GLA will be issued after due consultation with the GLA Group members. It is hoped to issue this by end November. The report will cover:
  - The effectiveness of the organisational arrangements each functional body has made to carry forward environmental issues.
  - An assessment of their existing strategies and action plans.
  - What additional actions each functional body needs to take to carry forward the Mayor’s environmental strategies, with particular reference to their likely budget for 2005-06.

### **3. Planned outcomes of the process**

3.1 As a result of the process:

- The Mayor should be suitably informed of your plans to ensure that his manifesto commitments are implemented.
- The Mayor will be informed of the other main environmental issues facing the organisations in the GLA group, their approach to taking these issues forward and of the resources committed by each organisation. The process will provide a baseline against which future progress will be evaluated.
- The Mayor should be in a position to comment authoritatively on the targets set by each organisation in the group and on the level of resources they plan to commit.
- The GLA should be able to build on their existing knowledge and expertise on high level policy approaches to the environment and be able to share such expertise and disseminate good practice within the GLA group.

3.2 In addition, the process should make a major contribution towards allowing each organisation in the GLA group to demonstrate that they are fulfilling their statutory obligations.

### **4. The budget and environment return**

4.1 Each budget and environment return should consist of three main sections:

- (a) A short overview of your main environmental priorities over the next three years; what you expect to be achieved in that time; and how the delivery of these priorities relate to the Mayor's Environmental Strategies. You should also provide an explanation of how environmental expertise is organised within the organisation and how environmental policies and perspectives are developed and integrated into your business planning processes.
- (b) A copy of your existing environmental strategies and action plans, and a statement showing the current budget allocations for the main components of these plans, and an estimate of the likely 2005-06 budget allocations. If you are planning any significant environmentally based training for staff then please provide details of training days and costs.
- (c) To the extent to which it is not covered by your main priorities at (a) and your existing strategies and action plans at (b), you should provide a review of how you plan to implement the specific policies and proposals in the Mayor's Environmental Strategies for which you are responsible, indicating in particular your proposed priorities and areas where progress is limited by lack of resources.

4.2 The budget and environment process is intended to be a light touch process. Each group member should have an existing environmental strategy and action plan, so what is primarily asked for is to relate those plans to budget headings and to Mayoral strategies.

## **5. Contacts and further information**

- 5.1 We are anxious to help minimise any problems. If there are problems or you want advice please contact Peter Greig on 7983-4254 or David Hutchinson on 7983-4299.