

<b>Committee(s)</b> Policy & Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 16/12/2021
<b>Subject:</b> Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers.	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	See Background Report
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	See Background Report
<b>If so, how much?</b>	See Background Report
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	See Background Report
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	See Background Report
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Chris Rumbles, Town Clerk's Department	

### Summary

This report advises Members of actions taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b) since the last meeting.

### Recommendation

That Members note the actions taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

### Main Report

1. Since the last meeting of the Committee, approval has been given under urgency procedures or delegated authority arrangements, pursuant to Standing Order No. 41, as follows: -

### Urgent Action: Markets Co-location Programme – Private Bill

**Background:** In March 2018, the Court of Common Council considered the outcomes of a review of the City's current wholesale food markets, and it was agreed that in order for the markets to remain fit for purpose they needed to be relocated. A single-site solution was subsequently approved, and a decision was taken to co-locate the markets on the former site of the Barking Reach Power Station in Dagenham. It was also agreed that a Private Bill should be submitted to Parliament to effect the change.

Whilst a target date was originally set for the submission of the Bill for November 2020, for various reasons it had to be deferred, the latest deferral date being November 2021. In the lead up to the latest date, the City Corporation's commitment to food wholesale markets has been revisited, including the possibility of refurbishing the existing buildings to prolong their life at the existing sites. Work has also been actively progressed to resolve other complex issues which have prevented the submission of a Bill within the previous time frame.

At its meeting in October 2021 the Court agreed to to submit a Private Bill to relocate the two markets most in need of better accommodation i.e., Smithfield and Billingsgate. The intention being to submit a further private bill to relocate New Spitalfields to Dagenham at a later date. However, if an agreement could not be reached with Smithfield, then it was agreed that a Private Bill should be pursued for Billingsgate only.

Subsequent discussions resulted in the progression of a Bill for Billingsgate only. Following last minute discussions about the terms of the support from Billingsgate traders, it was subsequently proposed that this Bill submission should also be delayed and that in the meantime work should continue with the traders towards a submission next year and that the already agreed repairs to the market be carried out in the shorter term.

A decision not to pursue a Private Bill for Billingsgate Fish Market in November 2021 needed to be taken urgently as the deadline for submitting a Bill such as this falls on one day each year.

An urgent decision was therefore sought and granted by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee that:

- The Private Bill necessary to move Billingsgate Market to Dagenham Dock no longer be pursued in November 2021.
2. In accordance with Standing Order 41 (a) and 41 (b), Members are asked to note the recent decision taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman.
  3. Copies of background papers concerning these decisions are available from Chris Rumbles on request.

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