

Dashboard Coversheet

[1] Ownership

Unique Project Identifier: 10847

Report Date: July 2018

Core Project Name: Beech Street Transport and Public Realm Improvements

Programme Affiliation: Beech Street Transformation

Project Manager: Kristian Turner

Next Gateway to be passed: G4

[2] Project Brief

Project Mission statement: To enable the redevelopment of City property in the Barbican Exhibition Halls, it is necessary to dramatically improve the public realm in Beech Street. To achieve this first requires the removal of traffic from Beech Street.

Definition of need:

- The adopted 2015 Local Plan, policy CS5 supports the further improvement of the Barbican area as a cultural quarter;
- The Barbican Area Strategy and Culture Mile Look and Feel Strategy identifies the need for infrastructure improvements in Beech Street

Key measures of success:

- 1) Removing/reducing traffic from Beech Street
- 2) Vast improvement to quality of the public realm
- 3) Enable the refurbishment of the Exhibition Halls

[3] Highlights

Finance:

Total anticipated cost to deliver [£]: £12M-£15M

Total anticipated on-going commitment post-delivery [£]: additional maintenance liabilities unknown until the design is complete and approved

Programme Affiliation [£]: £30M (not including podium waterproofing)

Currently Approved to date [£]	Previous total anticipated cost to deliver (Budget for all project activities) [£]	Spent/ Committed to date [£]	New financial requests with this report [£]
£120,525	£12m*	£66,336	£1,624,837
Revised total anticipated cost to deliver (Budget for all project activities) [£]		Variance in total anticipated cost to deliver [£]	
£12-15m		£0-£3m	

* As reported by the Beech Street Transformation programme

Headline Financial changes:

Since 'Project Proposal' (G2) report:

▲ A Gateway 3 Issues Report in 2016 approved a budget of £120,525 for the development of a feasibility study for Beech Street. The initial traffic modelling undertaken to date indicates that the proposals will have a significant impact on traffic in the City and Islington. Therefore a revised budget is required to undertake the necessary traffic modelling to achieve the necessary approvals from Transport for London and LB Islington.

Since 'Options Appraisal and Design' (G3-4) report:

N/A

Since 'Authority to start Work' (G5) report:

N/A

Risk:

Risk: Reputational, public/stakeholder impact: There is a high risk for the project and reputational risk for the delivery of Culture Mile if Beech Street can't be delivered. One of the key objectives of the Beech Street Transport and Public Realm project is the removal or reduction of traffic in Beech Street, which will be a highly challenging endeavour. The City will require the approval of TfL to close Beech Street due to the additional traffic this will displace onto other streets, such as London Wall and Old Street. TfL and LB Islington have other planned projects on Old Street which reduce traffic capacity.

There is likely to be vociferous opposition to a Beech Street closure from transport operators and users.

Overall RAG rating: Red

Previous RAG rating: Amber

[4] Member Decisions and Delegated Authority

Members of Policy and Resources Committee approved the Vision for Beech Street in an update report on 7th June 2018. This sets out the principle that traffic needs to be removed or reduced in Beech Street as part of the Transformation programme.

The only matter of Delegated Authority relates to the Director for Built Environment being able to move funds between individual line items with no change to the overall budget or project scope.

Members of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee have requested that the potential for air quality to be improved on Beech Street by investigating the feasibility of restricting traffic to Ultra Low Emission vehicles.

[5] Narrative and change

Date and type of last report:

Gateway 3 Issues Report (January 2016)

Key headline updates and change since last report.

This report identifies that there are a number of different projects that make up the Beech Street transformation programme. The initial traffic modelling that has been undertaken demonstrates that there are likely to be significant challenges to achieving the necessary approvals to remove traffic from Beech Street.

Headline Scope/Design changes, reasons why, impact of change:

Since 'Options appraisal' (G3) report:

Request to increase project scope to investigate improving air quality with ULEV vehicles.

Urgent requirement to ascertain the capacity of the sub surface structures.

The scope of traffic modelling required is now better understood, as are the aspirations of TfL and LB Islington for projects in their area.

Timetable and Milestones:

Expected timeframe for the project delivery: 2023

Milestones:

- 1) TfL approve City TMA application for traffic changes
- 2) Public realm design completed
- 3) Highway works complete in time for Exhibition Halls

Are we on track for this stage of the project against the plan/major milestones? Y

However, there are significant risks relating to traffic which could negatively impact on the programme

Are we on track for completing the project against the expected timeframe for project delivery? Y

Risks and Issues

Top 3 risks:

<i>Risk description</i>	The subsurface structures do not have the capacity to support a widened northern footway
<i>Risk description</i>	TfL do not approve the City's Traffic Management Act application to remove/reduce traffic
<i>Risk description</i>	Vociferous opposition from single issue transport groups

Top 3 issues realised (risks which have come to pass):

<i>Issue Description</i>	<i>Impact and action taken</i>	<i>Realised Cost</i>
Traffic modelling scope	The scope and complexity of the traffic modelling exceeds previous experience in the City. An independent traffic modelling expert will be procured to offer impartial professional advice on the procurement of a traffic	£10,000

	modelling team and engagement with TfL.	

Has this project generated public or media impact and response which the City of London has needed to manage or is managing? Yes, the Culture Mile is an initiative that the City has released to the media, public and neighbouring authorities.