

GREATER **LONDON** AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD1323

Title: Langdon Park School - Spotlight Youth Space

Executive Summary:

This report concerns a financial contribution by the GLA to the Langdon Park School Spotlight Youth Space in Tower Hamlets, a centre to enable young people to gain life skills and experiences. The payment is the subject of a grant agreement made by the GLA in March 2013. The construction of Spotlight was completed in December 2013 and became operational in January 2014.

Decision:

That the Mayor notes that a contribution of £482k to the Langdon Park School Spotlight Youth Space approved by MD1162 was not provided in 12-13 and approves that this can be provided in 2013-14.

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

10.3.2014

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 This paper seeks approval to allocate grant funding of £482,500 from the Housing and Land budget to Poplar Housing and Regeneration Community Association as a contribution towards the build cost of the circa £6.7million Langdon Park School Spotlight Youth Space (SYS) in Tower Hamlets. MD1162 approved a total payment of £965,000 to SYS to deliver a written, but non-contractual, commitment made by London Thames Gateway Development Corporation prior to the transfer of its assets to the GLA in April 2012. SYS was completed in December 2013.
- 1.2 The MD agreed the Housing and Land Property budget would provide £965,000 from its 2012/13 budget towards the scheme. The grant agreement with Poplar HARCA allowed for half the money, £482,500 to be paid in 2012/13 with the balance to be paid in three instalments in 2013/14, the final payment being made on completion of the scheme. Approval was received to carry forward £482,500 into the 2013/14 budget. While the first payment was 'goods receipted' in the GLA system by 28 3 13 to enable it to count against the 2012/13 budget, a technical issue on the financial system meant this was not approved until April 2013. This means the liability for the full amount of the £965,000 falls into 2013/14. To date, SYS has received £482,500 with two outstanding claims of £160,833 waiting for payment with the final claim now being due.
- 1.3 Headroom has been identified in the Land and Property programme budget to cover the balance of the payment due.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1 Links to strategies and Mayoral and corporate priorities.

The SYS aligns well with the Mayor's youth programme, enabling local young people to access training and opportunities for employment as well as providing a high quality designed building. The funding provides an additional 923sqm dedicated to modern, cutting edge learning resources to support post-16 provision which includes new classrooms (art & fashion, multi-media and music/live recital) multi-use hall, meeting/training rooms and games facilities. This provision supported the development of the other 1,256sqm space for the 2179sqm BREEAM 'Excellent' scheme.

- 2.2 Impact assessments and Consultation.

As the construction period has been extended, the original targets reported for SYS' first year of operation have been delayed until the scheme becomes operational.

- 2.3 Risk

The grant agreement is a contractual commitment to pay Poplar HARCA £965,000 towards the construction of SYS.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1 The additional expenditure required on this project for 2013-14 will be taken from savings from within the directorate, which have been identified as part of the 2014-15 budget process.
- 3.2 The required funding agreement is already in place for this grant.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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, the mayor's making a contribution to a centre, which will provide training opportunities for young people, may reasonably be viewed as being calculated to facilitate and conducive and incidental to social development and wealth creation in Greater London.
- 4.3 The proposed grant of up to £482,500 to the Poplar Housing and Regeneration Community Association (the "Poplar HARCA") may be viewed as conditional gift rather than a contract for services and supplies. The officers have indicated that the requested funding is to be made pursuant to a funding agreement, which was signed by the GLA and the Poplar HARCA in March 2013.

5. Housing Investment Board

- 5.1 The decision to grant fund SYS in the sum of £965,000 was taken at HIG on 14 08 2012.

6. Background/supporting papers

MD1162

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. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form. Deferment is only applicable where release before that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved.

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Is there a part 2 form - NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Tick to indicate
approval (✓)

Drafting officer:

Janet Trench 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:

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

✓

Sponsoring Director:

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

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Richard Blakeway has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

OFFICER APPROVAL**Executive Director, Resources**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial and legal advice have been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

Signature

M. J. Allen

Date

26.2.14

Chief of Staff

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

Signature

Edmund H. -

Date

27.02.14