

STREETS AND WALKWAYS SUB (PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION) COMMITTEE

Monday, 21 May 2018

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, 21 May 2018 at 9.30 am

Present

Members:

Randall Anderson
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Alison Gowman
Christopher Hayward
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Paul Martinelli (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Alastair Moss
Graham Packham
Oliver Sells QC
Jeremy Simons (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Natasha Dogra	- Town Clerk's Department
Ian Schofield	- Town Clerk's Department
Sam Lee	- Department of the Built Environment
Steven Bage	- City Surveyor's Department
Mark Lowman	- Department of the Built Environment
Karen McHugh	- Principal Legal Assistant
Jon Averbs	- Director, Markets and Consumer Protection
Ben Kennedy	- Markets and Consumer Protection
Edward Jackson	- Department of the Built Environment
Steve Presland	- Department of the Built Environment
Iain Simmons	- Department of the Built Environment
Ian Hughes	- Department of the Built Environment
Patrick Hegarty	- Open Spaces Department

1. PRESENTATION - CADENT GAS

Members received a presentation from external advisors on the subject of Cadent Gas. The Committee were informed that Cadent were split into three main departments which the overarching focus remaining on emergency responses. In relation to works on King William Street, Members noted that the works remained on track. In response to a query it was noted that 1,800 km of mains were replaced per annum along with 25,000 connections.

Members noted that a key focus at the moment was energy affordability and the ability to work with a collective process when replacing connections and gas mains replacements. The Sub-Committee was informed that safety programmes remained Cadent's largest safety driven investment programme.

Members noted an update relating to major gas pipe works in the City of London. The cadent representative stated that gas pipes replacement works starting at St Bart's towards Aldgate had recently been completed. The scope of the project covered the Capital, with the works ranging from Fulham to Tower Hamlets.

Cadent stated that collaborative working and building partnerships was key to delivering the work required in relation to gas works across the square mile. Members were in agreement that Officers must work co-operatively to deliver an effective programme for the City of London and commended the approach taken by Cadent and City Corporation Officers.

The City of London has larger pipes which must undergo a cost benefit analysis and work in relation to their replacements and risk analysis were not widely advertised. Smaller pipes replacement did not require an in-depth cost benefit analysis; however, pipes in the City tended to be of the larger sizes.

Cadent agreed to circulate the presentation to Members for their information.

RESOLVED – that the presentation be received.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies of absence.

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

Alderman Gowman declared an interest in Item 13 - Low Emission neighbourhood proposals for an ultra-low emission street in Moor Lane & Beech Street, given that she resided on Beech Street.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN SCHEME.**

The Committee moved to elect a Chairman pursuant to Standing Order 29. A list of Members eligible to serve was read by the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED – that Christopher Hayward be elected to serve as Chairman for the year ensuing. On being elected, the Chairman expressed thanks to the Sub-Committee for its support.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee moved to elect a Deputy Chairman pursuant to Standing Order 30. A list of Members eligible to serve was read by the Town Clerk.

Resolved – that Oliver Sells be elected to serve as Deputy Chairman for the year ensuing. On being elected the Deputy Chairman expressed thanks to the Sub-Committee for its support.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th of April be agreed as an accurate record.

7. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

In relation to Swan Pier Members noted that an update would be submitted to the next Committee meeting.

Members noted that a report regarding ATTRO would be submitted to this Sub-Committee prior to recess and to Policy and Resources Committee after recess.

RESOLVED – that the list of outstanding references be noted.

8. **BANK ON SAFETY: UPDATE ON MONITORING AND PERFORMANCE**

This item was withdrawn by the Director of the Built Environment due to Officers receiving updating statistics which could affect the conclusion of the exercise. The Chairman informed Members that the report would be considered at a subsequent committee meeting.

Officers informed Members that data in relating to casualties in and around Bank junction had been reviewed and updated following the publication of this report. Members agreed that the report should be withdrawn to allow for the data to be verified to maximise the accuracy of the statistics.

RESOLVED – that the report be withdrawn to be considered at the July meeting of this Sub-Committee, and the Policy and Resources Committee in September.

9. **REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING STREET FURNITURE TO SUPPORT CITY OF LONDON WIRELESS CONCESSION.**

Members considered a report of the Director of the Built environment on the replacing the existing 3 metre nonelectrified street furniture columns with taller columns between 6-8 metres, to support the wireless concession agreement signed between the city corporation and the city's wireless delivery partner cornerstone technology infrastructure ltd to deliver 4g "small cells" to improve mobile coverage at street level.

Members agreed that a photograph or presentation displaying the columns would be helpful – the principle of the replacement was not being refuted, however, the appearance and exact location of the columns required further scrutiny. Members agreed that the issue was a priority for the sub committee and although a decision must be taken promptly it must be an adequately informed decision. The sub committee also agreed that an Equalities Act Assessment must also be included in the report.

RESOLVED - that Members agreed to the need for a protocol in principle; however, the Sub-Committee requested that Officers submit a clear location map and report with the proposed details and information relating to the

location and appearance of the pole replacements at the July meeting of the Sub-Committee.

10. **DOCKLESS CYCLE HIRE REVIEW**

Members considered a report from the Director of the Built Environment on the Dockless Cycle review. The report outlined the proposal to extend the trial for a further 12 months following the adoption of additional measures to achieve more effective management of the operations. The measures include the identification of preferred locations for parking dockless bikes, and the consideration of making space available on a commercial basis in City Corporation car parks to facilitate the management of the operations.

Members noted that there had been frequent occurrences of bikes being left strewn on the pedestrian walkways. Officers were asked whether any complaints had been received and confirmed that no public complaints had been received but this was a growing problem. The operators were responsible for moving the bike causing obstruction. Officers advised that they would take advice as to whether if an accident occurred the City would be held liable if it was found that no action had been taken to clear the walkway from obstructing bikes. Members expressed their concerns over the obstructions being left on an already crowded pathway.

Members queried whether the method by which complaints could be made was clear to the public. The Sub-Committee agreed that the City Corporation had a responsibility to ensure that any scheme permitted by the Corporation in the square mile was operating in a sensible and safe manner. Members discussed the concept that a charge should be incurred by the operating business in any instance of a cycle not being cleared from the public walkway. The Sub-Committee agreed that a collaborative approach should be taken, and Officers should take a strong stance in relation to applying the City Corporation's Street Trading Policy.

The Sub-Committee queried the data included in the report and whether Officers had properly verified the information. The Deputy Chairman requested sight of the advice obtained in relation to:

1. That these bikes could not be banned from entering into the City and being left on City highways
2. That this business was not street trading

It was also discussed that any bicycle left on footways should be treated as an obstruction and immediately removed. Officers explained that such a process would be resource intensive but also that this would require the current policy on obstructions on the footway to be amended. Members asked officers to bring back a report considering this matter.

It was noted that a pan-London scheme was being investigated by the London Assembly to better manage the current arrangements. If a London-wide scheme was not to be implemented the use of by-laws should also be investigated further.

Officers informed the Committee that there seemed to be a range of matters that required further investigation before a decision was made by the Planning and Transportation Committee. Officers agreed to review the Highways Obstruction Policy before submitted a reviewed report to the Sub-Committee, having taken into account the views of Members.

RESOLVED - that Officers take Members' comments and undertake to investigate fully the array of issues raised by the Sub-Committee prior to the report being considered by the Planning and Transportation Committee and a final decision being made.

11. OVERSIGHT & COMMUNICATIONS FOR MAJOR HIGHWAY ACTIVITIES

Members received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the proposed strategy for Oversight & Communications relating to Major Highway Activities within the City of London.

RESOLVED - that Members agreed the introduction of the proposed framework.

12. CLOTH FAIR NOISE DISTURBANCE

Members considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Cloth Fair Noise Disturbance. The report outlined the proposed policy designed to solve the overnight noise issue.

RESOLVED – that:

- I. Members agreed to make the experimental scheme permanent to resolve the overnight noise disturbance issue; and
- II. That the objector be informed of Members decision accordingly.

13. LOW EMISSION NEIGHBOURHOOD (LEN): PROPOSALS FOR AN ULTRA-LOW EMISSION STREET IN MOOR LANE & BEECH STREET

Members received a report of the Director of the Built Environment and the Director of Consumer and Markets protection on the Low Emission Neighbourhood.

A Member raised a query regarding Traffic modelling, Members were informed that traffic modelling of a full two-way ULEV only scheme demonstrated that the traffic displacement impact would be significant and wider ranging than, for example, the current Bank Junction scheme. The model identified traffic impacts on the road networks in neighbouring boroughs and on TfL managed routes. Given these issues, together with the evolving proposals for the Cultural Mile and the Centre for Music, it became clear that delivery of a ULEV only traffic restriction in Beech Street would not be deliverable within the life of the LEN programme.

In response to a query regarding the timeframe it was noted that the public realm building works were expected to take 12-18 months and this would be informed by the results of radar surveys of the highway which would be commissioned shortly.

Members queried whether time would be taken to monitor and gather data relating to the emission of particulates from vehicles along Moor Lane, as this information could be helpful when considering future projects. Officers said it might prove difficult to undertake this exercise in real-time and further resources and research would be required.

A Member commented that in the absence of detailed costings at this stage the approval for the Beech Street proposals should be 'in principle'

RESOLVED - that Members agreed the following: -

- I. The Moor Lane 'ULEV Only' scheme be delivered by April 2019 using LEN funding is agreed; and
- II. A further report be received by the Streets and Walkways Committee setting out the findings of the Moor Lane trial scheme following 12 months of its operation; and
- III. Support in principle the outline proposals set out for reducing traffic in Beech Street and improving its air quality.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE

Fann Street

A Member queried whether any work could be commenced immediately to avoid accidents at the Aldersgate Street junction. Officers stated that work had been undertaken to review the area and agreed to circulate the advice to Members via email prior to the next meeting.

125 London Wall

A Member queried whether a gap in the divider along 125 London Wall could be filled as a matter of urgency. Officers explained that the gap had been investigated and whilst it complied with Building Regulations officers were in discussion with the building owners with a view to securing closure of this gap.

Terms of Reference

Given the prioritisation of air quality pollution in the City of London, a Member queried whether an ex-officio Member of the Port Health and Environmental Services could be appointed to this Sub-Committee. Members asked the Town Clerk to submit a report relating to the proposed change to the Terms of Reference to the Grand Committee for their approval. Members also queried whether other Committees should be invited to appoint a representative in an ex-officio capacity, and asked the Town Clerk to investigate this.

Ex-Officio Member of the Open Spaces Committee

Jeremy Simons informed Members that this would be his final meeting following a tenure of 10 years and thanked the Sub-Committee for their support over the years. The Sub-Committee thanked the Member for his 10 years of service and valuable input to the work of the Committee.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

16. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17. **TUDOR STREET**

With the agreement of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman the report relating to Tudor Street was considered by the Sub-Committee under Part 1 and in public domain of the meeting.

Members considered the report of the Director of the Built Environment on the current status of the Tudor Street development. The report detailed the security and transport requirements of the new development.

Members noted that part of the agreed design for the Tudor Street/New Bridge Street scheme requires the closure of Bridewell Place (at its junction with New Bridge Street) together with a new bus stop positioned opposite. If the scheme was implemented, it would therefore impact the Fleet House development both during construction and when it is in occupation thereafter.

Discussions ensued regarding the publication of the report. Members conveyed their disappointment over the mistake in making the report originally 'non public' and explained that this could be interpreted as seeking to bury information. The Chairman advised that in future to his committee no report should be 'non public' unless agreed by the City Solicitor's department.

The Sub-Committee declined to accept the recommendation of the Officers as the deferred proposal was without limit of time, without sufficient consultation and was improperly withheld from the public notice. Members were mindful of the decision of the Common Council and it was suggested that a report considering works to declutter Bouverie Street should be brought back to the Sub-Committee.

The proposal was put the Sub Committee and upon being seconded it was moved to a vote with Members 6 voting for and 0 Members voting against the proposal, with 3 Members abstaining.

RESOLVED – That

The full implementation of the agreed scheme remain a matter of urgency;

A report be brought to the Sub-Committee in July reporting on the recent independent consultants review of the operation of the Whitefriars streets. Such report to set out proposals for Bouverie street and the latest position in relation to improving access to the Embankment; and

A further report be brought back after recess setting out clear timelines in relation to implementing the revised scheme at Tudor Street.

18. **DOCKLESS CYCLE HIRE REVIEW - APPENDIX 3**

Members noted a non-public appendix in relation to the Dockless Cycle Hire Review.

19. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

20. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 12:20pm.

Chairman

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