

# Subject: High Street Regeneration

Report to: Regeneration Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 10 March 2015

This report will be considered in public

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background information for the Committee's discussion on the Mayor's regeneration funds with expert guests and stakeholders as part of its work on this topic.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the report as background to a discussion with invited guests regarding the Mayor's regeneration funds, and notes the discussion.**

## 3. Background

- 3.1 As part of its 2014/15 work programme, the Committee has agreed to review work it has carried out over the last two years on the Outer London Fund (OLF) and the Mayor's Regeneration Fund (MRF). Members will also examine the Mayor's High Street Fund.
- 3.2 In 2013/14, the Committee reviewed the OLF, which provides support for high streets and town centres. The GLA allocated the Fund – worth approximately £42 million – in two rounds: £10 million in Round 1, and £40 million in Round 2.<sup>1</sup> Following its review, the Committee wrote to the Mayor,<sup>2</sup> setting out recommendations for future regeneration funds, including calls to the GLA to:
- Provide sufficient revenue funding to support the aspects of high street regeneration, and programme management;
  - Secure match funding from commercial as well as public sector partners; and
  - Adapt its approach to evaluation, to measure programme effectiveness at different stages, and to measure qualitative alongside quantitative impacts.
- 3.3 The Committee also carried out an investigation of the MRF, which the Mayor launched in the wake of the August 2011 riots, allocating £50 million of GLA funding, plus £20 million from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), and borough match funding, to

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.london.gov.uk/priorities/regeneration/high-streets/funding-programmes/outer-london-fund>

<sup>2</sup> Letter from the Regeneration Committee to the Mayor – [The future of the OLF](#) and [Reply from the Mayor to the Committee](#) (Outer London Fund)

support regeneration and growth in eight boroughs affected by the riots. The Committee visited Tottenham and Croydon Town Centres, which received the largest funding awards, and Members held a meeting with guests in March 2014. In August, the Committee published a report<sup>3</sup> which recommended that the Mayor:

- Should renew communications activity about the purpose of the MRF and how it would be spent;
- Require boroughs to establish leadership and governance structures for future funds, before being awarded funding; and
- Should work with the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) to provide support to boroughs with engaging with private sector partners, for example, through the Special Assistance Team.

3.4 In autumn 2014, the GLA launched a new High Street Fund (HSF), which will provide up to £9 million for projects in 2015/16. The Fund is primarily capital funding, with limited revenue funding available.<sup>4</sup> The HSF includes a funding stream under which non-public bodies – such as local business and community groups – as well as local authorities, can apply for funding worth up to £20,000 for high street projects. The GLA has invited these groups to source match funding for these bids through a crowd-funding website; Spacehive.

3.5 In December 2013, the Chancellor announced that the LEP would retain a top slice of £70 million from London boroughs' New Homes Bonus (NHB) allocations in 2015-16. The LEP intends to use £25 million of this funding to support 28 high street regeneration projects across 22 boroughs.<sup>5</sup>

## 4. Issues for Consideration

4.1 The following guests have been invited to the Committee's meeting on 10 March 2015:

- Niraj Dattani, Senior Partnership Manager, Spacehive;
- Debbie Jackson, Assistant Director, Regeneration, GLA;
- Chris Paddock, Director, Regeneris; and
- Simon Pitkeathley, Chief Executive, Camden Town Unlimited.

4.2 In this discussion, the Committee will seek to receive an update on the OLF and the MRF, and lessons the GLA has learnt from these funds in designing the HSF. The meeting will cover the following issues:

- Performance of the MRF, and evaluation;
- Performance of the OLF, including remaining 'live' projects, and final evaluation;
- HSF, including objectives, design, allocation decisions;
- NHB funding for high streets; and
- Future high street regeneration priorities for the LEP and GLA, including Places of Work.

---

<sup>3</sup> Regeneration Committee Report – [Out of the Ashes: The Mayor's Regeneration Fund](#) and [Reply from the Mayor to the Committee](#) (Mayor's Regeneration Fund)

<sup>4</sup> Mayor, [High Street Fund – Prospectus](#), October 2014

<sup>5</sup> LEP, [New Homes Bonus Programme](#) (Agenda Item 5c), 29 October 2014

## 5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

---

**List of appendices to this report:** None

<b>Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b>
List of Background Papers: None
Contact Officer: Jo Sloman, Scrutiny Manager
Telephone: 020 7983 4942
E-mail: scrutiny@london.gov.uk