



Report – Planning and Transportation Committee Holborn Circus Area Enhancement Scheme

*To be presented on Thursday, 7 March 2013
To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY

1. Approval is sought to proceed to a detailed design for the Holborn Circus Enhancement Scheme; a scheme considered by the Streets & Walkways and Projects Sub Committees in 2012. The proposed scheme will reduce accident rates, ease pedestrian flows and create a high quality public realm, making the area more pleasant, safer and easier to navigate. The project emerged as a result of extensive feasibility and consultation studies undertaken by the City, in partnership with the London Borough of Camden and Transport for London (TfL).
2. The total estimated costs of the Highway improvement works is £3,091,393. Under the project approval procedure (Gateway 4b), any projects over and above £2m also need the approval of the Court of Common Council before they can proceed.
3. The bulk (£2.5m) of the total estimated cost would be met by Transport for London, with the remainder being met by a combination of S106 Contributions and the On-Street Parking Reserve (OSPR). The Chamberlain's Department has advised that the £308,923 commitment of OSPR required is deemed manageable over the planning period to 2015/16; taking into account likely slippage etc. in other projects and other possible savings.
4. At the Streets and Walkways and Projects Sub Committee meetings it was agreed that the project could proceed to detailed design. However, it was noted that in the event that the London Borough of Camden was not prepared to meet the cost of construction of a granite sett table on Hatton Garden (and associated on-going revenue costs), this element of the project would not go ahead.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. It is recommended that approval be given to the major junction improvement works (including SUDS and contingency) at Holborn Circus at an estimated total cost of £3,091,393.

BACKGROUND

6. In 2004 the Planning & Transportation Committee and Policy & Resources Committees approved a Capital Bid Report for Holborn Circus to evaluate alterations to the layout of Holborn Circus in order to improve the safety and flow of the junction. The following actions have been taken –
 - i) The London Borough of Camden employed a specialist consultant to undertake a preliminary public consultation that highlighted concerns around safety for residents and people working in the area.
 - ii) Transport for London has continued to fund the scheme allowing more feasibility work to be undertaken.
 - iii) In July 2009, the Policy & Resources and Finance Committees and the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee, approved the continued evaluation and public consultation on the scheme.
 - iv) A scheme supported by the London Borough of Camden, Transport for London and English Heritage was then developed to improve safety and accessibility.
 - v) In March 2011, the City, in partnership with Camden, launched a public consultation exercise seeking comments on the scheme proposals and the results were then reported to the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee in July 2011.
 - vi) Following the major funding bid of £4.4m submitted to TfL, it was announced that £2.5m has been ring-fenced for the Holborn Circus scheme in the financial year 2013/14 as it met the criteria for three of their objectives for major funding.

THE SCHEME

7. The Holborn Circus Area Enhancement Scheme seeks to –
 - i) simplify junction operation, making it much clearer for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians to see how the junction works;
 - ii) move the Grade 2 Listed Prince Albert Statue west onto High Holborn to help improve sight-lines (Relocation of the statue has already received Listed Building Consent);
 - iii) see a reduction in carriageway space and increase in pedestrian space, opening up opportunities for public realm improvements, particularly adjacent to the western gardens of St Andrews Church;
 - iv) implement redirection of St Andrew Street into New Fetter Lane;
 - v) See new controlled pedestrian crossing points on all arms except Hatton Garden;
 - vi) provide raised courtesy crossings at Hatton Garden and St Andrew Street;
 - vii) provide cyclists with advanced stop lines and lead in-lanes on Hatton Garden making the junction safer and easier to use;

- viii) operate Hatton Garden as one-way northbound, with a 2 way cycle facility at the junction of Holborn; and
8. The plans for the scheme can be found in the Members' reading room and will be on display at the Court.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The total estimated costs of the Highway improvement works is £3,091,393, of which £2.5m will be met by Transport for London.
10. The progression of this option would require a commitment of £308,923 from the OSPR. The Chamberlain's Department has advised that this commitment is manageable, taking into account likely slippage in other projects.

CONCLUSION

11. The approval of the Court is requested for the Holborn Circus enhancement scheme to reduce accident rates, ease pedestrian flows and create a high quality public realm, making the area more pleasant, safer and easier to navigate enhance junction safety.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 18th day of June 2012.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

MARTIN FARR
Chairman