

Committee(s): Streets & Walkways Sub Committee	Date: 23 rd October 2018
Subject: Response to Member's Concerns: Replacement existing street furniture to support City of London Wireless Concession.	Public
Report of: Director of Built Environment	For decision
Report author: Steven Bage Strategic Infrastructure Advisor	

Summary

At your meeting on 21st May 2018 a report was considered seeking authorisation to swap out existing 3 metre column with new 8 metre column to host telecommunication infrastructure to support the role out of 4G cells as part of the Gigabit City Strategy by approved Wireless Concession provider CTIL. It was resolved that Members did not oppose the principle of the replacement of the columns, but that further information was requested to allow Members to take a more informed decision and to consider the implications of their replacement

This report seeks to address Members' requests for further information and recommends that a trial replacing 10 of the columns be undertaken and subject to satisfactory review, that the Town Clerk and Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Streets and Walkways Committee be given delegated authority relating to the approval of an additional 150 replacement columns.

Recommendations:

- i. **That Members grant approval to replace 3 metre columns with taller 8 metre columns, in 10 locations (shown in Appendix 2).**
- ii. **That subject to Members being content with i), approval is permitted for delegated authority to be granted to the Town Clerk and Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Streets & Walkways Committee to approve the further replacement of 3 metre columns with 8 metre columns in 150 locations to facilitate the housing of 4G and 5G small cell equipment to improve mobile coverage across the Square Mile.**

Main Report

Background

1. At Streets & Walkways Committee on 21st May 2018, Members received a report of the Director of Built Environment seeking approval to replace selected existing 3 metre non-electrified street furniture columns (housing road signs / cigarette bins) with taller columns 8 metre columns to house small cell mobile equipment to provide enhanced mobile coverage at street level, to support the City Corporation's

Wireless Concession agreement (signed with CTIL), to ensure that better mobile coverage can be provided in areas of the Square Mile where there is a notable absence of street furniture. 8 metre columns are required in order to ensure that Wi-Fi and mobile signals are not impacted by buses, trees and other structures on the highway which can affect user coverage at street level.

2. It was resolved that Members did not oppose the principle of the replacement of the 3 metre columns, but that further information was requested to allow Members to take a more informed decision and to consider the implications of replacing the existing 3 metre columns with taller 8 metre columns. This report seeks to respond in detail to concerns raised at Streets & Walkways Committee in May 2018, and provides greater clarity on areas requested by Members, which are outlined below:

- Appearance and dimensions of proposed replacement columns (Appendix 1)
- Map and schedule of proposed replacement column locations (Appendix 2)
- Approval from City of London Access Team
- An Equalities Impact Assessment – Test of Relevance (Appendix 3)
- Conformity with the City of London Street Scene Manual (now called City of London Public Realm Manual)
- Protocol for replacing 3 metre columns to 8 metre columns (Appendix 4).

Current situation

3. CTIL has identified sufficient volume of existing City owned street furniture to meet their contractual commitment of 200 small cells to be delivered by Q1 2019. However they have undertaken a review of street furniture to support future deployment of 4G and 5G infrastructure post 2019 and concluded that many of the remaining street furniture columns are not adequate to support ongoing deployment due to the limited height of columns restricting line of site with other street furniture locations.
4. The City Corporation is committed to becoming an early adopter of 5G (the next generation of mobile standards) when it becomes available in 2021 to support future mobile devices and technologies such as smart city applications and it is expected that there will be significant demand for small cells to be installed on City owned street furniture post 2021.
5. It is considered that the replacement of 3 metre street furniture columns with taller 8 metre columns in selected locations is fundamental to rolling out enhanced mobile connectivity across the Square Mile to ensure there is comprehensive City wide coverage that will support the needs of workers, residents and visitors, so ensuring that the City remains competitive as a global business centre.

Response to Member concerns

Appearance and dimension of proposed replacement columns

6. Appendix 1 shows photographs of existing 3 metre and 8 metre columns and the size of the column widths (7cm for 3 metre column and 15cm for 8 metre

column). The Highways Division of the Department of Built Environment has advised that the replacement of the columns will not fundamentally affect pedestrians and other users of the highway, as it is replacing existing street furniture locations rather than adding new street furniture. Similarly, the Development Division in the Department of Built Environment has confirmed that the installation of the 8 metre columns and associated mobile infrastructure are considered non material in urban design and conservation terms. Further engagement with the Development Division will be undertaken in considering additional future sites for replacement columns beyond the initial 10 proposed sites, pending Member's approval of this report.

Map and schedule outlining proposed replacement column locations

7. To ensure that Members are satisfied with the impact of the 8 metre columns on the public highway it is considered that there should be 10 initial locations where 3 metre columns will be replaced with 8 metre columns. The recommendations of this report request that Members approve the initial 10 locations and if found to be satisfactory from a highway perspective, a further report will be prepared seeking approval by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman for approval under Delegate Authority. Appendix 2 shows a map and detailed schedule of the 10 locations, with each of the locations having been surveyed with the Highways Division on its own merits and deemed to be acceptable from a highways perspective.

Approval from CoL Access team

8. The Access Team in the Department of Built Environment, has approved the 10 locations on the basis that the distance between the new 8 metre column and the building line / structure on the highway comfortably exceeds the minimum statutory distance of 2 metres so not restricting the movement of users on the public highway. Any further installations will comply with this requirement

Equality Impact Assessments

9. Equalities Impact Assessments have now been superseded by Equality Analysis which requires a "Test of Relevance" to determine whether a detailed Equality Analysis is required. CPAT has worked with the City Public Realm team in undertaking a Test of Relevance (shown in Appendix 3) in relation to the proposals outlined in this report, which found that there will be no impact on any of the Equality Groups outlined in the Test of Relevance. The Access Team and City Public Realm team has subsequently confirmed that owing to the outcome of the Test of Relevance, a full Equality Assessment for this proposal will not be required and no further action is required.

Conformity with the City of London Public Realm Technical Manual

10. Members requested that the proposals outlined in this report must conform the City of London Street Scene Manual (now called Public Realm Technical Manual). The City Public Realm team is currently in the process of reviewing

and updating their Technical Manual and has included a section providing guidance on design and location of street furniture housing Wi-Fi and small cell infrastructure in conjunction with public realm. This guidance will include a recommended distance between columns and kerbs/walls and general requirements relating to the use/replacement of street furniture to accommodate 4G small cells. The manual is expected to be published for consultation in January 2019.

Protocol for replacing 3 metre columns to 8 metre columns

11. Appendix 4 outlines a protocol for replacement of 3 metre columns with 8 metre columns which aims to ensure through consultation with colleagues in the Department of Built Environment that:

- There is an ongoing need for the column to host street signage.
- There are no major planned programmes of enhancement to be undertaken that could require removal of the columns.
- That a minimum passing distance of 2m exists between the column and building line or structures on the highway.
- All installation works are coordinated in a timely manner and must take place out of hours.
- The total duration of installation works will not take more than 2 days, preventing ongoing impact on users of the public highway.

Conclusion

12. The City continues to suffer from substandard mobile coverage, which must be improved if the Square Mile is to remain competitive as a global business centre. The Wireless Concession agreement with CTIL presents a unique opportunity to create attractive market conditions for mobile operators by offering street furniture assets to encourage widespread roll out of cutting edge wireless technology. It is considered that this report suitably addresses Member's concerns around replacing selected existing 3 metre columns with 8 metre columns which is critical to ensuring that the City can benefit from the installation of 4G and eventually 5G small cells which will reinforce the competitiveness of the City of London as a global business centre.

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