

<b>Committee(s):</b> Planning & Transportation Committee	<b>Date(s):</b> 14 July 2020
<b>Subject:</b> 2019/20 Business Plan Update Q4	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of the Built Environment	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Elisabeth Hannah	

### Summary

This report sets out the progress made during Q4 of the 2019/20 Departmental Business Plan. This report continues to build on our new approach to share high level data, awards and results as infographics (Appendix 1), you will find further details and additional information at Appendix 2.

This is the fourth infographic update provided to this Committee, and development continues alongside work of our colleagues in Town Clerks team, and the Corporate Performance Framework.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report and appendices.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The 2019/20 Business Plan of the Department of the Built Environment was approved by this committee on 18 March 2019.

### **Current Position**

2. Appendix 1 shows our Infographic approach to presenting departmental high-level data, awards and results. The work of the department continues to support City of London's Corporate Plan.
3. Appendix 2 gives more details on the infographic, as well as measuring outputs alongside our 19/20 high level objectives as outlined in the Departmental 2019/20 Business Plan.
4. Members feedback continues to shape these reports to provide valuable key strategic updates to Members.

### **Key Updates**

5. Our climate resilience team have been working with Buro Happold to look at scientific data and climate projections as part of establishing information on climate resilience measures required for the City as part of the Corporations Climate Action Strategy preparation. This work is due to be presented to Members on the 2nd July and then go to relevant Committees the following week before going out for Public Consultation during July 2020.
6. The City's District Surveyors team are working with HSE (Health & Safety Executive) and MHCLG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's) to advise on implementation of new building control standards and the Building Safety Regulator which will have a major impact on the way the building control system operates.
7. Gordon Roy was voted in as Junior Vice President of the London District Surveyors Association.
8. Mark Pundsack has joined an Institution of Structural Engineers steering group looking at setting up a specialist register of structural checking engineers, on behalf of MHCLG. This is to drive up competence within the checking and review of high risk structures.
9. Mark has also joined the '*Future of Building Control Working Group*' which has been established to make recommendations to MHCLG about developing detailed building control competency. Government aims to regulate the Building Control sector much more strictly and this group aims to recommend a system of mandatory competence for Building Control Officers.
10. Following on from the improvements in the City's Lighting, Carter Lane has benefitted from the installation of Heritage lanterns that have a warmer light

source which save energy and can be dimmed, enhancing the look and feel of the area.

11. The City of London's Wind Microclimate Guidance won the Mayor's Award for Sustainable & Environmental Planning at London First's Building London Planning Awards 2020.
12. The Secure City Programme (SCP) is a joint programme between the City Corporation and the City of London Police that seeks to enhance the security of the Square Mile and provide benefits in terms of transport planning & monitoring by upgrading out-of-life CCTV camera and supporting systems as well as adding coverage where proportionate and appropriate. Additional key SCP elements including integration with wider policing security management systems and establishing the new, permanent Joint Command & Control Room. The programme was approved by relevant Committees in March with the appointment of DBE Director as Single Responsible Officer for the Programme.
13. The Department continues to work closely with colleagues in the Town Clerk's Department to develop the new corporate performance framework (CPF). This new approach to data management and KPIs will be rolled out across the Corporation and is currently in development. DBE are currently reviewing our data, KPIs and other sources of information so we can better provide assurance to Members that we are delivering our objectives.

## **Covid 19**

14. The Department are represented on the Public Services Silver Group, with a remit including Planning and Construction, Highways and Transportation and Cleansing. The Director of the Department of the Built Environment also sits on the organisation Gold group. Regular Bronze and Silver meetings are being held, and Members have been fully engaged with the phased work being done on the highways.
15. Officers, agents and applicants quickly adapted to MS Teams meetings and officers are now keen to explore the facilities that MS Teams offers to enable improved working practices in the 'new normal'. Officers have also adapted well to home working in often challenging context of limited workspace and balancing childcare and home schooling. Officers have put measures in place to ensure existing service standards are maintained.
16. We have introduced new systems and procedures including Press, Site Notices and neighbours consultation to maintain a continuous service post Lockdown so departmental services continued to operate as normal and maintain close liaison and co-ordination with the CPA and other key stakeholders.
17. Where possible 'virtual site visits' are being undertaken by both Building Control and Planning Officers, and strict protocols and procedures being agreed for any visits requiring officers to go to premises.
18. There has been a significant decline in new planning applications being received and this decline mirrors the decline in London and the UK. However, the number of pre-application negotiations on major schemes currently underway are at an

almost unprecedented high level. These schemes collectively have the potential to transform areas such as Fleet Street as well as transforming the City's skyline in the City Cluster. Officers are working in project teams to progress these negotiations with pace through the Planning Performance Agreement process. This intense activity at pre application stage is a clear sign of confidence in the City's future amongst developers and investors. These major schemes will appear on Committee agendas from the Autumn onwards.

#### 19. Priorities for Department of Built Environment as we move out of lockdown

- Steps to address budget deficits at each of the Divisions to maintain realistic expectations on income streams.
- To facilitate and support social distancing for the City to safely return to the workplace and for residents, through on-street measures to provide additional space for people walking and cycling, including changes to street operation, reallocation of carriageway space and street closures.
- To adapt cleansing and waste services in line with increased footfall
- To support the development and construction industry.
- To progress and implement longer term strategies for sustainable growth in the City.

#### **Equalities**

#### 20. In Q4 the DBE undertook an Equalities self-audit for reporting to the Corporate Equalities Board, key highlights include:

- The DBE has three staff network leads, Holly Smith (WiN), Claire Callan-Day (City Pride, joint chair) and Zahur Khan (BAME). Our staff are encouraged to join a staff network and be involved in promoting diversity and being an ally to those who need it.
- Our apprentices deliver a programme of fundraising for The Stephen Lawrence Trust, this not only builds their confidence, professional and team skills but also supports those who are looking for a career in the Built Environment industry and build social responsibility as they start careers.
- Cross department/staff network events are supported by SLT. In 2019, a BAME/City Pride/DBE event was held with external speakers who delivered and encouraged discussion on the subject of inspiration. In March, a City Pride/Apprentice Network/DBE event saw guest speaker Shaun Dellenty speak with our apprentices about inclusion, diversity and workplace behaviours; apprentices also donated items for the Hackney foodbank.

#### **Staff Development**

#### 21. The DBE Talent Strategy, launched in 2018, saw completion of the Release Your Potential programme (grade A-C) and Talent Management programme (D-F), and launched the ILM7 Leadership programme (F Plus). These programmes brought DBE staff together with colleagues from the City Surveyor, Barbican, and Chamberlains.

22. These programmes provide staff the opportunity to collaborate on projects, build confidence, leadership skills and relationships within the department, and beyond, along with gaining a recognised national qualification (which was important to the participants).
23. Our apprentices are the first step in our talent programme, and we work with the apprentices to enable them to be the best version of themselves through a varied programme of development, mentoring and self-reflection. In 2019/20 we recruited our first Building Control degree-level apprentice part of a national programme run by the University of Wolverhampton in association with the LABC (Local Authority Building Control); we also appointed a Town Planning degree-level apprentice who will be studying at London Southbank University. These apprenticeships are four/five years long but form a key part of our workforce plan and address national skills shortages.
24. Our apprentices build social responsibility skills and work collaboratively with a series of fundraising events; build leadership and negotiation skills with the quarterly Apprentice newsletter and are currently preparing to launch a reverse mentoring scheme with the support of our colleagues in L&D.

### **Finance Implications**

25. This report links to the outturn report prepared by the Chamberlain presented to this Committee on 14 July 2020.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Infographic
- Appendix 2 – Supporting Data

### **Background Papers**

DBE Business Plan 2019/20  
Transport Strategy Update Q4  
DBE Outturn Report 2019/20

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