

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD2041

### REVIEW OF THE GARDEN BRIDGE PROJECT

#### Executive Summary:

The Mayor is committed to ensuring that Londoners have full information about how public money is being spent. As part of this commitment, the Mayor has initiated a review of the Garden Bridge project, and intends to appoint Dame Margaret Hodge MP to lead this independent review.

The Garden Bridge review will consider whether taxpayers are receiving value for money. It will look in detail at the procurement process around the project, and whether required standards have been met around transparency and openness going back to the beginning of the project. A report will be produced for the Mayor following the completion of the review and the Mayor has committed to publishing the report in full.

The review has been allocated a contingency budget of £25,000 for its duration. The review will be supported by GLA officers who will provide secretariat and audit support. The timelines for the review will be determined by the review's progress.

#### Decision:

The Mayor approves:

- The appointment of Dame Margaret Hodge MP to lead an independent review of the Garden Bridge project
- The terms of reference for the review (appendix 1)
- The publication of the final report arising from the review
- Expenditure of up to £25,000, to procure and appoint specialist consultancy support for the review, if required.

#### 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:

19/10/16

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1 Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The Garden Bridge project intends to provide a footbridge linking Temple with the Southbank at a revised cost of £185m. £60 million of public money has been pledged: the previous Mayor of London approved a £30 million funding pledge from Transport for London (TfL), while the Government has pledged a further £30 million. £20 million of the money pledged by TfL is in the form of a loan to be repaid in full. Approximately £37 million has already been spent from the total £60 million pledged by Government and TfL. If the Garden Bridge is finished, the £20 million loan be repaid to TfL and the Garden Bridge Trust will also need to pay approximately £22 million in VAT to the Treasury – leaving an ultimate cost to the taxpayer of £18 million.
- 1.2 The Mayor has been clear that no new public funds under his control should be committed to the Garden Bridge project, and since his first week in office has pledged to make the project more open and transparent.
- 1.3 The Mayor will initiate a review of the Garden Bridge project. The Mayor has expressed his concerns about the early days of the project and that it did not reach expected levels of transparency.
- 1.4 The Garden Bridge review will consider whether taxpayers are receiving value for money. It will look in detail at the procurement process around the project, and whether required standards have been met around transparency and openness going back to the beginning of the project.
- 1.5 The review will set out any lessons that should be learnt in order to improve the conduct of potential and approved projects in the future. A report will be produced for the Mayor following the completion of the review and the Mayor has committed to publishing the report in full.
- 1.6 Dame Margaret Hodge's experience means she is well-qualified to undertake this review. She has been a London M.P. since 1994, representing Barking, and for five years chaired the Public Accounts Committee, scrutinising public spending across all areas of Government. Dame Margaret has previously expressed no opinion either for or against the Garden Bridge and brings no preconceptions to the role.
- 1.7 Although Dame Margaret will be providing her services free of charge, a contingency budget of £25,000 has been allocated to the review. This contingency budget will provide for any legal or specialist advice that Dame Margaret may require in order to support the review.
- 1.8 The review will be supported by GLA officers who will provide secretariat and audit support. The officers selected have had no involvement in the project and the officers will work to Dame Margaret's direction. The Head of Paid Service has set out his expectation that all officers of the GLA and its functional bodies will fully cooperate with the review and provide all information requested.

#### **2 Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1 The terms of reference for the review are included in Appendix A.
- 2.2 The Garden Bridge review will consider whether taxpayers are receiving value for money. It will look in detail at the procurement process around the project, and whether required standards have been met around transparency and openness going back to the beginning of the project.
- 2.3 The review will set out any lessons that should be learnt in order to improve the conduct of potential and approved projects in the future. A report will be produced for the Mayor following the completion of the review and the Mayor has committed to publishing the report in full.

### 3 Equality comments

- 3.1 There is not expected to be any negative impact in terms of equality as part of this review; it will be mindful of all the requirements set out in the Equality Act 2010 and as a result will be of benefit to all Londoners.

### 4 Other considerations

#### *Key risks and issues*

- 4.1 Were the review not carried out, the Mayor would be unable to receive assurances about the value for money being offered to taxpayers. This would leave the London public less informed about a significant project, which has already been provided with public funds.

#### *Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities*

- 4.2 The Mayor was elected on a clear mandate to be an open and transparent Mayor and this review will contribute to that commitment.

### 5 Financial comments

- 5.1 Any costs arising from the review will be met from the Development, Enterprise and Environment Directorate Central Programme Budget subject to authorisation from the Executive Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment.

### 6 Legal comments

- 6.1 Under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (the 'Act') the mayor, acting on behalf of the GLA, is entitled to do anything that he considers will further the promotion, within Greater London, of economic development and wealth creation, social development and the improvement of the environment.
- 6.2 Furthermore, section 34 of the Act allows the GLA, acting by the mayor, to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of any functions of the GLA exercisable by the mayor. In this case, a review of the Garden Bridge project (the "Review") may be viewed as being calculated to facilitate social development within Greater London
- 6.3 Dame Margaret Hodge MP has been appointed to lead the review. As set out at paragraph 1.7 above, Dame Margaret will be providing her services free of charge. Accordingly, there are no procurement implications relating to her appointment.
- 6.4 Finally, the officers seek approval of a £25,000 contingency budget to procure any specialist consultancy services, which may be required to support the Review. The officers are reminded that the procurement of consultants to support the Review must be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code.

### 7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Announcement of review and independent lead	September 2016
Publication of final review	To be confirmed

#### Appendices and supporting papers:

Review Terms of Reference – Appendix A

**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 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 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:**

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

**Drafting officer:**

Claire Hamilton, Transport Manager, has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following have been consulted on the final decision.

✓

**Sponsoring Director:**

Fiona Fletcher-Smith, Director of Development, Enterprise and Environment has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

**Mayoral Adviser:**

Jules Pipe 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 17 October 2016.

✓

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:**

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

Signature

*M. J. Belle*

Date

*17.10.16*

**CHIEF OF STAFF:**

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

Signature

*D. Bellamy*

Date

*17/10/2016*

**GARDEN BRIDGE REVIEW – TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- To assess the public sector contribution to the Garden Bridge project and whether value for money has been achieved
- To investigate the conduct of Transport for London, the Greater London Authority and other relevant authorities in regard to the Garden Bridge project from first proposal to date
- To achieve this through assessing the findings of previous reviews, interviewing current and former GLA/TfL staff and other stakeholders and investigating more deeply as required
- To set out any lessons that should be learnt in order to improve the conduct of potential and approved projects in the future
- To produce a report for the Mayor of London, which will be published in full.

