

GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD2337

GLA Housing Forum Membership 2019-20

Executive Summary:

The Housing Forum is an independent membership network of organisations and businesses who collaborate to develop and improve the nation's housing stock. It is the only cross-sector, industry-wide membership network representing the entire housing supply chain with over 150 organisations from both public and private sectors, including developers and stock holding organisations, professional services, manufacturers, local authorities and local enterprise partnerships. The GLA's membership in the network will expire on 31 March 2019 and the cost of renewing for 2019-20 is £11,700.00 plus VAT. This decision sets out the benefits of the network to the GLA and seeks approval of expenditure of £11,700.00 to renew the GLA's membership package to 31 March 2020.

Decision:

That the Head of Area, North West approves:

- Expenditure of £11,700 for GLA membership in the Housing Forum until 31 March 2020.

AUTHORISING ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/HEAD OF UNIT:

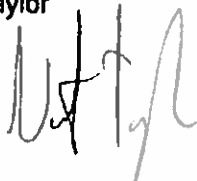
I have reviewed the request and am satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

It has my approval.

Name: Nick Taylor

Position: Head of Area, North West

Signature:



Date:

20/3/19

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The Housing Forum is an independent cross-sector membership network for businesses, local authorities and non profit organisations in the housing sector. The aim of the Forum is to promote collaboration and to encourage improvements across all levels of the housing sector to build and maintain better homes for the future. This is done through informative and influencing networking activities which include working groups on various topics and CEO and local forums where delegates share experience taking new approaches to housing delivery.
- 1.2 The Housing Forum itself is non-political and does not lobby on behalf of any sectorial interest. The views and outputs delivered by the network on behalf of its members are the views of the Housing Forum and not attributed (unless expressly agreed) to any individual organisation. The network currently has 150 members including house building and stock holding organisations, professional services, manufacturers, local authorities and local enterprise partnerships. It is the only network with membership representing all levels of the housing delivery chain, including both private and public sector organisations, and currently includes a number of organisations that are delivering housing under one or more GLA programme.
- 1.3 Under its membership package, the GLA can share all its membership benefits with any of the 33 local authorities in London who wish to participate. This membership, however, will expire on 31 March 2019.

Decision	For	Amount
ADD386	Initial membership – 16-17	£10,500
ADD2112	Renewal 17-18	£10,950
ADD2233	Renewal 18-19	£11,300

- 1.4 This decision seeks approval to renew the GLA's membership package until 31 March 2020 for a cost of £11,700 + VAT. The benefits package will remain the same, including full access for the local authorities in London who wish to participate.
- 1.5 The Head of Area, North West is a member of the Housing Forum Board, which guides the policy and practice of the organisation and allows the GLA to influence the direction of ongoing research and events. The GLA has no involvement in the management board of the Housing Forum, which makes operational and financial decisions for it.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

- 2.1 The expected outcomes and benefits of renewing membership in the Forum are set out below:

Working Group Representation	The Housing Forum's Working Groups produce influential reports for its members which are recognised at the highest levels of Government and throughout the industry. The Forum currently has three working groups – (1) Building Homes – Building Better, (2) New Solutions to Housing Supply and (3) Making the Best of Existing Homes. Membership in the Forum will give GLA and London local authority officers full access to these working groups to share and learn from good practice and innovative thinking.
CEO Forums	The Housing Forum builds influence in the sector by bringing leaders together for regular examination of major topics that connect directly to

	the working groups. GLA membership will give senior officers at the GLA and local authorities access to these events.
Development Partnership Forums	Membership includes access to Development Partnership Forums which bring government and industry together to share best practice and support new entrants into housing development.
Full London Representation	The membership packaged offered to the GLA means all 33 local authorities will also be able to participate in the network if they choose for no additional charge.
Networking with providers	There are a number of GLA stakeholders who are already members of the network. GLA membership will provide increased opportunities for networking and collaborating with these organisations.

In addition to these, the Housing Forum has expanded to offer these for the 19-20 subscription:

- Breakfast briefings
- RMI Forums
- Older People's Housing Working Group
- MMC Good Practice Working Groups

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). This decision is not likely to have any impact on individuals with protected characteristics; however, the work of the Housing Forum in general could lead to a better sharing of best practice and approaches to housing delivery which in turn could improve both access and quality of housing to those with protected characteristics.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 There is no legal commitment associated with GLA membership; however, there is an expectation that the work of the Forum will be supported through involvement and contributions from appropriate senior level officers within the Housing & Land directorate. GLA involvement, however, will have a positive impact in creating additional forums in which GLA initiatives and priorities can be discussed and where the sharing of best approaches can be disseminated.
- 4.2 The work of the Housing Forum also directly supports the Mayor's aims to increase the number of genuinely affordable new homes delivered across London each year.
- 4.3 Consideration was given to whether a portion of the fee should be passed on to the 33 local authorities who will have access to the Forum through the GLA's membership package. However, the administrative costs of advertising, invoicing and collecting the fees together with the lost benefit of the GLA being able to lead on and define the relationship for London outweighs this benefit.
- 4.4 No impact assessments or consultations were carried out in relation to this decision.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 This decision requests approval to spend £11,700 for GLA membership in the Housing Forum until 31 March 2020. This expenditure will be funded from Management and Consultancy budget within Housing & Land department and will incur in 2019/20 financial year.

6. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
2019-20 Membership Begins	1 April 2019
2019-20 Membership Expires	31 March 2020

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

If YES, for what reason:

Until what date: (a date is required if deferring)

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 - YES/NO

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION:

Drafting officer to confirm the following (✓)

Drafting officer:

Ben Crofts has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms the following:

✓

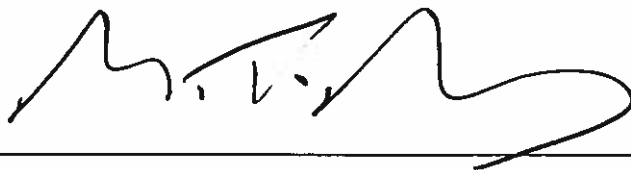
Corporate Investment Board

This decision was agreed by the Corporate Investment Board on the 18 March 2019.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE:

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

Signature



Date

19-03-19

