

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2160

Future of London Housing Network

Executive Summary:

Future of London 2011 Limited (FoL), a not-for-profit policy network, runs a number of career development programmes for practitioners working in the regeneration, housing, transport and economic development sectors in London. The GLA is a member of the FoL network and in Summer 2015, entered into contract with them to run the Housing Zones Network to promote best practice, networking and the sharing of technical guidance on Housing Zone-specific issues. This decision seeks approval for expenditure of £15,000 to continue the programme for another year as an expanded network looking at housing more broadly and attracting a wider group of participants from across the sector. The expanded network will be called the London Housing Network. It also seeks approval of single source exemption in accordance with section 10 of the GLA Contracts and Funding Code.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director approves:

- Expenditure of up to £15,000 to run London Housing Network for one year from October 2017 to September 2018.
- An exemption from the requirement in the GLA Contracts and Funding Code to seek a call-off from a suitable framework where possible or undertake a formal tender 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: Jamie Ratcliff

Position: Assistant Director – Housing

Signature:



Date: 18/9/17

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Future of London 2011 Limited (FoL), an independent not-for-profit policy network, runs two bespoke development programmes aimed at creating learning and development opportunities and a forum for networking and sharing of best practice for practitioners in the regeneration, housing and infrastructure sectors in London. These two programmes are primarily funded through FoL membership fees.
- 1.2 The GLA is a member of the FoL network and in Summer 2015, entered into contract with them to run the Housing Zones Network, a bespoke network for public sector officers working on Housing Zones to run alongside the life of the programme. This was approved by ADD367 and renewed for another year in 2016 by ADD2038.
- 1.3 Building on the Housing Zones Network's success and feedback, it is proposed that the network is expanded to cover housing delivery beyond the zones, and be renamed the London Housing Network to engage with and support a broader base.
- 1.4 The next 12 months will see:
- More networking opportunities, including networking events and visits (participants are invited to all Future of London field trips; new trips would be hosted by borough leads).
 - Follow-up on topics arising in FoL's Housing Zones Report
 - The continuation of expert-led workshops, introducing a new range of topics plus repeats of key topics such as viability, compulsory purchase orders and PRS delivery.
 - GLA updates timed with key initiatives.
- 1.5 FoL relies primarily on membership and participation fees to fund their programmes. These sources of funding are not sufficient to fund the network unless the fees are significantly increased. This would dissuade take up and run counterproductive to the network's aim of pulling together various stakeholders.
- 1.6 In recognition of the above benefits this decision seeks approval to contribute £15,000 which will bridge the gap between the participation fees and total costs of delivering the network for one year. This contribution will be reviewed annually and require a separate decision if made in future years.

Single Source Exemption

- 1.7 The GLA Contracts and Funding Code allows for a supplier to be selected without competition, if the supplier has previous involvement in a specific current project or continuation of existing work, which cannot be separated from the new work.
- 1.8 To this end, FoL has a membership that includes 27 London boroughs, Transport for London and a number of key housing associations and is already running a Housing Zones Network that can easily be adapted into a Housing Network. There are no other organisations in London with the same membership and programmes on offer.
- 1.9 Consideration was given to conducting an open tender; however, a prospective supplier would have to create a new network from scratch to involve the same organisations that are already actively involved in the FoL network. This would cause considerable delays to the formation of the network

and would result in the network having limited influence supporting officers involved in time sensitive projects and initiatives.

Declarations

1.10 It is noted that David Lunts, GLA Executive Directorate for Housing & Land, is a Future of London Board Member. In order to avoid any potential or perceived conflicts of interest, The Executive Director was not involved in the decision by the GLA to continue and expand the network.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1 The London Housing Network will provide:

- Access to experts from a broad range of disciplines including planning, law, development, viability, design, governance, community engagement, transport and local economy.
- Updates from the GLA on key policy and funding initiatives.
- A regularly updated resource of online learning materials.
- Opportunities for small group work with peers and networking opportunities, including social events and visits, to gain exposure to different ways of working, best practice and innovation.

2.2 The expected outcomes will result in:

- Greater knowledge and skills around housing and major development specific issues.
- Officers better equipped to deliver competently and quickly as individuals and teams.
- More efficient sharing of successful ideas and practices; better chance of not repeating mistakes and avoiding pitfalls.
- Greater support to housing partners from the GLA.
- Ongoing external publicity of housing delivery progress, successes, outcomes.

2.3 The new network will also support the objectives set out in the Homes for Londoners Learning and Development Training Manual which has been designed specifically to assist Housing & Land (H&L) officers to acquire the full range of skills and knowledge that they require to undertake their duties. The objectives include enabling H&L to be more efficient in terms of managing training and learning events, ensure learning and development is taking place throughout the year and better identify opportunities, options and methods officers can utilise to gain the skills and knowledge they need to do their job well.

3. Equality comments

3.1 The public sector equality duty requires the identification and evaluation of the likely potential impacts, both positive and negative, of the decision on those with protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation) and set out how you are addressing the duties.

3.2 The public sector equality duty will be taken into consideration by Future of London in planning networking events and when participating with members.

4. Other considerations

Risk	Mitigation Strategy	Lead
Low interest from public sector organisations dealing with housing zones	Future of London programmes are generally oversubscribed; however, if there is low uptake, GLA officers could contact partners to encourage participation. The overall likelihood of this risk is low.	GLA
As with any network, there is a risk overall objectives are not met or realised by individual members.	The network will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis by the Assistant Director for Housing and H&L Business Manager to ensure overall objectives are met and to make adjustments if needed. The GLA contribution will also be reviewed. The next review will take place in August 2018.	FoL

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 This decision requests approval to expend up-to £15,000 to run London Housing Network for one year from Oct 2017 to Sep 2018. It also seeks approval of single source exemption in accordance with section 10 of the GLA Contracts and Funding Code.
- 5.2 The expenditure is available from Housing & Land Management and Support Consultancy Budget and will be spend in 2017/18 financial year.

6. Legal comments

- 6.1 Under sections 30 and 34 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (the "Act"), the GLA after appropriate consultation is entitled to do anything which is considered to further or which is facilitative of, or conducive or incidental to the promotion, within Greater London, of economic development and wealth creation, social development and the improvement of the environment.
- 6.2 Sections 1-4 of this report indicate that:
- 6.2.1 the decisions requested of the assistant director (in accordance with the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code) relate to expenditure for the commissioning of supplies and services which fall within the exercise of the GLA's general and subsidiary powers to do things considered to further or which are facilitative of and conducive to the discharge of its general functions; and
- 6.2.2 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 (further details on equalities are set out in section 3 above) and to the duty under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance

equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not¹;

- (b) consider how the proposals will promote the improvement of health of persons, health inequalities between persons and to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom; and
- (c) consult with appropriate bodies.

6.3 Section 9.1 of the GLA's Contracts and Funding Code (the 'Code') requires the GLA to:

- seek three or more written quotations where the estimated value of the services is up to £10,000; or
- call off the services from an accessible framework or by a formal tender where the services or supplies are from £10,000 to £150,000.

6.4 However, the assistant director may approve an exemption from this requirement under section 10 of the Code upon certain specified grounds. One of those grounds is that the supplier has previous involvement in a specified current project or the continuation of existing work, which cannot be separated from the new work. Officers have indicated the reasons in support of their request for an exemption from the requirements of the Code. Accordingly, the assistant director may approve the proposed exemption if satisfied with the content of this report.

Officers must ensure that appropriate contract documentation is put in place and executed by the Supplier and the GLA before the payment of any sums and the provision of any supplies or services.

7. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Expanded London Housing Zones Network launched	October 2017
Review of network and GLA contribution	August 2018

Appendices and supporting papers:

Single Source Request Form

¹ The protected characteristics and groups are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation and marriage/ civil partnership status.

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

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:

Heath Pritchard 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.

✓

Corporate Investment Board:

The Corporate Investment Board reviewed this proposal on 18 September 2017

HEAD OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature:



Date:

18/09/2017