

STREETS AND WALKWAYS SUB (PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION) COMMITTEE

Thursday, 8 July 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Streets and Walkways Sub (Planning and Transportation) Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 8 July 2021 at 11.00 am The meeting was held virtually using MS Teams

Present

Members:

Graham Packham (Chairman)
Shravan Joshi (Deputy Chairman)
Peter Bennett
Oliver Sells QC
William Upton QC
Christopher Hill (Ex-Officio Member)
Paul Martinelli (Ex-Officio Member)

Officers:

Ian Hughes	- Department of the Built Environment
Olumayowa Obisesan	- Chamberlain's Department
Leah Coburn	- Department of the Built Environment
Shani Annand-Baron	- Town Clerk's Department
Melanie Charalambous	- Department of the Built Environment
Clarisse Tavin	- Department of the Built Environment
Tom Noble	- Department of the Built Environment
Simon Glynn	- Department of the Built Environment
Bruce McVean	- Department of the Built Environment
Gillian Howard	- Department of the Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Randall Anderson, Marianne Fredericks, and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

The Chairman raised a point in respect of item 14 of the agenda of the meeting of 29 April 2021, 'Highway Construction & Maintenance Term Contract Tender' and confirmed that a 50/50 quality-price split had been adopted to reflect the wishes of the Sub Committee, incorporating the consideration that quality be a key consideration alongside increasing cost pressures.

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 29 April 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **BANK JUNCTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT: ALL CHANGE AT BANK**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Bank Junction Improvements Project.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

1. Approve an additional budget of **£151,323** to reach the next Gateway as explained in section 3; and that this be funded from the already approved Central funding (total approved budget of £2,074,733);
2. Approve a revised Costed Risk Provision of **£93,000**, (previously £95,000), to be drawn down via delegation to Chief Officer;
3. Agree the approach set out in section 4 to delay the consultation findings report until September 2021 to provide additional time to analyse and consider the responses fully; and,
4. Note the delay to the programme which will mean that, if approved, construction work for the project would not start until at least January 2022.

5. **MOORGATE CROSSRAIL STATION LINKS**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Moorgate Crossrail Station Links.

With regard to the report, the Sub Committee was advised that there was an outstanding claim against Crossrail in respect of settlement due to tunnelling under the highway, and that efforts were being made to progress the scheme alongside that claim to avoid the project being held up any more than necessary. A Member emphasised the importance of consistency in respect of the timing of temporary planned street closures across the City. The Chairman commented that he would further discuss the use of central medians at police check points in the City with the City of London Police Commissioner to ensure they were genuinely needed.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

1. Approve further scheme development at the Moorgate/Ropemaker Street junction to progress design work and traffic modelling;
2. Approve the pausing of further substantive scheme development at the Moorgate/London Wall junction and on the Moorgate corridor until there was more certainty on the progress of interdependent projects and post-COVID traffic flows; and
3. Approve the project budgets and funding allocations detailed in Appendix 2.

6. **LEADENHALL STREET TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT - EASTERN CITY CLUSTER**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on Leadenhall Street Traffic Management.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

1. Approve the budget of **£218,000** to reach the next Gateway for Leadenhall Street (Phase 1);
2. Note the total estimated cost of the project between £480-£550K; and,
3. Agree the funding strategy included at Appendix 3 including the allocation of S106 funding from 40 Leadenhall Street development.

7. **CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY - COOL STREETS AND GREENING PROGRAMME**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Cool Streets and Greening Programme of the Climate Action Strategy.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

1. Approve **Option 1** Redesign of 6 existing projects to include climate resilience measures for implementation in Year 1 with individual Gateway 5 reports to be prepared for each project;
2. Approve a budget of **£660K** in principle for the design and installation of climate resilience measures on Year 1 projects to enable redesigns to be progressed;
3. Note that revenue costs of £114K associated with additional maintenance and monitoring will be funded from Climate Action Strategy (CAS) revenue budget;
4. Note the revised project budget for Year 1 of **£980K** (excluding risk) which was made up of £320K for evaluation and programme development approved at Gateway1/2 and £660K for design and implementation. In addition, revenue budgets of 114K over a period of 5 years for maintenance and monitoring of Year 1 projects would be required;
5. Note that progress has been made on other elements of the Cool Streets and Greening programme since the Gateway 2 approval in April and costs would be incurred during the remainder of 2021; and,
6. Note the total estimated cost of the project at £6.8M (excluding risk).

8. **GREENING CHEAPSIDE: SUNKEN GARDEN (PHASE 1B)**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on Greening Cheapside – Sunken Garden (Phase 1B).

In considering the report, a Member commented that the project was a good example of joint initiatives with private enterprise, and that further such projects involving local businesses would be welcomed and should be encouraged.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

1. Approve the additional external funding secured from Cheapside Business Alliance of £50,000;
2. Approve the additional funding from City's Climate Action 'Cool Streets and Greening Programme', subject to approval of a specific allocation to the Greening Cheapside project sought in the Cool Streets and Greening Programme Gateway 3 report;
3. Approve the revised total project cost range of £358,000-£530,000; and,
4. Authorise officers to progress the "silver" design option (option 2) and note that the next stage would be Gateway 4/5 to be approved under Delegated Authority as the project was on the "regular" route of the Corporate Projects Procedure.

9. **CITY PUBLIC REALM GUIDANCE REVIEW**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the City Public Realm Guidance Review and heard a presentation on the subject from the Assistant Director, Public Realm.

With regard to the Review, a Member commented that the developments were welcome but that there were still a significant number of streets where greening could still be done. The Member requested a focus on action over documentation.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

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

10. **CITY STREETS: TRANSPORTATION RESPONSE TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RECOVERY - PHASE 3 ISSUES REPORT**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the transportation response to support Covid-19 recovery.

In considering the report, the Sub Committee expressed its support for the proposed greening and seating measures. A Member queried whether costings related to street cleaning had been incorporated and was advised that cleaning and maintenance costs formed part of the budget.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee:

1. Note the progress to date on the implementation of the Covid-19 street recovery project (Phase 3);
2. Approve the delivery of additional seating and greening measures as described in the report;

3. Approve the budget adjustment and increase as set out in Section 3 - Table 2, at a total project cost of £580,500 to continue the management and delivery of the project;
4. Note the approval, in principle, of the 'asphalt art' initiative from Cultural, Heritage and Library Committee on 14th June for up to 5 sites, subject to funding and the required highway approvals, overseen by this Sub Committee; and,
5. Approve the addition of the 'asphalt art' initiative within this Covid-19 recovery Phase 3 project, to be progressed with a separate Gateway 5 report, submitted under delegated authority. The delivery of the asphalt art is externally funded at a cost of £220,000.

11. CITY CYCLEWAYS PROGRAMME - PHASE 1 (Q11 UPGRADE AND OTHER QUICK WINS)

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the City Cycleways Programme.

RESOLVED – That the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee note the contents of this report and authorise closure of Phase 1 of the project.

12. CITY LIGHTING STRATEGY - UPDATE

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the City Lighting Strategy.

The Sub Committee was advised that a Gateway 6 Report would be submitted to the Projects Sub Committee in relation to the City Lighting Strategy in Autumn 2021.

In response to a Member's question about continuity of street lighting in the event that a new organisation moved into a building, the Director of the Built Environment reassured the Committee that safeguards had been built in should the occupants of the Bloomberg building change to ensure the street would remain appropriately lit.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

13. CITY CLUSTER HEALTHY STREETS PLAN

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the City Cluster Healthy Streets Plan.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

14. OUTSTANDING REFERENCES

The Sub Committee received a list of outstanding references and the following points were made:

Dockless vehicles

The Sub Committee heard that the e-scooter trial launch began on 5th July.

One dockless cycle operator (Lime) was operating in the City, and HumanForest was expected to begin operating again in August 2021. A third dockless cycle operator was reviewing its position.

Beech Street transport and public realm improvements

The Sub Committee heard that monitoring and consultation tasks on the Experimental Traffic Order were set to resume following a judicial review on 29-30 June 2021. The current Experimental Traffic Order was scheduled to end in September. No decisions had yet been made on future plans for Beech Street, and the commitment to the improvement of air quality in the public realm remained.

RESOLVED – That the list of outstanding references be noted.

15. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE**
No questions were raised on matters relating to the work of the Sub Committee

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Sub Committee considered a request for delegated authority to the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to approve a Gateway 2 report relating to highway and public realm works in the vicinity of the development at 40 Leadenhall Street, and noted that future Gateway reports will be submitted to the Sub Committee for approval.

RESOLVED – That the Sub Committee approve the request for delegated authority.

17. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

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

No questions were put on matters relating to the work of the Sub Committee.

19. **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 other business.

The meeting ended at 12.10pm

Chairman

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