

ANNEX FOUR: ELEMENTS OF THE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE GARDEN BRIDGE REFERRING TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL.

Members are reminded that these are the applicant's comments. The officers detailed assessment of these proposals is contained within the substantial Planning Committee Report which considered the matter in December 2014.

Para 8.1.4 of the Design Statement:

8.1.4 To ensure the achievement of inclusive design the following actions have been adopted as part of the project process:

- The design team has been made aware of inclusive design and understand the principles involved and has been working alongside the accessible environments and the Equality Impact Assessment teams throughout the design process;
- Access has been included at design team meetings reporting the reasoning behind any departures from adopted design guide/s and the rationale behind any alternative adopted solution or compromise, together with the authority or evidence that supports such an approach. Any such departure has been recorded in this section of the Design and Access Statement; and
- Consultation with relevant authorities has been conducted to ensure that inclusive design is integral to the design. This includes discussions with the TfL Equality and Inclusion Advisor to ensure that all accessibility issues known and specific to TfL are addressed. This involvement demonstrates an ongoing commitment and consideration of accessibility, and a reasoned approach to decisions on the design of the bridge

Consultation has also been conducted with the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) in relation to the visual and tactile language proposed for the Garden Bridge. This has been detailed within this section of the Design and Access Statement.

Para 6.2 of the health Impact Assessment: sets out key determinants of the health impact including Active Travel, access to space and nature, crime reduction and community safety, air quality and amenity, access to healthy food, access to work and training, minimising use of resources and mitigating climate change. It specifically addresses how the Bridge, through its design and use, can (or cannot) address these health issues.

The *Sustainability Assessment Introduction* sets out the benefits as:

- A new physical link between the north and south banks of the River Thames would provide opportunity to strengthen community connectivity within central London.

- The location would provide a valuable new pedestrian crossing over the River Thames, improve resident and visitor access between the river banks and attract visitors to the area.
- Provision of new open space on the bridge and landing areas would create a new amenity for social interaction.
- The design concept would link the bridge landscape with existing green areas, creating a unique cross-river green link and connect the green network north and south of the River Thames.
- A diverse planting scheme with a high proportion of native species.
- Promotion of walking and engagement with the outdoors would promote an associated increase in physical and psychological wellbeing.
- An inclusive and equitable design would accommodate users of all ages, abilities and cultures. Garden Bridge Trust
- Considered lighting design would minimise energy use and urban light pollution.
- Bridge materials have been selected to last the life of the bridge for minimal maintenance requirements.
- Use of an existing building on the north landing would minimise the development footprint.
- High-performing building design for the south landing area is tracking compliance with 'Very Good' performance set out in the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) assessment method.

This document also sets out how the Trust considers the application meets Westminster City council's specific planning requirements on sustainability.