



Report – Planning and Transportation Committee

Adoption of the Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy

To be presented on Thursday, 15th January 2015

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of the
City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY

1. This report seeks approval for the adoption of the revised Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy and informs about the recently undertaken public consultation and subsequent revisions to the Strategy.
2. The Strategy will -
 - a) establish a fully accessible walkway to provide a direct route along the riverside with enhanced connections to the rest of the City;
 - b) create new green spaces and produce redesigns of existing green spaces for people to stop and enjoy the Thames, as well as enhance the biodiversity of the City riverside and mitigate flood risk; and
 - c) improve the cohesion and vibrancy of the riverside by encouraging new developments to provide a spacious, accessible and better connected Riverside Walk with appropriate active frontages.
3. The Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy sets out a delivery plan which identifies projects arising from the Strategy, prioritises them and indicates the likely funding strategy for delivery.

A copy of the revised Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy has been made available in the Members' Reading Room. Copies are also available upon request from the Town Clerk's Office.

RECOMMENDATION

4. That the revised Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy be adopted.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. The original enhancement strategy was adopted in June 2005 with 16 projects having been implemented to date; the improvements made so far have transformed some parts of the Riverside Walk making them a more comfortable and pleasant space to use.
2. The strategy has been reviewed and updated over the last year within the context of new developments and improvements. The strategy identifies current issues and pressures for change related to accessibility, movement, public space and new developments. The strategy also sets out a framework for addressing these issues, together with the latest policies and best practice guidance and proposes change to areas of both public and private land.
3. The public consultation exercise was undertaken from May to July 2014 and targeted relevant stakeholder groups using a variety of methods. The submissions have been collated and are available in the Members' Reading Room. The main comments received related to the following -
 - Accessibility and the need for a direct route along the Riverside Walk
 - Pedestrian safety regarding joggers and cyclists using the walkway
 - The desire for open and green spaces with an appropriate balance of vibrant and quiet areas
 - An appreciation of the historic character in relation to views of the river
4. All the responses have been assessed and changes have been made to the strategy to take into consideration the users' needs for the area.
5. The Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy includes a Delivery Plan which identifies projects arising from the Strategy, prioritises them into High, Medium and Low categories and indicates the funding strategy for delivery.
6. It is anticipated that the majority, if not all, of the funding for improvement projects arising from the Strategy will be externally provided via Section 106, Section 278 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions from developments within the area. Funding bids will also be made to external bodies such as Transport for London.

Conclusion

7. The Riverside Walk Enhancement Strategy has been revised in response to the public consultation feedback to ensure the document reflects the needs of the City community. It sets out a Delivery Plan which identifies the projects arising from the strategy, prioritises them and indicates the funding strategy for delivery. Your committee recommends the adoption of the Enhancement Strategy.

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

DATED this 11th November 2014

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

DEPUTY MICHAEL WELBANK, MBE
Chairman, Planning and Transportation Committee