

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2271

Title: Good Growth by Design - Public London Evidence Base

Executive Summary:

Approval is sought to commission a research study to inform the development of the Public London Charter within the context of the proposed London Plan policy for effective management of public spaces to ensure these will be open, free to use and offer the highest level of public access. The study will be a standalone piece of work with a value up to £20,000 to be funded from the Planning and Good Growth by Design budgets.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Regeneration and Economic Development approves:

Expenditure of up to £20,000 on external services to undertake the Public London Evidence Base study.

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: Debbie Jackson

Position: Assistant Director of
Regeneration and Economic
Development

Signature:



Date:

02/10/18

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The draft new London Plan emphasises the important role of public realm in the city, and asserts that whether publicly or privately owned, public realm should be open, free to use and offer the highest level of public access. Through policy D7 the Mayor has committed to developing a Public London Charter which will set out the rights and responsibilities for the users, owners and managers of public spaces irrespective of land ownership.
- 1.2 The Public London Charter will seek to address this through promoting good design and proper stewardship of public spaces in new developments to ensure that they are democratic and encourage civic participation. It will ensure appropriate management and maintenance arrangements to maximise public access and minimise rules governing the space to those required for its safe management.
- 1.3 As part of this the Good Growth by Design (GGbD) programme identified a number of design inquiries which serve to both inform policy, guidance and delivery and to set quality standards for others to follow. GGbD is the Mayor's programme to promote quality and inclusion in the built environment. It is a plan and a call to action to deliver good growth. It recognises the role of design in improving development in an ever-denser city. It draws on existing design and place-shaping expertise by engaging with the built environment profession. One of the GGbD inquiries addresses the requirement of the Public London Charter and aims to deliver this through work with a sounding board of Mayors Design Advocates (MDAs).
- 1.4 The initial Public London sounding board meeting recommended that more evidence-based research was required. It is proposed to commission a study to provide quantitative and qualitative evidence and evaluation of built and in-use privately owned public spaces (POPs) and publicly owned spaces to inform the development of the Public London Charter.
- 1.5 Building on the premise that good growth is dependent on the continued availability of high quality fit for purpose public space that is freely accessible to all Londoners and visitors, the research commission will provide in-depth quantitative and qualitative evaluation of case studies of existing examples of in-use POPs and publicly owned spaces.
- 1.6 The study, of a value of up to £20,000, will be funded jointly from Planning and Good Growth by Design revenue budgets, and managed by the Regeneration and Economic Development team in consultation with Planning and other GLA group teams as required. This will be undertaken via a competitive procurement route.
- 1.7 The research commission will be progressed in parallel with other emerging policy areas, including the the GGbD inquiries on Diversity and the Child Friendly City.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The inquiry will include an overview of current legislation and collect case studies illustrating best practice regarding their planning, management and design. These case studies will be public spaces across London and may also include relevant national and international examples. The chosen sites will be informed by the existing knowledge and experience of the sounding board and relevant MDAs.
- 2.2 Issues that the study will consider, in the context of the inquiry (but focussing particularly on the long-term ambitions of the Public London Charter):

- The role of planning and legal mechanisms used in the design, delivery and management of public spaces to determine public accessibility and inclusive use.
- The rules that landowners and management companies place on the public use of spaces.
- How these rules are communicated and enforced and how they affect public accessibility and inclusive use.
- Specific features in the built environment that result from the respective planning or legal processes and site management regimes which affect public accessibility and inclusive use.
- How public spaces are used by a diverse population, taking into account socio-economic indicators as well as the relevant protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

2.3 It is anticipated that the methodology used by the successful bidder will employ quantitative and qualitative research, resulting in cross-cutting findings, which will feed into the development of the Public London Charter. The members of the Public London sounding board have been included in the development of the brief for the study and will be involved throughout the commission providing feedback and guidance to follow through into the development of the charter.

2.4 The study will provide:

- A desktop literature review on POPs focusing on planning and management and design.
- A long-list of London, UK and international examples of built and in-use POPs and publicly owned public spaces which the sounding board will shortlist for in depth evaluation.
- A definition of the set of quantitative and qualitative criteria to evaluate the agreed list of case studies and assess their performance in response to the research agenda, with a focus on how these spaces meet the requirements of a diverse set of Londoners.
- A comprehensive publishable report of circa ten case studies.
- A discussion paper summarising the case study analysis findings and setting out principles and options to inform the Public London Charter.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The work set out in this decision is intended to inform the Public London Charter and its ambitions to ensure that public space in London is accessible for all residents, workers and visitors to the area. It will consider how public spaces are used by a diverse population taking into account the relevant protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act.
- 3.2. The draft London Plan has had a full integrated impact assessment undertaken. The D7 draft London Plan policy on public realm and the Good Growth by Design agenda of this policy statement and guidance aims to improve the design and environment quality of the built environment for all Londoners.
- 3.3. The sounding board group, which is cross cutting across the GLA, are advising on the procurement specification to ensure equalities and diversity are considered and that consideration has been given to the potential impact on those with protected characteristics.

4. Other considerations

a) key risks and issues

- 4.1. As this is a live issue in the press, careful management of communications of the study are required. In addition, the Mayor's commitment to deliver a Public London Charter is mentioned in the draft London Plan, therefore regular monitoring of the programme and progress of this commission are required to mitigate the risk of delays that could impact the Examination in Public.

b) links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

- 4.2. In the draft London Plan the Mayor committed to delivering a Public London Charter which will set out the rights and responsibilities for the users, owners and managers of public spaces irrespective of land ownership.

c) consultations and impact assessments, including data protection (as per the GLA's requirements under GDPR), health and safeguarding where relevant.

- 4.3. As part of this commission engagement with a range of relevant stakeholders in the public and private sector, including local authorities, landowners and users of publicly owned and privately owned public spaces will take place.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 The cost of up to £20,000 for this study will be funded equally between the Good Growth by Design and Planning budgets held within the Development, Enterprise and Environment Budgets for 2018-19.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract	September 2018
Delivery Start Date	October 2018
First draft report	December 2018
Final draft report	February 2019
Project Closure	March 2019

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? YES**

If YES, for what reason:

We wish to defer publication until the consultant has been appointed for the commission to avoid prejudicing competition during the tender process.

Until what date: 1st October 2018

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:

Kathryn Timmins has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance and –if relevant– Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 1 October 2018.

HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature



Date

01-10-18

