

Committee: Finance Committee	Date: 22 nd May 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken – Decisions taken under Urgency procedures since the last meeting of the Committee	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Julie Mayer, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of an urgent decision taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, since the last meeting of the Committee, in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a)

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

SUBJECT: Taxicard and Coronavirus / Covid-19

Background:

This urgent decision was taken in respect of a report from London Councils, seeking agreement from participating authorities to authorise a temporary change to the Taxicard Travel Scheme. This would allow vulnerable members of the scheme to use the subsidy to get drivers to pick up and deliver essential supplies, or allow friends and family to travel with the card to do so on their behalf, until 30th August 2020. All scheme members have a qualifying disability and it is likely that many have been required to self-isolate. The Director of Community and Children's Services was consulted on the proposals and content with the recommendations.

Reason for urgency:

The proposed temporary amendment was developed in consultation with the London (Resilience) Strategic Co-ordination Group and Local Authority 'Gold' Group. As part of its initial response to the COVID-19 emergency measures, City of London Corporation Committee meetings were cancelled during April. The decision was presented for consideration under urgency provisions, as there was a need to act swiftly in order to assist our most vulnerable Taxi-card members.

Financial and legal implications

The scheme will be funded from the contribution received from Transport for London, however, participating authorities will be required to fund the cost of the administration of the scheme. London Councils confirmed that robust monitoring arrangements will be put in place, so that if the volume of Taxicard trips accelerate to the extent that participating authorities may need to make additional financial contributions, members would be alerted at the earliest opportunity.

The consent of each participating authority was required, in accordance with their own constitutions and governance frameworks. London Councils considered that such a variation was permissible, both within the current terms of the contract and line with recent

Cabinet Office guidelines. The City of London Corporation's City Solicitor was consulted on the report and content with the proposals.

Action Taken:

- a. To Amend the Taxicard scheme as it operates, within the City of London Corporation's Taxicard service, for the collection of groceries and medicines by a driver or a person, nominated by the Taxicard member, without travelling themselves, for a temporary period until the 30th August 2020 (being an initial period of approximately 24 weeks, subject to review); and
- b. implement the above resolution by completing and returning the notice provided at Appendix 1 to the report, for the amendments to formally take effect and thereby permit London Councils, under its existing delegations, to implement the changes to the service with Taxicard service providers.

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