GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION ADD2870

International rail – strategic appraisal

Programme: Upgrading London's Infrastructure

Executive summary:

Mayoral Decision 3382 approved the establishment of the Upgrading London's Infrastructure (ULI) programme. It also named the Assistant Director for Connectivity, Air Quality, Transport and Infrastructure as the Senior Responsible Owner. Assistant Director Decision (ADD) 2852 set out planned spending under the ULI programme for financial year 2026-27.

This ADD seeks approval to transfer £50,000 from the ULI programme to the London Legacy Development Corporation to reimburse the costs of commissioning independent analysis of the potential for growing international rail.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Connectivity, Air Quality, Transport and Infrastructure approves transferring £50,000 to the London Legacy Development Corporation by way of a revenue grant under Section 121 of the GLA Act 1999.

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: Elliot Treharne	**Position:** Assistant Director – Transport, Infrastructure, Connectivity and Air Quality
Signature: 	**Date:** 6 November 2026

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

1.1. Mayoral Decision (MD) 3382 approved the establishment of the Upgrading London's Infrastructure (ULI) programme and its associated delivery plan. This named the Assistant Director of Connectivity, Air Quality, Transport and Infrastructure as the approved Senior Responsible Owner.

1.2. The ULI delivery plan aims to ensure that London has the energy, water, digital connectivity and data infrastructure in place to achieve the Mayor's ambitious goals around net zero, climate resilience, housing delivery and economic growth. It has four project groupings:

- enabling the new infrastructure needed for housing and productivity
- readying London's infrastructure for the future
- reducing disruption caused by infrastructure delivery
- driving data innovation.

1.3. Assistant Director Decision (ADD) 2852 set out planned spending under these project groupings for financial year 2026-27. This ADD seeks to transfer £50,000 from the ULI programme to the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) for an appraisal of the potential for international rail growth.

1.4. This appraisal was recently completed by independent consultants commissioned by LLDC on the Greater London Authority's (GLA) behalf – adding scope to an existing contract related to Stratford regional station. The GLA drafted the additional scope with the LLDC; and led on engagement with the consultants throughout this additional work. This ADD therefore also seeks to make a grant in accordance with Section 121 of the GLA Act 1999 to transfer £50,000 to reimburse the LLDC for the costs incurred.

1.5. This commission will be funded by the ULI programme under the existing spending line 'strengthening system-wide resilience'. This is because a major benefit of new international rail options would be providing additional resilience, should existing international rail stations or aviation services be disrupted.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1. The commission sought to undertake a strategic options appraisal of international rail propositions.

2.2. Specifically, the expected outcome of the project was a better understanding of:

- which operating propositions are most commercially plausible
- what scale of capital investment may be required
- whether public-sector operating support or risk sharing may be needed
- how costs could be recovered
- what wider economic, social, regeneration and environmental benefits may arise

- what actions, by the government and/or the Mayor, would be needed to progress the opportunity.

3. Equality comments

3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Mayor and GLA must comply with the public sector equality duty (PSED) and must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not.

3.2. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination), race (ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality), religion or belief (including lack of belief), sex, and sexual orientation.

3.3. Consideration of the PSED is not a one-off task. The duty must be fulfilled before taking a decision, at the time of taking a decision, and after the decision has been taken, to ensure that equalities impacts are kept under ongoing review.

3.4. The ULI delivery plan helps achieve several of the Mayor's statutory equality objectives. Progress on delivery of these objectives is reported on each year in the Mayor's Annual Equality Report.

3.5. Securing international services at additional stations would provide greater choice to Londoners; and those travelling through or to London from the wider UK and abroad. For some people, other stations may offer improved accessibility compared to the current terminus at St Pancras – thereby increasing access to international rail travel.

4. Other considerations

Risks and issues

4.1. The key risks and issues, and their mitigating actions, are outlined in the table below:

Risk description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating action
Consultant-led options appraisal does not produce beneficial insights	Low	Medium	Active engagement with consultant team throughout the project to ensure outputs are tailored to GLA's needs.
LLDC does not receive reimbursement, and needs to reprofile wider Stratford regional project budget	Low	Medium	ADD to approve transfer of reimbursing funds.

Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

4.1. The ULI delivery plan aims to ensure that London has the energy, water, digital connectivity and data infrastructure in place to achieve the Mayor's ambitious goals around net zero, climate resilience, housing delivery and economic growth. This delivery plan includes action to maintain the LIF, which includes international rail as one of the 51 priority infrastructure projects for supporting London's sustainable growth, prosperity and climate resilience.

4.2. This initiative directly contributes to Policy 18 of the Mayor's Transport Strategy, which states:

> "The Mayor, through TfL and the boroughs, and working with stakeholders, will support improvements to public transport to enhance travel between London, the rest of the UK and international destinations, and will require regional, national and international transport schemes to be integrated into London's public transport system wherever possible."

4.3. It will also contribute to delivering the Mayor's London Environment Strategy, where policy 4.3.2 states:

> "The Mayor will encourage the take up of ultra low and zero emission technologies to make sure London's entire transport system is zero emission by 2050 to further reduce levels of pollution and achieve WHO air quality guidelines."

4.4. The London Growth Plan is London's 10-year ambition for growth and the actions that will be delivered to make this happen. It is a shared document of the Mayor and London Councils. The London Growth Plan section on housing and infrastructure includes the following specific 10-year action:

> "Grow international travel connections. Prioritise developing more international rail connections."

Conflicts of interest

4.5. There are no known conflicts to declare regarding those involved in the drafting or clearance of this form.

5. Financial comments

5.1. Approval is sought for the transfer of £50,000 in revenue grant to the LLDC.

5.2. This funding is part of project 1.1, 'policy and regulatory engagement; and maintaining an up-to-date London Infrastructure Framework', within the Upgrading London's infrastructure programme. The proposed spending is financed by GLA resources, as agreed in the budget for this financial year.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

6.1. The project will be delivered according to the following timetable:

Activity	**Timeline**
International rail appraisal study began	August 2026
International rail appraisal study concluded	September 2026

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 be published either within one working day after it has been approved or on the defer date.

Strategic Programmes

Does this decision seek approval for activity falling within the remit of a programme delivery plan? YES

If YES, which programme does this fall within: Upgrading London's Infrastructure

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 the 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: Claire Hamilton has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:	✓
Mayoral Delivery Board A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Mayoral Delivery Board on 2 November 2026.	

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Date 2 November 2026

Signature 