



Report – Planning and Transportation Committee

Adoption of the Cheapside and Guildhall Area Enhancement Strategy

To be presented on Thursday, 21st May 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 updated Cheapside and Guildhall Area Enhancement Strategy, informing Members of the results of a public consultation exercise and the subsequent revisions made to the Strategy.
2. The Cheapside and Guildhall Area Enhancement Strategy covers the public realm and transportation network in the area, identifies current challenges and considers future demand. The Strategy will:-
 - better connect transport nodes, the retail centre and cultural attractions.
 - improve accessibility and way-finding to create easy-to-navigate and pleasant walking routes;
 - introduce more greenery and create more public space for pedestrians to enjoy, away from traffic and pollution; and
 - improve road safety, particularly for vulnerable road users.
3. A copy of the Cheapside and Guildhall Area Enhancement Strategy is available in the Members' Reading Room or on request from the Town Clerk's Office. It is also available online at the City of London Corporation's website, [here](#).

RECOMMENDATION

4. That the revised Cheapside and Guildhall Area Enhancement Strategy be adopted.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. The original Cheapside Area Strategy was adopted in 2008, with a focus on improving and extending the public realm primarily along Cheapside and its adjoining streets and lanes. The scope of the original Guildhall Area Strategy, adopted in 2011, focussed solely on the Guildhall complex and Yard. The review of the Cheapside Area Enhancement Strategy was first approved by Members in December 2012 and has been funded through the Section 106 contributions from the 100 Cheapside and 120 Cheapside redevelopments.
2. The initiation of the St Paul's/Museum of London Gyratory Project prompted a change request to extend the strategy boundary to include the Guildhall area, the gyratory streets and the Courts and Lanes south of Cheapside, in order to provide a more comprehensive plan for the wider area and address those streets and spaces that were not covered by the original strategies. In July 2014, Members approved the change of scope together with the request to go out to public consultation on the draft strategy document.

Public Consultation

3. To ensure the strategy is responsive to the needs of local stakeholders and the wider City community, a comprehensive public consultation exercise was undertaken from 15 October to 31 December 2014 and over 500 responses were received.
4. Following the analysis of the consultation responses, several minor changes have been made to the Strategy which relate to:
 - The key role of the St Paul's/Museum of London gyratory re-design project in strengthening the connection between St Paul's Cathedral to the south and the Cultural Hub area to the north;
 - Emphasising the aim of improving air quality;
 - The importance of highlighting the variety and wealth of heritage and conservation assets in the area; and
 - The prioritisation of the projects identified within the strategy.

Strategy Delivery

5. The Cheapside and Guildhall Area Enhancement Strategy includes a Delivery Plan which identifies projects arising from the Strategy and prioritises them into High, Medium and Low categories.
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 Cheapside and Guildhall Area 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 this Enhancement Strategy.

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

DATED this 12th day of May 2015.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Michael Welbank, MBE
Chairman, Planning and Transportation Committee