

DELEGATED POWERS REPORT NO.**1773****SUBJECT:** The Mayor's Outer London Fund Round 2 – Grant agreements with the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Town Centre improvements**Control sheet****All of the following actions MUST be completed at each stage of the process and the signed and dated report MUST be passed to the Governance Service for publishing**

All reports		
1. Governance Service receive draft report	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 09/08/12
2. Governance Service cleared draft report as being constitutionally appropriate	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 09/08/12
3. Finance clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Fin. officer Date	Gary Hussein 08/08/12
4. Staff and other resources issues clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Res. officer Date	Manjit Lall 14/08/12
5. Strategic Procurement clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of SPO Date	Nanette Young 08/08/12
6. Legal clearance obtained from (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of Legal officer Date	Tobenna Erojikwe 31/07/12
7. Policy & Partnerships clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of P&P officer Date	Andrew Nathan 26/07/12
8. Equalities & Diversity clearance obtained (<i>report author to complete</i>)	Name of officer Date	Andrew Nathan 26/07/12
9. The above process has been checked and verified by Director, Head of Service or Deputy	Name Date	Jodie Yandall 30/08/12
10. Signed & dated report, <u>scanned or hard copy</u> received by Governance Service for publishing	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 30/08/12
11. Report published by Governance Service to website	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 30/08/12
12. Head of Service informed report is published	Name of GSO Date	Paul Frost 30/08/12
Key decisions only:		
13. Expiry of call-in period	Date	N/A
14. Report circulated for call-in purposes to Business Management OSC members & copied to Cabinet Members & Head of Service	Name of GSO Date	Andrew Charlwood 30/08/12

ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS BY CABINET MEMBER (EXECUTIVE FUNCTION)

Subject	The Mayor's Outer London Fund Round 2 – Grant agreements with the Greater London Authority (GLA) for Town Centre improvements
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council
Date of decision	30 August 2012
Date decision comes into effect	30 August 2012

Summary	Authorisation for the Council to enter into an agreement with the Greater London Authority (GLA) which will provide the Council with a grant of up to £1,074,060 for North Finchley town centre and £1,676,625 for Cricklewood town centre to fund a range of physical improvements to the public realm and its decluttering as well as broader initiatives to support the area, aimed at delivering economic uplift. Round two must be delivered by 31 st March 2014.
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Officer Contributors	Jodie Yandall, Skills and Enterprise Manager, Regeneration
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	Childs Hill, Golders Green, Woodhouse, West Finchley
Enclosures	None
Reason for exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	An urgent decision is required in order to secure this funding and deliver the objectives within the funding period. If the decision is not taken now, we will not secure the funding, therefore the decision cannot be deferred until October.
Key decision	Yes

Contact for further information: Jodie Yandall, Skills and Enterprise Manager, Regeneration Service, tel. 020 8359 7975

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1. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are no relevant previous decisions.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 This proposal has the potential to enhance the Corporate Plan 2012-13 priority of a successful London suburb, particularly the objective to sustain Barnet as a successful place through regeneration, and supporting enterprise and employment, by boosting the appearance of the North Finchley and Cricklewood Town Centres and helping to deliver economic uplift to the area. The funding will allow both longer term physical improvements and more temporary changes (such as Christmas lights) to be made to the Town Centres, adding to the area's offer as a vibrant place where businesses can thrive by increasing footfall.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council will be required to take on a level of financial risk by undertaking this agreement and the subsequent delivery of the works included in the project. The Council will be obliged to fund the costs of delivering the project objectives in the first instance, prior to being reimbursed by the GLA by the end of 2013/14. The Council will request reimbursement from the GLA of the costs incurred by issuing quarterly invoices throughout the funding period. The funding agreement states that in the case of the GLA terminating the contract, the Council will be eligible to be reimbursed all costs incurred prior to the date of termination. Cabinet Resources Committee is due to consider a request for the advanced funding on 27 September 2012.
- 3.2 The Council is also required to provide match funding of £379,080 for North Finchley (equally split between Local Implementation Programme funding and core council funding) and £591,750 for Cricklewood (through Local Implementation Programme funding, section 106 funding and core Council funding from Barnet; with £232,000 of this being provided by Brent Council).
- 3.3 There is a risk that the Council will be unable to reclaim all monies spent from the GLA at the conclusion of the project; in order to mitigate these risks, the bid makes provisions to fund a dedicated project officer role to manage and coordinate the effective delivery of this project and ensure that the terms of the funding agreement are complied with. It is therefore considered that the above risks can be adequately managed and mitigated. Entering into this agreement is not likely to raise significant levels of public concern or give rise to policy considerations.
- 3.4 It is considered that the additional risks placed on the Council from signing the grant agreement with regards public liability, will fall within the scope of the Council's insurance cover.
- 3.5 The bid was developed in partnership with a number of local groups and organisations, and delivery of the project objectives relies, in part, on the continuing existence of and partnership working between the council and the Cricklewood Improvement Programme in Cricklewood and with the ArtsDepot in North Finchley. Therefore if the relationship between the Council and these organisations were to be compromised, then the Council might find it harder to fulfil its obligations under

the funding agreement to deliver the project. Although the Council could lose potential funding if unable to deliver, this risk does not impose any financial obligations upon the Council.

- 3.6 If the agreement is not signed the Council would not be eligible for the GLA funding to undertake the planned improvements to the Cricklewood and North Finchley Town Centres. The Council would therefore be missing out on an opportunity to improve its town centres, and contribute to the delivery of one of the key aims of the Corporate Plan 2012-13 of enhancing Barnet's position as a successful London Suburb.
- 3.7 The objectives of the North Finchley Outer London funding will deliver public realm improvements around the Artsdepot/Tally Ho area which will create an enhanced environment to compliment the proposals of the Landmark Library in the Artsdepot. Without the Outer London Funding there is a risk that the surrounding public realm environment would not meet the aspirations for a high quality area with a new Landmark Library.

4. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 4.1 Barnet benefits from a diverse population and the proposals included in this successful bid were developed in partnership with a number of local business organisations and community groups, and agreement to enter into this Grant Agreement will enable the Council to engage further with the local resident and business community in the delivery of the project.
- 4.2 The proposals to be delivered as part of this project support Barnet's aspiration to create the right environment for vibrant and viable town centres in the borough. Integral to this is the need to respect the diversity of the town centre network and to take into account the different requirements of each town centre, and the different needs and preferences of those who use them. The actions aim to deliver economic uplift to the area, the benefits of which can be shared by all those who live, work and use the North Finchley and Cricklewood town centres.
- 4.3 Inclusive design considerations are at the heart of the proposals put forward in the bid, and the public realm improvements to be delivered through this funding will improve accessibility for all users of the town centre. The proposed actions aim to improve the design of the two town centres making both more inclusive and accessible.
- 4.4 The town centre improvements proposed will help to make the areas more accessible in several ways. The removal of physical barriers around the town centres including guard railings, bollards and assorted signage will improve the ease of movement for all pedestrians. In addition a number of footways in and around the town centres are in need of repair to ensure both a consistent look for the town centre, and to improve accessibility for those who use a walking aid and those with push chairs.
- 4.5 Where applicable, all grant monies will be allocated by a fair and transparent process, which the Council will ensure is fully accessible.

5. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.1 The Council is required to provide match funding of:

- £379,080 for North Finchley (of which £150,315 capital and £39,225 revenue will be provided from council core funding, and £189,540 capital from the Local Implementation Programme funding).
- £591,750 for Cricklewood (of which £236,053.20 capital and £59,821.80 revenue will be provided from council core funding, and £63,876 capital from local section 106 monies and Local Implementation Programme funding, as well as £232,000 capital being provided by Brent Council in the form of section 106 monies and Local Implementation Programme funding).

5.2 The signing of the Mayor's Outer London Funding Grant Agreement also has temporary financial implications as the Council is required to fund delivery of the project in advance of reclaiming costs from the GLA, as detailed in 3.1. However, it is considered that these risks can be managed, and provided that grant claims from the GLA are submitted before 31st March 2013 and then again on 31st March 2014 there will be no budget implications in 2012/13 and 2013/14.

5.2 The successful bid included an allocation of funding for a dedicated project coordinator to support the delivery of the project on a fixed term contract for the life of the project.

5.3 All goods and services required to deliver the project will be procured in accordance with the council's Contract Procedure Rules.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

6.1 Section 1 of Chapter 1 of the Localism Act 2011 was brought into force by means of *Localism Act 2011 (Commencement No.3) Order 2012*. This legislation provides local authorities with a broad power to do anything that individuals may do subject to any specific restrictions on local authorities contained in legislation. This legislation and other powers empower the Council to enter into the arrangements proposed by this report.

6.2 The Council will need to enter into a legally binding agreement with the Greater London Authority. The Terms of the agreement are open for inspection as provided for in paragraph 9.1 of this report.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

7.1 The Council's constitution in Part 3, Responsibility for Functions, paragraph 3.3 states that Cabinet Members have general powers to discharge the executive functions that fall within their portfolio, whether or not they are also delegated to officers except for matters specifically reserved to Council, Cabinet or cabinet committees.

7.2 The Council's constitution, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules Section 15 states that key decisions may be called in under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000. Section 16 states that an urgent decision may be exempted

from the call-in process. The Chairman of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been consulted and is in agreement that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and is urgent. Therefore this report is exempted from call in.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 The Outer London Fund is a £50m fund identified by the Mayor of London for rejuvenating town centres in those Outer London boroughs which are not benefiting directly from projects such as Crossrail and the 2012 Games. The second round (of two) invited boroughs to bid for a share of the remaining £40 million of funding for town centre improvements, with the aim of making a real and visible difference to town centres. It is a requirement of the grant agreement that all funding is spent by 31st March 2014.
- 8.2 Each bid had to demonstrate how the fund will be used to support economic uplift, building on strategies and community action which are already in place for the relevant town centres, and include a delivery timetable to highlight how each activity will be implemented and the indicative costs. Bids were marked against five criteria and Barnet was successful in securing £1,074,060 for North Finchley town centre and £1,676,625 for Cricklewood town centre to fund improvements.
- 8.3 The grant funding will be used to deliver a coherent package of work aimed at uplifting the North Finchley and Cricklewood town centres, the proposals combine physical improvements to the streetscape and public realm e.g. through clutter removal programmes, and additional tree planting, enhancements to open spaces in the town centres, new directional signage etc; and improvements to the quality of shopfronts and the marketing and image of the town centres through a programme of support for local businesses and considering how vacant shops could be brought back into use.
- 8.4 The objectives of the North Finchley Outer London funding will deliver public realm improvements around the Artsdepot/Tally Ho area to create an enhanced cultural quarter in North Finchley, and creating a more attractive environment to compliment the proposals of the Landmark Library in the Artsdepot.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Any person wishing to inspect the grant agreement for the Outer London Fund Round 2 from the GLA should telephone Jodie Yandall, Regeneration Service on 020 8359 7975.

10. DECISION OF THE CABINET MEMBER(S)

I authorise the following actions:

- 10.1 The entry into a Grant Agreement with the Greater London Authority to provide funding for improvements to North Finchley Town Centre**
- 10.2 The entry into a Grant Agreement with the Greater London Authority to provide funding for improvements to Cricklewood Town Centre**

Signed

Leader of the Council

Date

30 August 2012
