

## **STREETS AND WALKWAYS SUB (PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION) COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 30 November 2015**

Minutes of the meeting of the Streets and Walkways Sub (Planning and Transportation) Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 30 November 2015 at 1.45 pm

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Marianne Fredericks (Chairman)  
Deputy Brian Harris (Deputy Chairman)  
Randall Anderson  
Alex Bain-Stewart  
Deputy John Barker (Ex-Officio Member)  
Christopher Hayward  
Sylvia Moys  
Graham Packham  
Jeremy Simons  
Michael Welbank

#### **Officers:**

Katie Odling	- Town Clerk's Department
Deborah Cluett	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Steve Presland	- Department of the Built Environment
Iain Simmons	- Department of the Built Environment
Ian Hughes	- Department of the Built Environment
Kay English	- Department of the Built Environment
Patrick Hegarty	- Open Spaces Department
Alan Rickwood	- City Police
Inspector Dave Aspinall	- City Police
Henry Tanner	- Public Relations

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Reverend Dr Martin Dudley and Alderman Alison Gowman.

#### **2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2015 be approved.

#### 4. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

RESOLVED – That the list of outstanding references be noted.

#### 5. **REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT :-**

##### 5.1 **Bank Junction Improvements Project: 'All Change at Bank'**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment regarding the 'All Change at Bank' improvement project.

The purpose of the project was to improve safety, improve air quality and enhance its sense of place, whilst also addressing the functioning and efficiency of the junction and the surrounding road network.

Members were informed that a range of options had been considered to gauge impacts on the road network details of which were provided within the report. The options presented capture an increasing recognition that a significant change at Bank Junction was essential to cope with continuing growth.

Officers had developed a concept of an interim scheme that could be implemented in late 2016 which was to allow pedal cycles and buses only through the junction during the working day. Members were informed that the interim scheme would deliver a significant safety benefit and help improve pedestrian crossing and crowding issues in and approaching the junction.

The Assistant Director (Local Transportation) emphasised that experience of developing schemes such as Cheapside and Aldgate suggested that if the option chosen to progress the implementation was the full closure and associated changes, the total project cost was likely to be in the region of £18m.

Members were informed that the Policy and Resources Committee would consider giving approval to progress the interim scheme to Gateway 5 provided that further work did not demonstrate that any of the objectives for the interim scheme would not be achieved. The final design would be approved by the Spending Committee.

Members noted that the interim proposal would make a significant contribution to reducing casualties and a positive step forward in reducing nitrogen dioxide levels in the junction and therefore improving air quality.

With regard to pedestrian movement, Members were advised that observed 'informal' crossing movements identified that 5,000 movements took place outside of formal crossing zones within the junction in the morning peak and 6,000 in the afternoon peak.

The overall view of the Sub-Committee was that the proposals should be supported, however the changes should not be at the expense of diminishing traffic flow through the city. Furthermore, the credibility of modelling needed to

be considered as well as the security of the delivery. Members agreed that an effective PR campaign was required.

**RESOLVED - That**

1. approval be given to
  - a) progress Options 1 (full closure), 2 (no north south), 4 (one east west route removed) and 5 (50% capacity reduction on each arm) to be carried forward into detailed options appraisal, Gateway 4;
  - b) include the remaining £20,000 S106 from the Cheapside stage 4 underspend into the Bank Junction Project.
  - c) include £150,909 into the Capital programme for continuation of the overall project to Gateway 4;
  - d) include £120,000 into the Capital Programme for the Interim Safety scheme.
  - e) develop the interim safety scheme as part of the programme for the Bank Junction Improvements Project. This element will be reported back to both committees for approval at the authority to start works stage as a separate Gateway 5 report, subject to confirmation of funding.
2. authority be delegated to the Director of the Built Environment and Head of Finance to adjust the budget between the fees, staff costs and surveys/works (as indicated above for both the long term and short term projects) once more robust estimates have been established, providing it remains within the approved budgets; and
3. the increase of the potential top end expenditure for the total project to £18m be noted; and
4. the consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee to approve progression of the interim scheme to Gateway 5 (provided that further work did not demonstrate that any of the objectives for the interim scheme would not be achieved) be noted. The final design would be approved by the Spending Committee.

**5.2 Issue Report and Request for Delegated Authority - Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm Improvements**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment regarding the Aldgate Highway Changes and Public Realm improvements.

**RESOLVED – That,**

- a) the following risk items and associated cost implications be noted:
  - A potential £0.5M increase in construction costs of the Pavilion;
  - A further £0.5M which may be required to cover costs of removal of failed material associated with sealing and filling the pedestrian subway exits.
- b) it be noted that there will be further cost penalties incurred, should Kier be delayed in procuring the Pavilion construction; and
- c) authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in conjunction with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Streets and Walkways and

Projects Sub-Committees respectively to authorise a project budget increase. (The combined worst-case costs of each of the risk items detailed in this report comes to £1M. The Town Clerk would further review the impact on the project construction budget and agree funding proposals to address any shortfall.)

### 5.3 **Gateway 4b Approval of the Court of Common Council: Bloomberg Development - s278 Highway Changes**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment regarding the S278 highway changes to the Bloomberg Development.

RESOLVED – That,

- a) It be noted that the project has progressed to Gateway 4b with funding sought from “CIL – Department of the Built Environment” and “voluntary contribution from the developer” (as opposed to “Parking Reserve Fund” and / or “CIL – Neighbourhood / Unallocated” funding);
- b) the allocation of £425,500 from CIL-Department of the Built Environment to specifically progress the improvements to the southern side of Cannon Street to address the road safety issues at Cannon Street as part of the wider proposal be approved; and
- c) the progression of improvements at Bucklersbury and the northern end of Walbrook should a voluntary contribution from the developer be secured be approved.

### **EXTENSION OF MEETING**

At this point, the time limit for Committee meetings as set out in Standing Order No 40 had been reached, but there being a two-thirds majority of the Committee present who voted in favour of an extension, the Committee agreed to continue the meeting.

### 5.4 **Major Highway Works for 2016**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment regarding the major highway works for 2016.

Members noted that the City had a statutory responsibility to minimise disruption as part of its Network Management Duty, and so officers would continue to work to ensure the co-operation of major project sponsors, utility companies and developers in co-ordinating their works and minimising disruption.

The Chairman thanked Officers for an excellent report.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## 5.5 Special Events on the Public Highway

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment which provided an update on the management of major special events on the highway in 2015.

Further to a question, it was agreed to ask the City's Film Office to remind film crews to ensure that residents were informed when filming was taking place.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## 6. ANNUAL ON-STREET PARKING ACCOUNTS 2014/15 AND UTILISATION OF ACCRUED SURPLUS ON HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS AND SCHEMES

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Chamberlain which informed Members that

- the surplus arising from on-street parking activities in 2014/15 was £5.786m
- a total of £6.452m was applied in 2014/15 to fund approved projects; and
- the surplus remaining on the On-Street Parking Reserve at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 was £14.987m, which would be wholly allocated towards the funding of various highway improvements and other projects over the medium term.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## 7. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE

Questions were raised as follows –

- a) **Pedestrian refuge (Cheapside)** – A Member reported that lorries on Cheapside block pedestrian refuges when queuing in traffic and asked that consideration be given to options to prevent this. The Assistant Director, Highways agreed to take this matter forward.
- b) **Moor Lane improvement works** – In response to a question, the Assistant Director, Highways advised that he would clarify when the project was likely to move forward.

## 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

**The meeting ended at 4.00 pm**

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Chairman

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