

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2625

Title: London Sustainable Development Commission's Programme on Social Value in the Built Environment

Executive Summary:

The GLA wishes to engage a consultant(s), with specialist planning knowledge to advise on embedding social value into the London Plan, building on the recommendations set out in: [Delivering Social Value through Development and Regeneration: An approach for London](#). This work will directly feed into the Planning for London process, in which the Planning Team formally recognising the LSDC as a key stakeholder in the engagement process.

The consultant will facilitate up to five stakeholder workshops (with developers, community groups, planners, developers, and housing associations), review the existing London Plan (advising on opportunities to embed social value in future iterations, translate recommendations of the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC) report into actionable planning policy and prepare an advisory report to be published by the LSDC. The consultant will present the findings to the GLA London Plan team, utilising t expert knowledge to build trust and momentum around social value in the built environment. The report will be shared widely, with the key messages communicated to a range of stakeholders across the build environment community.

[Mayor's Design Advocates](#) will be involved in the work programme; specifically advising on the brief to consultants and reviewing the draft report. This decision form asks for approval to spend up to £30,000 to that end.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director of Environment & Energy approves:

- Expenditure of up to £30,000 on consultancy services to deliver stakeholder engagement, translate LSDC recommendations into actionable planning delivery, write a report on mechanisms to embed social value in the London Plan which will form part of the LSDC's involvement in the Planning for London process.

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: Catherine Barber

Position: Assistant Director Energy & Environment

Signature:

Date:

08/02/2023



PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. This piece of work is being commissioned by the GLA to support the work of the London Sustainable Development Commission (LSDC). The London Sustainable Development Commission was appointed in 2002 to independently advise the Mayor on ways to make London a more sustainable city and promote sustainability in London.
- 1.2. Since 2019, the LSDC have been looking at how social value can be delivered as part of London's regeneration and development, recognising the importance of placemaking in delivering on social and environmental outcomes. Since then, the LSDC have conducted research on the social and policy background to improve social value, convened a group of experts from a range of areas (policy, local authorities, developers, academics, and research) and conveyed a workshop to explore how effectively social value is currently being delivered through development and identify opportunities for improvement.
- 1.3. In February 2021, following engagement with key stakeholder, the LSDC published an insights paper examining the role of social value in London's recovery from the pandemic. Following this in August 2021 the LSDC published a [Social Value Playbook](#), which highlights best practice examples for delivering social value in the built environment, with examples from London, the UK and overseas.
- 1.4. In August 2021, following a significant period of consultation the LSDC published [Delivering Social Value through Development and Regeneration: An approach for London](#). The report makes six key recommendations aimed at stakeholders from across the built environment, including the Mayor of London (GLA), London boroughs, community groups, developers, and housing associations:
 - Recommendation 1: Diversify, amplify, and resource/support the role and voice of communities to shape social value outcomes of development and regeneration
 - Recommendation 2: Emphasise the role of places and spaces in delivering social value
 - Recommendation 3: Provide tools and resources to support evidence-based decision making
 - Recommendation 4: Improve local authority capacity to demand, monitor and assess social value delivery across development and regeneration
 - Recommendation 5: Deliver social value consistently through London-wide policy
 - Recommendation 6: Advocate for policy changes to deliver robust and consistent social value policies across all stages of development and regeneration.
- 1.5. In broad terms, the recommendations can be divided into three key areas; community engagement, data (to support evidenced based decision making) and planning policy.
- 1.6. Since the publication of the report, the LSDC been working to advise on and embed social value measurement into the Annual Monitoring Report of the London Plan. Throughout this process the LSDC have been actively engaging GLA Planning and Regeneration Teams.
- 1.7. Following the publication of the social value report the LSDC has decided to focus its delivery activity on influencing future London Plan Policy. Embedding social value into the London Plan, gives a clear signal on the importance of social value and will create consistency in approach across the capital. It is also anticipated that this may catalyse Borough level activity to embed social value within local plans.
- 1.8. The proposed activity been discussed with GLA Planning and Regeneration teams, who are supportive of the work and have committed to formally recognising the LSDC as a key stakeholder within the Planning for London process (which this work will feed into). GLA Planning and Regeneration teams will be involved throughout the programme in the design of the specification and reviewing report drafts.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1. This work seeks to deliver on the Mayor's vision for a 'fairer, greener, and more prosperous city'. The work will develop planning policy solutions to embed social value into the London Plan, translating the LSDC recommendations into actionable planning deliverables. This work will feed directly into the Planning for London process, in which the LSDC will be formally recognised as a key stakeholder in the engagement process.
- 2.2. The planning policy recommendations will be presented in a short report, with this informed through engagement with stakeholders from across the built environment sector, including developers, local authorities, and community groups alongside the application of research and technical expertise.
- 2.3. The report will support planning decision makers to effectively embed social value into the London Plan, both recognising and reflecting the importance of the built environment in the social, environmental, and economic development of London.
- 2.4. The report will be disseminated widely, with the key messages within communicated to a wider range of stakeholders. This work will be delivered via the LSDC's dedicated communications provider, Social Communications.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1. The project will comply with the GLA's public sector duty under the Equality Act 2010, working to promote equal opportunities, avoid unlawful harassment and discrimination, and foster good relations between people who have a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 3.2. This work is not expected to have any negative impact on protected groups or others.
- 3.3. In developing this work, the LSDC worked to listen to diverse voices from across the built environment sphere (developers, community groups and local authorities) in the development of the Social Value report. Engaging consultants to support with embedding social value into the London Plan will work to ensure that development in London reflects the needs of the cities diverse communities and maximising social benefits through the planning process.
- 3.4. Unlawful discrimination will be avoided in the tender process through clear guidelines on how the contract is to be awarded.
- 3.5. This work is not expected to have any negative impact on protected groups or others.

4. Other considerations

Key risks and issues

	Risk description (cause, 'risk event', potential impacts)	Mitigation/Risk response (state if the response is done or pending)	Probability (1-4)	Impact (1-4)	RAG
1	Delay identifying and securing a specialist's consultant to complete the programme of work, including the publication of the planning policy report.	Work to identifying a broad range of consultants with the specific skills needed to delivery on the work programme. Review meetings to oversee progress and address any barriers. Map work programme delivery against the timelines for	2	2	Green

		development the London Plan			
2	Lack of active participation from representative stakeholders from across the built environment sector.	Engage GLA officers and prospective organisations early in the timeline, drawing on the breadth of LSDC and GLA networks, and develop an engagement and outreach strategy.	2	2	Amber
3	Recommendations are not deemed suitable for adoption into the London Plan, either due to practicability or political reasons.	Engaged key stakeholders throughout the report development process, maintain engagement towards report development, publication and beyond. Ensure the report is politically neutral and supported by robust data on the benefits for London.	2	4	Amber

Links to Mayoral strategies and policies

- 4.1. This work seeks to inform and help shape the London Plan, which is the strategic plan for London, setting out an economic, environmental, transport and social framework for development. This work will also be informed by wider Mayoral priorities, including policies on housing, culture, and the environment.

Conflicts of interest

- 4.2. There are no known conflicts of interest arising for any GLA officer or LSDC Commissioner, and bids will not be considered that have the potential to financially benefit any GLA officer or LSDC Commissioner involved in this project.

Tender evaluation criteria

- 4.3. Services will be procured via a recognised procurement framework. The framework to be used is the Urbanism and Design Framework (the development of which has been led by the GLA Regeneration team). Discussion have taken place with the GLA Regeneration team, who agree that the aims of the work programme align to the framework.
- 4.4. The evaluation process will be conducted to ensure that submissions are evaluated fairly to select the most economically advantageous offer. The quotation evaluation process will take account of the following:

Requirement	Weighting(s)
Quality of proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate understanding of the requirements. • An effective approach to research, stakeholder engagement and report development • Evidence of working with planners and policymakers in a political (local government context) 	35%
Technical capabilities and capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of relevant expertise in planning and social value, inclusive of CVs • Evidence of undertaking similar work, evidencing work within the public sector 	35%
Conformance with the GLA's Responsible Procurement Policy including Equality, Diversity, and sustainability	10%
Total Technical Weighting	80%

Assessment of value for money against the project budget - proposals will be recognised for being proportionate to the amount of time and budget available	20%
Total Commercial Weighting	20%

- 4.5. The letting of the contract will be managed by the GLA' Strategy and Green Recovery Team, who perform the LSDC secretariat function. A contract will be granted after a competitive tender process.
- 4.6. While for internal use the final outputs will be made available publicly, adhering to accessibility standards at the London.gov.uk website.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1. Assistant Director's approval is sought for expenditure of up to £30,000 on consultancy services to deliver stakeholder engagement, translate LSDC recommendations into actionable planning delivery, write a report on mechanisms to embed social value in the London Plan and support engagement with the GLA London Plan team.
- 5.2. This expenditure will be funded from the Strategy and Green Recovery Team Programme budget within the Environment Unit. Expenditure is profiled to be £20k from 2022-2023 and £10k from 2023-2024. There is sufficient budget in the current year and in the 2023-24 draft budget to support this.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Procurement of contract	January/February 2023
Announcement	January/February 2023
Delivery Start Date	February 2023
Main milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inception, planning and stakeholder workshop preparation - Stakeholder roundtables (up to 5) with built environment stakeholders to gather views on how social value should be translated into the London Plan, to have maximum impact for Londoners - Planning policy recommendations report, informed through stakeholder engagement and technical expertise - Presentation of the report to stakeholders, including GLA officers
Delivery End Date	December 2023
Project Closure	December 2023

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:

Emma Carroll has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

Corporate Investment Board

A summary of this decision was reviewed by the Corporate Investment Board on 6 February 2023

✓

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES:

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

Signature:

Anna Custodis

Date:

07/02/2023