

REQUEST FOR DIRECTOR DECISION – DD1359

Title: Opportunity Area Planning Frameworks

Executive Summary:

The Greater London Authority is working in partnership with London Boroughs to prepare Opportunity Area Planning Frameworks (OAPF) for North Bexley, Isle of Dogs, Royal Docks, Kingston, Haringey, Harrow and Hounslow.

The Planning budget currently has £127,000 allocated in 2015/16 for Opportunity Area (OA) work in Tottenham and Croydon. OA work in these areas has now been completed, and this decision seeks authority to reallocate the funding to contribute to OAPF work in 2015/16 in line with the business plan.

Decision:

The Executive Director approves expenditure of up to £67,000 reallocated from the Tottenham and Croydon Opportunity Area programme budget representing a contribution to the costs of Opportunity Area Planning Frameworks for the Isle of Dogs, Royal Docks, Kingston, Haringey, Harrow and Hounslow in 2015-16

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 Development
Enterprise and Environment

Signature:

Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The GLA Planning division is working with a number of Boroughs to prepare OAPFs identified in the London Plan. This will cover the areas of North Bexley, Isle of Dogs, Royal Docks, Kingston, Haringey, Hounslow and Harrow. In order to ensure that Frameworks have sufficient resources to be completed, the GLA supports production through either redeploying planning staff or funding joint-posts in the boroughs. The Planning budget for 2015/16 includes an allocation of £127,000 for Opportunity Area work in Tottenham and Croydon. The Frameworks and supporting studies for these areas were completed in 2014/15. The programme budget was spread over a number of years including 15/16, but the final year of funding is no longer required. Permission is sought to reallocate this funding for expenditure on OAPFs being prepared in 2015/16. DD1332 approves spend of up to £60,000 of the £127,000 budget to fund a contribution to the London Borough of Bexley's cost to prepare the North Bexley OAPF; with £67,000 remaining to contribute to other OAPF work.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The decision sought is required to ensure efficient delivery of strategic planning frameworks for the priority Opportunity Areas identified in the London Plan and the 15/16 Business Plan. Opportunity areas will assist in meeting the Mayor's targets to increase the number of homes and jobs in London.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 Opportunity Areas are identified in the London Plan. This has been subject to an Equality Impacts Assessment, which is available on the GLA website. The Frameworks will also be subject to an EqIA, and this will be one of the tasks of the support to be funded by the GLA. As a public body, London Boroughs are also subject to the duty, and therefore will consider equality impacts in producing the OAPF.

4. Other considerations

- a) *key risks and issues*
If staff and/or financial support is not provided to the boroughs, there is a risk that the OAPFs will not be completed or will not be completed within the required timeframes. This would undermine the Mayor's growth agenda set out in the London Plan 2015 (consolidated with alterations since 2011)
- b) *links to Mayoral strategies and priorities*
The staff/financial support will assist in the production of OAPFs. OAPFs are supplementary to the London Plan and bring together the Mayoral priorities for housing, economic development, development, transport and the environment. Realising the development potential of Opportunity Areas is a Mayoral Priority, and OAPFs bring together strategic and local stakeholders to deliver an area-wide spatial planning framework in accordance with Government policy, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- c) *impact assessments and consultations.*
OAPFs are subject to public consultation, and equality and environmental assessments.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Executive Director's approval is being sought to spend up to £67,000 of Planning Programme budget allocated for Tottenham and Croydon in 2015-16 on other OAPF work as frameworks for Tottenham and Croydon have now been completed.
- 5.2 Of the £127,000 programme budget for Tottenham and Croydon £60,000 has been allocated to North Bexley OAPF as a contribution to the London Borough of Bexley as per DD1332, with £67,000 remaining to fund other OAPF work in 2015-16.
- 5.3 Spend is likely to be on Isle of Dogs, Royal Docks, Kingston, Haringey, Harrow and Hounslow OAPF where the GLA will contribute towards document production, the costs of staff and consultants engaged in working on the OAPF.
- 5.4 As this work relates to grant funding to London Boroughs officers have to ensure that the requirements of the Authority's Contracts & Funding Code are adhered to.
- 5.5 Any changes to this proposal including budgetary implications will be subject to further approval via the Authority's Decision Making Process.
- 5.6 All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.
- 5.7 The Planning Unit within the Development, Environment and Enterprise will be responsible for managing this contract and work

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 The sections above indicate that the decisions requested fall within the statutory power under section 30 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended) ("the Act"), in that it will promote the improvement of the environment in Greater London. In formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the Authority's related statutory duties to:
- (a) pay due regard to the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people;
 - (b) consider how the proposals will affect:
 - i. the health of persons in greater London,
 - ii. the health inequalities between persons living in Greater London;
 - iii. the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
 - iv. climate change, and the consequences of climate change; and
 - (c) consult with appropriate bodies
- 6.2 The Authority also has a subsidiary power pursuant to Section 34 of the Act where the decision is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of the statutory functions of the Authority. In this case this project is incidental to the section 30 powers defined above as well as powers under section 334 and 339 of the Act.
- 6.3 Section 334 of the Act requires the Mayor to prepare and publish a spatial development strategy (known as the London Plan). Section 339 of the Act requires the Mayor to keep the London Plan

under review, especially matters which may be expected to affect the development of Greater London or the planning of its development. In this case, this Project to produce this OAPF supports the implementation of the London Plan and as such may reasonably be regarded as facilitating, being conducive or incidental to the exercise of the Mayor's powers detailed above.

- 6.4 Officers must ensure that appropriate contract documentation is put in place and executed by the GLA and Boroughs before the commencement of the proposed arrangements.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

The programme for OAPF production in 15/16 is set out in the Business Plan

Appendices and supporting papers:

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:

Darren Richards has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that:

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Stewart Murray 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