

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD 2628

Title: Trafalgar Square feasibility study

Executive Summary:

Trafalgar Square hosts numerous public events each year but its limited electrical power supply means that diesel generators are required to provide power. This harms local air quality and produces carbon emissions.

A feasibility study is proposed to assess the works and associated costs needed to upgrade Trafalgar Square's electrical power supply, negating the need for generators.

This decision form requests permission to spend £25,000 to that end.

If the study indicates a power upgrade would be practicable and cost-effective, capital funding from the Mayor's Air Quality Fund is available to deliver the necessary works.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Energy and Environment approves:

Expenditure of £25,000 to conduct a feasibility study to assess the works and associated costs needed to upgrade Trafalgar Square's electrical power supply, avoiding the need for diesel generators.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

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: Catherine Barber

Position: Assistant Director,
Environment and Energy Unit

Signature:



Date:

27/02/2023

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Trafalgar Square is owned and managed by the GLA. It hosts numerous public events each year, including around ten managed directly by the GLA (e.g. Diwali) and many more which are delivered by third parties which are granted permission by the Mayor to use the Square (e.g. Pride).
- 1.2. The Mayor has committed to making London net-zero carbon and improving its air quality, and is leading by example to improve the GLA's own environmental impacts. However, the electrical power supply to Trafalgar Square is limited, meaning that events rely on diesel generators for power. These generators are highly polluting, harming local air quality with NOx and particulate emissions, as well as increasing London's carbon footprint.
- 1.3. The GLA Facilities Management team will commission the work to their tenured Mechanical and Electrical contractor under pre-existing procurement arrangements (Measured Term Contract).

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. This work aims to establish the feasibility and cost of upgrading the power supply to Trafalgar Square. If the assessment indicates it would be practicable and cost-effective to upgrade the power supply, this work will be carried out using capital funds from the Mayor's Air Quality Fund.
- 2.2. This would lead to events on Trafalgar Square that no longer use diesel generators, hence are less polluting, contributing to the Mayor's goals to tackle the climate emergency and improve London's air quality. The outcomes of this work and its benefits to Londoners will be publicised via the communications plan in place for the Mayor's Air Quality Fund.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. This work to cut air pollution can help reduce environmental inequalities, as it is estimated that BAME and low-income Londoners are significantly more likely to be exposed to poor air quality. No negative impacts on groups with protected characteristics are expected as result of this decision.

4. Other considerations

Key risks and issues

	Risk description (cause, 'risk event', potential impacts)	Mitigation/Risk response (state if the response is done or pending)	Probability (1-4)	Impact (1-4)	RAG
1	Delays to the programme impact the ability to align with and apply for the Mayor's Air Quality Fund.	The relationship with the contractors will be carefully managed and the Air Quality team will be kept involved and updated.	2	2	Green
2	Inconclusive report findings make it difficult to act on the information.	The relationship with the contractor will be managed closely, including with internal and external stakeholder input, to ensure the findings are detailed, relevant and fit-for-purpose.	2	3	Amber

3	The work concludes that it is not feasible to install the power upgrade	Although outside the scope of this project, backup measures would be explored to minimise the air quality impact of diesel generators on Trafalgar Square, including encouraging events producers to use greener models and continuing register more polluting models on the GLA's online database of 'Non-Road Mobile Machinery'.	2	3	Amber
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Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.1. This work supports the goals of the Mayor's London Environment Strategy to tackle carbon emissions and improve air quality – in particular Chapter 11 commits to improving the environmental impacts of the GLA's own estate and events. It also supports the London Recovery Board's aim to reinvigorate and enhance the experience of economic and cultural activity in the Central Activities Zone.

Consultations and impact assessments, including data protection

- 4.2. No impact assessments have been identified as necessary or relevant to this work. No data protection issues arise in relation to the GLA's GDPR duty.
- 4.3. No health and safeguarding issues have been identified.
- 4.4. There are no conflicts of interest to note from any of those involved in the drafting or clearance of this form.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Assistant Director's approval is sought for expenditure of up to £25,000 on consultancy services to conduct a feasibility study to assess the works and associated costs needed to upgrade Trafalgar Square's electrical power supply.
- 5.2. This expenditure is to be funded from the Environment Team (Strategy and Green Recovery Team) 2022-2023 programme budget which is part of the Sustainable Development Budget line.
- 5.3. This expenditure is affordable within the budget for 2022-23.
- 5.4. All expenditure will be incurred by 31st March 2023.
- 5.5. It is appropriate that this work be funded by the Environment Team's Strategy and Green Recovery budget – rather than other GLA budgets – as it is specifically designated to embed sustainability within the GLA's operations, particularly GLA events. This is more suitable than either the Facilities Management budget or the Mayor's Air Quality Fund (which is not primarily targeted at feasibility or revenue funding). The Mayor's Retrofit Accelerator is not able to resource this work requires specialist technical knowledge outside the scope of the framework's providers.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 6.1. Project milestones and deliverables are itemised in the timeline below.

Activity	Timeline
Procurement: Contractual arrangements are already in place with the provider via a Measured Term Contract	n/a

Delivery Start Date	6 March 2023
On-site assessment	6 March 2023
Discussions with key stakeholders, namely UK Power Networks, TfL, Westminster Council and GLA teams (Events, Environment / Air Quality)	w/c 13 March
Draft report submission	20 March
Final report submission / delivery end date and project closure	27 March

Appendices and supporting papers:

None.

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

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:

Jon Emmett has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 27 February 2023

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature:

Anna Gustaf

Date:

27/02/2023