

# GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

## REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2014

### Title: Upper Lea Valley OAPF Temporary specialist staff

#### Executive Summary:

The Upper Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) is a joint project being undertaken with the London Boroughs of Enfield, Waltham Forest, Haringey and Hackney and TfL. The area is anticipated to have significant development growth over the next 15-20 years linked to the Crossrail 2 project, which is one of the Mayors key growth commitments and will form a main element of the revised London Plan.

This decision requests approval for expenditure on the employment of a temporary member of staff up to the end of January 2016 to provide technical support for the Development Capacity Study and land use mapping, and produce specialist graphics and desktop publishing for the production of an updated Upper Lea Valley Opportunity Area Planning Framework document.

#### Decision:

That the Assistant Director approves expenditure of up to £22,000, on employment of a temporary specialist member of staff at Grade 6 to 7 to undertake graphics and desktop publishing duties for the Upper Lee Valley OAPF project.

#### 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:** Stewart Murray

**Position:** Assistant Director

**Signature:**



**Date:**

23/08/2016

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE**

### **Decision required – supporting report**

#### **1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The GLA Planning unit is working with the London Boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forrest and Hackney to prepare an updated Opportunity Area Planning Framework (OAPF) for the Upper Lea Valley. This will cover the opportunity area identified in the London Plan, and update the Framework published in 2013. The area faces significant immediate development pressures, particularly in relation to the Crossrail 2 project and industrial and residential land use allocation and therefore it is important that the updated OAPF is in place as soon as possible.
- 1.2 It is essential that an assessment of development capacity and land use allocation, and specialist graphics and desktop publishing work is undertaken on this project to enable its delivery to a high quality standard. It is proposed that a specialist temporary member of staff is appointed at a Grade 6 or 7 for this purpose to enable the production of the document. They will be required to have experience in urban planning and previous knowledge of OAPF document requirements in this context.
- 1.3 A member of the GLA Planning Unit is leading in the production of this OAPF. They do not have the specialist skills required for this specific area of work, and the planning unit officer with relevant skills is working on another key OAPF. The boroughs do not have the specialist staff, and are unable to contribute resources to this piece of work as they have committed to a review of their Local Plans.
- 1.4 It is estimated that up to £20,000 will be required to fund a temporary member of staff for 5 months to cover its various design phases, with an additional £2,000 for printing costs. However, the time spent and money accrued on the project will be reviewed weekly.
- 1.5 The project is highly important as it contributes to the Mayor's commitment to delivering Crossrail 2, which is a key driver of his jobs and growth agenda. It is estimated that the Upper Lea Valley can provide at least 20,000 jobs and 50,000 homes.
- 1.6 ADD290 and DD1410 approved spend totalling £106k for the Upper Lea Valley for the Development Infrastructure Funding Study. This new decision is a separate and standalone piece of work, albeit relating to the same area.

#### **2. Objectives and expected outcomes**

- 2.1 The objective of this project is to produce the updated Upper Lea Valley OAPF consultation draft document in conjunction with the London Boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forrest and Hackney Council by January 2016. It will then be published for public consultation.

#### **3. Equality comments**

- 3.1 In arriving at the recommended decision to approve this proposed budget, equalities issues have been considered in line with the GLA's duties under the Equalities Act 2010. It is unlikely that this project will have negative equalities impacts but identified equalities issues (both positive and negative) will be covered in the Equality Assessment that will accompany the project. This will ensure that at each point of the drafting and consultation process for the proposed document, equalities

impacts are considered and actions decided upon to address any emerging issues. The project will also be subject to a review and this will also address equalities impacts.

- 3.2 Given the regeneration focus of the proposed project, identification of relevant equalities groups and potentially vulnerable locally affected populations will be undertaken at the outset of the project. Population data is available for this purpose such as indices of deprivation used to identify regeneration areas in the London Plan. A detailed public consultation strategy will also need to be drawn up in consultation with London Boroughs of Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest and Hackney to ensure that any local hard to reach groups are engaged in the process to ensure that resulting document is appropriate and accessible to all and meets the needs of different Londoners.

#### **4. Other considerations**

##### *a) key risks and issues*

If financial support is not provided to this OAPF, there is a risk that it will not be completed or will not be completed within the required timeframes. This would undermine the Mayor's growth agenda, the review of the London Plan and the delivery of the Crossrail 2 project.

##### *b) links to Mayoral strategies and priorities*

This OAPF will help deliver the Opportunity Area in the London Plan. It will also make a significant contribution to the Crossrail 2 project by providing a direction of travel for the review of the London Plan and local plan policy in the Upper Lee Valley. The specialist development capacity, graphics and design planner will assist in the production of the OAPF. 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.

- 4.2 The need for the additional member of staff is immediate to meet the project deadlines.
- 4.3 This project seeks to develop a consultation draft of the document. Should further support be required to produce a final draft, further funding and an ADD may be required in future.

#### **5. Financial comments**

- 5.1 Assistant Director's approval is being sought for expenditure of up to £20,000 to employ a temporary specialist member of staff at a Grade 6 or 7 to work on graphics and desktop publishing for 5 months. Approval is being sought to spend up to £2,000 on printing costs, for the Upper Lea Valley OAPF Project. The costs will be funded from Planning's 2016-17 Pre-Application Reserves.
- 5.2 Any changes to this proposal including budgetary implications will be subject to further approval via the Authority's Decision Making Process. .

5.3 All appropriate budget adjustments will be made. The Planning Unit within the Development, Environment and Enterprise will be responsible for managing this contract and work.

**6. Planned delivery approach and next steps**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Procurement of contract [for externally delivered projects]	August 2016
Announcement [if applicable]	N/A
Delivery Start Date [for project proposals]	Sept 2016
Final evaluation start and finish (self/external)	Ongoing
Delivery End Date [for project proposals]	January 2016
Project Closure: [for project proposals]	April 2016

**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 the Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

**HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:**

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

**Signature:**



**Date:**

19.08.16

