

Committee: Policy & Resources Committee	Date: 16 September 2021
Subject: Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	See Background Reports
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	See Background Reports
If so, how much?	See Background Reports
What is the source of Funding?	See Background Reports
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	See Background Reports
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Chris Rumbles, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b) since the last meeting.

Recommendation

That Members note the actions taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

Main Report

1. Since the last meeting of the Committee, approval has been given under urgency procedures or delegated authority arrangements, pursuant to Standing Order No. 41, as follows: -

Urgent Action: LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FUNDED SCHEMES 2021

Under Section 159 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999, Transport for London (TfL) is empowered to provide grants to London boroughs and the City for the provision of safe, efficient and economically viable transportation facilities and (or) services to, from or within Greater London. In May 2019 the 3-year Local Implementation Plan for the City was submitted to TfL and approved.

In April 2020 Transport for London were required to pause all 2020/21 funding, in order to prioritise spend on emergency Covid-19 response measures. Funding for financial year 2021/22 would usually be approved by TfL in January 2021 and an Annual Spending Submission was submitted in November 2020. Owing to the ongoing funding uncertainty for TfL the November Annual Spending Submission was not approved for this financial year.

TfL funding has been severely constrained over the last and current financial years, and funding has been released on short timescales. TfL have acknowledged the difficulty of planning and programming to short timescales. TfL funding is ringfenced to projects and schemes agreed in the LIP. Given the short timescale from TfL in April and the small amount of funding the decision was made at Director level to allocate to projects in progress already in the LIP programme, otherwise funding would have been lost.

In April TfL released funding for 6 weeks to the end of May 2021. This was allocated to:

- Puddle Dock pedestrian scheme - £41,000
- Healthy Streets minor schemes - £38,000
- Lunchtime Streets/Reopening activities - £9,995

In June 2021 TfL invited requests for the 6 months to December 2021. In line with TfL guidance on their priorities we have submitted additional requests against the following programmes:

- Streetspace Schemes (covid-19 response) temporary to permanent - £47,000
- Corridors and Neighbourhoods - £302,300
- Liveable Neighbourhoods programme - £651,000
- Central London Cycling Grid programme - £60,000

Additional funding includes the Mayor's Air Quality Fund (MAQF) which has been confirmed as available for 2021/22 and funding requested for Principal Road Renewal.

These projects will help deliver the City Corporation's Transport Strategy. Further funding may become available for the LIP programmes later in 2021/22 and will be dependent of TfL financial position.

Approval was therefore sought and granted by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to: -

- Approve the allocations up to the maximum set out in table 1 of the report, for the year 2021/22.
- Delegate authority to the Director of the Built Environment in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Planning & Transportation Committee and the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Streets & Walkways Sub Committee to allocate any additional funds which are made available by TfL in 2021/22 financial year.
- Delegate authority to the Director of the Built Environment to reallocate the TfL grant between the approved LIP schemes should that be necessary during 2021/22 up to a maximum of £150,000.

Urgent Action: 9 September 2021 meeting of the Court of Common Council – physical / formal arrangements

In April 2021, the Court of Common Council resolved that all of its local and police authority meetings should be conducted on an informal basis for the coming period, in view of the ongoing Covid-19 related restrictions. This decision was taken bearing in

mind the prohibitions on remote / virtual participation in formal meetings under relevant legislation and the impracticalities of holding formal meetings (particularly of the Court itself, given its size), with the Court also resolving to allow for virtual participation in non-local or police authority business more generally. These arrangements expire in October.

On 5 July 2021, HM Government announced that all Covid-related work from home guidance and social distancing restrictions were anticipated to come to an end as of 19 July 2021. The decision was, therefore, taken (on the recommendation of the Policy & Resources Committee) to hold the next meeting of Court of Common Council on 22 July as a formal, in-person meeting, but with committees and sub-committees continuing to operate on an informal basis, thereby facilitating virtual / remote participation for those meetings. The Covid-related situation could then be monitored over the summer recess, with a view to taking a longer-term decision in September.

The 22 July 2021 meeting of the Court subsequently proceeded on a physical basis and was held successfully, utilising various mitigations to help alleviate any concerns associated with Covid (such as an outdoor lunch, spaced seating, reduced public attendance, and so on). At that meeting, in response to a query around the format of the September Court meeting, hope was expressed that the Corporation would be in a position to repeat the arrangements but that there would need to be a “wait and see” approach over the coming weeks, depending on the situation with Covid and any subsequent response by the Government.

During the intervening period an urgent decision was required in order to ensure that both Members and relevant officers were provided with sufficient notice to make any requisite arrangements ahead of an in-person September meeting of Court of Common Council.

Consequently (and in keeping with the previous decisions and undertakings made to the Court), an urgent decision was sought regarding arrangements for the September meeting of Court of Common Council. This allowed for arrangements to be communicated to Members in good time and for the agenda to be published in accordance with statutory requirements.

Urgent approval was therefore sought and granted by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to the Court of Common meeting in September 2021 proceeding on a physical basis, as a formal meeting, live-streamed on YouTube for the benefit of the public and with steps taken to alter the layout of the Great Hall to enable a greater degree of space between seats and allowing for Covid mitigation measures so far as is practical, notwithstanding the removal of restrictions generally.

Delegated Action: Parliamentary Boundary Review – Response to Boundary Commission Consultation

At its July 2021 meeting, the Policy & Resources Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and Remembrancer which outlined the effect of proposed changes to parliamentary constituencies published by the Boundary Commission for England on 8 June 2021 (intended to take effect from 2023). Of direct relevance to the City was a suggestion to break the link between the City of London and the City

of Westminster by placing the Square Mile in a new constituency with the southern part of the London Borough of Islington.

On considering the report, the Committee expressed its firm support for advocating for the link between the City of London and the City of Westminster to remain, articulating a number of practical and historic reasons why this should be the case and was in the best interests of constituents and businesses in both areas. Noting the deadline for submissions to the Boundary Commission was 2 August, the Committee agreed to delegated authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, to finalise a suitable response to the proposals on behalf of the City Corporation and to submit accordingly.

Approval was therefore sought and granted by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to:-

- A submission of the City Corporation's formal response to the Boundary Commission's Parliamentary Boundary Review consultation.
- 2. In accordance with Standing Order 41 (a) and 41 (b), Members are asked to note the recent decisions taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
- 3. Copies of background papers concerning this decision are available from Chris Rumbles on request.

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