

Committee(s): Streets & Walkways Sub Committee	Dated: 19/03/2024
Subject: Old Jewry and Ironmonger Lane	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 9
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	£
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N
Report of: Bob Roberts, Interim Executive Director Environment	For Decision
Report author: Bruce McVean, Environment Department	

Summary

In January 2024 Members considered options for Old Jewry and whether to make changes to the previously approved scheme (see paragraph 1 and Background Papers for further details of these options). Members indicatively supported Option 2a but asked Officers to provide details of the potential for improvements to Ironmonger Lane to encourage its use as an alternative walking route.

On further review, potential improvements to Ironmonger Lane may not result in a significant number of people using this as a direct alternative to Old Jewry because it is not on the desire line for the main walking routes in the area. However, given the limited pavement space available in Ironmonger Lane, people walking and wheeling would nevertheless benefit from enhancements to that street.

In addition, directly linking the reopening of Old Jewry with the reopening of Ironmonger Lane might result in the former being delayed if Ironmonger Lane is required for the fitout of Dauntsey House.

It is therefore proposed to not directly link the two projects. If Members choose options 2a or 2b for Old Jewry, then the introduction of an experimental scheme to open Old Jewry to southbound traffic will be taken forward as set out in the previous report. Subject to funding, changes to Ironmonger Lane will be delivered through an expanded scope for the existing project to deliver the s278 for Dauntsey House.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Confirm the decision to proceed with Option 2a, as indicated at the January meeting of this Sub Committee, to initiate a traffic experiment to reopen Old Jewry to all traffic in a southbound direction, at all times; and pause any work on potential improvements until the conclusion of the experiment.
- Note that, subject to a successful funding bid, the scope of the project to deliver the s278 for Dauntsey House will be expanded to incorporate improvements along the length of Ironmonger Lane, including a potential pedestrian zone.

Main Report

Background

1. In January 2024 this Sub Committee considered options for Old Jewry and whether to change the previously approved scheme in order to mitigate the impact of longer journeys for people who need to travel by motor vehicle. A link to the previous report is provided in Background Papers. The three options considered were:
 - a. Option 1 (recommended): Retain the current arrangements (closure between Fredericks Place and Poultry, two-way working on the remainder of Old Jewry) and resume the work on the pavement widening and public realm improvements.
 - b. Option 2a: Initiate a traffic experiment to reopen Old Jewry to all traffic in a southbound direction, at all times. Pause any work on potential improvements until the conclusion of the experiment.
 - c. Option 2b: Initiate a traffic experiment to open Old Jewry between Poultry and Frederick's Place to southbound traffic on a timed basis (7pm to 7am), with the remainder of the street remaining two-way. Pause any work on potential improvements until the conclusion of the experiment.
2. Members indicatively supported Option 2a but asked Officers to provide details of the potential for improvements to Ironmonger Lane and the extent to which these might encourage people to use this an alternative walking route, thereby helping to mitigate the disbenefits of opening Old Jewry.

Current Position

3. Ironmonger Lane has been closed as a through route for all street users since July 2021 to facilitate the development of Dauntsey House. It is currently expected to reopen on 31 July 2024. This date is subject to confirmation, and it

may be necessary to extend the closure to facilitate the fit out of Dauntsey House.

4. Ironmonger Lane has very narrow pavements that do not meet minimum requirements for accessibility. It is one way southbound for motor vehicles for most of its length, with a short stretch of two-way at its southern end. At the southern end, there is a compulsory left turn. When open it will effectively operate as an access only street.
5. Restricting access for motor vehicles and raising the carriageway to pavement level would give more priority to and improve accessibility for people walking and wheeling. Scope for wider public realm improvements is very limited given the narrowness of Ironmonger Lane for much of its length and potentially the need to allow some limited vehicle access.
6. Improvements to the southern section of Ironmonger Lane will be delivered as part of the s278 for Dauntsey House. The scope of these is still to be defined but is likely to include new paving, raised sections of carriageway or raised tables to cater for walking and wheeling along Ironmonger Lane, between Frederick's Place, St Olave's Court and Prudent Passage.
7. The extent to which any enhancements to Ironmonger Lane will encourage people to choose this as an alternative route to Old Jewry is unclear. The number of people using this as an alternative could be limited as, compared to Old Jewry, Ironmonger Lane does not form part of an obvious desire line for the main walking routes in the area. There are more direct connections from Old Jewry to Coleman Street and Walbrook, which form part of walking routes to and from Cannon Street Station and the Elizabeth Line entrance to Moorgate Station. Walking patterns in the area may change with the opening of the pedestrian link between the Old Jewry/Frederick's Place and Ironmonger Lane, expected later this month.

Options

8. The options for Old Jewry are set out in paragraph 1 with further details provided in the previous report (see Background Papers).
9. Options for Ironmonger Lane will be considered in future reports.

Proposals

10. Improving Ironmonger Lane may not result in a significant number of people choosing to use this as an alternative to Old Jewry, plus the potential for further closures of Ironmonger Lane could delay reopening Old Jewry if the two are formally linked. It is therefore proposed not to link the two projects. If Members choose options 2a or 2b for Old Jewry, then the introduction of an experimental scheme to open Old Jewry to southbound traffic will be taken forward as set out in the previous report.

11. Subject to a bid for OSPR funding, improvements to the full length of Ironmonger Lane will be taken forward as part of an expanded scope for the existing project to deliver the s278 for Dauntsey House. Further details will be provided in the next report for the Ironmonger Lane improvements which is expected to be submitted to the July meeting of this Sub Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

12. Refer to the previous report for Old Jewry. The implications for Ironmonger Lane will be considered in future reports.

Conclusion

13. Subject to funding, it is proposed that improvements to Ironmonger Lane will be delivered by extending the scope of the existing project to deliver the s278 for Dauntsey House. Restricting access for motor vehicles and raising the carriageway to pavement level will give more priority and improve accessibility for people walking and wheeling.

14. While they have merit in their own right, the improvements to Ironmonger Lane are not expected to result in a significant diversion of people from Old Jewry to Ironmonger Lane.

15. If Members choose either Option 2a or 2b for Old Jewry, then the experimental opening of Old Jewry to southbound traffic will be taken forward independently of improvements to Ironmonger Lane.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

Pedestrian Priority Streets Programme – Old Jewry, Streets & Walkways Sub Committee, 30/01/2024

<https://democracy.cityoflondon.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=147714>

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