

Subject: Examination in Public: Extending the Provision of Expert Support

Report to: Planning Committee

Report of: Executive Director of the Secretariat

Date:
25 April 2019

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out a proposal from the Planning Committee to the GLA Oversight Committee outlining a request for further spend for additional work to be carried out by Joanna Chambers MRTPI in supporting Assembly Members during the course of the Examination in Public (EiP) following the originally allocated funds being fully utilised.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee agrees in principle to additional expenditure of up to £6,650 on consultancy work by Joanna Chambers MRTPI to support the work of the Assembly during the EiP.**
- 2.2 **That the Committee recommends the proposed additional expenditure to the GLA Oversight Committee for formal approval.**
- 2.3 **That the Committee notes that the Executive Director of the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee, will award the additional expenditure, subject to the GLA Oversight Committee's approval.**

3. Background

- 3.1 At the London Assembly meeting on 17 January 2019, it was agreed that an external consultant be commissioned to provide support to Assembly Members during the course of the EiP. This ensured that all Assembly Members had access to additional expert support, over and above that being provided by the Secretariat.
- 3.2 The Assembly approved expenditure up to a maximum of £10,000 from the 2018/19 scrutiny programme budget and for the Executive Director of the Secretariat, in consultation with the Chair of the Planning Committee, to commission the external consultant.

3.3 Joanna Chambers MRTPI has now provided a total of 22 days support during the EiP process, providing a large number of written statements, written and oral briefings for EiP sessions and support during those sessions, taking the total level of support to £9,900.

4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The Chair of the Planning Committee has requested that additional funding be provided so that Joanna Chambers MRTPI can continue to support the work of the Assembly during the EiP.

4.2 It is anticipated that the additional funding will provide for a further fifteen days of support covering:

- Written briefings and attendance for the sessions on:
 - 30 April – Waste reduction and the circular economy;
 - 3 May – Social Infrastructure (including play);
 - 10 May – Waterways and the River Thames;
 - 13 May – Digital Infrastructure;
 - 15 May – Town Centres and Retailing;
 - 17 May – Monitoring; and
- Preparation of a summary report of the whole EiP process and the key points made by the Assembly and of the suggested policy changes put forward.

4.3 The additional 15 days work equates to a fee of £6,750 based on the agreed day rate requiring £6,650 of further spend in addition to the original £10,000 maximum agreed at the 17 January 2019 Assembly meeting.

4.4 In accordance with the Greater London Authority Decision Making Framework, proposals for funding for consultancy expenditure are required to be agreed by the Committee requesting the consultancy expenditure. The Committee must also recommend the proposed expenditure to the GLA Oversight Committee for approval. Given the time pressures associated with the additional support approval will be sought via the urgency procedures in the Assembly's decision-making framework.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Contracts Code enables the Executive Director of Secretariat to procure technical support. Under the Assembly's decision-making framework, the Executive Director of Secretariat can award consultancy contracts up to £50,000.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The addition costs of up to £6,650 arising from the additional work will be met from the 2019/20 scrutiny programme budget.

6.2 The extended contract would be managed in accordance with relevant GLA policies and procedures. As this project is consultancy based, the requirements of the GLA's Expenses and Benefits Framework and the Financial Regulations would also be adhered to.

List of appendices to this report: None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers: None

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