

Implications

Corporate & Strategic implications

1. The preparation of the City Plan is informed by and will contribute to the implementation of the Corporate Plan (2018-23). The City Plan will support the delivery of key Corporate priorities, along with proposals to ensure a sufficient supply of business space and complementary uses to meet future needs. The City Plan has been discussed with colleagues developing the new Corporate Plan to ensure consistency wherever possible. Preparation of the revised City Plan is being undertaken alongside the review of the Transport Strategy and the revised end date of the City Plan (2040) will align with the key net zero target in the Climate Action Strategy.

Financial implications

2. The City Plan is a statutory function that the Corporation are required to deliver. While the costs of drafting and consulting on the City Plan up to Regulation 19 stage can be met from existing budgets for FY 2023/24, the cost of public examination are substantial, particularly related to the fees for Planning Inspectors, the costs of a programme officer to facilitate the examination, advice from Counsel on key issues, and potential need to undertake further evidence depending on the outcome of the regulation 19 consultation. These costs can vary substantially depending on the length of the public examination hearings and the complexity of issues raised during regulation 19 consultation.
3. The City Corporation holds a reserve of funds for the local plan; however, this will not cover the full costs and would not be replenished. Discussions with the Chamberlains' Department regarding the departmental budget for financial year 2024/25 are ongoing and there are no immediate unfunded financial barriers to continuing to regulation 19 consultation.

Staff Resource implications

4. Preparation of the revised pre-submission Regulation 19 City Plan is being carried out in-house by the Development Plans Team, working alongside and supported by Development and Design colleagues in the planning service and by other services as appropriate.

Legal implications

5. There are no specific legal requirements, other than the ongoing requirement to ensure that all relevant statutory processes are complied with during production of the City Plan.
6. Paragraph 48 of the NPPF states that local planning authorities may give weight to relevant policies in emerging plans according to:
 - a) the stage of preparation of the emerging plan (the more advanced its

- preparation the greater the weight that may be given);
- b) the extent to which there are unresolved objections to relevant policies (the less significant the unresolved objections, the greater the weight that may be given); and
- c) the degree of consistency of the relevant policies in the emerging plan to this Framework (the closer the policies in the emerging plan to the policies in the Framework, the greater the weight that may be given).
7. Once the Court of Common Council has approved the City Plan 2040 for Regulation 19 consultation it will be a material consideration to be taken into account in determining planning applications. The weight to be given to it will increase as the plan advances through the process in accordance with paragraph 48 of the NPPF.

Equalities implications

8. An Equality Impact Assessment of the City Plan 2040, including the latest amendments, have been undertaken and these demonstrate that the effects of the plan will be broadly positive. There are no major negative impacts as a result of the City Plan. Any material changes to the Plan following Regulation 19 consultation will be subject to further Equality Assessment. The Public Sector Equality Duty has informed the development of the Plan throughout its production. The EqlA is appendix 5 to this report.

Risk implications

9. The December 2021 report to the Grand Committee identified the risks associating with preparing a revised pre-submission Regulation 19 City Plan as compared to submitting the current version for examination. The Grand Committee agreed to revise the City Plan and officers will continue to monitor and report back on any changes to the risk assessment as the project progresses.

Climate implications

10. The City Plan is one of the key mechanisms for achieving the targets in the Climate Action Strategy that relate to the Square Mile rather than the City Corporation's own operations, in particular the net zero target for the Square Mile by 2040, and tackling climate resilience. Many policies in the Plan seek to address climate issues, particularly policies on sustainable development and the retention of existing buildings, including for offices.

Security implications

11. Policies in the City Plan seek to ensure the Square Mile remains resilient to security requirements, especially as new developments come forward in the City.