



## **Report – Planning and Transportation Committee Adoption of Bank Area Enhancement Strategy**

*To be presented on Thursday, 16th May 2013  
To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons  
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

### **SUMMARY**

This report seeks approval for the adoption of the Bank Area Enhancement Strategy.

The Strategy -

- a) sets out the City's vision for road danger reduction, transportation and public realm improvements in the Bank area over the next 5-10 years; and
- b) provides a framework for ensuring that works are coordinated and improvements are prioritised to make the best use of available funds.

Members can view a copy of the Bank Area Enhancement Strategy along with the consultation results and analysis in the Members' Reading Room.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Bank Area Enhancement Strategy be adopted.

### **MAIN REPORT**

#### **Background**

1. The evaluation of the Bank Area Enhancement Strategy was approved in October 2009 by your Planning and Transportation, Joint Estimates Working Party, Resource Allocation Sub and Policy and Resources Committees.
2. The funding bid to develop the Bank Area Strategy was submitted to Transport for London (TfL) through the Major Schemes funding programme. Although TfL agreed in principle that Bank was an important area of work, they were not in a position to provide the funding in the requested financial year because they would be funding Holborn Circus and Aldgate projects.
3. Officers considered that the production of the strategy needed to be undertaken before TfL funding would be made available and so Section 106 funds from neighbouring developments have been identified for the production of the strategy and their use was approved by your Planning and Transportation and

Finance Committees in June 2011 and this Court of Common Council in July 2011.

4. Your Planning and Transportation Committee approved a two stage public consultation approach for the strategy; the first was undertaken in the autumn of 2011 and the second in October 2012. The results of the consultations lead to five areas of the strategy being amended which included –
  - specific changes to Lombard Street;
  - the Alleys and Bank Junction;
  - two areas of modification relating to Conflict (Cycling and Safety as an overall theme); and
  - the night time economy.
5. The areas are summarised below -

Lombard Street – This would see improvements to the by-pass routes of the north-south lanes to generally improve the safety of the area and make it predominantly a safe walking and cycling route.

Change Alley – The area would be enlivened by the use of art to encourage pedestrians to use Change Alley and it was hoped that this would then encourage exploration of other alleys.

Conflict Safer Cycling – This area of work had been prompted by a lack of provision for pedestrians and cyclists. Due to the need to improve capacity, improvements would be made to some of the streets; however the traffic demands and the implications for all road users would be carefully reviewed as part of the detail design of the proposals.

Night time economy – This area of work had been promoted by concern around cleansing and antisocial behaviour, particularly in Cornhill and the back of Royal Exchange. Through improvements to the design of the area including lighting and provision of public toilets, issues regarding anti-social behaviour can be addressed. This can be achieved through close working with various stakeholders and ensuring the licensing and planning teams were on board.

6. Projects would be delivered in accordance with their priority level (high medium or low) with some of the high priority schemes being initiated through the project gateway process.

### **Conclusion**

7. It is recommended that the amended Bank Area Enhancement Strategy, which can be found in the Members' Reading Room, be adopted. On adoption, a number of the high priority proposals can be initiated as projects and comments from the consultation will be used to assist and inform the design briefs for individual schemes. Your Committee recommends the adoption of the Enhancement Strategy.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED: This 16<sup>th</sup> day of April 2013

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

**DEPUTY MICHAEL WELBANK**  
Chairman