

Committee(s) Policy & Resources Committee – for information Resource Allocation Sub Committee – for information Streets and Walkways Sub Committee – for information	26 September 2023
Subject: Report of Action Taken	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	See Background Report
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	See Background Report
If so, how much?	See Background Report
What is the source of Funding?	See Background Report
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	See Background Report
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Zoe Lewis, 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 action taken since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Main Report

Urgent Decision: Bank Junction Improvements Project: All Change at Bank-Traffic and Timing Review – Gateway 5 Issue Report

BACKGROUND:

The “All Change at Bank” project, approved in December 2021, is intended to improve the safety, air quality and pedestrian experience of the area around Bank Junction, whilst reflecting the historic and iconic surroundings with the appropriate sense of place. It involves the significant reduction of traffic movements through the Junction.

In April 2022, the Court of Common Council requested that the Planning & Transportation Committee bring forward a review of the traffic and timing mix of the restrictions being put into place at Bank. This was to provide for a full assessment of

traffic options at the Junction, from retaining cycle and bus use only, to permitting taxi, powered two wheelers or full vehicular access.

Much work was undertaken thereafter and a number of challenges in progressing this review were noted, together with significant risks regarding the agreed methodology, in order to reach the point whereby a change to the traffic or timing of the restrictions could be achieved. The Court of Common Council, in July 2023, took the view that it would be prudent to pause further work on the traffic modelling exercise (a key constituent part of the overall review), to allow for a focus on identifying and evidencing the need for change and how this can be best addressed.

In order to consider the challenging and complex issues that must be addressed, to provide the robust and well-evidenced case for change sought by the Court, additional funding is now required to cover the expanded scope, as the current fee allocation was utilised in the first round of data collection and commissions. Most of this work will need to be undertaken by third parties and cannot proceed until the funding has been approved and purchase orders raised. The additional sums required amount to some £650,000, which can be met from the On Street Parking Reserve.

REASON FOR URGENCY:

A commitment having been made to the Court to present a progress report in December 2023, the approval of funding release was required in advance of the September committee cycle, in order to allow for the requisite activity to be undertaken within the timeframe committed to. In addition, if the authorisation to enter the S278 Agreement were not given until the 26 September Streets and Walkways Sub Committee meeting, this would delay the installation of the taxi rank on Poultry and the efficiency of coinciding with the All Change at Bank construction work in this area would be lost.

ACTION TAKEN:

1. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the **Policy and Resources Committee** and **Resource Allocation Sub Committee**, agreed to allocate £650,000 from the On Street Parking Reserve (including £150,000 costed Risk Provision for Risk R21) as recommended by Corporate Priorities Board in July 2023, to fund the continuation of the traffic and timing mix review at Bank.
2. The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the **Streets and Walkways Sub Committee**,
 - a) Agreed the £650,000 additional budget for the use of the Traffic and Timing Review at Bank.
 - b) Noted the total revised project budget of 6,676,432 (excluding risk) increased by £500,000.

- c) Approved an additional Costed Risk Provision of £150,000 (to be drawn down via delegation to Chief Officer) specifically for the use of the Traffic and Timing Review.
- d) Noted that this would take the remaining available Costed Risk Provision for the entire project to £816,498.
- e) Approved the amended risk register in appendix 2 of the accompanying background report (inclusion of the £150k in R21).
- f) Agreed that the City can enter into a S278 Agreement relating to the delivery of a taxi rank on Poultry outside the Ned hotel (paragraph 7 in the accompanying background report).

Copies of background papers concerning these decisions are available from the Town Clerk on request.

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