

Committee:	Date: 17 May 2022
Planning and Transportation	
Subject: City of London Access Group (CoLAG) Briefing Note	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	3, 5, 10
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Planning and Development Director	For Information
Report author: Jessica Robinson, Lydia Morley.	

Summary

Members of the Planning and Transportation Committee requested a briefing note on the remit and organisation of the City of London Access Group (CoLAG). This paper sets out the membership, constitution and remit of CoLAG and confirms that a review into the remit, structure and terms of reference of CoLAG is currently at an early stage.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note this report.

Background

The City of London Access Group (CoLAG) is made up of volunteers who live, work or regularly visit the City, and are disabled or have an interest in access issues around the City. CoLAG was established in 1988 and the format of the group has not changed for at least 10 years.

The aims of CoLAG as outlined in the Constitution are:

- a. to provide an active focus in the City of London for matters relating to accessibility;
- b. to work with statutory authorities and others to achieve an accessible environment for the whole community and particularly for disabled people;
- c. to raise public and professional awareness of the difficulties caused by inaccessible buildings and facilities.

The group meets every two months and has speakers at every meeting who consult with the group on major transportation, public realm and planning schemes. Additional focus group

meetings can also be held for complex projects. Members can provide lived experience and/or professional advice which informs project teams on matters of designing for inclusive access. Previous consultations include;

- Bank on Safety and All Change at Bank
- City of London Transport Strategy
- City of London Street Accessibility Tool
- London Wall Car Park Amazon Logistics Hub
- St. Paul's Cathedral
- The London Custom House redevelopment
- Salisbury Square Development
- Asphalt Art (Colourful Crossings)

There are currently around 20 members and meeting attendance is typically 10 members. The meetings used to be held in the Guildhall but they have been held on Microsoft Teams since 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A Chair is elected by members at the AGM. The current Chair is Amanda Jacobs, and the Vice Chair position is vacant. A nominee is nominated and seconded by fellow members (with the consent of the nominee) and the vote requires a quorate of 6 and is decided by a majority of votes. The Chair and Vice Chair can currently serve for up to three consecutive years.

The Chair is invited to attend the St. Paul's Accessibility Advisory Group and there is a reciprocal invitation for a St. Paul's Cathedral representative to attend CoLAG meetings. A member of CoLAG, typically the Chair, also helps to judge the Considerate Contractors Scheme Access Award.

A review of the remit, structure and terms of reference of CoLAG is currently at an early stage. This will undertake a root and branch review and reflect the current requirements of the Corporation and CoLAG.