

**Growth Directorate**  
**Nazeya Hussain**

Your Ref:

My Ref: F0895

Enquiries to: Sheree Aitken

19 July 2019

Response by email to:

Lynne Finnerty

[request-583131-b8be6c55@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-583131-b8be6c55@whatdotheyknow.com)



Guildhall  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 1EU

Tel: 020 8547 5002

Website: [www.kingston.gov.uk](http://www.kingston.gov.uk)

Dear Lynne Finnerty,

**Re: Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Information Request - Ref No: F0788**

I refer to your request for information received on 14 June 2019 regarding:

“Please provide the following information relating to the Kingston Opportunity Area Planning Framework project:

1. Please advise how the Kingston Opportunity Area Planning Framework [OAPF] project is funded. Is it fully covered by a Greater London Authority [GLA] planning budget or is Kingston Council liable for any costs?

Please provide full details of the project agreement/arrangements.

2. Please confirm that the GLA procured and employed a specialist consultancy service in 2015 to provide technical support relating to the production of the OAPF.  
How was this funded?

3. On 24th March 2015 the Council’s Infrastructure, Projects & Contracts Committee approved a Kingston Opportunity Area boundary ‘focused on the historic town centre’. The Council had previously promoted Kingston Town Centre’s inclusion within the list of Opportunity/Intensification Areas in its response to the Further Alterations to the London Plan [FALP] - endorsed in March 2014. At examination an Inspector’s Report found the FALP sound.  
However, it is documented by the GLA that, ‘during the project and following consultation with RBK and Transport for London, it was decided to expand the scope of the OAPF to include opportunities for growth around the 10 proposed Crossrail 2 stations in the borough’. This scope expansion will result in significant development growth across Kingston borough without reference to the democratic process of the Council’s committee system.

Please provide:

[a] Evidence of the GLA’s claim to have ‘consulted with’ Kingston Council on the OAPF scope expansion. What form did this consultation take?

[b] Meeting minutes at which discussions took place and the decision taken to expand the scope of the OAPF to include but not limited to meetings of: the Council's Cabinet; Strategic Growth Board; Officer Project Board; Opportunity Area Project Team; public and/or internal meetings at Kingston Council; public and/or internal meetings between Kingston Council, GLA and TfL.

[c] Communications from Kingston Council servers relating to scope expansion in the form of e-mails, letters and memos between elected members, council officers, GLA elected members, GLA and TfL officers and other parties.

4. The development capacity study needed to be expanded as a result of the OAPF scope change. On 20th April 2017 Kingston Council paid the GLA the sum of £13,389.06 for additional expenditure on specialist consultancy services.

Who specifically agreed and authorised the use of Council funds? Please provide all evidence."

The response to your question is below:

#### **Question 1:**

No work is being progressed on an Opportunity Area Planning Framework by the Royal Borough of Kingston, nor by the GLA, therefore information is not held.

#### **Questions 2, 3 and 4:**

**Section 12** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 makes provision for public authorities to refuse requests for information where the cost of dealing with them would exceed the appropriate limit which, for local government, is set at £450. This represents the estimated cost of one person spending 18 hours at £25 per hour in determining whether the Council holds the information requested, locating the information or documents containing the information, retrieving the information or documents and extracting the information from any document (including editing).

The Council estimates that it will take substantially in excess of 18 hours to determine appropriate material and locate, retrieve and extract the information with reference to the request.

Accordingly, the request will not be processed further.

In accordance with the provisions of the Act, this letter constitutes a Refusal Notice on questions 2, 3 and 4.

If you are unhappy with the way in which your request has been handled you have the right to ask for an internal review. Please notify us in writing as soon as possible with the grounds upon which you feel the appeal is justified to: [foi@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:foi@kingston.gov.uk) or by post to Customer Care, Guildhall 2, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU.

We aim to respond to you within 20 working days of receiving your request.

Should you still be dissatisfied with the outcome you have the right to refer to the Information Commissioner: Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Sheree Aitken  
Lead Officer - Planning Policy



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If this letter is not clear, please post it to: FREEPOST RBK BETTER LETTERS or ring 020 8547 5000.