

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD1409

Title: Installation of Mahatma Gandhi Statue in Parliament Square Gardens

Executive Summary:

The Greater London Authority (GLA) has been approached by the Trustees of the Gandhi Statue Memorial Trust who have sought permission for the installation of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square Gardens. They have also sought an agreement for the GLA to maintain the statue.

Decision:

The Mayor approves:

1. The erection of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi on the west terrace of Parliament Square Gardens.
2. A one-off contribution to the 'Estates Reserve' of £75,000 from the Trustees of Gandhi Statue Memorial Trust for the future maintenance of the proposed Statue.

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:

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

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Greater London Authority (GLA) has been approached by the Trustees of the Gandhi Statue Memorial Trust (“the Trustees”) who have sought permission for the erection of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi (“the Statue”) in Parliament Square Gardens (“the Gardens”) which are under the care and control of the GLA. The Trustees have also sought an agreement for the GLA to maintain the statue.
- 1.2 The Trustees have commissioned the renowned British sculpture Philip Jackson to create the Statue. They have submitted a planning application to Westminster City Council to erect the statue on the west side of the Gardens.
- 1.3 The GLA has participated in project and advisory groups working on the location and design of the statue. GLA-retained planning consultants have also advised the Authority on the appropriateness of the location suggested in the planning application.
- 1.4 As the statue is proposed to be placed on land managed by the GLA the responsibility for the maintenance would be the GLA’s. There is a precedent for the payment of a commuted maintenance fund for statues on land controlled and managed by the GLA, set out in MA2505 for the installation of the statue of David Lloyd George, and it is proposed that the Trustees will be asked to make a similar payment. The appropriate sum for the Statue has been calculated at £75,000 plus VAT (“the commuted Maintenance Sum”)
- 1.5 The Trustees have included the Commuted Maintenance Sum in their budget for fundraising. The Head of Facilities Management will ensure that the appropriate arrangements are put in place to ensure the monies are paid to the GLA before installation work commences on site.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 Subject to planning permission, the Statue will be erected in a re-designed flower bed on the west terrace of the Gardens as shown on the computer generated image attached. It is estimated that the Statue will be installed in late January 2015.
- 2.2 It is proposed that arrangements for payment of the Commuted Maintenance Sum and the maintenance works that will be undertaken will be documented by an exchange of letters between the GLA and the Trustees. A letter to the Trustees is attached. It is anticipated that the Commuted Maintenance Sum will be paid before the installation of the Statue commences onsite.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 The statue has been designed on a low plinth to enable close access. The GLA will discuss the appropriate form for the plaque that will provide information on the statue with the Trustees. Subject to any necessary safety restrictions, access to the Gardens will be maintained during the installation of the Statue.

4. Other considerations

Health and sustainable development

- 4.1 There are no direct health implications. The Trustees will need to satisfy Westminster City Council that satisfactory arrangements for the ongoing maintenance of the Statue are in place. The GLA's Squares statue and monument maintenance contractor have specified a maintenance regime for the Statue that is in line with that for the other statues in the Gardens.

Consultation

- 4.2 Officers have consulted with the Trustees regarding future maintenance of the Statue and they have agreed that payment of the Commuted Maintenance Sum is an appropriate amount to fund this. Further consultation with third parties was not necessary as Statue maintenance is an operational concern of the GLA.
- 4.3 Westminster City Council will undertake appropriate consultation in connection with the planning application for the erection of the Statue.

Strategy Implications

- 4.4 There are no direct strategy implications.

Risk Management

- 4.5 The purpose of the Commuted Maintenance Sum is to ensure that costs related future maintenance of the Statue are covered through a contribution to the Estates Reserve.
- 4.6 Regular inspections of the Statue have been included within the proposed maintenance regime with monthly reports of condition to be submitted to the GLA.
- 4.7 The proposed programme for the installation of the Statue will be discussed with the representatives of the Trustees to ensure this will not impact upon works planned within the vicinity or proposed events on the Gardens.
- 4.8 There is a risk of protest by people who have a negative view of Mahatma Gandhi and who object to a Statue of him being erected in the Gardens. To mitigate against this, a security plan has been prepared to address any attempt to disrupt the installation or unveiling of the Statue.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 Approval is being sought by the trustees of the Gandhi Statue Memorial Trust for the erection of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square Gardens.
- 5.2 All costs for the planning, creation and installation of the statue will be met by the Memorial Trust.
- 5.3 As the statue is proposed to be placed on land managed by the GLA, the responsibility for the maintenance would therefore be the GLA's.
- 5.4 A calculation of a commuted maintenance fund was requested from David Ball Restoration, as the current Statue and Monument Maintenance Contractor for the Square. The calculation is based on the frequency of maintenance for other statues on Parliament Square Garden. Additionally inflation

in these calculations has been set at 3%. Based on 30 years the figure is £75,000 excluding VAT. This figure allows for regular inspections, cleaning and re-waxing of the statue.

- 5.5 The Trust has proposed to make a one off contribution to the 'Estates Reserve' of £75,000 for the future maintenance of the proposed Mahatma Gandhi Statue. Therefore there would be no costs to the GLA for the maintenance of the Statue.
- 5.6 The Facilities Management Team within the Resources Directorate will be responsible for managing this agreement.
- 5.7 Any changes to this proposal must be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 Section 384(3) of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 ("the Act") makes the GLA responsible for the care, control, management and regulation of the Gardens. In addition, section 383(4) requires the GLA to repair the Gardens and keep them in good order. Agreeing to the erection of the Statue and making provision for its future maintenance may reasonably be viewed as falling within the GLA's functions under sections 384(3) and (4).

7. Investment & Performance Board

- 7.1 This project falls outside the scope of the Investment & Performance Board.

8. Planned delivery approach and next steps

- 8.1 Investigation works will commence on site once there has been an exchange of letters between the trustees and the GLA regarding the commuted maintenance sum.
- 8.2 Installation works are anticipated to commence on site in early 2015, subject to the payment of the commuted maintenance sum in advance.
- 8.3 Unveiling of the statue will take place in the first half of 2015.

Appendices and supporting papers:

Computer generated image attached of the proposed location of the Mahatma Gandhi Statue on Parliament Square Gardens.

Letter of acceptance to the Trustees of Gandhi Statue Memorial Trust.

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? YES

If YES, for what reason: to maintain the confidentiality until unveiled.

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring) 30 March 2015

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:

Matt Boyayanlar 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:

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

✓

Sponsoring Director:

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

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Sir Edward Lister 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

Date

CHIEF OF STAFF:

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

Signature

Date