

Committee(s) Planning and Transportation Committee	Dated: 01/11/2022
Subject: City Plan engagement strategy	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,4,7,9,11,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Gwyn Richards, Planning & Development Director	For information
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Summary

As the City Plan progresses, it is important that stakeholders have an opportunity to engage, both through formal consultation required by legislation and through wider engagement on key issues. An engagement strategy for the City Plan has been developed, which complements the City Corporation's Statement of Community Involvement, and sets out how the City Corporation will involve stakeholders and keep them informed on the progress of the City Plan. The engagement strategy is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Recommendations

Members are recommended to:

- Note the contents of the City Plan engagement strategy.

Main Report

Background

1. In recent years, there has been increasing interest broadly in how places change and develop, and the documents – such as the City Plan – that guide this development.
2. The City Corporation is required to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI), which sets out how the Corporation will carry out consultation on planning policy documents and planning applications. On 11 October 2022 the Planning and Transportation Committee approved a new draft SCI, which will be consulted on and which – once adopted – will replace the existing SCI (adopted in 2016).

3. A new engagement strategy has been drawn up for the City Plan, setting out how the City Corporation intend to take forward our stakeholder engagement as the Plan progresses.

Proposals

4. The City Plan engagement strategy builds on the SCI, setting out a more focussed timetable for the steps the City Corporation intend to take as we produce the City Plan. This includes engagement with stakeholders outside the formal consultation periods that are required by legislation.
5. The engagement strategy also sets out the types and (where relevant) specific stakeholders and groups that we will seek to engage with. The strategy seeks to engage with all parties that are interested in the future development of the Square Mile – whether they are the businesses that support the Square Mile’s economic growth, residents who call the City home, the broad range of people who work in the City, and the tourists and other visitors that enjoy the City’s culture, leisure, public realm, retail, heritage, places of worship, and other facilities. There are also many organisations in the City – from the Businesses Improvement Districts to St Paul’s Cathedral – that have an active interest in how the City develops, and there will be opportunities to engage with these groups as we take the City Plan forward.
6. The engagement strategy also identifies the potential for consultancy support to help facilitate aspects of stakeholder engagement, for example focus groups, preparing accessible and engaging material, and facilitating engagement with target groups. This work is currently being scoped and is intended to be funded from the planning policy budget.
7. The strategy also sets out the ways in which stakeholders will be kept up to date, for example through newsletters, and online engagement platform and physical displays.
8. The engagement strategy is a ‘living’ document rather than containing binding, statutory obligations. Engagement is, by its nature, a fluid activity that needs to be able to shift depending on the availability and interests of stakeholders, and what is learned as engagement is carried out. The document will therefore be updated and specific timings and the focus of events may change as engagement work progresses.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The City Plan engagement strategy will support wider engagement priorities of the City Corporation, and is being developed alongside other strategic engagement such as that to support the Transport Strategy. Duplication will be avoided and information and outcomes shared, in order to ensure joined-up approaches are taken.

Financial/Resource Implications

10. The costs of carrying out engagement will be met through existing staff resources and the existing City Plan budget allocation, which will also cover consultancy costs.

Risk Implications

11. As engagement and publicity on the City Plan increases, there may be increasing calls for further additional engagement and events. Requests for meetings and events will be facilitated where possible, however there is a need to ensure this does not lead to significant delays in developing the City Plan. To mitigate this, there will be clear notification for events and stages of engagement; meetings with stakeholders may be combined where relevant, and there will be signposting to where stakeholders can find out more and submit their views.

Other Implications

12. There are no specific legal, climate or security implications arising from this report. Public engagement will be undertaken in accordance with the City Corporation's public sector equality duty, ensuring that we are seeking to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Conclusion

13. Members are asked to note the City Plan engagement strategy.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City Plan engagement strategy

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