

DD DECISION – DD 4

Title: Funding for Ealing Council Planning

Executive summary

This decision authorises expenditure of £285,000 to London Borough of Ealing Council in recognition of the time Ealing Officers have spent on their involvement in the planning applications in the OPDC area of Ealing.

Decision

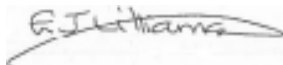
That the Executive Director approves:

- i. Expenditure of £285,000 to Ealing Council to reimburse for the time Ealing Officers have spent on their involvement in the planning applications in the OPDC area of Ealing.
- ii. To be split as follows:
 - £60,000 in 2024/25
 - £55,000 in 2025/26
 - £50,000 in 2026/27
 - £45,000 in 2027/28
 - £40,000 in 2028/29
 - £35,000 in 2029/30

Executive Director

I do not have any disclosable interest in the proposed Decision. It is consistent with OPDC's priorities and has my approval.

Signature:



Date: 04/02/2025

PART 1: NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

1. Background and context

- 1.1 OPDC is the planning authority for its area and all planning applications within the boundary of OPDC must be submitted to OPDC in the first instance.
- 1.2 The Localism Act 2011 allows for certain planning functions to be carried out by the host boroughs on OPDC's behalf.
- 1.3 OPDC adopted Schemes of Delegation for Planning Functions for the London Boroughs of Brent and Ealing on OPDC's inception in April 2015. There is no scheme of delegation in place with Hammersmith and Fulham. The schemes provided for the delegation of certain planning applications within defined geographical areas, with different thresholds in place for Old Oak, Park Royal and North Acton and were agreed with the borough concerned.

2. The proposal and how it will be delivered

- 2.1 Following discussions with Ealing Council, it requested that OPDC retain all new applications within its boundary for its own determination. The case for making this change reflects the shift in OPDC's regeneration strategy from Old Oak North to Old Oak West, which is predominantly in Ealing.
- 2.2 OPDC planning officer reported the amendments to the Scheme of Delegation with Ealing Council to the OPDC Planning Committee in November 2023 with the new arrangement taking effect from 1 April 2024.
- 2.3 Under the revised Scheme of Delegation, the only applications which OPDC continues to delegate are applications to amend or discharge conditions on planning permissions which were previously granted by Ealing under the previous Scheme of Delegation.
- 2.4 To compensate for the loss of fee income, and in recognition of the Council's desire to comment on applications, expenditure of £285,000 was agreed to reimburse Ealing Council for the time officers spend on their involvement in planning applications in the OPDC area of Ealing.
- 2.5 To be split as follows:
 - £60,000 in 2024/25
 - £55,000 in 2025/26
 - £50,000 in 2026/27
 - £45,000 in 2027/28
 - £40,000 in 2028/29
 - £35,000 in 2029/30

3. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 3.1 To enable Ealing Council to properly resource the provision of comments on planning applications in Ealing in the OPDC area.

4. Strategic fit

- 4.1 The proposed expenditure will facilitate the delivery of OPDC's statutory planning function.
- 4.2 It will help foster the values of collaboration and stewardship through enabling the properly resourced contribution of one of our host boroughs.

5. Project governance and assurance

- 5.1 Regular meetings are held with Ealing Council including the Ealing Programme Board and regular catch-ups between senior officers in the respective planning teams.

6. Risk, Issues and Opportunities

- 6.1 There is a risk that Ealing Council do not provide timely comments and input on planning applications however this risk is mitigated through the series of regular meetings with Ealing Council senior planning staff.

7. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Comments

- 7.1 Under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, OPDC must have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to the need to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.¹
- 7.2 Enabling the properly resourced contribution of one of our host boroughs will positively impact on equality, diversity and inclusion through the application of their detailed local knowledge.

8. Social Value

- 8.1 Enabling the properly resourced contribution of one of our host boroughs will assist in delivering social value through the application of their detailed local knowledge.

9. Conflicts of interest

- 9.1 There are no conflicts of interest.

¹ The protected characteristics and groups are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and marriage/ civil partnership status. Fulfilling this duty involves having due regard to: the need to remove or minimise any disadvantage suffered by those who share a protected characteristic or one that is connected to that characteristic; taking steps to meet the different needs of such people; and encouraging them to participate in public life or in any other activity where their participation is disproportionately low. Compliance with the Equality Act may involve treating people with a protected characteristic more favourably than those without the characteristic. The duty must be exercised with an open mind and at the time a Decision is taken in the exercise of the OPDC's functions.

10. Financial comments

- 10.1 Expenditure of £285,000 from 2024/25 through to 2029/30 to Ealing Council, to be met from the Planning DM budget.
- 10.2 Any further expenditure is subject to the Corporation's decision-making process.

11. Legal comments

- 11.1 This report indicates that the decision requested of the Chief Executive Officer falls with the OPDC's object of securing the regeneration of the Old Oak and Park Royal area and its powers to do anything it considers appropriate for the purpose of its objects or purposes incidental to those purposes, as set out in the Localism Act 2011.
- 11.2 In taking the decisions requested, the Chief Executive Officer must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, namely the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, and to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (race, disability, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment) 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 (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010).

12. Summary timeline

Activity	Date
Delivery start date	1 April 2024
Delivery end date	31 March 2030
Project closure	1 April 2030

Appendices

- None

Other supporting papers

- None

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this Form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA). OPDC aims to publish the Form within three working day of approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the Decision (for example, impacting a procurement process), it can be deferred until a specific date (when it will be published). Deferral periods are kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 – Deferral

Publication of this Part 1 is to be deferred: **No**

The deferral is until: **N/A**

This is because: **N/A**

Part 2 – Confidential information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included in or attached to any separate Part 2 Form, together with the rationale for withholding the information at this time.

There is a separate and confidential Part 2 Form: **No**

DECLARATIONS

Drafting officer: Emma Williamson has drafted this Form in accordance with OPDC procedures, including for handling conflicts of interests, and confirm that:

Advice: The Governance, Finance and Legal teams have commented on the proposal.

CONFIRMATIONS

Section 106 funding: N/A

Review: This Decision was circulated for **Senior Review** on 31/01/2025.

Executive Director, Finance & Operations – Gurdip Juty

Financial and legal implications have been appropriately considered in the preparation of this Form.

Signature: 

Date: 04/02/2025