

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD1332

Title: Donation towards memorial for 1943 Bethnal Green Tube Disaster

Executive Summary:

Bethnal Green Tube Station was the scene of Great Britain's worst civilian disaster during World War II when an air raid siren test resulted in the death of 173 people.

A memorial to the victims of the disaster, named the "Stairway to Heaven", has been erected and Transport for London wishes to donate £10,000 to the Trust which is raising money to complete this work.

TfL is seeking a delegation from the Mayor to make the donation which, if approved, will mark an important event in the history of the London Underground, World War II and London generally.

Decision:

That the Mayor authorises TfL under section 38(1) of the GLA Act to exercise the Mayor's powers under sections 30 and 34 of the GLA Act 1999 in order to donate £10,000 to the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust in accordance with the Delegation Instrument in the Annex.

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:

15.04.14

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

Underground Tube Stations played a vital role as bunkers during the WW II saving thousands of lives during air raids. The Bethnal Green Tube Disaster occurred on 3 March 1943 when an air raid siren test sounded and people in the local area sought refuge in the Tube Station. A woman carrying a baby tripped and fell down the steps, and the incident compounded as people continued to surge in seeking refuge. This led to the tragic death of 173 people (including 62 children) as the crowd crushed in. This was Great Britain's worst civilian disaster of World War II.

A plaque in honour of the victims was laid at the station in the 1990s and it was decided to mark the 70 year anniversary of the disaster with a more substantial outdoor structure which was unveiled in 2013. The Memorial is named "Stairway to Heaven" and was erected with the help of a Memorial Trust of the same name (Charity No. 1118618).

The Trust is now raising money to pay for a protective canopy for the memorial and TfL wishes to make a donation of £10,000 to help meet the cost of completing this work.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

The 1943 Disaster was an important event in the history of the London Underground, World War II and London generally, and it is thought that the Memorial is a fitting tribute to the persons who were lost.

3. Other considerations

Links to Objectives

The donation by TfL towards the cost of the memorial canopy will further the promotion of social development in Greater London.

Risk

No risks have been identified in TfL providing a donation of £10,000 towards this project.

Impact Assessments and Consultation

No impacts have been identified and therefore no impact assessment has been undertaken. There is no requirement for a statutory consultation.

4. Financial comments

There will be no financial implications for the GLA arising from this decision as the full costs of making the donation will be borne by TfL.

5. Legal comments

The GLA has the power to do anything which it considers will further the promotion of social development in Greater London under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and making a donation towards the memorial's canopy, as detailed above, falls within the scope of this function. The GLA's functions are exercisable by the Mayor and section 38(1) provides that he may delegate this power to TfL as a result of which they become a function of TfL. The delegation in Annex 1 outlines the terms upon which TfL may exercise the delegated function and associated conditions.

6. Investment & Performance Board

There is no requirement for this to be considered at the Investment and Performance Board.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

The donation will be a one off payment.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Annex 1 –Delegation of Mayor's powers to TfL.

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:

Christian van der Nest has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following have been consulted on the final decision.

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Tim Steer has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Fiona Fletcher-Smith has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Isabel Dedring has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

M. D. Helle

Date

10.4.14

CHIEF OF STAFF:

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

Signature

*Approved by Sir Edward Lister
by email on 11.4.2014*

Date

DELEGATION

MAYORAL DELEGATION TO TRANSPORT FOR LONDON IN RESPECT OF A DONATION TOWARDS A MEMORIAL FOR THE 1943 BETHNAL GREEN TUBE STATION DISASTER

Background

- a) On 3 March 1943 173 people, including 62 children, died in a crush at Bethnal Green Tube Station, when they rushed to enter the Bethnal Green tube station after hearing air-raid sirens, which turned out to be a practice test. This was the worst single civilian disaster during World War II.
- b) A permanent memorial to the victims of the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster called the "Stairway to Heaven" has been erected by the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust ("the Trust", registered as Charity Number 1118618) which is raising money to help complete the work.
- c) TfL wishes to donate £10,000 to the Trust for that purpose on the basis that providing a permanent memorial to the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster will promote social development of the area by marking an important event in the history of the London Underground, World War II and London generally.
- d) The Mayor has consented to delegate his powers under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 for that purpose.

Delegation

1. Accordingly, under section 38(1) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 as amended ("the GLA Act") I hereby authorise TfL to exercise the GLA's functions under section 30 of that Act to donate £10,000 to the Trust for completion of the work on the Stairway to Heaven Memorial on the basis that doing so will promote the social development of London and the Bethnal Green area in particular and appropriately mark the Bethnal Green Tube Station disaster.

Conditions

2. The authorisation conferred by paragraph 1 above is made subject to the following conditions:
 - a. The activities carried out by or on behalf of TfL in implementing the delegation will be the subject of regular reports and advice to me on progress and developments;
 - b. In implementing this delegation TfL will comply with any instructions or guidance issued by me or any officer I nominate;
 - c. No costs incurred in the implementation of this Delegation shall be borne by the GLA; and
 - d. TfL shall at all times afford the member of staff designated from time to time as the GLA's Monitoring Officer all reasonable co-operation and access to documents and facilities as may be required from time to time in respect of that person's duties as Monitoring Officer under section 5(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as substituted by section 73(6) of the GLA Act).

Signed



Boris Johnson

Mayor of London

Date 15th April 2014

