

Subject: Place Shaping Virements 2023/2024

To: Cllr Geoff Barraclough, Cabinet Member for Planning & Economic Development

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Date: 23rd October 2023

Overview

This note provides a recommendation of redistribution of budget between existing Place Shaping Capital Programmes following a review of current priorities due to the impact of Covid-19 and ambitions set on Fairer Westminster Strategy and Delivery Plan.

This includes (1) Thames Riverfront budget to be redistributed between Greening Westminster Programme, Paddington Place Plan and Pimlico Place Strategy and (2) The West End Partnership (WEP) budget to be redistributed to Harrow Road Place Plan, Strand Aldwych and Victoria Place Plan.

Budget

Overall, there is £3,266k of approved funding consisting of:

- £1,702k Thames Riverfront Capital Programme (WBS code C.WG13244)
- £1,564k WEP Programme Thames Riverfront Capital Programme (WBS code C.WG13231)

Recommended redistribution

The recommended budget redistribution totals £3,064k and is detailed in the table below.

Reference number	From			To		
	Scheme	WBS code	Amount (£000's)	Scheme	WBS code	Amount (£000's)
1	Thames Riverfront *	C.WG13244	1,500	Greening Westminster	C.WG12597	300
				Paddington Place plan	C.WG13230	1,000
				Pimlico Place strategy	C.WG13250	200
2	WEP Programme	C.WG13231	1,564	Harrow Road Place plan	C.WG13237	1,100
				Strand Aldwych	C.WG12467	214
				Victoria place Plan	C.WG13245	250
Total			3,064			3,064

* There will be £202k of remaining Thames Riverfront budget which will be retained to scope the future programme.

Impacts of redistribution

1. Thames Riverfront virement to Greening Westminster Programme (previously Open Spaces Greener Places - OSGP), Paddington Place Plan and Pimlico Place Strategy

Considering significant shifts in Council priorities due to the impacts of Covid-19 and further Fairer Westminster ambitions being set, the suggestion to reduce the existing £1,702k budget for Thames Riverfront and redistribute to three other programmes is to allow for better distribution of funds to deliver on priorities across other areas:

- £300k will be redistributed to Greening Westminster Programme, which would be able to better help community groups improve their local green spaces through more funding and project support (Fairer Westminster Delivery Plan – Environment).
- £1,000k will be redistributed to Paddington Place Plan, which would allow for starting the delivery of a priority project emerging from the Paddington Public Realm Strategy. This can contribute towards people having access to high-quality green spaces within a 15-minute distance from their home and also enable and encourage residents, workers and to travel through Westminster in more active and sustainable ways.
- £200k will be redistributed to Pimlico Place Strategy, which would contribute to the Place Shaping team's involvement in the scoping of this programme and allow for the commitment of testing the North Paddington place-based approach in Pimlico, making sure it is aligned with the wider Fairer Westminster ambitions.
- £202k to be retained for the Thames Riverfront budget, allowing for realignment of priorities and scoping of the programme in the next years.

2. West End Partnership Programme virement to Harrow Road, Strand Aldwych and Victoria place plan.

The work of the West End Partnership (WEP) has drawn to a close and as such the 23/24 Capital budget of £1,564k will no longer be required for its original purpose. Therefore, the team are recommending the redistribution of the funds to support three key priority projects. These are:

- £1,100k to Harrow Road Place Plan to aid the delivery of the Harrow Road Good Growth Projects; Maida Hill Market, Harrow Road Open Space and Westbourne Green Open Space (north).
- £250k to Victoria Place plan to support the on-site delivery of the Lillington and Longmoore community centre. The environmental performance of the building is being greatly improved as part of the scheme and this budget virement will contribute towards the upfront costs.
- £214k to Strand Aldwych to support the aims and outcomes of the Management model currently being planned and implemented with external partners.