

<b>Committee(s)</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Port Health & Environmental Services – For decision	16 January 2018
<b>Subject:</b> United for Wildlife	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Markets & Consumer Protection	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Rob Quest, Assistant Director, Animal Health	

### Summary

This report presents a recommendation for the City of London Corporation to sign up to the Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce.

The United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce was launched in December 2014 and was established to facilitate the transport sector examining its role in the illegal wildlife trade, with the aim of subsequently identifying means by which the sector can break these trade chains. The signatories sign up to eleven commitments, not all of which are relevant to each organisation. However, the City of London Corporation's Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, through its Animal Health and Port Health functions, already fulfils the commitments that are relevant to their services, so there are no further implications.

### Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- sign up to the Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce on behalf of the City of London Corporation.

### Main Report

#### Background

1. The Royal Foundation of The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Prince Harry, created United For Wildlife in February 2014. Led by The Duke of Cambridge, the campaign unites the world's leading wildlife charities under a common purpose: to create a global movement for change.
2. The Royal Foundation United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce was set up in December 2104 to engage the whole supply chain used by the illegal wildlife trade uses to move their illicit goods from source to destination.
3. The Taskforce enables United for Wildlife to work with the transport industry to identify any role it plays in illegal wildlife trade and looks at the ways that the

sector can break the chain between suppliers and consumers. Key participants in this initiative are airlines and shipping lines, as well as the shipping agents and clearing agents that service them.

4. The Royal Foundation are asking organisations to sign a declaration to become members of the United for Wildlife Taskforce, recognising the devastating impact of illegal wildlife trade and agreeing to eleven commitments (not all are relevant to every organisation) to tackle the issue. Details can be found in the Buckingham Palace Declaration at Appendix A.
5. The sector includes government and involves the regulatory agencies such as Border Force and City of London Corporation at Heathrow Airport, City Airport and at London Gateway and Tilbury Ports. As an organisation with an excellent reputation for already working alongside Border Force in tackling wildlife crime, with a considerable number of successes over the years, the City Corporation has been invited to become a signatory to the United for Wildlife Transport Task Force.
6. Signatories already in place include many of the world's major airlines, airports, shipping companies and government departments, such as Maersk, Heathrow Airport Limited, DP World, UK Border Force and the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Appendix B).
7. Many of the signatories are already important stakeholders for either Port Health or Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC). There will be therefore be opportunities for improved networking within the international transport sector.
8. Tackling Illegal Wildlife Trade has a high profile not just within the UK but also internationally. In October 2018, London is set to host global leaders for a conference on the illegal wildlife trade. This event will receive worldwide coverage in the media.
9. Any future seizures of animals at HARC or other points of entry concerning illegal wildlife trade will receive extra publicity through the Taskforce, and becoming a signatory would enhance the City Corporation's reputation in this area.
10. The aims of the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce fit with the interests and role of Port Health & Animal Health, and will provide further opportunities and exposure for apprentices.

## **Proposals**

11. It is proposed that the City Corporation signs up to the Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce.

## **Corporate and Strategic Implications**

12. Signing up to this initiative fulfils the departmental business plan ambitions to meet the current and future needs of stakeholders through proper enforcement of relevant regulations. It also sits within key policy 5 of the Corporate Plan by 'engaging directly with organisations to encourage, influence, advise, support, celebrate and replicate responsible practices'.

### **Implications**

13. There will be little requirement for extra resources as this is work in which the Service is already engaged, and therefore the relevant commitments are fulfilled. However, it raises the City Corporations profile within the sector and in the public arena.

14. Should your Committee agree to the proposal, the Chairman will be invited to attend a 'signing' event, most likely at Clarence House, during 2018.

### **Conclusion**

15. The Royal Foundation United For Wildlife Transport Taskforce has an internationally high profile, especially within the transport sector, and also has strong UK government support. It fits well with the Port Health and Animal Health roles and functions, so there is potential for extra publicity and enhancing the reputation of the City Corporation over this issue.

### **Appendices**

- A. United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce Declaration
- B. United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce Signatories

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