

Citizenship and Integration Initiative

London Voices - the journey to full participation

INVITATION TO TENDER

Deadline for submission: 5pm on 1 April 2021

1. Purpose

This document is an invitation to tender for a comprehensive research into the mechanisms that can facilitate equal, inclusive, representative civic and democratic participation that can ensure Londoners trust and take part in social action and decisions impacting them, their families, their communities and their great city. It provides brief information about the aim of the research, details the work we seek to commission, the skills and experience expected from the commission partner(s), and the procedure to tender for this work.

2. About the funders

Trust for London is an independent endowed foundation dating back to 1891. We aim to help create a fairer London by funding work that tackles poverty and inequality and their root causes. We award circa £11 million in grants annually. Our current 2018 – 2022 strategy commits nearly £40 million in the next 5 years to addressing London's social problems, in particular to fund work that provides insights into the causes of these problems, how they can be overcome, and work to influence policy and practice. A core plank of our strategy is strengthening the voice of people with lived experience of poverty and inequality.

The UK Democracy Fund is a pooled fund set up by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust. Independent and non-partisan, we help to build a healthy democracy: one in which everyone can participate and where political power is shared fairly.

3. About the Citizenship and Integration Initiative

The Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII) is a pooled fund held by Trust for London that brings together funding from independent foundations to support Londoners of all backgrounds to have meaningful opportunities to participate in the life of the city and the decisions that affect them. It works closely with the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to achieve these goals by funding the secondment of civil society experts into the GLA's Social Integration team and by supporting community-led projects that further the initiative's goals.

The CII has three goals:

- **PARTICIPATION:** Supporting Londoners to be active citizens - encouraging active citizenship and increasing voter registration
- **EQUALITIES:** Tackling barriers and inequalities - supporting young Londoners and European Londoners to secure their legal rights
- **RELATIONSHIPS:** Promoting shared experiences - creating a more hospitable environment

As such, the research will be overseen by Geraldine Blake, CII Coordinator, Trust for London; Lena Baumgartner, Head of UK Democracy Fund, and Dr. Elisabeth Pop, Citizenship and Integration Adviser, currently GLA's acting Lead Officer on Democratic Participation.

4. Background information and current situation

Recent events (such as Brexit, Covid-19, the Black Lives Matter movement and the 2020 US elections) have potentially impacted the social contract, belief in democratic processes and willingness to engage with democracy, as well as impacting democratic inequality and access (exacerbating existing inequalities) that will have long term consequences on efforts to increase civic and democratic engagement. We need to understand the impact of these events, and learn from examples of good practice interventions, to inform the work of the GLA, civil society, local authorities and funders in the medium and long term.

The call for a new social contract that has civic and democratic participation at its heart has never been more pressing. Following Brexit, Covid – 19, and modern democratic reforms in Scotland and Wales, in order to build a more equal, just and representative city, funders, statutory bodies and civil society need to come together, co-produce and co-deliver mechanisms that can facilitate inclusive civic and democratic engagement and ensure London's diverse voices are heard on their journey to full participation.

The Survey of Londoners¹ has shown that people are more likely to feel happy and like they belong in a city which they have helped to shape and support. However, to participate, Londoners need access to relevant rights, opportunities and activities to do this effectively. Civil society, regional and local authorities, and funders play an important role in ensuring Londoners actively participate in their communities and their city, in decisions that affect them and have an increased feeling of trust, control and power.

One way of ensuring Londoners play an active role in shaping their city is understanding the state of London's social contract and democracy by working with partners to ensure participation is embedded into all streams of medium and long term recovery, particularly those which focus on building and supporting resilience, bringing Londoners together, tackling exacerbated inequalities and social isolation and supporting London's civil society. But in order to ensure the emerging post- Brexit and post - Covid–19 social contract has civic and democratic participation at its heart, we need to fill gaps in research, be led by community voices and lived experiences, map best practice and inspire innovation and collaboration.

¹ The Survey of Londoners, GLA, June 2019. Available at <https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/survey-of-londoners-headline-findings>

5. Definitions

For the purpose of this research, the following broad definitions will be observed:

Civic participation - the ways in which Londoners want and are able to engage in their local community. It includes running or trying to set up a local service, organising a community/ sport/ culture event, setting up or signing a petition, writing to and booking a meeting with your representative (councillor, MP, etc), being a school governor, being a member of the Youth Council/ Young Cabinet, being selected for jury service and being a Magistrate.

Democratic participation - the degree to which Londoners want and are able to engage in London's and the UK democratic system. It includes campaigning for a political issue and/ or a political party, running as a party – political or independent candidate for public office, being able and willing to register to vote, turning out and voting in elections.

6. Anticipated Outcomes

Facilitating the journey to full participation should be at the heart of the emerging social contract and is the scope of this research. Anticipated outcomes include:

- A map of current barriers to and opportunities for civic and democratic participation, especially among under-represented communities, including data and legislation gaps;
- Increased opportunities for civic and democratic participation that draw on best practice (from the UK and worldwide), lived experience and lessons learned from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, Brexit and other political and legal developments;
- Recommendations for more innovative and inclusive civic and democratic participation activity and advocacy which could help deliver the vision for social integration, support the sector and Londoners thrive, including on opportunities to share best practice (and coordinate advocacy) with other cities or regional authorities in the UK;
- Recommendations to support local authorities, civil society and funders in their understanding, support and facilitation of inclusive and impactful civic and democratic participation projects;
- The consolidation of the strategic and convening role the GLA already plays via the delivery of London Voter Registration Week and the coordination of the London Voter Registration Strategic Partnership, including the potential coordination between local authorities, civil society and academia on advocacy for civil and democratic participation.

It is anticipated that the methodology used by the successful bidder(s) will employ quantitative and qualitative methods and inclusive approaches that engage all stakeholders. We are keen that community voices are at the heart of this work.

7. Scope of work

Danny Kruger MP's report "*Levelling up our communities: proposals for a new social covenant*"² stresses the need for civic and democratic participation to be at the heart of the emerging social contract. But there remains a lack of clarity around civil society having adequate knowledge, trust, agency or funding to fully participate, and there is very little mention of London in this report.

² See <https://www.dannykruger.org.uk/communities-report>

Furthermore, there are gaps in research looking at the state of London's democracy, participation barriers for specific under-represented and under-registered communities, lessons learned from the pandemic especially around safe ways to run activity and not put democracy on hold, best practice employed by other cities or regional authorities in UK and around the world in the co-production and co-delivery of activity, impactful citizen-led research and projects on civil and democratic participation, opportunities to collaborate on advocacy, the role of technology in civic education and participation, the impact of legislation and the urgent need for reform.

The successful bidder should explore, among others, the following research questions:

1. What successful civic and democratic participation activity has been taking place across London?

1.1 What were local authorities, statutory bodies and civil society already doing to support civic and democratic participation in London and with what impact?

1.2 How is civic and democratic inequality impacting different communities in London? What would enable their social integration and full participation?

1.3 What is the state of the democracy/ participation sector and what would be the benefits of a democracy network, including the role of funders?

2. What has been the impact of major events like Brexit, the pandemic and the wider context?

2.1 How have civic and democratic participation been impacted by Brexit and Covid - 19?

2.2 How have the interventions to increase civic and democratic participations been impacted by Brexit, Covid – 19, the Black Lives Matter movement and the 2020 US elections, among others?

2.3 What impact could Government - led or influenced policy in this area and the wider political context have on the medium term (2 years) and the long term (up to 5 years)? This should look at policy announcements included in the Queen's speech, those made in response to the pandemic (including by the Charity and Electoral Commission) and calls for reform coming from statutory bodies, academia and civil society.

3. What can we learn from other cities or regional authorities in the UK and around the world?

3.1 Based on examples from the UK and worldwide, what is the case for embedding civic and democratic participation methods in social and cultural events or other soft entry points on the journey to full participation?

3.2 What was the impact of voting rights reforms in Scotland and Wales? What could it mean for London?

3.3 What are other city or regional authorities in the UK and around the world doing to support civic and democratic participation during the recovery and beyond?

3.4 Would current devolution arrangements allow for best practice to be successfully implemented in London?

3.5 What are the opportunities to share best practice and coordinate advocacy with other cities or regional authorities in the UK and around the world?

4. What are new and innovative models on civic and democratic participation in London, as well as nationally and internationally, and how can these contribute to social integration and community resilience on the medium term (2 years) and the long term (up to 5 years)?

4.1 What is the uptake of Media and Political Literacy education in London's schools and colleges?

4.2 What is the role of technology in civic and democratic education and participation?

4.3 How do influencers impact civic and democratic participation, be they celebrities or faith and community leaders?

4.4 What array of accessible resources, including in community languages and for disabled Londoners, are needed to ensure full participation?

4.5 What are the opportunities for deliberative democracy in London?

4.6 How can increased civic and democratic participation support London's social and economic recovery, as well as Britain's soft power and international standing?

NOTE: Any other questions emerging during the research and the potential prioritisation of any of the above sections and research questions will be agreed by the funders, the GLA Lead Officer and the successful bidder, in the initial meeting and at key stages throughout the process.

8. Deliverables and timetable

We envisage that this research will take between 6 and 9 months to deliver.

A. Interim findings presentation

The successful bidder(s) will produce a presentation to share early research findings with CII funders and the GLA Social Integration team.

>> Timescales for delivery: *late June 2021*

B. Draft evidence report and recommendations

The successful bidder(s) will produce an internal evidence report for CII funders and the GLA Social Integration team, including:

- Full suite of evidence collected, including primary and secondary research
- Recommendations for future GLA and local councils programme of work and advocacy on civic and democratic participation which could help deliver the vision for social integration, support the sector and Londoners thrive, including on opportunities to share best practice (and coordinate advocacy) with other cities or regional authorities in the UK
- Recommendations for future collaboration on projects and advocacy in this area and who should be involved in delivering

>> Timescales for delivery: *early September 2021*

C. Final evidence report and recommendations

The successful bidder(s) will produce a visually engaging, publishable research report, including the following:

- Top-level recommendations for the Mayor, GLA, local authorities, funders, civil society
- Opportunities and challenges for activity and advocacy on the journey to full participation
- Written narrative, drawings and photography for community – led case studies (with appropriate consent forms for dissemination secured)
- Presentation slide deck of key findings and evidence, in different formats and for various audiences, for use in any future public events
- Suggestions for opportunities for sharing the report with key stakeholders

NOTE: The exact content to be included in the publication should be agreed between the funders, the GLA Lead Officer and the appointed bidder(s) ahead of draft reporting milestones.

>> Timescales for delivery: *late October / early November 2021*

No.		DATE
1.	Issue Invitation To Tender	9th March 2021
2.	Deadline for submissions	1 April 2021
3.	Interviews	15 April
4.	Initial meeting with delivery partner(s)	w/c 19 April
5.	Interim findings presentation	late June 2021
6.	Draft evidence report and recommendations	early September 2021
7.	Final evidence report and recommendations	late October / early November 2021

9. Budget

A budget of **£37,500** inclusive of VAT, expenses and travel is available.

10. Skills and Experience

The successful bidder(s) – a suitably experienced consultant or a partnership between a consultant and a leading civil society organisation – should show:

- strong track record and impartial reputation
- practical understanding of the role of civic and democratic participation in social integration
- a background of working with and within civil society organisations, especially community and user-led ones, on issues of active participation and social integration
- a background of working with statutory bodies, informing and influencing advocacy on civic and democratic participation
- experience of facilitating and convening organisations to work together and share learning, both virtually and in – person, if the public health context allows
- strong understanding of and commitment to research ethics and safeguarding
- knowledge and experience of data protection law and principles, data security and privacy issues and commitment to research ethics and safeguarding

In addition, priority will be given to:

- consultants with lived experience and community or user – led civil society organisations
- living wage registered employers

We encourage bidders to partner with other organisations and institutions, formally and informally, to create a suitable team with demonstrable experience across this policy area and lived experience. We would expect any payments to facilitate participation by individuals/civil society organisations should be included in the budget.

Full details of how a formal partnership would work (governance between the organisations, financial relation between main contracted organisation and the subcontractor(s), etc.) should be provided in the Tender Submission. The successful bidder(s) should be able to prove working relations with relevant academics, civil society organisations, community groups, civic and democratic participation practitioners, education institutions, statutory bodies and provide an initial literature review into London's civic and democratic activity and impact.

11. How we will support you

Your contact will be directly with Trust for London and overseen by Geraldine Blake. Day to day contract and monthly formal debriefs will be with Geraldine Blake, CII Coordinator, Trust for London; Lena Baumgartner, Head of UK Democracy Fund, and Dr. Elisabeth Pop, Citizenship and Integration Adviser, currently GLA's acting Lead Officer on Democratic Participation.

The Trust is committed to providing the commissioned partner(s) with the necessary support to test developing thinking and overcome challenges. We will establish an Advisory Group which will include funders and civil society organisations active in this field. If the bidder identifies individuals who could make a useful contribution to this group, payments to facilitate their participation should be included in the budget.

12. How to submit your proposal

Please send us applications containing:

- answers to the three evaluation criteria in Annex A, including links to examples of your recent work, a brief risk register and a brief literature review (*the maximum length of this should be 10 single – sided A4 pages*)
- a detailed budget proposal
- relevant CV(s) (*the maximum length of each should be one A4 page each*)
- contact details of two referees

Please submit your application to tenders@trustforlondon.org.uk.

If you have any questions about this invitation to tender, please contact **Geraldine Blake**, CII Coordinator for Trust for London: geraldineblake66@gmail.com

Annex A. Evaluation Criteria

Technical	Methodology Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How you would design and deliver the research, the report and reach the objectives • Stakeholders/ networks you would engage to deliver the scope of work required • The impact of your previous work and any transferable principles and methods 	25
	Work plan and project management Please include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A detailed project plan identifying substantive research activities, key dates and deliverables and a brief risk register • An explanation of how you will design the recommendations and mobilise the relevant target audience(s) and stakeholders within the time constraints of this project and the public health context • An explanation of the proposed team structure, including any formal partnership working with other organisations to deliver this research, the process for managing any formal partners and reporting regularly to CII funders and the GLA Social Integration Team 	25
	Relevant experience and team You must provide evidence of previous experience relevant to this project, which shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of civic and democratic participation processes and legislation and London's under-registered and under-represented communities, including a brief literature review • Experience of running similar work (online and offline examples, using qualitative and quantitative methods) • The lessons learned from civic and democratic engagement during the Covid-19 pandemic and the US 2020 Presidential election, following Brexit and the Black Lives Matter movement 	25
Budget	Detailed budget	25