GREATER**LONDON**AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1196

Title: **Mayor's Regeneration Fund Specialist Assistance Team Update**

Executive Summary:

This document sets out the request to increase the budget of the Specialist Assistance Team (SAT), an advisory consultant resource set up to advise the Mayor's Regeneration Fund delivery partners, by £15,000 from the Mayor's Regeneration Fund (MRF) programme support budget.

The MRF Specialist Assistance Team budget of £14,660 which was carried forward from 2012/13 has been fully committed. A new Specialist Assistance Team will be procured in 2014/15, for a 3 year period, but it is not likely to be in place before Quarter 2. This additional resource is required to support MRF projects in the interim.

Decision:

That the Executive Director of Development, Enterprise & Environment approves the continuation into 2014/15 of services in respect of various consultants appointed to the Specialist Assistance Team, set up to advise the Mayor's Regeneration Fund delivery partners in 2013/14 (DD1073) up to a maximum expenditure of £15, 000.

AUTHORISING DIRECTOR

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: Fiona Fletcher-Smith

Position: Executive Director

Signature:

Date: 24 April 2014

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

1.1. The Mayor's Regeneration Fund (MRF) is a £70 million (including £20 million from Government) investment into those areas most affected by the August 2011 riots. Significant contributions have gone to Tottenham and Croydon, which were worst impacted by the disturbances, with further investment to six other areas across London.

1.2. In October 2011 the Mayor approved (under MD895) the Mayors Regeneration Fund. In May 2012, the Executive Director (under DD789) approved £20,000 from the MRF programme support budget for the second version of the Specialist Assistance Team. 22 consultants were appointed across 15 lots. £5,340 of this budget was spent in 2012/13 with £14,660 carried into 2013/14.

1.3. In June 2013, the Executive Director (under DD1073) approved the purchase of additional services to augment the second SAT (increasing to 28 consultants across 19 lots) funded by the £14,660 carried forward from 2012/13 MRF support budget. The current SAT budget has been fully committed, with a further £7,000 requested.

1.4. The current list of SAT consultants is:

Retail Revival
Vision On
Groundwork
Muf architecture/art
Social Spaces
Abake
Europa
O-SB Design
Designed by Good People
The Workers
Urban Movement
Cinimod
Speirs & Major
Spacemakers
Urban Space Management
3 Space
Meanwhile Space
Gort Scott
Publica
Fieldwork Enterprises
The Architecture Foundation
Ing Media
Uniform
East
Living Streets
Hunt & Gather
Association of Town Centre Managers
GVA Grimley

1.5. A new Specialist Assistance Team will be procured in 2014/15, lasting 3 years, but it is not likely to be in place before Quarter 2. This additional resource is required to support MRF projects in the interim.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1 Why additional Specialist Assistance Team budget is needed:

The current SAT budget has been fully committed, but the next SAT will not be appointed until Q2 2013/14. Additional support for MRF projects has been requested during this interim period. This essential support will help ensure that this significant portion of the GLA's money is spent more effectively. As we reach a crucial period of delivery in MRF Programmes, it is essential that this resource continue to be made available to our delivery partners.

2.2 How we reached this conclusion:

The current SAT budget has been fully committed, a further £7,000 has already been requested, and the next SAT will not be in place until Q2 2013/14.

2.3 The benefit of adopting this approach:

The knowledge and skills available in the SAT are required to provide advice to MRF delivery partners in areas of expertise that the GLA, local authorities and partner organisations often do not have. This essential support will help ensure that this significant portion of the GLA's money is spent more effectively.

2.4 The risk of not using this approach:

If the GLA does not allocate further budget it will disadvantage projects which require additional support. The GLA runs the risk of funding projects of lower quality.

2.5 Why external services are required:

As stated above, the knowledge and skills available in the SAT are required to provide advice to MRF partners in areas of expertise that the GLA, local authorities and partner organisations do not have. This essential support will help ensure that this significant portion of the GLA's money is spent more effectively.

3. Planned approach

3.1 If approved, the current SAT will be used, until the additional budget of £15,000 is exhausted, on the basis of half-days of consultant time allocated by the GLA to high street projects. It is expected that all £15,000 will be spent in 2014/15.

4. Other considerations

a) key risks and issues

Procurement: There is no further procurement required in increasing the budget of the Specialist Assistance Team, as the consultants tendered on the basis of a commission lasting until 2016 with the possibility of the budget increasing.

Coordination: All SAT advisory sessions will continue to be coordinated centrally by the GLA to ensure that the resource is distributed appropriately and equitably and to monitor spend.

b) links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

London's town centres, including many of its high streets, are a key spatial priority of the London Plan, providing access to a range of services and enabling all parts of London to contribute to London's economic success. The Mayor has committed through investment of £120 million to support London's high streets. The SAT provides additional advice and support to these Mayoral projects.

c) Impact assessments and consultations

Monitoring: The GLA has conducted an evaluation of the SAT support provided during 13/14, and will do so for any future years of the SAT. Findings have shown that the SAT is very well received, with nearly 90% of partners expressing satisfaction with the advice and support received. All respondents who had made use of the SAT expressed a desire to use in the future in either bid development or project support.

5. Financial comments

5.1 Approval has previously been given to procure consultancy relating to the Mayor's Regeneration Fund (MRF) Specialist Assistance Team (SAT) in 2013/14 at a cost of up to £14,660. Approval is now being sought for the continuation of SAT services for recipients of MRF funding until 30th June 2014 to ensure continued provision of specialist support until the next SAT is in place.

5.2 The estimated cost of these contracts is up to £15,000. It is expected the commissions will be wholly undertaken in 2014/15.

5.3 The revenue cost of £15,000 will be funded from the 2013/14 MRF programme support budget (subject to the approval of a budget carry forward request).

5.4 If the 2013/14 MRF carry forward request is not approved, the additional SAT expenditure and the costs of the new SAT will have to be met from the existing 2014/15 MRF programme support budget.

5.5 All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.

5.6 As this decision relates to contracts, officers have to ensure that the requirements of the Authority's Contracts and Funding Code are adhered to.

5.7 As these contracts are consultancy based, officers also have to ensure that the requirements relating to consultancy services within the Authority's Financial Regulations and Expenses & Benefits Framework are adhered to.

5.8 Any changes to this proposal must be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process.

5.9 The Regeneration Team within the Development, Enterprise and Environment Directorate will be responsible for managing this project.

6. Legal Comments

6.1 The foregoing sections of this report indicate that:

6.1.1 the decisions requested of the Director (in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code) fall within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or which are facilitative of, or conducive or incidental to the promotion of economic, social and environmental improvement in Greater London. In formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers 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, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
- consult with appropriate bodies.

6.2 All services required should be procured by Transport for London Procurement in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code. Officers must liaise with Transport for London Procurement in this regard.

Appendices and supporting papers:

MD895, DD1073

Public access to information
Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the GLA website within 1 working day of approval.

Part 1 deferral*: any fact or information whose release before a specific date would compromise the implementation of the decision may be included in Part 1, with Part 1 being deferred until after that date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.*

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred? NO
If YES, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 confidentiality*: any fact and advice that should not be automatically made public should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the rationale for confidentiality.*

Is there a part 2 form –NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:	Tick indicates approval (✓)
Drafting officer: Alison Mayer has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:	✓
Assistant Director/Head of Service: Debbie K Jackson has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.	✓
Financial and Legal advice: The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal, and this decision reflects their comments.	✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature **Date**