TO: **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

FROM: **BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE**

BARBICAN RESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE - UPDATE REPORT

Following comments made at the Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee on 10 September 2012, the Chairman had agreed to receive a presentation from the Assistant Director (Environmental Enhancement), as part of this item.

The presentation on the Street Scene covered the following:

- Seating on the Highwalks/St Giles' Terrace
- Lighting and security
- Silk Street/Beech Street junction – new zebra crossings and removal of the traffic island
- The widened footway outside the cinema
- Options for the tunnel improvements
- Availability and use of Section 106 funding

Members felt concerned about Beech Street and the Barbican Centre Board had repeatedly expressed its dissatisfaction about the area's poor appearance, particularly in the context of the cultural quarter. The Assistant Director confirmed that funding was an issue due to changes to EU legislation, following the tunnel fire in Switzerland last year. The Assistant Director was fully aware of the Art Centre's concerns and met regularly with the Managing Director and his team.

In response to further questions, the Assistant Director advised that:

- In the existing strategy, London Wall would retain 4 lanes of traffic and any proposed reduction would be through lane width reduction. The removal of whole lanes would need to part of a major study on traffic impact.

- All designs for Beech Street Tunnel would be vandal proof, as far as possible and that in order to widen footways it may be possible to remove the central reservation from the tunnel, as has been proposed at the eastern end of the street by the new cinemas.

It was moved by JEREMY MAYHEW, Seconded by DEPUTY JOYCE NASH and RESOLVED, that:

The Planning and Transportation Committee be asked to consider improvements to Beech Street Tunnel as a matter of priority, given its significance within the Cultural Quarter.