

REQUEST FOR MAYORAL DECISION – MD1512

Title: Feasibility Study Centre for Music

Executive Summary:

The Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Mayor of London announced that a feasibility study for a new state-of-the-art Centre for Music would take place in 2015. This new Centre for Music, based in or around the city of London will be led by charismatic figurehead Sir Simon Rattle and have the highest levels of acoustical and visual excellence. It will serve the whole of the country as a base for inspiring musical performance, digital development, participation and learning. The Department of Media, Culture and Sport have confirmed £500,000 to co- fund the feasibility. The Feasibility Project Group will produce a final report with recommendations in September 2015.

Decision:

The Mayor approves the provision of grant funding of up to £500,000 to The Barbican to undertake a feasibility study for the Centre for Music, with the feasibility report to be delivered in September 2015.

Mayor of London

I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in the proposed decision, and take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for elected Members of the Authority.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Date:

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE MAYOR

Decision required – supporting report

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 The GLA committed to a feasibility study in April 2015, in conjunction with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a new Centre for Music with state-of-the-art concert hall in London (the “Centre”). Lead by the Barbican and the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), the new Centre will draw top international orchestras, serve the growing audiences for classical music and attract tourists worldwide.
- 1.2 With Sir Simon Rattle as the charismatic figurehead, the Centre will host education facilities and projects and a digital programme to share the finest music. The new Centre will cement London as a world city for music, with a concert hall comparable to those in Paris, Vienna and Berlin which currently London does not have.
- 1.3 The project to undertake the feasibility study will be led by the Barbican. The Barbican will set up a Feasibility Project Group who will be in charge of procurement and contracting the consultants required under the different work streams. The GLA will be represented on this group.
- 1.4 The Feasibility Project Group will report on a monthly basis to the Feasibility Steering Group formed by members of the Barbican, the London Symphony Orchestra, the Corporation of London, and the Arts Council England. The Greater London Authority (GLA) and the Department of Media Culture and Sport (DCMS) are represented at the Feasibility Steering Group as observers and will receive detailed updates on work progress and budget.
- 1.5 The Feasibility Steering Group will present an interim report to the GLA and the DCMS in June 2015 and a final report in September 2015.
- 1.6 The DCMS will match the GLA’s grant with funding of a further £500,000 to the Barbican. The Barbican will provide regular updates to the GLA and the DCMS including monthly financial reports.

2. Objectives and expected outcomes

Objective

- 2.1 To produce recommendations for a new Centre ensuring that London maintains its position as a leading city of music, with a concert hall with world class acoustics and visual experience attracting leading international orchestras and conductors and inspiring musical performance, digital development and participation across the country.

Outcome

- 2.2 The Feasibility Project Group will produce a final report with recommendations to the Feasibility Steering Group in September 2015.

3. Equality comments

- 3.1 The feasibility study will take into consideration that the Centre building and its activities are fully accessible and encourage participation in music programmes, in particular young people. The operational model will take equality issues into consideration and make recommendations based on likely potential impacts on those with protected characteristics.

4. Other considerations

a) Key risks and issues

The feasibility study aims to minimise the risks of the project by identifying the potential issues and constraints including cost implications of the project and an ongoing operational business plan.

Risk 1 – Report not delivered on time

Mitigation Risk 1 – High level scrutiny panel will meet monthly to review progress against milestones.

Risk 2 – Budget overspent

Mitigation Risk 2 – Finance committee will meet monthly to oversee all procurement and expenditure.

b) Links to Mayoral strategies and priorities

The Mayor's statutory Cultural Strategy (2010) has specific policies 2.2 *"The Mayor will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of London's cultural sector, making the case to both private and public funders alike, and across a range of platforms, on the vital importance of culture to London and the need to maintain investment"* and 2.3 to *"Support capital projects that will contribute to the capital's cultural, social and economic life through planning policies, advocacy and direct investment"*

c) Impact assessments and consultation

The Feasibility Study will consider and undertake a series of consultations on the following:

- The case for a Centre for Music, how it would operate artistically and financially in a sustainable way, and the implications for the operations of the Barbican Centre and the London Symphony Orchestra.
- The location options for building a world class Centre in the City, what it would cost to build and how this would be funded.
- The role of such a Centre within the wider musical sector nationally, in London and within the context of the City's Cultural Hub and how the project will contribute to the wider community.
- How the Centre will be transformative for the nation as a whole, contribute to national objectives for engagement in music and the arts; engage, educate and inspire people from all backgrounds and of all ages and the use of digital technology to engage, educate and inspire.

5. Financial comments

- 5.1 The proposed grant funding of up to £500,000 to The Barbican to undertake a feasibility study for a new Centre for Music will be funded from the £500,000 budget provision earmarked within the Health & Communities Unit specifically for this project and approved as part of the 2015-16 budget process.
- 5.2 It should be noted that the GLA contribution will be matched by DCMS, the project co-funder, who will also be contributing £500,000; thus making the total gross cost of the proposed feasibility study being £1m.

- 5.3 Any changes to this proposal including any future GLA financial contribution to this initiative will be subject to the Authority's budget setting and decision making processes for 2016-17 onwards. All appropriate budget adjustments will be made.
- 5.4 The Culture Team within the Communities & Intelligence Directorate will be responsible for managing this project and ensuring all GLA activities and associated expenditure complies with the Financial Regulations and Contracts & Funding Code.

6. Legal comments

6.1 The report above indicates that:

6.1.1 the decisions requested of the mayor fall within the GLA's statutory powers to do such things considered to further or which are facilitative of, conducive or incidental to the promotion of economic development, wealth creation and social development in Greater London, the implementation of the mayor's cultural strategy which is prepared and published pursuant to section 376 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 ("Act") and the duty of the GLA to promote tourism in Greater London under section 378 of the Act; and

6.1.2 in formulating the proposals in respect of which a decision is sought officers have complied with the GLA's related statutory duties to:

- 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 2010 Act 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;
- 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
- consult with appropriate bodies.

6.2 The report above indicates that the contribution of £500,000 to the Barbican amounts to the provision of grant funding and not payment for services. Officers must ensure that the funding is distributed fairly, transparently, in accordance with the GLA's equalities and in a manner which affords value for money in accordance with the GLA's Contract and Funding Code.

Officers must make sure that an appropriate funding agreement is put in place between Barbican and the GLA before any commitment to fund is made.

7. Investment & Performance Board

Approved in principle at IPB on 14 May 2015

8. Planned delivery approach and next steps

Activity	Timeline
Approval of MD	June 2015
Funding Agreement agreed and signed with the Barbican for delivery of feasibility study	June 2015
Interim report	June 2015
Final report	September 2015

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

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 the following have been consulted on the final decision.

✓

Assistant Director/Head of Service:

Jeff Jacobs has reviewed the documentation and is satisfied for it to be referred to the Sponsoring Director for approval.

✓

Sponsoring Director:

Jeff Jacobs has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the Mayor's plans and priorities.

✓

Mayoral Adviser:

Munira Mirza has been consulted about the proposal and agrees the recommendations.

✓

Advice:

The Finance and Legal teams have commented on this proposal.

✓

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RESOURCES:

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

Signature

Date

CHIEF OF STAFF:

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Mayor

Signature

Date