

Committee(s)	Dated:
Streets and Walkways Sub	1 December 2020
Subject: City Placemaking and Public Space Review	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,9,10,11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	Y
If so, how much?	£102,495
What is the source of Funding?	Section 106 deposits
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	Agreed
Report of: Director of the Built Environment	For Decision
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Summary

This report sets out plans to carry out a review and update of design guidance and technical information in relation to public space and placemaking. This work will support the implementation of corporate strategies and priorities (where these impact public space) and guide change to the City's built environment in general. The activity will also assess all public space assets (e.g. public spaces, open spaces and gardens, City streets and walkways) and describe clear outcomes relating to the future design and management of these assets.

A number of corporate strategies and initiatives will reach their implementation stage in 2021, including the Climate Action Strategy, the Recovery Taskforce, the Equality and Diversity Taskforce, Secure City Programme and the 5G infrastructure roll-out. An update of design principles and technical information in relation to public space and placemaking will prioritise delivery by supporting the coordination and implementation of these corporate priorities. This review will also support and align with the forthcoming review and update of the Transport Strategy and the draft Local Plan 2036.

The scope of this work is likely to incorporate public highway, public open space and publicly accessible private space within the Square Mile. The proposed outputs include:

- Public Space and Placemaking Vision and Outcomes
- A Public Space and Placemaking Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- A Design Toolkit

This activity will be overseen by the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee with progress reports and a final report on the programme brought to the Sub Committee for approval.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Agree the programme start up and next steps
- Agree the allocation of £52,495 from the S106 deposits detailed in Appendix 2 to commence Phase 1.
- Note a progress report will be provided in early 2021 with a detailed brief to deliver the Public Space and Placemaking Vision and Outcomes and to seek approval to commence Phase 2.
- Note that £102,495 from the S106 deposits in Appendix 2 has been ear-marked for the City Placemaking and Public Space Review.

Main Report

Background

1. The City is going through a period of reflection and reinvention in order to maintain its position as an attractive and efficient place to do business, live and visit. There are numerous transformative changes proposed over the coming years contained within a range of recently adopted and emerging strategies, documents and studies, including the emerging City Plan 2036, Climate Action Strategy, Transport Strategy and the findings of the Recovery and Equality and Diversity Taskforces.
2. These initiatives include key targets and objectives which have implications for the design of the City's streets and public spaces. In addition, the Corporation's proposed target operating model and governance review will, in the near future, require us to think and act differently in the management of services and assets and in planning for future change.
3. Whilst the strategic direction is becoming clear, the effect of delivering these often radical changes to streets and public spaces is not straightforward as it involves a multiplicity of decisions, which cumulatively can have unintended impacts on the physical appearance and use of our public space assets.
4. Furthermore, different strategic agendas are likely to be competing within the same limited public space and there is a risk of these interventions being uncoordinated or imbalanced, despite being well-intentioned and consistent with the Corporation's strategic goals.

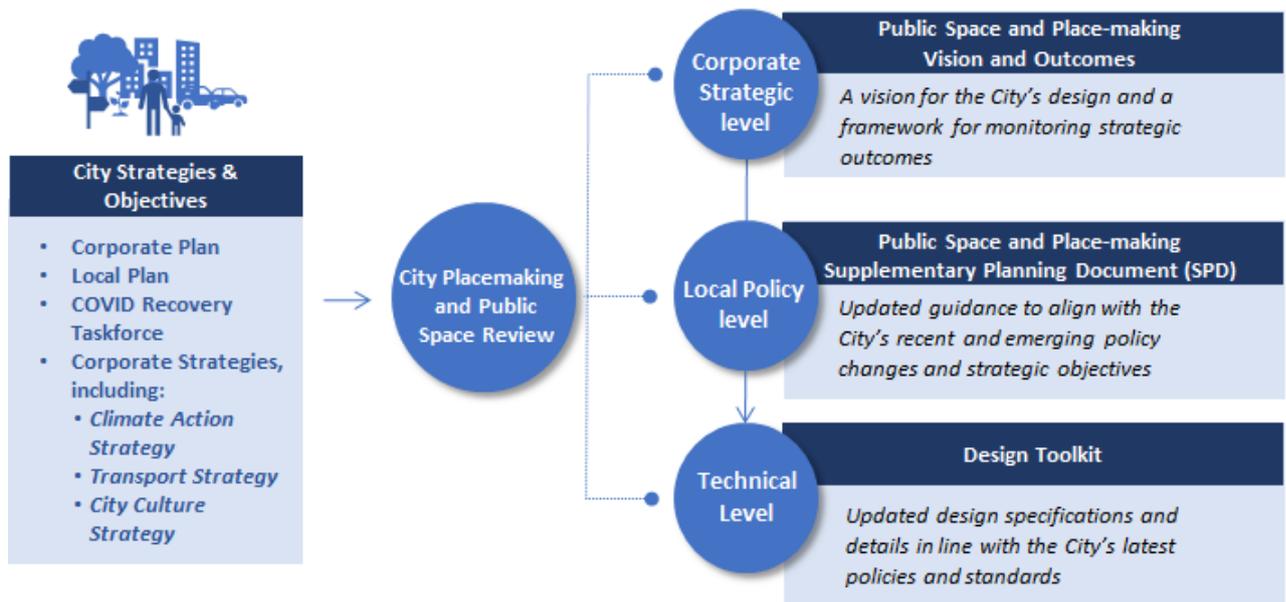
5. Therefore, it is proposed to take a pro-active approach to the future design of our public space, through the use of guidance and technical specifications, tools and processes, to enable robust decision-making and integration of a range of measures in a harmonised way.

Context and International best practice

6. The importance of public spaces is increasingly at the forefront of planning considerations, both nationally and regionally. The Government's Planning White Paper (Planning for the future) proposes changes to the planning system, including 'Pillar Two' which emphasises the importance of placemaking and sets out requirements for local design guidance. Within Greater London, the Mayor's emerging Public London Charter sets out principles for the management and maintenance of public space to help ensure new public spaces are inclusive places, offering the highest level of public access. The Public Space and Place-making Vision and Outcomes could, if required, help inform any future Design Code for new development in the City under the Government's Planning White Paper proposals.
7. Best practice across international cities suggests a robust vision presented visually and delivered using a design-led or place-making approach creates clarity, encourages private investment and fosters community ownership. Although the importance of a design-led or place-making approach is apparent across different case studies, specific objectives are often spread across a number of high-level policy documents, where their implementation or interrelation is unclear. There is an opportunity for the City to lead both regionally and internationally by creating a public space and place-making vision for the Square Mile, setting out a clear approach for the tangible delivery of corporate strategies.

Proposal

8. To bring the City's planned strategic changes and radical set of outcomes together through design and visualisation, three inter-related deliverables are proposed:
 - Public Space and Place-making Vision and Outcomes
 - A Public Space and Place-making SPD
 - A Design Toolkit



9. The three deliverables are complimentary to each other whilst having their distinct use case. The vision will provide visual representations of the City, anticipating the implementation of the City's strategic objectives and outlining their impact on the look, feel and function of the future City, whilst the SPD sets out specific policies that achieve these high-level design outcomes. The technical document provides details of how these policies are realised through the design and implementation of changes to public space.
10. The proposal will be programmed as follows:
 - a. Phase 1: Commencement of a Public Space and Place-making SPD and a Design Toolkit to support the physical implementation of a range of corporate priorities that will begin in 2021. Development of a detailed brief to guide the Place-making Vision and Outcomes in collaboration with Recovery Taskforce and officers updating the Transport Strategy and creating the Local Plan 2036.
 - b. Phase 2: Development and completion of the Place-making Vision and Outcomes and completion of the Public Space and Place-making SPD and Design Toolkit.

Approach

11. The City Placemaking and Public Space Review will be led by the City Public Realm team with support and contributions from colleagues across DBE, Open Spaces and City Gardens, Corporate Strategy and Performance team, Recovery Taskforce and others across the Corporation where appropriate.
12. Members will be engaged at appropriate milestones during the programme and will receive reports and updates at a draft stage and final adoption.
13. As a statutory planning document, the updated SPD will need to adhere to a formal consultation process in accordance with Government guidance.

14. It is envisaged that the production of all the documents and associated engagement activity will take approximately 9 months to be completed. Work in support of the physical implementation of corporate priorities will be prioritised and progressed at pace. The proposed milestones are described in Appendix one.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications

15. A number of corporate strategies or initiatives will reach their implementation stage in 2021, including the Climate Action Strategy, the Recovery Taskforce, the Equality and Diversity Taskforce, Secure City Programme and the 5G infrastructure roll-out. An update of design principles and technical information in relation to public space and placemaking will support the effective implementation of these corporate priorities. This review will also support and align with the forthcoming review and update of the Transport Strategy and the draft Local Plan 2036.

Financial implications

16. Funding will be required for a variety of purposes during this activity. Comparable activities, such as the completion of the current SPD and Technical Manual required external expertise, public engagement, the design and publication of documents and staff costs. In this initiation phase we cannot be certain of the exact allocation of funding across these areas, however we estimate this as follows:

	Tasks	Amount
Phase One	Fees – for external expertise including graphic design 2-D and 3-D visualisation, technical and professional advice	£25,000
	Staff costs – for management of the programme, management of consultants, review, analysis, writing and editing of outputs, management of consultation activity and technical and professional advice	£27,495
Phase Two	Fees – for external expertise including graphic design, 2-D and 3-D visualisation, technical professional advice	£20,000
	Staff costs – for management of the programme, management of consultants, review, analysis, writing and editing of outputs, management of consultation activity and technical and professional advice	£30,000
Total Funding		£102,495

17. It is proposed that the funding for this activity is met from S106 funds, yet to be allocated. These funds are ring-fenced for public realm improvement in the Square Mile and this has been the source of funds for similar work in the past,

including the current SPD and Technical Manual. Please refer to Appendix 2 for further information on the S106 funds to be used.

Legal implications

18. No legal implications identified at this stage. This will be kept under review.

Equalities implications

19. It is expected that the proposals in this report will improve the quality of the City's public spaces for all users, by setting out a set of design standards for ensuring the accessibility and well-being benefits of public spaces are at the forefront of design considerations.

Climate implications

20. The proposed suite of documents will align with the adopted Climate Action Strategy, in particular the following Actions will be embedded into the documents to ensure deliverables contribute with City's Net Zero Vision.

- Action Area 2: Resilient Streets and Greening
- Action Area 6: Transport
- Action Area 7: Square Mile Built Environment

Conclusion

21. The Public Space and Place-making Review will update Corporation guidance and technical information in relation to public space and placemaking at a time when this is needed to support the effective implementation of adopted corporate strategies and priorities where these impact upon public space.

Report author

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