

DIRECTOR DECISION – DD126

Title: In the Making – Victoria Road corridor planting coordination

Executive Summary:

The Design Team is seeking to commission landscape consultants to increase the impact of the four existing public realm/landscape improvement projects along the Victoria Road Corridor. This work will support OPDC's new approach to delivery within the Western Lands by improving the environment for those who live, work and visit this part of Old Oak and Park Royal.

The output of the commission will be a final report outlining the planting and biodiversity recommendations for the four existing projects and a baseline analysis. The commission will also include two workshops with the respective design teams and stakeholders, to inform the recommendations, and a presentation to OPDC's PLACE and CRG review panels.

Decision:

That the Director approves:

- Expenditure of up to £20,000 on external consultancy services to support the delivery of a coordinated planting and biodiversity strategy for the Victoria Road/Old Oak Common Lane corridor, from the Design budget in the 20-21 financial year.
- A single-source exemption from OPDC's Contracts and Funding Code so as to allow for the approval of Jonathan Cook Landscape Architects to carry out this work without a competitive procurement exercise.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

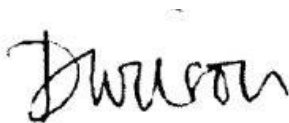
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the OPDC business plan and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Davena Wilson

Position: Director of Land and Property

Signature:



Date: 1 May 2020

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1 Introduction and background

1.1 OPDC is currently leading the design and delivery of four public realm/landscape projects, within close proximity, on the Victoria Road and Old Oak Common Lane corridor. OPDC has already secured external grant funding to implement three of these:

- Willesden Junction Public Realm (CD097)
- Old Oak Lane towpath ramp (CD128)
- Wormwood Scrubs entrances (DD127)
- Cerebos Gardens (DD111 – capital funding for implementation not yet secured)

1.2 As all the projects are currently under design development, and will be delivered on site from autumn 2020 onwards, there is an opportunity to coordinate the approach to shared elements such as planting and signage between the projects. This DD seeks approval to commission a specialist landscape consultancy to coordinate between the projects and develop recommendations for an overarching planting and biodiversity strategy to inform these projects and potentially other future projects within this area.

1.3 This coordination, and potential for identifying common elements between projects, will help to increase their impact on the local area and potentially create efficiencies in terms of procuring specific elements across several projects, increasing the overall impact.

1.4 This DD seeks approval for £20,000 of expenditure. The initial coordination study will cost £12,000. The remaining £8,000 would scope out opportunities for planting along the key road corridors of Victoria Road, Old Oak Common Lane, Chase Road, along the railway embankments and within future developments. This additional expenditure would only be used if a scope of works is agreed by the Director of Land and Property.

2 Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1 OBJECTIVES

- Provide input on planting, biodiversity to the four public realm projects currently being designed along the Victoria Road/Old Oak Common Lane corridor in order to optimise the coherence between projects and their overall impact
- Undertake baseline analysis and pilot approaches which could inform planting and biodiversity strategies and proposals as part of OPDC's 'Western Lands' work.

2.2 DELIVERABLES

- Presentations to client group at the end of each phase of work.
- Presentation to OPDC's CRG and PLACE review group of draft proposals
- Collaborative design workshop with the different design teams to explore opportunities for coordinated planting approaches
- Final document summarising the character study and local planting analysis, opportunities and thematic approaches

2.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Increased impact of the individual public realm and landscape projects in terms of value for biodiversity networks and user experience.

New opportunities for landscape improvements identified which can inform the Western Lands work and future funding applications.

2.4 PROCUREMENT

A Single Source Justification has been approved for Jonathan Cook Landscape Architects (JCLA) to undertake this work. JCLA are the landscape sub-consultants already working on three of these projects.

All of these commissions were procured via a competitive process utilising the ADUP framework or invited tender. As JCLA are sub-consultants on the teams where they have worked on projects for OPDC it is not possible to just extend an existing contract to include this task.

3 Equality comments

3.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, as a public authority, the OPDC is subject to the public sector equality duty and must have 'due regard' to the need to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation; (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not; and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do. Protected characteristics under section 149 of the Equality Act are age, disability, gender re-assignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sex orientation, and marriage or civil partnership status (all except the last being "relevant" protected characteristics).

3.2 At the heart of the four projects which are the focus of this commission is the objective to build capacity and facilitate truly community-led projects. The groups of residents engaged in these projects include a range of nationalities and gender.

3.3 A benefit of the public realm improvement projects are to improve the nature of the green space to make it more open and accessible, to encourage social interaction, play, relaxation and physical activity as noted in D1 of the draft London Plan and the OPDC draft Local Plan. These improvements will benefit all users including those with protected characteristics.

4 Other considerations

In the Making

4.1 'In the Making' is an initiative which OPDC are leading that forms part of the OPDC's Delivery Plan. It enables OPDC to deliver improvements and pilot initiatives within locations where it is possible to accelerate delivery. A key aim is to provide confidence that OPDC are bringing forward the regeneration of Old Oak and Park Royal. It comprises a combination of capital improvement projects, community initiatives, and cultural and artistic commissions.

4.2 The overarching objectives of the In the Making initiative are:

- to create immediate benefits for local communities from the public investment and regeneration in Old Oak and Park Royal by improving physical links, open spaces and community infrastructure;
- to establish a strong identity and profile for Old Oak and Park Royal further afield to attract high calibre investors and organisations who will deliver the vision; and
- pilot activities and local initiatives that could support the vision and objectives of the longer term regeneration of the area.

Risks and Issues

4.3 There is a risk that the advice on a coordinated approach to planting and biodiversity is too late to influence the design proposals of each project.

Mitigation: The selection of JCLA to undertake the work will ensure that it is completed in a timely way because they already have a good understanding of the projects and wider context.

4.4 There is a risk that the proposals are not affordable within the budgets identified for each project.

Mitigation: JCLA will be fully briefed on the budgets and management and maintenance arrangements to ensure that the recommendations are appropriate for the context.

5 Financial comments

5.1 Expenditure of up to £20,000 on the consultancy services described above will be funded from the 2020/21 Design budget. Additional spend is subject to the Corporation's decision making process.

6 Legal comments

6.1 The report above indicates that the decision requested of the Director 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.

6.2 In taking the decisions requested, the Director 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). To this end, the Director should have regard to section 3 (above) of this report.

6.3 Section 4.1 of the Contracts and Funding Code (the 'Code') requires OPDC to seek a call-off from a suitable framework, where possible, or if not, undertake a formal tender process which will be managed by TfL in respect of the services. However, the Director may approve an exemption from this requirement under section 5 of the Code upon certain specified grounds. The officers have indicated at section 2.4 of this report that a single source justification has already been approved in respect of the services. On this basis the Director may approve the proposed exemption if satisfied with the content of this report and the single source justification obtained.

6.4 Officers must ensure that appropriate contract documentation is put in place and executed by JCLA and OPDC before the commencement of the services.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Project management

8.1 OPDC is the client for this work. The main point of contact will be the OPDC Head of Design supported by the Early Activation Project Manager.

8.2 As needed, the project team will be assisted by representatives from the GLA regeneration and environment teams, and the local London Boroughs of Ealing and Hammersmith and Fulham Parks Teams.

8.3 The OPDC Communications and Engagement team will also support with the liaison and engagement with the local residents, as they have been already with the individual projects.

8.4 The project programme, budget and risks will be managed and overseen by the OPDC Early Activation Project Manager and key milestones will be reported through the OPDC Wide Programme Board.

8.5 An Early Activation internal working group has been set up and meets quarterly to ensure the coordination with other OPDC teams and workstreams. This will include representatives from OPDC teams: planning, communications and engagement, sustainability, technical project management and the Great Place Scheme.

Activity	Timeline
Project Start Date	April 2020
Presentation of draft proposals to PLACE review	May 2020
project End Date	June 2020

Appendices and supporting papers:

Single Source Justification 81613 GLA

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and will be made available on the OPDC 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 approval or on the defer date.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered to be exempt from disclosure under the FOI Act should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a part 2 form –NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

[DO NOT DELETE CONTEXT IN THIS BOX]

Drafting officer
to confirm the
following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Eleanor Fawcett has drafted this report in accordance with OPDC procedures and confirms that:

✓

Finance advice:

The Finance team have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments

✓

Legal advice:

The Legal team have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER:

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

Signature

Date 23/4/20

