



Castle Baynard

Fleet Street Quarter (FSQ) BID Proposal 2022 – 2027 Launches

(Graham Packham)



Preparatory work on the Fleet Street BID (Business Improvement District) proposal has been continuing during the pandemic, culminating in the recent announcement that a notice of a ballot on the proposal will be sent to local City businesses in early January 2022. The intention is that the ballot will open on January 18 and close on February 15, with the announcement of the outcome shortly after. Given the positive feedback on the BID proposals received from local stakeholders thus far, a positive outcome is expected and if this is the case the new BID will go live on April 1 2022.

The BID led by Alistair Subba Row (Chairman of the FSQ Partnership) will be funded by a levy on local businesses of which only the larger businesses (with a rateable value equal to or greater than £180,000) will be levy payers and voters, and the BID team will be liaising with each eligible business to identify the correct individual to vote on behalf of the business in the ballot.

This area of the City suffers from comparatively poor quality public realm, and following the pandemic declining hospitality leisure and retail. The recent move of major businesses away from Fleet Street (Freshfields to Bishopsgate, Goldman Sachs to Plumtree Court), causing redevelopment and refurbishment of the existing buildings, as well as the construction of the new Cyber Court and City of London Police HQ at Salisbury Court will depress economic activity and vibrancy in the short term but will be very positive ultimately.

Over the next 5 years, the Fleet Street Quarter will see transformational change. With its excellent location, its character, and ambitious development pipeline – the Fleet Street area really is a unique and exciting part of London.

The Quarter's location in the heart of London means it is easily accessible by public transport with Chancery Lane London Underground Station and City Thameslink Rail Station located within the area. The area is also facilitated by a number of other tube stations located within close proximity (St Paul's, Blackfriars and Temple) as well as a multitude of bus services. The new Elizabeth line is due to open during 2022 which will create a unique transport node for the Fleet Street Quarter BID, close by at Farringdon Station where Thames Link and the Elizabeth Line will cross.



The FSQ BID Boundary

The FSQ BID will join the already established City BIDs in Aldgate and Cheapside, and the proposed new BID for the Eastern City Cluster area. A partnership has also been established for the Culture Mile with the aim of working towards BID status in 2023. By April 2023, subject to BID proposals being progressed and successful ballot outcomes, there could be five BIDs operating across the Square Mile, generating an aggregate BID levy income of £6-7m per annum joining over 70 BIDs in London and 300 across the UK.

It is estimated that circa £12.5 million will be raised via the BID levy during the first term which will be invested in projects and services to market the area, invest in the physical environment to reduce traffic and improve greening creating a flourishing businesses district in which to work, live, visit and socialize.

The link: www.fleetstreetquarter.co.uk/bidproposal/ provides much more information on the BID Proposal and the following email address can be used if further queries need to be raised rachael.smith@fleetstreetquarter.co.uk



COVID-19 Booster and Flu Vaccines



The number of cases of COVID-19 in London is rising. But the COVID-19 booster programme can make a real difference. Boosters are available to those 50 years old or older, people who work in health or social care or younger people who have a long-term health condition. The jab boosts waning immunity for those most at risk over the winter period. More than eight million people in the UK have already received their COVID-19 booster vaccine. People will be invited by the NHS when it's their turn. If you have not been contacted within a week of reaching six months since your second vaccine you can call 119 or book online or visit various walk-in sites across London.

Flu is another virus that can be serious. To give people the best

protection over winter, those over 50 years old, and people who have a long-term health condition or are pregnant are eligible for a free flu vaccine and should book an appointment at either their GP practice or their local pharmacy.

The offer of a first and second COVID-19 vaccine remains open to anyone who is eligible, including children aged 12 to 15 years old.

Some of the new variants of concern spread more quickly. This means it is even more important to get both doses of the vaccine or just one dose for those aged between 12 and 17 years old.

www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations

Free cycle services on offer



The City of London Corporation is calling on residents and workers to take advantage of free cycle services as the Square Mile's buzz returns.

Throughout the pandemic, many people across England took to two wheels as the benefits of fresh air and sustainable travel became even more evident during the months of lockdown.

TfL revealed that cycling levels during the coronavirus pandemic were boosted from 21 per cent of Londoners in 2019/20 to 27 per cent in 2020/21.

Those who live, work or study in the City of London are eligible to receive free cycle training from expert instructors who will tailor the session to the rider's ability – from first-time riders to regular cyclists looking to improve confidence.

Since August last year, a total of 218 adult cycle skills sessions have been undertaken by Pedal Me and Cycle Confident in the City of London. In addition, two Square Mile schools have benefited from school cycle training sessions.

More on the Cycle Confident free training: cycleconfident.com/sponsors/city-of-london/; **the Pedal Me business cargo bike rider training:** pedalme.co.uk/training/

Meet your candidates

By the time you receive this newsletter the deadline for registering to vote in next year's City elections will almost be due – 16 December.

If you are registered you will be able to vote for the City's Common Councillors in March 2022. These elections are held by 'first past the post' and you will have the same number of votes as councillors you are electing, eg three votes in a three-member ward. If there is a vacancy for an Alderman in your ward next year, you will also have one vote in that election.

You will also be invited to attend your ward's Wardmote, a meeting similar to a hustings, the day before the election, 23 March 2022. This will give you the opportunity to meet your candidates and ask them questions. You will be able to vote in your allocated polling station on polling day, 24 March 2022. As with any other election, you can request a postal vote without needing a reason. If you think you might be away from the City or busy on Election Day, you might want to arrange a postal vote that goes to your home or work address. Postal votes are usually dispatched 10 working days before polling day.

Updated information on the wardmotes, their timing and location will appear on the website.

Invitations to the meetings will also be sent to all electors.

If you have any queries regarding the meeting in your Ward please contact the Electoral Services Office on 0800 587 5537, electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk or speakforthecity.com



WORK OR LIVE IN THE CITY?

REGISTER TO VOTE BY 16TH DECEMBER

www.speakforthecity.com

 **SPEAK FOR THE CITY**



The City of London Corporation has mounted a new campaign to support retail, leisure and hospitality businesses as well as cultural attractions by encouraging people back into the Square Mile for work and play.

The "Square Smile" campaign is designed to raise awareness of the benefits of returning to the City and face-to-face interaction as firms increasingly give their staff more flexibility on where they locate through hybrid working. It showcases the City's vibrant offer – ranging from world-class culture, heritage, cuisine, entertainment, retail, architecture and much more.

The campaign – which runs until the beginning of 2022 – targets hybrid workers as well as those who have fully returned to their workplace. The campaign seeks to remind them of all the things they missed during the pandemic, including socialising and enjoying the City's culture and entertainment. Whether it be collaborating with teammates, going for a spontaneous lunch or having the opportunity to go for after work drinks, the City can help to bring people together.

cityoflondon.gov.uk/squaresmile

ASK FOR ANGELA

By telling customers that they can 'Ask for Angela' we're giving them a discreet code word that they can give to staff if they feel unsafe or threatened.

The City of London Police, City of London Corporation and Metropolitan Police Service are working in partnership with Safer Sounds, who are part of the Safer Business Network, and licensed venues to help keep people safe while in the City of London.

The 'Ask for Angela' initiative is being rolled out to bars, clubs and other licensed businesses across the whole of London, including in the City of London. The scheme aims to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability by providing customers with a phrase they can use to get the attention of staff if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Staff can help by reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

The City of London Police, City of London Corporation and Metropolitan Police Service are working in partnership with Safer Sounds, who are part of the Safer Business Network, and licensed venues to help keep people safe while in the City of London.

Many of the City's bars, clubs and other licensed businesses are getting busier and will continue to do so in the lead up to Christmas. For many people, this could be the first time they have been to a licensed premises during the festive period in two years, due to the pandemic.



Castle Baynard

Who We Are



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Check out our website for other news of the ward
www.castle-baynard.org.uk

CONTACT US

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, only want to receive an email notification to download it or are receiving more than one copy per household then please send your details and the name of your ward newsletter to wardnewsletters@cityoflondon.gov.uk and we will amend our database.



We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

The City at COP26 (Catherine McGuinness)

All eyes turned to Glasgow for the first two weeks of November, for the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP). Successfully replacing the use of fossil fuels with low/zero carbon alternatives is arguably the pre-eminent challenge that mankind faces today. Success cannot be accomplished by national government decree alone and the private sector will be key to achieving a successful outcome.

A less publicized but critical stream at COP was the 2021 Green Horizon Summit, co-hosted by the City of London Corporation and the Green Finance Institute and with the backing of 25 partners at a hybrid conference. This focused on how we can mobilise private capital to support the transition to net zero world wide.

Through five days, speakers and attendees discussed four big challenges we face across finance:

- How can we finance transition and ensure that capital generates beneficial economic and job growth?
- How can we build a global playbook that includes risk management, market frameworks, and regulatory standards?
- How can we price carbon and nature to move towards a meaningful carbon price globally?
- How can we mobilise investment into emerging and developing economies?

The final agreement between governments may have taken time to hammer out, but there was clear momentum and



Policy Chair Catherine McGuinness addressing Delegates at COP26

optimism from the financial sector, and consensus on the need to mobilise private finance towards the transition.

The following quotation from the Daily Telegraph on November 16th said "What Glasgow has done – and perhaps only a COP linked to the City of London could have done – was to start sorting out the plumbing of global climate finance."

The City of London Corporation will continue to focus on this going forward, encouraging the sector to turn the promises made into delivery. **For more details on the conference and to see highlights search "GHS@COP26"**.