

# Project Coversheet

## [1] Ownership

**Unique Project Identifier:** 10847      **Report Date:** February 2019  
**Core Project Name:** Beech Street Transport and Public Realm Improvements  
**Programme Affiliation** (if applicable): Beech Street Transformation  
**Project Manager:** Aldo Strydom  
**Next Gateway to be passed:** Gateway4

## [2] Project Brief

**Project Mission statement:** The Project will address air quality issues by reducing traffic that pass through the covered roadway. At the same time, it aims to deliver a vibrant street with a high-quality public realm at the centre of Culture Mile, which will also provide the opportunity to realise property outcomes.

### Definition of need:

- The adopted 2015 Local Plan, policy CS5 supports the further improvement of the Barbican area as a cultural quarter;
- The Barbican Area Strategy and Culture Mile Look and Feel Strategy identifies the need for infrastructure improvements in Beech Street

### Key measures of success:

- 1) Reduction in through traffic along Beech Street
- 2) Air quality improvements (reduction in NO<sub>2</sub>)
- 3) Vast improvement to quality of the public realm

## [3] Highlights

### Finance:

**Total anticipated cost to deliver [£]:** £12M–£15M

**Total potential project liability (cost) [£]:**

**Total anticipated on-going commitment post-delivery [£]:** additional maintenance liabilities unknown until the design is complete and approved

**Programme Affiliation [£]:** £30M (not including podium waterproofing)

[A] Budget Approved to Date*	[B] New Financial Requests	[C] New Budget Total (Post approval)
£1,745,362	—	£1,745,362
[D] Previous Total Estimated Cost of Project	[E] New Total Estimated Cost of Project	[F] Variance in Total Estimated Cost of Project (since last report)
£12M–£15M	£12M–£15M	—
[G] Spend to Date	[H] Anticipated future budget requests	
£346,748	tba	

**Headline Financial changes:****Since 'Project Proposal' (G2) report:**

▲ A Gateway 3 Issues Report presented in 2016 approved a budget of £120,525 for the development of a feasibility study for Beech Street.

A Gateway 3 Issues Report approved in September 2018 requested an increase in scope to undertake modelling and a range of investigations and a budget increase to £1,745,362 was also agreed.

**Since 'Options Appraisal and Design' (G3-4) report:**

N/A

**Since 'Authority to start Work' (G5) report:**

N/A

**Project Status:**

**Overall RAG rating:** Amber

**Previous RAG rating:** Amber

**[4] Member Decisions and Delegated Authority**

Members of Policy and Resources Committee approved the Vision for Beech Street in an update report on 7th June 2018. This report set out the principle that traffic needs to be removed or reduced in Beech Street as part of the Transformation programme.

The only matter of Delegated Authority relates to the Director for Built Environment being able to move funds between individual line items with no change to the overall budget or project scope.

Members of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee have requested that the potential for air quality to be improved on Beech Street by investigating the feasibility of restricting traffic to Ultra Low Emission vehicles (ULEVs).

A subsequent Issue Report for the Transport and Public Realm project was presented at the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee meeting in July 2018, recommending that the eastbound closure be further developed. Members however recommended that the report be withdrawn, and officers investigate options for further traffic modelling.

Following this, an Issue report was considered at the September committee cycle. Members from the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee approved this report with the following resolutions of note:

5. Approve further development of the feasibility of Option 1 (Beech Street closed to eastbound traffic) and Option 2 (Beech Street closed to westbound traffic);
6. Approve an increase in the scope of the project (requested by the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee) to investigate the feasibility of introducing Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle restrictions in Beech Street;
11. Ask that officers explore ways to accelerate the project where appropriate, and that officers update Members on the project at each meeting of the Streets & Walkways Sub-Committee.

**[5] Narrative and change****Date and type of last report:**

Gateway 3 Issues Report (September 2018)

**Key headline updates and change since last report.**

Members have previously agreed that both an eastbound and westbound traffic closure be investigated, as well as option for ULEV restrictions. Officers are requesting direction on investigations into a two-way closure on Beech Street.

**Headline Scope/Design changes, reasons why, impact of change:****Since 'Project Proposal' (G2) report:**

Additional scope, including extensive traffic modelling.

**Since 'Options Appraisal and Design' (G3-4 report):**

Request to increase project scope to investigate feasibility of a two-way closure.

Endorsement of Project objectives which have been realigned to match the Corporate Plan outcomes

**Since 'Authority to Start Work' (G5) report:**

N/A

**Timetable and Milestones:**

**Expected timeframe for the project delivery:** 2020–2022

**Milestones:** <Top 3 delivery and planning milestones (upcoming) >

1) TfL approve TMAN application (interim scheme) – Apr 2019

2) Interim scheme operational – May 2020

3) TfL approve TMAN application (permanent scheme) – Dec 2020

4) Highway and Public Realm design complete – Dec 2020

5) Works complete in time for opening of Exhibition Halls – Autumn 2022

**Are we on track for this stage of the project against the plan/major milestones? Y**

**Are we on track for completing the project against the expected timeframe for project delivery? Y**

**Risks and Issues**

**Top 3 risks:**

<i>Risk description</i>	TfL do not approve the City's Traffic Management Act Notification (TMAN) application to remove/reduce traffic
<i>Risk description</i>	Islington Council objects to a Beech Street closure that will adversely affect their roads or compromise any planned projects
<i>Risk description</i>	Vociferous opposition from single issue transport groups

See 'risk register template' for full explanation.

**Top 3 issues realised:**

<i>Issue Description</i>	<i>Impact and action taken</i>	<i>Realised Cost</i>
Traffic modelling scope	An independent traffic modelling expert has since been procured to offer impartial professional advice on the procurement of a traffic modelling team and engagement with TfL	£40,000
Old Street Clerkenwell Road (OSCR) scheme considerations	Interaction between the Beech Street closure and Islington Council's OSCR scheme needs careful consideration, as these schemes have reciprocal impacts. City officers have been engaging with Islington officers on a regular basis, and will continue to do so, to ensure the success of both projects	£4,000

**Has this project generated public or media impact and response which the City of London has needed to manage or is managing?**

Yes, Culture Mile is an initiative that the City has released to the media, public and neighbouring authorities.