

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1495 – Illuminated River

Title: The Illuminated River

Executive Summary:

Approval is required for a grant of £100,000 from the Olympic Reserve to the Illuminated River Charitable Trust to support the procurement process for a design competition for the first phase of the Illuminated River project (IR), a new unified lighting scheme for up to 17 bridges on the River Thames.

The first phase of IR will include a procurement compliant design competition to commission a unified lighting design and the delivery of new high tech, environmentally sound lighting for 5 bridges and river crossings with an estimated cost of £5 million.

The project was jointly initiated by the GLA and the Rothschild Foundation (RF), who are contributing £250,000 towards the first phase. The City of London Corporation have agreed to contribute £500,000 towards delivery of the first phase. RF are setting up a new entity, the Illuminated River Charitable Trust (IRCT) which will be a charitable incorporated organisation, to lead and deliver the project.

Decision:

The Executive Director approves expenditure of a grant of £100,000 from the Olympic Reserve to the Illuminated River Charitable Trust to deliver a design competition to commission a unified lighting design for up to 17 bridges on the River Thames. Funding is subject to the Trust being incorporated and satisfactory due diligence.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.
It has my approval.

Name: Jeff Jacobs

Position: Executive Director of Communities & Intelligence

Signature:



Date:

3.5.2016

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The bridges across the River Thames in Greater London are currently vibrant by day and underutilised at night. This part of the city's infrastructure is an unexploited asset which could contribute to London's night time economy. The ambition of the Illuminated River (IR) project is to create an attractive, technologically advanced, environmentally friendly lighting solution for the bridges.
- 1.2 The project was jointly initiated by the GLA and the Rothschild Foundation (RF), a charitable trust with a strong track-record of partnering with multiple stakeholders to deliver regeneration projects in London such as the redevelopment of Somerset House. RF is in the process of establishing a new charitable trust to deliver IR. It is proposed that the GLA should have observer status on the Board of Trustees for the new charitable trust. The GLA reserves the right to join the Board as a full Trustee at a future date.
- 1.3 One of the primary roles of the new charitable trust will be to raise adequate funds to deliver the project. This first phase (delivery of 5 illuminated bridges) will require £5 million of investment. Lord Rothschild, chair of RF, will act as a champion for the project to gain the support of businesses and philanthropists.
- 1.4 The GLA has chaired the planning and advisory groups to date which has seen local authorities, private corporations, the tourism industry and infrastructure groups working together towards a brief to meet shared aims. This has provided further opportunities for cross-sector partnership.
- 1.5 In future, project delivery will be supported by a core planning group and subgroups for communications, bridge managers and a fundraising and investment group. The GLA will be represented on the core group and all sub-groups. The core group includes Port of London Authority, City of London Corporation, London boroughs, Rothschild Foundation and is chaired by Cross River Partnership.
- 1.6 Two consultants have been appointed by RF to support the IR project. The design competition procurement process to commission a unified lighting design is being coordinated by Malcolm Reading Consultants and the PR, Press and Communications for the project are being coordinated by Bolton and Quinn.
- 1.7 The design competition procurement process will be open to multidisciplinary teams of artists, architects, designers and engineers. The competition will be compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and OJEU standards, ensuring transparency and accountability within the selection process. There will be three selection panels – a shortlisting committee, a supporting panel to provide technical assessments of bids and the final jury. GLA will be represented on two out of the three as required.
- 1.8 IR will offer opportunities to partner with the GLA education team with potential to create a design and engineering segment for the London Curriculum and scope for schools design competitions. There will also be apprenticeship opportunities included in the delivery of the lighting scheme.
- 1.9 A decision in-principle was made in principle at IPB in October 2014 to allocate £250,000 from the then Olympic Reserve towards delivering technical infrastructure upgrades to the lighting infrastructure for 8 bridges from Tower Bridge to Westminster Bridge. Over the past 18 months the Rothschild Foundation have been carrying out further consultation with key stakeholders to ensure they are on board and testing feasibility and estimated costings for the project. The ambitions of the overall project have been

revised to include bridges between London's two iconic bridges – Tower Bridge and Albert Bridge (up to 17 bridges in total) and the delivery of the project will now be in phases. The GLA contribution is only to phase one, that is the delivery of five illuminated bridges. This DD represents a first payment of £100,000 specifically towards the design competition procurement process costs to commission a unified light design which will be launched in June 2016, invitation to tenders published in August 2016, an exhibition of 6 shortlisted entries in November 2016 and the winner announced in December 2016.

A further investment of £150,000 from the Olympic Reserve has been set aside towards further design work following the design competition and delivery of the first phase of the lighting scheme (as agreed at the October 2014 IPB meeting) and will be subject to the third party contributions having been secured for the 5 bridges. This will be presented for approval following transition to the new mayoralty, with funding being released when key milestones in the project have been met. This would bring the total investment in the project to £250,000, amounting to an investment of just five percent of the overall predicted cost of £5 million for the first phase.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

The first phase of the IR project (April 2016- May 2018) will deliver:

- 2.1.1 A high profile design competition to commission a unified light design which will be promoted across Europe offering significant media exposure for London and the tourism offer on the River Thames.
- 2.1.2 An ambitious, costed artist-led design for up to 17 bridges and river crossings along the River Thames which will be used to develop a longer term project (this first phase will deliver lighting for five bridges)
- 2.1.3 New lighting installed for five bridges by May 2018 at an estimated cost of £5 million. The lighting schemes will utilise the latest technology taking into account environmental sustainability.
- 2.2 Opportunities for schools engagement through the London Curriculum and apprenticeship opportunities in design, engineering and construction.
- 2.3 A benchmarking exercise to begin to measure the social and economic impact of IR including night time footfall and effect on the wider night time economy in the areas surrounding the bridges.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 The GLA is a public authority which must comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in section 149 (1) Equality Act 2010. This provides that, in the exercise of their functions, public authorities must have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 3.2 The obligation in section 149(1) is placed upon the Mayor, as decision maker. Due regard must be had at the time a particular decision is being considered. The duty is non-delegable and must be exercised with an open mind.

- 3.3 As the project progresses GLA Culture will seek opportunities to share information and consult (at an appropriate level) with GLA stakeholder groups including the Deaf and Disabled Stakeholder Group; the Mayor's Older People's Advisory Forum, the LGBT Stakeholder Group and the Migrants and Refugee Stakeholder Group via the relevant officers within the GLA Diversity and Social Policy team and with the Community Stakeholder group via the GLA Community Relations team.
- 3.4 The GLA has been working closely with RF to ensure that the impacts of all processes and outcomes of the project take into consideration the needs of relevant equality groups. Positive social and environmental impacts will be key indicators of success for this project.

4 Other considerations

4.1 Key risks and issues

- Inadequate funding to deliver the first phase of the project is a key risk. Costs for up to 8 bridges were estimated at £2.5m in the proposal approved by IPB. Following further research, these currently stand at £5m for 5 bridges. To mitigate a further increase in costs, an essential criteria for the project manager is a strong track record in fundraising and partnership development. The support of the Rothschild Foundation as a champion for the project will also increase the chances of successful fundraising campaign.
- The project may not be seen as a mayoral priority post-election. Funding from both the RF and the City of London was predicated on the Mayor of London funding and may be at risk if the £250,000 is not agreed.
- The funding only applies to the first phase of the project (five bridges), after which there is no GLA commitment to support. The £250,000 was approved by IPB to deliver up to 8 bridges. As noted in the IPB paper, GLA officers will seek assurance that all required third party contributions have been secured before releasing the remainder of the £250,000 grant in order to minimise the risks for the GLA and to ensure that all 5 bridges are fully delivered from the GLA funding and third party income raised.
- GLA officers will ensure early input from the new Mayor to ensure that the project has his or her full backing and that delivery aligns with Mayoral priorities.

4.2 Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- IR will add to London's cultural tourism offer and supports the night time economy along the river. It will also offer Built Environment professional training opportunities through apprenticeships and educational opportunities through a schools engagement programme.

4.3 Impact assessments and consultations

- The GLA Culture Team has worked closely with RF to convene relevant stakeholders in support of IR. Between September and December 2015, the planning team has consulted with representatives from Port of London Authority (PLA), City of London (CoL) and City of Westminster corporations, Cross River Partnership (CRP), London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Totally Thames, Lambeth Council, Southwark Council, TfL, Historic England and London and Partners. All these stakeholders are in support of the project. There is ongoing work to expand the stakeholder group.

5 Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought for the GLA to award a grant of £100,000 to the Illuminated River Charitable Trust in support of the first phase of the Illuminated River lighting scheme including the OEJU design competition.
- 5.2 The Rothschild Foundation is in the process of setting up the Illuminated River Charitable Trust (IRCT) which will be a charitable incorporated organisation, to lead and deliver the project. Funding will not be granted until the Trust is incorporated and due diligence check performed.
- 5.2 The cost of this grant will be funded from 2015/16 carry forward budget of £250,000 held within Culture (Illuminated bridges). The additional £150,000 budget will be held further to approval from the new Mayor, with funding expected to be released when key project milestones have been met.
- 5.3 The funding agreement only applies to the early phases of this project, after which there is no further commitment by the GLA to support the project.

6 Legal comments

- 6.1 Under section 30 Greater London Authority Act 1999 (GLAA) the Mayor, acting on behalf of the Authority, has the power to do anything which is considered to further any one or more of the principal purposes. These purposes include the promotion of economic development and wealth creation in Greater London. The section 30 powers are supplemented by the incidental power in section 34 GLAA to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any functions of the Authority exercisable by the Mayor. The Mayor also has powers under section 378 GLAA to promote tourism in Greater London.
- 6.2 As set out in this decision form, it is considered that the Illuminated River project will make a significant contribution to London's night time economy. It is therefore considered that the proposal to provide funding in connection with the project falls within the GLA's legal powers.
- 6.3 In formulating this proposal officers have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties in section 30 to 33 GLAA.
- 6.4 This decision form indicates that the proposed financial contribution of £100,000 will amount to the provision of funding and not a payment for services rendered. On the basis that this payment is to be funding, as opposed to the procurement of services, the Contracts and Funding Code requires the GLA to ensure that the funding is distributed fairly, transparently and in accordance with the GLA's equalities obligations. The Code also requires the GLA to demonstrate value for money in the allocation of this funding.
- 6.5 The relevant officers should liaise with TfL Legal to ensure that a funding agreement is put in place to govern the grant of this funding to the Illuminated River Trust prior to any payment being made. Given that the proposal relates to a project which will launch after the end of the current mayoral term, officers must also observe the principle that an incumbent administration should not unreasonably fetter the discretion of any future administration. Officers should have regard to this principle when considering the terms of the funding agreement and any other agreements relating to this project to ensure that the GLA is able to terminate its obligations if that should prove to be necessary.

7. Investment and Performance Board

IPB received a paper on an Illuminated River proposal in October 2014 for its approval in-principle. The Board approved in principle expenditure of £250,000 as grant funding to the lighting of up to 8 bridges, noting that the GLA would not underwrite any third party costs.

8. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Appointment of Project Manager	May 2016
Funding agreement between GLA and IR Charitable Incorporated Organisation	June 2016
Design competition procurement process commences	June 2016
Invitation to tender to selected organisations	August 2016
Design competition complete and exhibition of short list	Nov 2016
Winner of competition announced	Dec 2016
Review of partnership between IR and GLA	Dec 2016
Design agreed, planning approved and private funding secured by IRCT for first phase	June 2017
Five bridge lighting schemes completed and unveiled	May 2018

Appendices and supporting papers: None

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) 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 approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be 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:

Jackie McNerney has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Amanda Coyle has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Financial and Legal advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. J. Belle

Date

28.4.16

