

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Streets and Walkways Sub	08 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b> City Public Realm Guidance Review – progress report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1,2,9,10,11,12
<b>Report of:</b> Director of the Built Environment	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Melanie Charalambous, Group Manager, City Public Realm	

### Summary

This report provides an update on the ongoing review of public realm design guidance and technical information which was initiated in December 2020.

The outputs include:

- Public Realm Vision and Outcomes
- An updated Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- A Design Toolkit

This work will support the implementation of corporate strategies and priorities and guide change to the City’s public realm. Officers have completed Stage One of the review and this report and the Appendix sets out a summary and requests approval to commence Stage Two.

Stage One: work completed to date includes:

- Literature review, including various corporate strategies, policy documents and external guidance in relation to public realm and its contribution to placemaking;
- Mapping of corporate strategies and policies where they impact on the built environment design and public realm;
- The setting up of an officer Working Group to guide the review
- Cross-departmental workshops on key topics;
- Identification of the key challenges and impacts of recent strategy and policy on public space, together with themes to be investigated further in the next stage of work
- An outline brief for the next stage of work based on the above.

Stage Two will include:

- Development and completion of Public Realm Vision and outcomes, including development of typologies to help visualise the change that is desirable in different City streets and spaces; setting out of key

'transformational moves' for the longer-term change of the City's public realm, along with a framework for monitoring and evaluation.

- Development and completion of an updated Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), focussed on the policy approach to public realm in the City, including a section on the 'key areas of change' expanding on the policies in the Local Plan.
- Development and completion of a Design Toolkit, setting out the detail and technical approach to the delivery of change in the public realm.
- Establishment of a steering group and external peer review to help finalise the brief and guide the next stage of work.

## **Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note this update and the completion of Stage One
- Agree to proceed with Stage Two with the release of £50,000 S106 funding previously allocated for this work

## **Main Report**

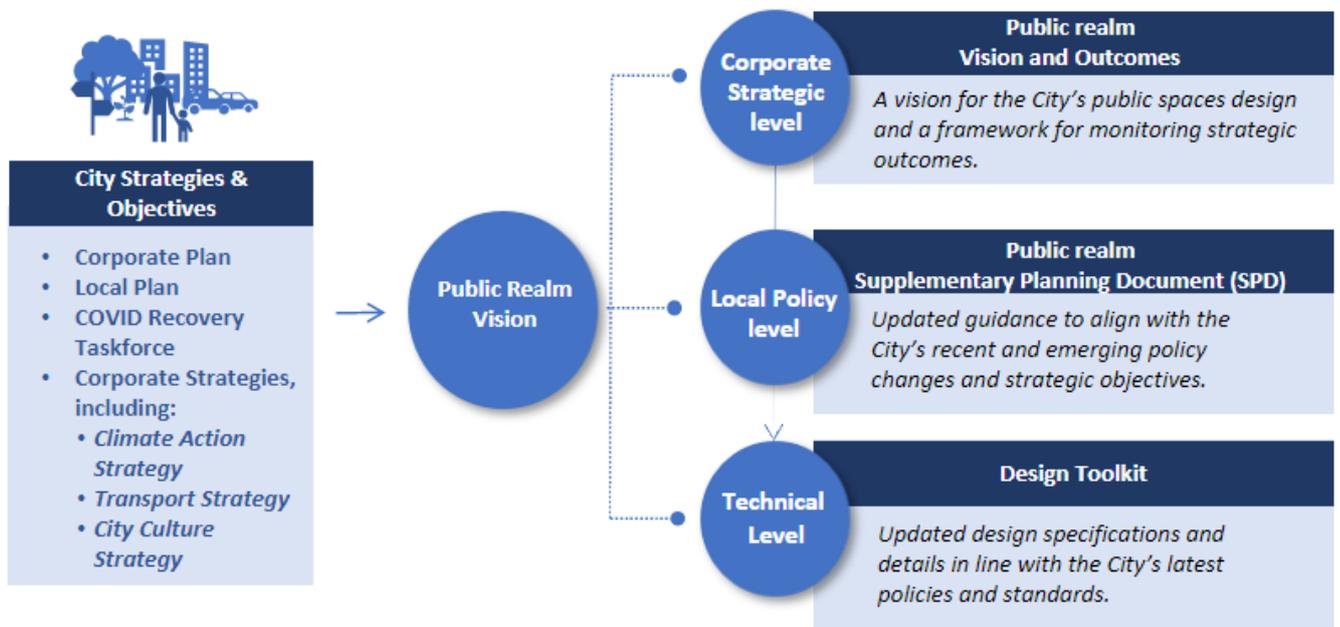
### **Background**

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 Taskforces.
2. Providing a high quality and inclusive public realm where people enjoy spending time is essential to the City's future. There is clear demand for more vibrant and engaging spaces and flexible streets, to attract people and businesses and offer opportunities to dwell beyond the working day. The City community is also calling for a greener and more pleasant street environment as well as action to tackle climate change. Whilst the strategic direction and needs are 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.
3. This Sub-Committee agreed a report in December 2020 to initiate the review and update of public realm guidance and technical information, in order to take a pro-active approach to the future design of our public realm.

### **Approach**

4. To bring the City's planned strategic changes and radical set of outcomes together through design and visualisation, three inter-related deliverables are planned:

- A Public Realm Vision and Outcomes
- An updated Public Realm Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)
- A Design Toolkit



5. 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.
6. The diagram in Appendix 2 illustrates the relationship of the outputs of this activity with other strategic and statutory documents.

### Progress to Date

7. A consultant has been appointed to aid the development of the Stage One review and the preparation of the Vision. An officers' working group has also been established to guide the work and ensure cross-departmental support for the approach.
8. Stage One has been completed and included the following tasks:
  - **Literature Review** – Various corporate strategies, policy documents and external guidance in relation to public realm and placemaking, including best practice examples from other cities. This exercise has led to the identification

of the key challenges and impacts for the City's public spaces over the coming years.

- **Mapping** – in order to better visualise the impacts of the numerous corporate strategies and policy objectives, a mapping exercise has been undertaken. This also allows us to get a full picture of the City's street and public space assets and overlay the policy outcomes in an easy to understand manner.
  - **Cross-departmental workshops** on key topics have been held to discuss the implications of different strategic agendas within the same limited public space and how best to achieve a coordinated and balanced approach. Topics were as follows:
    - Reconciling the competing demands for public space through design approaches
    - How to achieve flexible streets and spaces that are high-quality and will aid the City's recovery post-pandemic
  - **Four Themes** have been identified based on the literature and mapping exercises. These are as follows:
    - Great places for walking and cycling
    - Vibrant and engaging public realm
    - Innovative and flexible spaces
    - Naturally resilient streets and spaces
9. A summary of this work and an outline of the brief for Stage Two is set out in Appendix 1.

## Stage Two

10. Stage Two will include:
- Development and completion of the Public Realm Vision and outcomes, including typologies to help visualise the change that is desirable in different City streets and spaces; setting out of key 'transformational moves' for the longer-term change of the City's public realm, along with a framework for monitoring and evaluation.
  - Development and completion of the updated Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), focussed on the policy approach to public realm and placemaking in the City, including a section on the 'key areas of change' expanding on the policies in the Local Plan.
  - Development and completion of a Design Toolkit, setting out the detail and technical approach to the delivery of change in the public realm.
11. Stage Two will be guided by a steering group and external peer review panel to help finalise the brief and guide the next stage of work. These groups will also ensure that the outcomes are aligned with other strategies and meet the needs of the future City. Programme milestones are included in Appendix 3. It should be noted that the programme has been extended to allow more time for consultation and engagement (both internal and external). The new

Environment Director is starting in August and the revised programme ensures that she has time to shape the outputs of this activity

## Corporate & Strategic Implications

### *Strategic implications*

12. 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 the public realm 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 (which references the planned update of the public realm SPD) and the draft Local Plan 2036.

### *Financial implications*

13. This work is funded from S106 receipts. Spend to date is shown in table 1 below along with the estimated cost of completing Stage 2. All work will be completed within the £102,495 budget approved in December 2020. Table 3 in the Appendix includes details of the S106 funding sources.

Table 1: Spend to date (Stage One)

Description	Approved Budget (£)	Expenditure (£)	Balance (£)*
P&T Staff Costs	27,495	18,690	8,805
P&T Fees	25,000	19,762	5,238
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,495</b>	<b>38,452</b>	<b>14,043</b>

\*Unspent funds will be rolled into Stage Two budget below

Table 2: Stage Two: Estimated costs

Description	Approved Budget (£)	Resources required to reach next Gateway (£)	Revised Budget to next Gateway (£)
P&T Staff Costs	27,495	30,000	57,495
Fees	25,000	20,000	45,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52,495</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>102,495</b>

## Legal implications

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

## **Equalities implications**

15. 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**

16. The proposed suite of documents will align with the adopted Climate Action Strategy, 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**

17. This work will support the coordination and effective implementation of adopted corporate strategies and priorities where these impact on the public realm. Best practice across international cities suggests a robust strategy, presented visually and delivered using a design-led and place-making approach creates clarity, encourages private investment and fosters community ownership.

## **Report author**

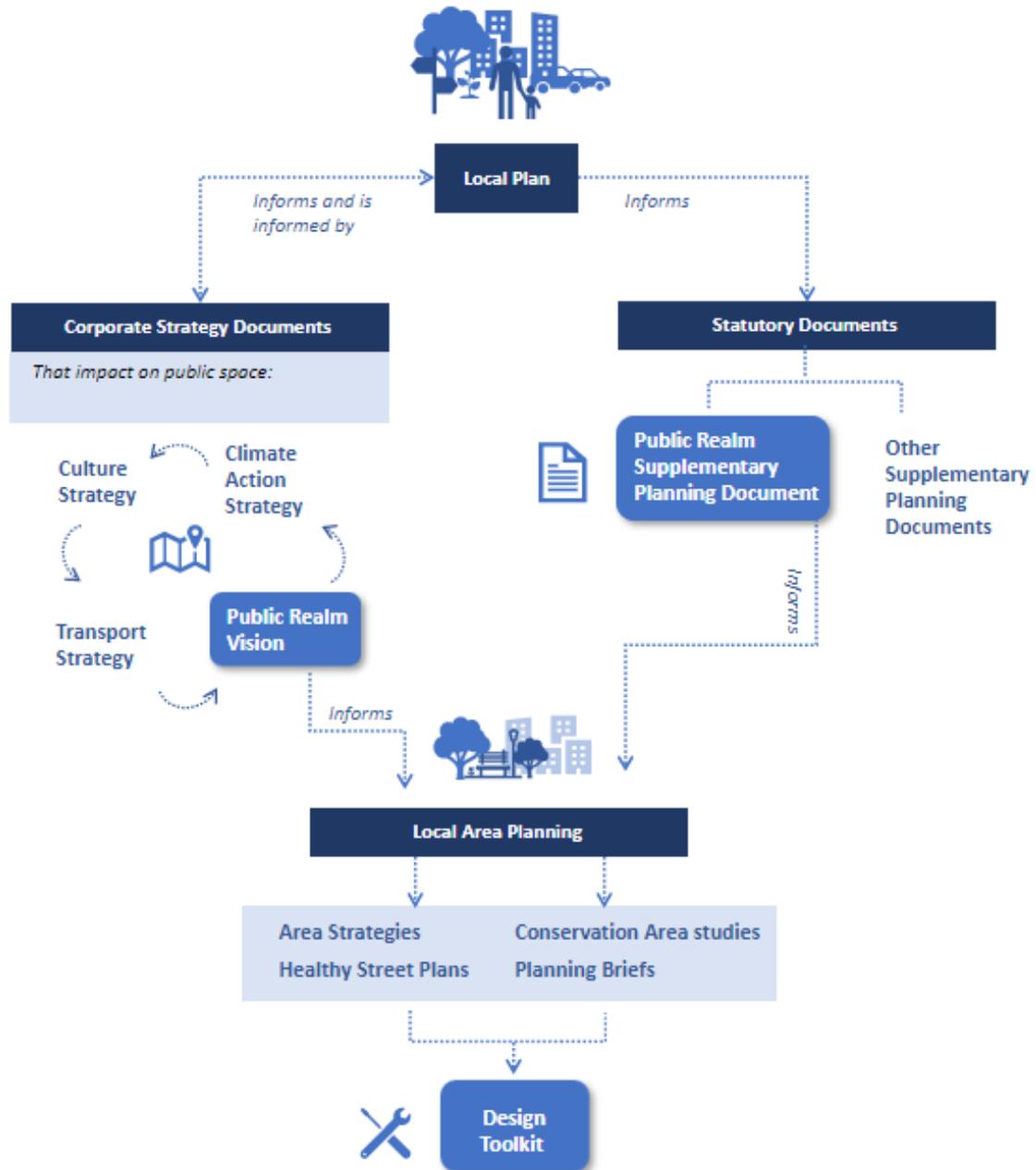
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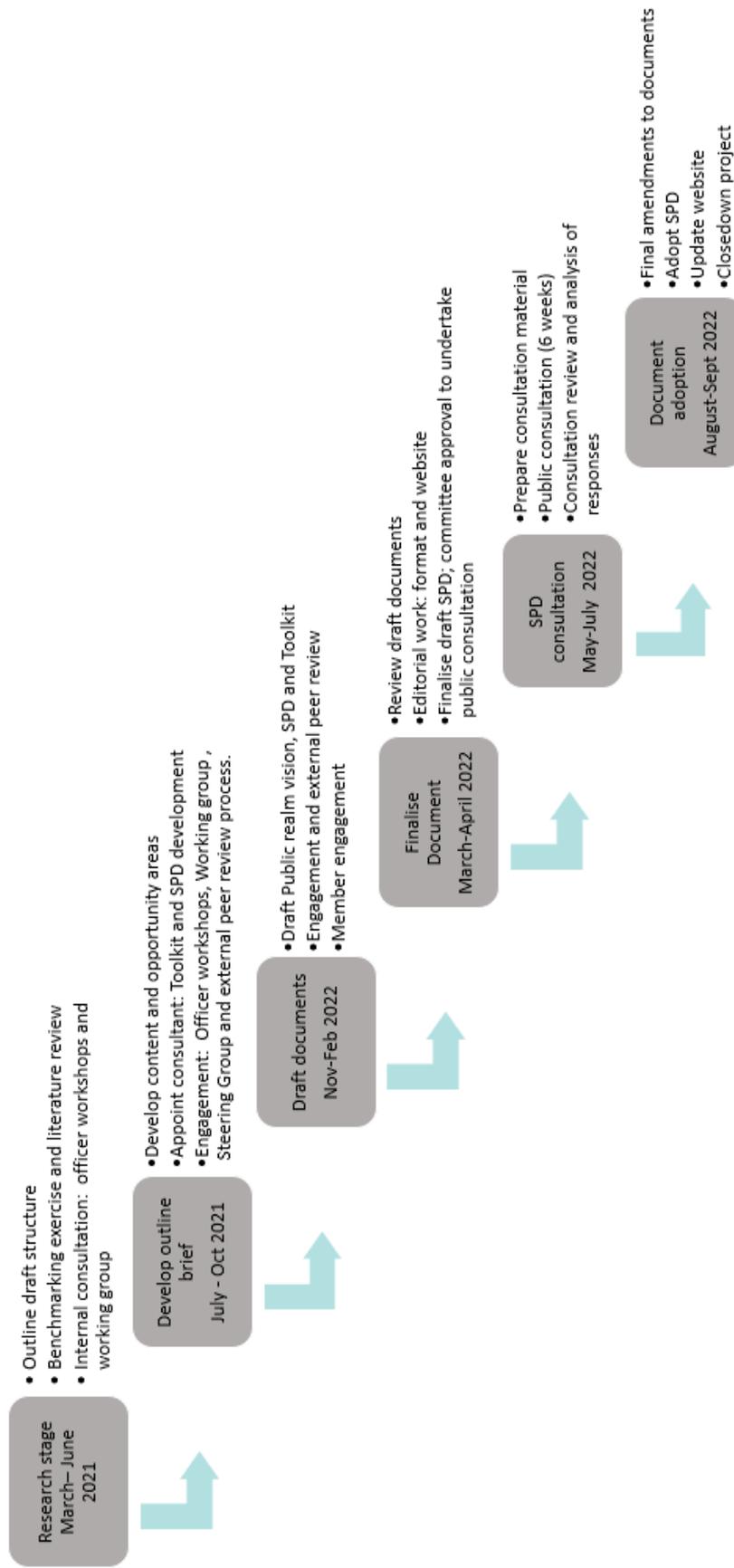
## Appendix 1. Summary of Stage One and outline brief (separate PDF)

## Appendix 2. Diagram of the relationship of the Public Realm deliverables with other strategic and statutory documents



## Appendix 3. Programme milestones

### Public Realm Vision review – outline programme 2021-22



#### Appendix 4. Table 3: S106 funding sources

<b>Table 3: Funding Source</b>			
<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Agreement</b>	<b>Head of Terms</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
S106	03-5027C New Street Square 01/03/2005	Transportation	86
S106	03-5027C New Street Square 01/03/2005	LCE	6,994
S106	11/00317/FULMAJ Trinity Square 10 29/03/2012	LCE	4,525
S106	06/01160/FULEIA Milton Court 30/01/2008	LCE	1,689
S106	12/00145/FULMAJ Minorities 24-26 24/08/2012	LCE	1,713
S106	06/00214/FULL Mariner House 02/02/2007	LCE	18,160
S106	06/00214/FULL Mariner House 02/02/2007	Transportation	438
S106	12/00256/FULEIA Bartholomew Close 29/05/2013	LCE	2,318
S106	07/00387/FULL St Botolph's 25/04/2008	LCE	8,401
S106	10/00904/FULEIA Broadgate 5 29/07/2011	LCE	3,839
S106	06/01123/FULEIA Pinnacle 30/11/2007	LCE	3,007
S106	12/01225/FULEIA Fleet Building 28/10/2013	Transportation	1,326
S106	06/01160/FULEIA Milton Court 30/01/2008	LCE	24,686
S106	11/00210/FULMAJ New Street Square 1 29/03/2012	LCE	20,000
S106	11/00935/FULEIA Bucklersbury House 30/03/2012	Transportation	474
S106	12/00145/FULMAJ Minorities 24-26 24/08/2012	LCE	4,722
S106	12/01225/FULEIA Fleet Building 28/10/2013	Transportation	119
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>102,495</b>

\*S106 Air Quality funds