

Requests for Release of Funding – Scheme Details

The following provides details of the nine schemes for which approval to release central funding of up to £7.813m is now sought, as summarised in Table 1 of the main report.

- (i) Guildhall School and Barbican Centre – Ventilation, Heating, Cooling and Mechanical controls – release of £224k to progress the scheme
 - Three Guildhall School projects (at Silk Street, Milton Court venue areas and John Hosier Annex practice rooms) and one Barbican Centre project (catering areas) relating to replacement and improvement of ventilation, heating and cooling and mechanical controls are to be combined due to their similarities.
 - The ‘in principle’ funding from central reserves of City’s Cash (re Guildhall School) and City Fund (re Barbican) was agreed as part of the 2021/22 annual bids to replace end-of-life infrastructure and make them compliant with current health and safety requirements.
 - The request is for the release of £224k for consultancy and surveys to progress the scheme.

- (ii) Hampstead Heath Swimming Facilities – release of a further £79k to progress the scheme
 - This project is to deliver safety, access and security improvements at the Hampstead ponds.
 - The ‘in principle’ central funding from City’s Cash reserves was approved as part of the 2021/22 capital bids on health and safety grounds.
 - This request is to provide a £79k top-up to the previously approved draw-down of £64k to undertake a detailed option appraisal.

- (iii) St Paul’s Gyratory – release of up to £556k to develop concept designs
 - This aim of this project is to transform the streets and public realm on the gyratory system between the Museum of London Rotunda and St Paul’s Underground station.
 - The ‘in principle’ central funding from City Fund reserves (OSPR) was agreed as part of the 2022/23 annual capital bids, to provide consultancy and staff resources to develop concept designs and inform the future central funding requirement.
 - Approval of this bid capital bid was conditional on the funding model for DBE project managers being looked at so that a sustainable, fair and effective way of allocating time and costs to projects be developed as a matter of urgency. The outline principles for this review are in place but the detail needs to wait until the TOM is completed. Consequently, there is an expectation that the staff cost element of this bid is at the upper end and the actual amount to be drawn down will reduce.
 - This request is for approval to draw down an amount *up to* £556k to take the project to the next decision point, subject to the approval of the relevant gateway report under delegated authority and also subject to the outcome of the above review.

(iv) St Paul's Cathedral External Lighting – release of £250k to progress the scheme

- This project is for the replacement of the external lighting to St Paul's Cathedral. Under an informal arrangement, the City has historically maintained the existing lighting system which has now reached end of life. Following replacement, the Cathedral will assume responsibility for maintenance going forward.
- The total estimated cost of the scheme is £2.075m, of which £840k is to be funded through S106 and contributions from third parties and £75k is historic spend. The balance of £1.16m to be met from central City Fund reserves (CIL) was agreed 'in principle' as part of the 2022/23 capital bids.
- This request is for the release of £250k for fees and staff costs to take the project to the next gateway.

(v) Assessment Centre for Rough Sleepers – top-up funding of £106k to implement the scheme

- This project is to undertake conversion and refurbishment of premises to establish an assessment centre for rough sleepers.
- 'In principle' central funding of up to £1m from City Fund reserves was agreed as part of the 2020/21 capital bids for the delivery of this high priority strategy to address rough sleeping in the City.
- The cost of the scheme, at £1.003m has risen considerably since the last gateway, due to scope changes (unforeseen roof repairs and carbon zero targets) and an increase in anticipated fees and surveys. Funding of £109k for the carbon zero work falls within the remit of the Climate Action Strategy capital budget and has been approved under delegated authority. The remaining shortfall of £106k is now requested as a further draw-down against the capital bid allocation to enable the implementation of the project, subject to the approval of the Gateway 5 report under Chief Officer delegated authority.

(vi) Guildhall Cooling Plant Replacement - release of £4.044m to deliver the scheme

- The aim of this project is to provide a long-term solution to meet the cooling needs of the Guildhall Complex in the most cost-effective and environmentally beneficial way.
- 'In principle' central funding of up to £4.433m from the reserves of the three main funds has been agreed as part of the 2020/21 annual capital bids process to replace the end-of life infrastructure.
- The proposal is for the release of the remaining funding of £4.044m to deliver the scheme, subject to the approval of the Gateway 4c and Gateway 5 reports under delegated authority.
- The £4.044m includes a contribution of £201k from Bridge House Estates, which requires the separate approval of the Bridge House Board.
- Note that the value for money issues that may arise from the progression of the current design option will be further considered by Members when the project reaches gateway 5, given the complex interactions with the wider Guildhall Major Refurbishment proposals.

(vii) BEMS Phase 1 Stage 2 (Walbrook Wharf and LMA) - release of up to £254k to deliver the scheme

- The aim of this Phase 1 project is to replace life expired building energy management systems at the highest priority sites to ensure maximum energy efficiency. This stage 2 proposal relates to Walbrook Wharf and the LMA.
- 'In principle' central funding from City Fund reserves was approved as part of the £2021/22 annual capital bids.
- The request is for the release of up to £254k to install the new systems, subject to the relevant gateway approvals.

(viii) Climate Action Strategy – Year 2 Cool Streets and Greening - release of up to £1.6m to deliver year 2 schemes

- Cool Streets and Greening is a Climate Action Strategy programme to pilot climate resilient streets and open spaces in the Square Mile. Approval is now sought to draw-down funding to progress Year 2 schemes.
- 'In principle' central funding from City Fund central reserves (OSPR) for this programme was agreed as part of the Climate Action Strategy allocation in the 2021/22 annual capital bid round.
- Year 2 comprises two elements:
 - £750K to enable redesigns of six existing sites to incorporate installation of climate resilience measures.
 - £550-850K (depending on the number of sites identified) for the identification, design and implementation of additional sites through the Cubic Mile project in conjunction with British Geological Survey, the Heat Resilient Highways risk appraisal and Citywide Greening and Biodiversity.
- The proposal is for the release of up to £1.6m, subject to the approval of individual Gateway 5 reports for the various projects mentioned above.

(ix) Bank Junction Improvements – £0.7m top up to meet construction price increases

- This project is to improve the safety, air quality and pedestrian experience of the area around the Bank junction to reflect the historic and iconic surroundings with the appropriate sense of place.
- Central funding from the On Street Parking Reserve of up to £4m has previously been agreed for this high-profile scheme. Latest estimates indicate a potential increase in highway construction costs of up to £700k and a request for top-up funding via the 2022/23 annual capital bid process has been agreed in principle.
- This request is for approval to draw down these additional funds to allow the preferred option to be progressed.