

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Planning & Transportation	13/06/2017
<b>Subject:</b> International Comparative Study – Member Site Visit Approval	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of the Built Environment	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Iain Simmons, Department of the Built Environment	

### Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline the travel arrangements associated with a programme of International Comparative Study overseas site visits. These visits are part of the programme of congestion related works agreed at Planning and Transportation Committee on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Three cities will be recommended for City officers to visit. The cities will be chosen based on their best practice schemes/projects, associated with managing freight and congestion, and the visits will involve viewing the operation of the schemes, their impact, and meeting with those directly involved in the project for further insight.

The process of delivering ambitious and successful best practice schemes typically involves addressing a variety of obstacles such as technical and financial matters. However, understanding the political challenges and impacts is also essential. As such, alongside technical and senior City officers attending the site visits, it is considered that the attendance of the Planning & Transportation Committee Chairman (or delegated Member) would be beneficial to both the committee and the study.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Agree to Member travel associated with the International Comparative Study Site Visits

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The commission of an International Comparative Study by external transport consultants was agreed as a result of the Traffic in the City report (at Planning & Transportation Committee 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016). This study would consist of identifying best in class examples of managing both freight and congestion in City Centre locations worldwide. It is proposed these visits are used to inform a

comprehensive technical audit of the Corporation's work and programmes to ensure that we are doing all that we reasonably can to improve traffic movement in the City.. A key component of the commission was to arrange several site visits for City officers to International Cities that have delivered/are delivering best practice schemes in order to view their operation, impact, and meet with those directly involved in the project for further insight.

2. It is considered that these visits will provide valuable technical information for officers and also provide an opportunity to understand the local and wider political impacts of actions taken by host cities.
3. In March 2017, consultants WSP/Mouchel were appointed to undertake this study and the project has now begun.

### **Current Position**

4. From initial research undertaken, three cities are proposed to be visited; Paris, Stockholm and New York. However, this is subject to change as the consultants are currently undertaking a full desk-based research of best practice of numerous cities across the world that will assess and identify the most appropriate Cities to visit based on set criteria. It is envisaged that the location of these cities will remain as two cities within Europe and one further afield.
5. The site visits will involve visiting the project/scheme on the ground, and meeting with those involved in the project. This is expected to include officers/politicians from the local authority, the project managers and/or stakeholders.
6. The delivery of best practice schemes that are ambitious, successful and make an impact typically involve overcoming a variety of obstacles such as technical, financial and political/governance approval and support. As such, alongside technical and chief City officers attending the site visits, it is considered that the attendance of a Planning & Transportation Committee Member would be beneficial to both the committee and the study.
7. In accordance with the City of London Business Travel Scheme, Member travel requires approval from the spending committee.

### **Proposals**

8. It is proposed that the Planning & Transportation Committee Chairman (or his delegated Member representative) will accompany City officers on the International Comparative Study site visits, in accordance with the City of London Corporation Business Travel Scheme.
9. The site visits are categorised as Category 2 business travel, as travel is a result of a fact finding best practice exercise.
10. The composition of the party will be 2-3 City officers, including at least one officer at Grade I and above, the Chairman (or delegated Member) of the Planning & Transportation Committee, and members of the consultant project team.

11. Travel arrangements will be organised by the consultants, with officer and Member attendance funded by the City of London Corporation.
12. The estimated cost of Member travel and accommodation for each European site visit is £650, whilst the further afield site visit is estimated at £2,500.
13. Due to the August holiday shut down in the majority of European cities, the two European site visits will be undertaken in the months of June and July. There is more flexibility for the further afield site visit and will be undertaken between June and August.
14. The specific dates of the site visits will be determined by the availability of the hosts of the visiting City. If the Chairman is unable to attend, it is proposed that the Chairman delegates the place to another Member.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

15. No Implications

### **Implications**

16. No Implications

### **Health Implications**

17. No Implications

### **Appendices**

- None

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