

The Policy Chair has outlined three key objectives to be delivered during his time in post:

- **Destination City** – to establish a new vision for the City as a leading location for visitors, workers, and residents.
- **Green City** – to be proactive in leading the way, building on our climate work in an innovative, inclusive and investment-driven way.
- **Tech City** – to ensure we remain fiercely competitive in the marketplace of financial, insurance and professional services.

I want to say a little more about these themes, and how the strategies and projects that are being developed by the Planning and Transportation Committee are key to delivering these objectives.

Firstly Destination City.

There's a common preconception that Destination City is purely an events programme – it's much more than that.

Destination City is a cross-cutting strategy, funded with £2.5m of annual investment, that is aimed at bringing about an enduring transformation of the Square Mile so that it becomes a leading destination for UK and international visitors, our residents, and the people who work in the City.

'Curation' is a key word for the programme. It isn't simply a matter of the Corporation putting on events – though there will be some fantastic 'tent pole' occasions coming up this year.

More than this, Destination City is about working collaboratively with BIDs, landlords, developers and other stakeholders to activate our spaces, reinvigorate our ground floor economy, diversify our everyday offer, and bring new, exciting and innovative experiences to the City.

Good planning and transportation work sits at the heart of this. Just last week, the P&T committee approved an application that will see the Migration Museum move to the City, in brand new state of the art premises over three

floors as part of a wider scheme at 65 Crutched Friars, with the developer Dominus providing the space rent free for 60 years.

We need to see more of this, so I have asked the team to ensure our new City Plan includes policies that require substantial new development to make a contribution to the life of the City – whether that’s through creating new cultural attractions, public roof gardens, viewing galleries, revitalising markets, communal dining halls, open spaces or other facilities that will help transform the Square Mile into an amazing destination for everyone.

Our transport strategy is also key to delivering Destination City. We know that our public realm needs to work harder – becoming spaces where people want to spend time, where everyone can easily get around, and where people can feel safe, breathe clean air, and be comfortable as our climate changes.

Right now, we’re making significant changes at Bank junction, as well as pressing forward with our pedestrian priority programme.

Alongside this, we’re renewing our Transport Strategy and developing Healthy Streets plans for key parts of the City such as Fleet Street – all of which will help deliver the ongoing transformation of the streets of the Square Mile into a great public realm.

Green City

Our climate is rapidly changing, and we need to act now and work together to deliver a sustainable city.

The built environment makes a substantial contribution to carbon emissions – both through the operational energy that’s used to heat, cool & power our buildings and through the embodied carbon that’s created by construction.

As you will all know, occupiers want to see the very best in class from commercial floorspace – and this includes high performance in terms of sustainability.

And we have particular challenges in the City, with predominantly commercial uses, many high rise structures, as well as an enormous range and number of historic buildings.

So how are we tackling this challenge?

I've asked officers to ensure the new City Plan prioritises the retrofit of existing buildings, where this will lead to the best outcomes for sustainability and the other objectives of the Plan. And we want new buildings and major extensions to be meeting the highest standards of sustainability – both in terms of their embodied carbon and their operational emissions.

The CPA's 'Retrofit First, Not Retrofit Only' report helpfully explores these issues, and I would encourage everyone – both policy makers and property owners – to look closely at its recommendations.

Alongside the work in the City Plan, we've also developed our Whole Lifecycle Carbon Optioneering Planning Advice Note, which sets out the methodology we expect developers to undertake when calculating emissions to inform the different options for a proposed development.

And we are developing new planning guidance on all aspects of sustainable development, from urban greening and water use to biodiversity and circular design.

We also have a wider range of Square Mile workstreams stemming from our Climate Action Strategy, including the development of a Local Area Energy Plan, a historic buildings climate challenge, and exemplar refurbishment guidance.

We are also reviewing the programme currently, and you can expect to see an increased emphasis on partnership working as we take it forward; if we are to deliver net zero by 2040 in the Square Mile we need all partners to be working together to achieve our shared goals.

One way partners can help is through signing up to our Considerate Lighting Charter – which received a lot of coverage recently, including a front page story in the FT.

This Charter forms part of the Lighting SPD, which sets out standards we want new development to meet in order to minimise the light that spills out from

buildings and create public spaces that are attractive and – crucially – safe for everyone after dark, particularly women and girls.

The Corporation has already done a lot of work as a result of our lighting strategy – and we want new development and existing building occupiers to play their part.

Finally, Tech City.

Tech and digital are the forefront of how London's global economy will continue to compete. London has led the way in fintech, building on our success as a global financial centre – but tech and digital cuts across a vast array of sectors, from insurance and professional services to planning and development.

We know that London's prestigious universities are key to delivering research and innovation in tech, digital, creative and other sectors – and that's why I've asked the team to ensure we are encouraging the development of new higher education and research uses in the new City Plan, where these would support our economic success.

We are also developing a new infrastructure plan, which amongst other things will help to roll out superfast broadband and comprehensive 5G coverage to the City – something that is crucial if we are to remain competitive as a destination for all businesses, particularly the tech and digital sectors.

Alongside the rise of tech, there remains substantial demand for highly performing new offices in the City, in order to support our growing workforce. While we don't yet know exactly how working patterns will settle, we need to plan now to ensure we have enough space for the workforce of the future. That's why we've recently appointed Arup to undertake research into the future of London offices, which will in turn inform the strategy we set out in our new City Plan.

Wrapping up

With the City Plan, the Transport Strategy, our climate action work and any number of other policy documents in development, you can see that I'm

ambitious about making sure our City not only tackles the challenges we face but continues to go from strength to strength.

But we cannot achieve this alone – the development sector has shown enormous energy and innovation. I would like to thank those of you that are committing to net zero developments, pushing the forefront of circular design and retrofit, contributing to the cultural life of the City, delivering new public realm and roof gardens, and working with us to make our streets safer and more walkable.

But there is always more to be done – and I hope you will all continue to work closely with us to deliver our vision for the Square Mile – a greener, tech-driven city that's a destination for everyone.