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| Committee | Dated: |
| Barbican Residents' Consultation Committee Health and Wellbeing Board Barbican Residential Committee Port Health and Environmental Services Planning and Transportation Cultural Hub Working Party | 5 September 2016 16 September 2016 19 September 2016 20 September 2016 4 October 2016 17 October 2016 |
| Subject: Funding for a Low Emission Neighbourhood | Public |
| Report of: Director of Markets and Consumer Protection | For Information |
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Summary

The Mayor of London has awarded the City of London Corporation £990,000 over three years to implement a Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN). This followed a successful application for funding submitted in April 2016.

The LEN will focus on three areas: Barbican, Guildhall and St Barts. This zone was chosen as it supports plans for improvements to Beech Street and the cultural hub, supports the Barbican Estates plans for freight consolidation and electric charge points and builds on previous air quality engagement projects with Barts Health NHS Trust, Barbican residents and local businesses.

The overall aim of the LEN is to improve local air quality by reducing the amount of traffic and encouraging and supporting low and zero emission vehicles in the locality. Improvements in air quality are expected both within the proposed neighbourhood and more widely across the City due to an increase in low and zero emission vehicles. It is anticipated that the most successful measures will be rolled out across the City.

This work supports the aims and objectives of the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020, in addition to a number of other corporate policies and strategies. It also goes towards addressing air quality, which has been identified as a corporate risk. An update report will be submitted to your Committee in early 2017.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation is in receipt of £990,000 funding over three years from the Mayor of London to implement a Low Emission Neighbourhood (LEN) in the City.
2. Figure 1 details the core LEN area and wider area of influence. This area was chosen for the following reasons:
 - Existing stakeholder support for air quality improvements achieved through a year-long air quality monitoring and engagement programme with residents, business engagement in the locality and a three year air quality programme with Barts Health NHS Trust
 - It includes residential areas and a hospital, both of which are considered to be sensitive land uses due to the people exposed to pollution
 - Measures introduced will support and complement proposed improvements to Beech Street, the forthcoming cultural hub and the Barbican Estates plans for freight consolidation and increasing the number of charge points for electric vehicles.
 - The area incorporates the Guildhall, which will enable the City Corporation to lead by example

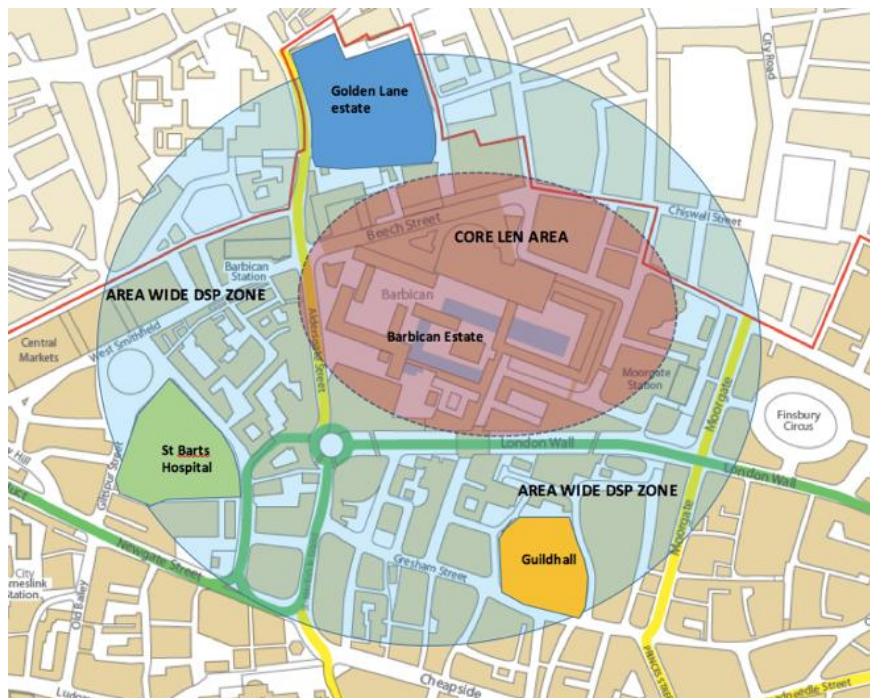


Figure 1: The proposed Low Emission Neighbourhood Area

Low Emission Neighbourhood

3. There are a number of initiatives proposed for the LEN which focus on reducing the number of vehicles in the area and supporting and encouraging low and zero emission vehicles. These include:
 - A communications strategy
 - Business engagement
 - A review of planning policies and controls over emissions from developments
 - Controls over idling vehicle engines
 - Reducing levels of pollution in Beech Street
 - Reducing emissions from freight
 - Electric vehicle recharging infrastructure
 - Measures to support zero emission capable taxis
 - Support for greening in the area
4. Community and stakeholder engagement will take place with each proposal.

Financial implications

5. The City Corporation is required to match the funding that has been awarded by the Mayor of London. Match funding will come from existing budgets and there will not be any need for any additional capital or revenue funding. Match funding for the first year will be sourced from a combination of allocated Local Implementation Plan funding, money already spent or allocated to the Beech Street project, existing departmental revenue and staff time. Sponsorship opportunities will also be sought through the LEN business engagement programme. An application may be made for a small amount of community infrastructure levy funding to support the implementation of the LEN in years two and three.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

6. The work on air quality supports Key Policy Priority KPP3 of the Corporate Plan: 'Engaging with London and national government on key issues of concern to our communities such as transport, housing and public health'.
7. The project will be delivered in very close cooperation with the Department of Built Environment, Town Clerk's Department and Barbican Estates. The project manager for the LEN will be working closely with the Beech Street Project Board to support and complement their aims and objectives.
8. This work supports the aims and objectives of the City of London Air Quality Strategy 2015 – 2020 and goes towards addressing air quality, which has been identified as a corporate risk.
9. Implementation of a LEN will complement the air quality policy in the City's Local Plan 2015. In addition the LEN will contribute towards delivering the priority set

out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy to make City air healthier to breathe.

10. The LEN proposals align with the objectives of the Barbican & Golden Lane Area Strategy, which was approved in 2015. Reducing traffic and emission levels will assist in making Beech Street more pedestrian and cycle friendly, and will help to improve links and enhance the arrival experience to the Barbican Centre from new and existing connections to the west. Similarly, as Beech Street forms a central axis of the emerging Cultural Hub, the LEN proposals will assist in delivering this wider corporate strategy.
11. Measures included in the LEN scheme support the Department of Community and Children's Services strategic aim of delivering value for money and outstanding services through the Barbican Estate's Service Based Review Programme. Specifically from the underutilisation of the car parks, in which any potential Consolidation Centre and Electric Vehicle charging services would be based.

Conclusion

12. The City Corporation is taking a wide range of actions to deal with air pollution and its effect on health. Delivery of a Low Emission Neighbourhood will lead to an improvement in air quality in a sensitive area of the City and act as a platform to roll out successful interventions more widely. It will also act to reduce the risks associated with the current poor air quality in the City.
13. A LEN programme update will be submitted to your Committee in early 2017.

Background Papers: Low Emission Neighbourhood application for funding – main document. Available online and via hard copy from the Town Clerk's Department upon request.

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