

Committee: Markets Committee	Date: 25 May 2022
Subject: Report of Action Taken Between Meetings	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	<i>As set out in the full reports presented for approval under urgency or delegated authority</i>
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	
If so, how much?	
What is the source of Funding?	
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Gemma Stokley, Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk since the last meeting of the Markets Committee, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, and in accordance with Standing Order No. 41.

Recommendation – Members are asked to note the report.

NEW SPITALFIELDS MARKET – SALE OF GENERATORS

In March 2009, three generator sets and fuel tanks were installed at New Spitalfields Markets, to provide a localised emergency power supply, funded in its entirety from the Old Spitalfields Market Maintenance Fund. Since their purchase, there has only been once instance in which the generators have been used to supply power during a major disruption, in December 2009. Since 2009, a specialist contractor has been engaged to provide all maintenance and servicing and this has increased in cost, year-on-year, as the assets have aged. The annual spend for 2021/22 for planned and reactive maintenance totalled £5,193.

The generators are diesel operated and currently hold 40,000 litres of rebated fuel (red diesel). From the 1st of April 2022, new Government legislation will prohibit the use of rebated fuels in all but a few industries (of which New Spitalfields Market is not included). This means that fuel currently stored must be removed from the tanks and replaced with a standard diesel or compatible biofuel. Based on current fuel prices, it

is estimated that the sale of the rebated fuel would achieve £4,800 and the cost of replacement fuel would be £60,392.

Due to the high cost of refuelling the tanks with alternative fuel, the increasing costs of maintaining the generators, and the need to use the generators only once since 2009, officers investigated the possibility of alternative methods of ensuring potential power failures are mitigated in the quickest possible time, and at the best price, which adds value to the services and minimises costs for the tenants. Briefly, this comprised the sale of the three generators and fuel tanks, plus the rebated fuel, with Disaster Recovery Plans to be produced in place of the generators (which would see the equipment brought in on a hire basis, if and when required).

Action taken: The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, agreed:-

- To sell the three generators and fuel tanks for the best obtained offer of £64,000, plus sell the rebated fuel contained within the tanks for an estimated conservative value of £4,800 (total receipts £68,800).
- That the proceeds of the sale be returned to the Old Spitalfields Market Maintenance Fund, to be used to fund future projects at New Spitalfields Market.
- To eliminate any operational risk in the unlikely event of a power failure, an annual Disaster Recovery Plan be required for each of the existing generator locations with MEMS Power Generation at a cost of £4,485 for the first year (to include the bespoke creation of each plan) followed by an annual membership fee of £1,785. In the event of a major power failure, generators and all associated equipment would be brought to site on a hire basis (with the estimated cost for 1 week's hire being £5,580).

Reason for urgency: The Markets Committee was not scheduled to meet again until 25th May 2022 and the changes to fuel legislation were due to take effect from 1st April 2022. After this date, if the generators and fuel tanks had not been sold, as agreed above, there would have been significant costs.

CONCESSIONARY PARKING DURING THE EASTER PERIOD 2022

On 1st February 2022, the Smithfield Market Tenants' Association (SMTA) submitted a request to the Superintendent for a period of free parking for all workers and customers, for 4 nights, from 9pm from Sunday 10th April until 10am Thursday 14th April 2022. The concession would be offered to vehicles between the hours of 9pm and 10am. Any vehicles parking outside of these hours would have been deemed as being unrelated to Market operations, and so charged the current normal hourly rate of £4.20 per hour, or part thereof, for the full duration of their stay. The concession sought to help alleviate traffic congestion around the Market buildings, and to encourage customers to shop at the Market.

Action taken: The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, agreed a concessionary period such that the current tariff for the Rotunda Car Park be reduced to free for one night (Wednesday 13th April into Thursday 14th April) for all workers and customers arriving after 9pm and leaving before 10am the following day. *NB. A similar one night car parking concession was granted for Easter 2021.*

Reason for urgency: The request was submitted after the January Committee meeting and the next meeting of the Committee was not scheduled until 25th May 2022.

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