

Committees: Planning and Transportation Committee Policy and Resources Committee	Dates: 17 November 2020 19 November 2020
Subject: Recovery Task Force: Placemaking for a world-leading Square Mile	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 5-12
Does this proposal require extra revenue spending?	Y
If so, how much?	£100k
What is the source of Funding?	Policy Initiatives Fund
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Being finalised
Report of: Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth	For decision
Report author: Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth	

Summary

The following report provides Members with an overview of the proposed Recovery Task Force.

The prosperity of cities across the world is under threat. Those able to adapt to the new environment, and help shape it, will thrive. This Task Force will provide a blueprint for how the Square Mile can remain competitive. It will speed the City's evolution towards a world-leading hub that is innovative, inclusive and sustainable. It will continue to enhance the Square Mile as a great place to work, visit and live, creating growth and jobs.

We will do this by developing a five-year placemaking blueprint for the Square Mile. This will identify the key interventions needed to respond to changing expectations from businesses and workers in the wake of Covid-19.

The project will be overseen by the Policy & Resources Committee and the Planning & Transportation Committee, steered by their Chairs and relevant Chief Officers, with wider Member engagement. The final report will be brought to Committee for approval. Given the urgency, this project will aim to complete over the next six-months.

Recommendation

P&R and P&T Members are asked to:

- Agree to the project start up and next steps.

P&R Members are asked to:

- Agree the funding of £100k for the Recovery Task Force to be met from the 2020/21 Policy Initiative Fund (PIF) categorised as 'Promoting the City' and charged to City's Cash.

Main Report

Background

1. The Recovery Task Force will provide a blueprint for how the Square Mile can remain internationally competitive. It will provide a compelling vision for the future success of the City and demonstrate the Corporation's leadership in the recovery. It will focus on medium-term changes to the design and management of the Square Mile's built environment as it interacts with changing business needs and ways of working. Over the next 3-5 years:
 - What kind of dynamic environment do businesses and workers want? How should the built environment intersect with innovative businesses and people to create a dynamic hub?
 - How does the design and use of the City's buildings, streets and spaces need to change?
2. The project will focus on what will be people's experience in the City. It will explore the interaction between transport, public spaces (including streets and City gardens) and businesses. It will consider how to strengthen the innovative ecosystem, and further underpin it with leading edge infrastructure. It will also look at the wider ecosystem and offer, including culture and education/ academia. The work of the Culture and Commerce task force will inform and shape the cultural content of the Recovery Task Force's work.
3. This complements the City Corporation's immediate response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Work on short-term measures and activity to support the Square Mile's initial recovery will continue to be led by the Recovery Silver Group. The Recovery Task Force will build on the Corporation's crisis measures for the City.

Approach

4. The project will be led by a small core team from Innovation and Growth (IG) and Department of the Built Environment (DBE) supported by departmental working groups and external consultants. The project will be overseen by the Chairs of Policy & Resources and Planning & Transportation Committees, supported by their deputies, officers, and with Mayoral input.
5. The Task Force will draw on existing material from the Climate Action Strategy, the draft CityPlan 2036, Transport Strategy, London Recharged and other relevant sources.
6. Given the urgency, this project will aim to complete within six-months, with regular updates for the duration of the project. It is important to note a lot of work has already been done or is underway in response to the crisis. This needs to be built upon.
7. The major milestones are:
 - End of year – complete desktop review of existing ideas and data, with targeted engagement to fill gaps.
 - Early 2021 – Initial findings and first iteration of blueprint, engagement with Members.
 - First quarter 2021: Stakeholder engagement to test and refine blueprint and identify potential delivery partners.
 - Spring 2021: Committee approvals and publication.

Governance

8. Members will be engaged informally while the blueprint is being drafted. The final report will be brought to the Policy & Resources and Planning & Transportation Committee for approval.
9. Given the time constraints, it is intended to engage stakeholders informally to test and refine the proposals rather than to undertake a formal consultation.

Corporate & Strategic Implication

10. Strategic implications – This goes to the heart of the Corporate Plan in underpinning the aim of having a vibrant and thriving City. The outputs are also likely to inform the review of the Transport Strategy that will be undertaken in 2021/22.
11. Resource and financial implications – Funding will be required for a variety of purposes during the project. During the recent impactful reports on Climate Action and London Recharged, key costs included external expertise, public engagement, and design/publication of a report. We are in mobilisation phase, so we do not yet know exactly how the project will shape up, but it is likely that we will again need this kind of support, and a rough estimate would be £100k, divided between: :
 - a. External expertise to fill gaps in Corporation knowledge e.g. plans in competing hubs, new approaches on data etc.
 - b. Design/publication of a public report which can put across the findings in a way that is visually appealing and impactful.
 - c. Engagement publicly, which needs to be managed effectively to ensure we can analyse, incorporate and feedback on external ideas.

Staff in IG and DBE will also be assigned to the project by reallocating resources, and reprioritising projects.

It is proposed that the required funding of £100,000 is met from Policy and Resources 2020/21 Policy Initiative Fund categorised as 'Promoting the City' and charged to City's Cash. The current uncommitted balance in the 2020/21 PIF is £597,082, prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals on today's agenda.

12. Legal implications – No legal implications have been identified at this stage. This will be kept under review.
13. Risk implications – At this stage in the project, no significant risks have been identified. This will be kept under review.
14. Equalities implications – At this stage in the project, no negative equalities implications have been identified. This will be kept under review and equalities analysis will be carried out if necessary, to ensure negative impacts can be mitigated and opportunities for positive impacts exploited.
15. Climate implications – This will be fully in line with the Climate Action Strategy and will look to drive the implementation of the actions that Members have agreed.
16. Security implications – There are no security implications which have been identified at this stage in the project. This will be kept under review.

Conclusion

17. At a crucial moment for the future of London and the UK, the Task Force will provide Members with a blueprint for the actions to take to ensure the City of London remains the best place to do business in the world.