

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2494

Title: British Library Planning Performance Agreement

Executive Summary:

In June 2019, the Mayor agreed within MD2475 a standing delegation to the Assistant Director Planning to enter into bespoke Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) for complex planning schemes up to a cap of £250,000. This was on the basis that costs would be recovered on a cost recovery basis from the developer to cover GLA officer, and if required consultant, costs. The delegation was to be exercised through an ADD decision form for each PPA.

A PPA for £30,000 has been agreed with the developer of the British Library.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Planning approves:

1. the Planning Performance Agreement for expenditure of £30,000 in respect of the British Library scheme; and
2. the receipt of £30,000 on a cost recovery basis from the developer SML and British Library.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT

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: Lucinda Turner

Position: Assistant Director Planning

Signature:



Date:

1 February 2021

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Planning Performance Agreements were formally introduced into the planning system on 6 April 2008 and are principally aimed at major planning applications that need substantial amounts of officer time and negotiation throughout the life of the scheme and allow officers to improve the quality of schemes that are eventually submitted as planning applications and determined. They also allow the GLA to charge for officer time taken up by the larger scale strategic schemes.
- 1.2 A Mayoral decision (MD2475) was agreed on 11 June 2019 which gave delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Planning to enter into Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) up to a cap of £250,000. This PPA will be with SMBL and the British Library and will be for £30,000.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The principal objective is to maintain an effective high-quality strategic planning service at a time of pressure on resources and growing external and corporate demands by ensuring there are sufficient resources to deal with pre-application advice and applications including call ins by the Mayor. The expected outcomes are:
 - a continuation of the ability to deal with increasing workloads particularly the pre-application service by having sufficient resources in place; and
 - allowing the GLA planning function to keep up with high and rising levels of demand for advice whilst delivering an efficient fit for purpose strategic planning function for the Mayor.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in making these decisions “due regard” must be had to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not. Protected characteristics include age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender, sexual orientation (and marriage or civil partnership status for the duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination only). In this instance the proposals have been considered and are not expected to have any impacts on those with protected characteristics as distinct from anyone else.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 *Mayoral strategies and priorities:* pre-application advice is fundamental to the implementation of the Mayor’s London Plan which seeks to ensure that the city meets the challenges of economic and population growth with much needed housing and commercial floorspace along with other associating social infrastructure and transport infrastructure to enable the development. The Mayor’s comments and decisions on referable planning applications is a key implementation tool of the London Plan. The pre-application service helps to ensure subsequent applications deliver London Plan objectives.
- 4.2 *Risk Management issues:* regular monitoring of income will be necessary to ensure the costs of providing the service are covered and the income is spent within the Regulations associated with the Local Government Act.
- 4.3 *Conflicts of Interest:* There are no conflicts of interest to note for any of those involved in the drafting or clearance of the decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is sought for expenditure of £30,000 for a Planning Performance Agreement and the receipt of £30,000 on a cost recovery basis from the developer SMBL and British Library.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timing
Completion of Planning Performance Agreement.	January 2021
From February 2021 to June 2021 programmed pre-application meetings between the developer and the GLA.	February - June 2021
Planning Application submission.	June 2021

Appendices and supporting papers:

None

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) 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 it has been approved or on the defer date.

Part 1 - Deferral

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

Part 2 – Sensitive information

Only the facts or advice that would be exempt from disclosure under FoIA should be included 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:

John Finlayson has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on 1 February 2021.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature

Anna Eastcott

Date

1 February 2021