

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD3000

GLAP donation relating to Defence and Security Equipment International

Executive summary:

GLA Land and Property Ltd (GLAP) owns the freehold of the ExCeL Exhibition Centre in Newham, East London. GLAP receives income from ExCeL as a result of this interest; this is paid annually in arrears based on the activity in ExCeL. Every two years since 2001, ExCeL has held the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) trade exhibition. This event attracts significant opposition from various campaign groups, and the Mayor of London and the Mayor of Newham have expressed their opposition to the event being held at ExCeL.

In 2019, Director Decision (DD)2402 approved the payment of £88,266 to the London Homeless Charities Group. This payment reflected the estimated income that GLAP received from ExCeL relating to the DSEI event in 2017. DD2402 noted that “a further approval will be sought to donate the income from the 2019 DSEI event once the amount of that income is known”. This decision seeks that approval and approval to donate the income received by GLAP from the 2021 event.

Decision:

That the Mayor approves the donation by GLAP of £166,841 to London Homeless Charities Group, which is an estimation of GLAP's share of the total income it received from ExCeL for the DSEI events held in 2019 (£99,809) and 2021 (£67,032), taking the total approval relating to DSEI income (including the 2017 payment of £88,266) to £255,107.

Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:



Date:

21/7/22

PART I – NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. GLA Land and Property Ltd (GLAP) is the freeholder of the ExCeL Exhibition Centre. ExCeL has a long leasehold over the land and pays an annual rent to GLAP, which is a percentage of ExCeL's turnover. ExCeL provides GLAP with an annual statement of income and a calculation of the turnover rent payment due to GLAP.
- 1.2. ExCeL has hosted the DSEI trade exhibition every two years since 2001. The event has been supported by the Department for International Trade and happens every other September. The most recent show was in September 2021. The Mayor of London and the Mayor of Newham have been vocal in their opposition to the event being held at ExCeL.
- 1.3. As set out in DD2402, GLAP has no legal means to prevent ExCeL holding the DSEI event at this time. The event also makes use of the water in Royal Victoria Dock; GLAP is the freeholder of the water in the Royal Docks, which is leased to the Royal Docks Management Authority (RoDMA). RoDMA has a 225-year lease of the water and is entitled to license moorings in the Royal Docks. RoDMA licenses parts of the water to Clarion, the DSEI organisers, to allow for a number of warships to be showcased at the exhibition.
- 1.4. As with ExCeL, the GLA has no legal right to stop RoDMA from agreeing to the licences. However, the GLA and the London Borough of Newham, via the directors representing their interests on the board of RoDMA, have made representations to the board of RoDMA, in respect of this matter.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. The Mayor of London does not wish GLAP to profit from DSEI. GLAP does not receive any income from RoDMA as a result of DSEI, but it does from ExCeL through the annual turnover rent payment it receives. In the lease ExCeL is not required to provide an event-by-event breakdown of income, so it is not possible to calculate the income paid to GLAP that originates from DSEI in a specific way.
- 2.2. As set out in DD2402, an estimate of the scale of income has been made. For the 2017 event, GLAP donated one-twelfth of the total annual income it received from ExCeL that financial year. This same approach has been followed for 2019 and 2021. This is not an exact calculation, but an approximation. As GLAP does not have the ability to prevent the event by way of its freehold ownership, it is proposed that an estimate of the DSEI-related income that GLAP receives from ExCeL is donated to a charitable cause that benefits Londoners.
- 2.3. The proposed donation is therefore £166,841. This includes £99,809 for 2019; and £67,032 for 2021.
- 2.4. In line with DD2402, the money will be donated to the London Homeless Charities Group, which includes a range of charities from across London working to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping. This reflects the Mayor of London's commitment to address homelessness in London.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 the Mayor as decision maker must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- 3.2. When considering the needs of Londoners and those that will be affected by the proposed donation, it is clear the donation will not disadvantage those with protected characteristics. This decision is therefore expected to have positive impacts on persons with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, as the donation will help to address problems such as overcrowding and homelessness in London – which, evidence indicates, disproportionately affects specific groups, including black and minority ethnic people.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1. The payments of the turnover rent relating to the 2019 and 2021 DSEI events were received from ExCeL in 2020-21 and 2022-23. An amendment to the current budget 2022-23 will be made to enable the donation.
- 4.2. The Mayor of London's Housing Strategy, the London Plan and the Rough Sleeping Action Plan all highlight the need to tackle London's housing crisis and the need for bold action to address homelessness. This is particularly relevant in the aftermath of COVID-19, during which multi-agency efforts made significant progress in addressing homelessness.
- 4.3. There are no conflicts of interest relating to this paper and those involved in drafting or clearing it.
- 4.4. The Mayor has considered whether or not consultation is required (as a pre-requisite to the exercise of his legal powers in section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 referred to in paragraph 7 below) and has concluded that consultation is not required.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. The Decision is seeking approval to donate £166,841 to the London Homeless Charities Group, which includes a range of charities working to prevent homelessness and rough sleeping.
- 5.2. The donation will be funded from the rental income received from ExCeL. The event is held biennially, and the amount donated represents one-twelfth of the annual rental income from ExCeL, for 2019 and 2021.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1. Section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) (GLA Act) gives the Mayor a general power to do anything that he considers will further one or more of the principal purposes of the GLA as set out in section 30(2), which are:
- promoting economic development and wealth creation in Greater London
 - promoting social development in Greater London
 - promoting the improvement of the environment in Greater London.
- 6.2. In formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought, officers confirm they have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties to:
- pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people
 - consider how the proposals will promote the improvement of health of persons in Greater London; promote the reduction of health inequalities between persons living in Greater London; contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and contribute towards the mitigation of or adaptation to climate change in the United Kingdom

- consult with appropriate bodies.

6.3. Sections 1 to 3 of this report indicate that the decision requested of the Mayor falls within the GLA's statutory powers.

7. **Planned delivery approach and next steps**

Activity	Timeline
Mayoral Decision	July 2022
Donation made to the London Homeless Charities Group	September 2022

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

Is there a part 2 form - NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to
confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Paul Creed has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Rickardo Hyatt has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Tom Copley has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 18 July 2022.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

D. Benge

Date: 18/7/22

CHIEF OF STAFF:

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor

Signature

D. Bellamy

Date 18/7/22

