

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DECISION – ADD179

Title: **ALUNA – Environment Impact Assessment Scoping Report**

Executive Summary:

ALUNA will be the world's first moon clock using tidal power to display the size and position of the moon. This huge public realm sculpture is intended to sit at the historic centre of time at Greenwich, on the Prime Meridian on the Greenwich Peninsula Waterfront. ALUNA is part of the redevelopment of the Greenwich peninsula and is set to become a major visitor attraction integral to the regeneration of the area.

In order for the project to proceed to planning application, an Environment Impact Assessment Scoping Report is required. The report looks at the methods for a robust Environment Impact Assessment which will assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project at the proposed location. This is a necessary procedure to secure the planning permissions.

The Aluna Project: Environment Impact Assessment Scoping Report is underway and this ADD covers the final phase of the report. The total cost of developing the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report is £83,000. The GLA will be making a contribution to the Aluna Foundation with a grant of £30,000, to be matched by the committed support from consultancy and professional fees (total pro-bono support value £49,000) and a £4,000 grant from Ramboll Foundation.

A planning application for ALUNA will be submitted in September 2014. Subject to planning, contractors will be appointed in Summer 2015 and following a 15 month construction process ALUNA is expected to open to the public with a full public engagement programme in Autumn 2016.

Decision:

That the Assistant Director, Health & Communities approves £30,000 contribution to ALUNA foundation for Environment Impact Assessment scoping report for a new visitor attraction on the Greenwich Peninsula Waterfront.

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: **Amanda Coyle**

Position: **Assistant Director, Health and Communities**

Signature:

Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1.** The Greenwich Peninsula Waterfront is undergoing a large development with the Greenwich Riverside identified as a Strategic Cultural Area in the London Plan. As part of the Mayor's Cultural Strategy update published in March 2014, ALUNA is identified as a key project for the cultural regeneration of this area.
- 1.2.** ALUNA is the world's first tidal powered moon clock. Spanning 40m diameter and 13m high, it is a breath taking and monumental landmark that unites art, culture, science and the environment. A new world-class visitor destination for London and the nation, ALUNA creates an inspirational public waterfront space, in and around which a diverse cultural and educational programme will be delivered.
- 1.3.** The project is designed by artist Laura Williams and is being developed and delivered by the Aluna Foundation charity and associated consultants. The artist Laura Williams created and designed Aluna whilst at Central Saint Martin's College of Art and Design, conceived in and inspired by London, the 'home of time', Aluna was designed for realisation on London's tidal Thames.
- 1.4.** Since leaving Central Saint Martins, the project continued to develop, attracting a world class design and delivery team and a wide range of distinguished supporters including Astronomer Royal Lord Martin Rees, Sir Terry Farrell, the Mayor of London, Nicky Gavron AM, Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Mike Davies CBE, Councillor Chris Roberts Leader of Greenwich Council, Dame Jude Kelly, Sir Tim Smit, Brian Eno, Science Museum London, Royal Observatory Greenwich, Business In The Community and the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.
- 1.5.** ALUNA was initially developed and managed by Aluna Limited a not-for-profit company registered in the UK. In 2009, the Aluna Foundation was set up as registered UK charity (charity number 1130613) to deliver the project. Aluna Foundation's Honorary Patrons are Lord Martin Rees (Astronomer Royal, Former President of the Royal Society), Sir Terry Farrell CBE (Architect, Thames Gateway Visionary), Nicky Gavron AM (London Assembly Member) and Mike Davies CBE (Partner, Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners).
- 1.6.** The Aluna Foundation Trustees are Pippa Gueterbock (Chair) - Senior Physical Regeneration and Design Manager for the London Legacy Corporation; Laura Williams – Aluna Artist and Project Director; John Burton – Project Manager, Urban Space Management, Trinity Buoy Wharf; Anne-Marie Kesselman – Head of Marketing and Corporate Responsibility, GL Hearn and Stuart Axford – Partner, Kaye Scholer LLP, Solicitors.
- 1.7.** The Aluna Foundation is responsible for the fundraising, planning and construction of Aluna. Once built, the Aluna Foundation will be responsible for the operation of Aluna including managing an educational, cultural and community engagement programme delivered in and around Aluna.
- 1.8.** Since 2009, the Aluna Foundation has been in negotiations with London agencies including the GLA, Port of London Authority, London Borough of Tower Hamlets and Royal Borough of Greenwich, to find a suitable Thames location for the project. A site has now been identified: adjacent to the public draw dock on the north west Greenwich Peninsula waterfront known as Greenwich Riverside, a strategic area in the London Plan.

1.9. Aluna’s artist Laura Williams is supported by a world class multidisciplinary design team whose portfolios include Gateshead Millennium Bridge, Burj al Arab in Dubai, Eden Project, Hungerford Foot Bridge, Baltic Arts Centre and London’s Olympic Park. The team includes Ramboll, Land Use Consultants, David Powell Associates, Dominic Cole Landscape Architects, Mark Major (Speirs and Major Associates), GL Hearn, Royal Haskoning DHV, National Oceanography Centre, HR Wallingford, Bournemouth University, IT Power and King’s College London. Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer are Aluna’s pro bono legal partners.

1.10. Aluna has received financial support from public sources and commercial sponsors ranging from £1,000 to £70,000 including from the Greater London Authority, London Thames Gateway Development Corporation, Freshfields, Ramboll, Michael Davies CBE, Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust, Lend Lease, Quintain Estates and Development, Wagstaffs Design, Lodestar Marketing, EBC Education, Arts Council England, Royal Astronomical Society, Hanson, Sika and Business In The Community.

1.11. Aluna has received the following funding to date

Grants and Sponsorship to Aluna Limited (not-for-profit company) 2006 – 2009

2006-07	Docklands Light Railway	£6,000
2006	Arts Council England	£5,000
2006	Starkmann Ltd	£2,000
2007	Mayor of London	£25,000
2007	London Thames Gateway Development Corporation	£50,000
2008	Sir Robert McAlpine / Renewable Energy Systems	£10,000
2009	Michael Davies Charitable Trust	£20,000

Grants from Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust to Aluna Limited *and* The Aluna Foundation 2008 - 2010

2008-10	Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust	£32,000
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Grants and Sponsorship to The Aluna Foundation charity from July 2009 onwards

2009-13	Michael Davies Charitable Trust	£25,000
2009	Royal Astronomical Society	£1,990
2011	Urban Space Management Ltd	£1,000
2011	Lend Lease	£5,000
2011	Quintain Estates and Development	£5,000
2012	G L Hearn	£1,000
2013	Trinity Buoy Wharf Trust	£15,000
2014	Ramboll Foundation Trust	£70,000
2014	Royal Astronomical Society	£2,500

1.12. The estimated timeline for the project is as follows:

March 2014	EIA Scoping report
June 2014	EIA and Scoping Opinion
Summer 2014	Education programme piloted in Greenwich Schools
September 2014	Full planning application will be submitted to Royal Borough of Greenwich in
January 2015	Estimated planning award. Fundraising campaign for building Aluna begins
Jan- May 2015	Further design development and testing
Summer 2015	Contractors appointed. 15-month construction process
Autumn 2016	Aluna opens with full public engagement programmes

1.13. ALUNA will be an iconic catalyst for cultural and economic regeneration, bringing new audiences, increased riverfront activity and a sense of place to the Greenwich Peninsula. Complementing its neighbours – The O2 Music Venue, Ravensbourne College, Peninsula Quays and the AEG Hotel and Banqueting Centre – Aluna will be the centrepiece of spectacular views from the Canary Wharf towers across the Thames. Aluna will have direct river access to Thames Clippers and other river services, and will be less than 5 minutes walking distance from North Greenwich tube.

1.14. The total cost of building Aluna is estimated at £6m. A fundraising strategy will begin once planning permission has been granted. Greenwich Council has indicated that they are supportive of the project and will support Section 106 monies from neighbouring developments towards the construction of Aluna project.

1.15. The GLA has made no commitments towards contributing towards the construction of Aluna. This grant does not constitute a commitment towards the £6m construction costs in the future.

1.16. ALUNA will create a non-denominational space that celebrates global heritage, cultural diversity and encourage stewardship of the planet. ALUNA will provide a new public piazza on the Greenwich Waterfront and Meridian for festivals, visual and performing arts, education programmes, celebrations and weddings enjoying the Thames vistas.

1.17. ALUNA will operate as a public space generating income from public and private events and commercial revenue from hotels and attractions in the Greenwich Peninsula. It will have a programme of public events, animating the public realm attracting both visitors and local public. An outreach and education programme will engage local schools and young people.

1.18. The Aluna Foundation is already delivering an education and outreach programme in Greenwich schools in the summer term 2014, taking members of the ALUNA design team into the classroom. This is a pilot scheme to develop a full education programme for ALUNA engaging with local schools in the borough.

1.19. The project is being developed with environmental and economic sustainability as a priority, and detailed cultural and education strategies will also be commissioned as part of this next phase to ensure Aluna delivers an enriching public engagement programme that is accessible to all.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

2.1. ALUNA has engaged in the official pre-application process with Royal Borough of Greenwich. It is anticipated that planning submission will take place in September 2014.

2.2. In order for the project to proceed to planning application an Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report is required. This report will inform the methodology for an Environmental Impact

Assessment which will assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the project at the proposed location.

- 2.3.** The report and the responses from the statutory consultees will form the basis of a Scoping Opinion which will take the project scheme to RIBA Stage 2 and design freeze. Having completed the design freeze, the Environmental Impact Assessment will take place with the specialist team rigorously testing the scheme design using the methods agreed with the statutory consultees.
- 2.4.** The Environmental Impact Assessment is a necessary procedure to secure the planning permissions.
- 2.5.** The total cost of developing the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report is £83,000. £49,000 of this has been provided by pro-bono support from consultancy and professional fees, £4,000 from Ramboll Foundation and £30,000 is the GLA contribution.
- 2.6.** HR Wallingford and Bournemouth University have been appointed through competitive selection to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report.
- 2.7.** The consultants appointed by HR Wallingford and Bournemouth University are industry leaders and have delivered high profile projects including: the Eden Project, Burgh Al Arab, Gateshead Millennium Bridge, new Forth Road Bridge, Poole Harbour Bridge, Hungerford Foot Bridge, London Eye, Millennium Dome, London Olympic Park, Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, Grand Museum Cairo, Greenwich School for Architecture and Engineering
- 2.8.** The Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report will include the following areas:
 - The Proposed Development
 - Planning Context
 - Water Resources, Hydrology and Flood Risk
 - Estuarine Ecology
 - Ornithology
 - Townscape and Visual Amenity
 - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
 - Contamination
 - Traffic and Transport
 - Light Pollution
 - Noise and Vibration
 - Socio-Economics

3. Financial comments

- 3.1** Approval is being sought for the GLA to make a contribution of £30,000 to the ALUNA foundation specifically to part-fund their Environment Impact Assessment scoping report for a new visitor attraction on the Greenwich Peninsula Waterfront project.
- 3.2** The GLA's contribution of £30,000 will be funded from the Central Programme budget in 2013-14. Any changes to this proposal will be subject to further approval via the Authority's decision-making process. All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.
- 3.3** Officers within the Health & Communities Unit will be responsible for managing the GLA's activities relating to the project and ensuring that the proposed expenditure adheres to the Authority's Financial Regulations, Contracts & Funding Code and Funding Agreement Toolkit.

4. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Review of work to date	March 2014
Final Scoping report received	April 2014

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:

Laia Gasch has drafted this report in accordance with GLA procedures and confirms that the Finance team has commented on this proposal as required, and this decision reflects their comments.

✓

HEAD OF GOVERNANCE AND RESILIENCE:

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

Signature:

Date: