

Committee(s):		Date(s):
Markets Board	For information	25 May 2022
Subject:		Public
General Manager (GM) Updates		

Briefing Note

Smithfield

1. Following the Target Operating Model (TOM) sign-off a number of roles across the Markets are now being recruited to. With my specific responsibility for Maintenance and Facilities Management across the sites, the roles being recruited to are: Billingsgate – Maintenance Manager and 2No general maintenance operatives. New Spitalfields – electrician and one general maintenance operative. Smithfield – 2No electricians.

2. Additional roles required at Smithfield across the remaining two lead categories of Security and Finance/Administration are two administration officers, an administration apprentice, a security manager and a constable. It is anticipated that all roles will be advertised in the coming weeks to bring the Markets up to full complement and to deliver services to the required standards.

3. Following recent ratification of the Poultry Market vacation by August 2023, work has now started to re-locate CoL facilities out of the Market to alternative locations on site. In particular, the Animal Bi-products facility, a range of offices, welfare facilities, stores and workshops will all have to move. The project will be challenging as Smithfield is space restricted and so proper due diligence and assessment of the Markets needs will be paramount to ensure the operation is not affected and meets the 'Grampian' conditions set by the planning department in the early stages of the consents granted so far. The Market is also likely to have to move to a daily waste collection operation as the current facility in the north covered way will be lost to the Museum. This will be extremely challenging due to the volume and types of waste generated. Regular consultation will also need to take place with the SMTA and the Food Standards Agency as the vacation and re-provision project gathers pace. There will be fortnightly project meeting with myself, local team and Museum project officers to manage the Market needs and redevelopment of the site as works progress.

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Billingsgate Market

4. The Government proposes to introduce new Protect Duty legislation. As part of our preparations for this, working closely with Guildhall security, the Market Security Managers and I have attended seminars regarding the introduction of this legislation and ensuring that we are compliant with it.
5. The Billingsgate Action Plan continues to progress and the installation of the new CCTV system has received authority to start work with the winning supplier attending site to prepare for installation. The system will be up and running by the end of the summer. Tenants have engaged with us on various designs for a new fish handling unit but a preferred facility is yet to be determined.
6. Billingsgate has facilitated an outbound logistics trial in conjunction with Ford and DHL. This was also on the Billingsgate Action Plan, originally earmarked for 2023. Tenants have benefitted from this free trial and have provided smaller deliveries for their customers across London which DHL have then delivered on their behalf. Tenant feedback has been positive but further work is being considered to make the service commercially sustainable.
7. I have attended the NABMA wholesale forum to share experiences and ideas with other wholesale market managers and operators.

Billingsgate Market:

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New Spitalfields

8. Wholesale Markets Forum Meeting

New Spitalfields Market hosted the Wholesale Forum Meeting on Friday 29th April. The meeting was attended by Wholesale Market professionals from around the country, and representatives from NABMA and the Fresh Produce Consortium. Marking the first face to face meeting in almost 3 years, the visit began with a site tour observing market operations, chatting to tenants and, a briefing from our cleansing and waste management contractor – Countrystyle. The day featured trade updates from Nigel Jenny, Chief Executive, Fresh Produce Consortium and NABMA and WUMM updates from David Preston, Chief Executive, NABMA. We completed the day with a round table discussion about the current successes and challenges affecting each of the Wholesale Markets. We received excellent feedback and it is understood that the day was beneficial to all involved, with a keen interest in the Markets Co-location Programme. Further forum meetings are to be scheduled at other members markets in the near future.

9. Ashford Port Health Site Tour

On Wednesday 20th April a group of Birmingham University students and Employees from the Border Force team at Ashford Port Health, attended site at 00:30hrs for a tour aimed at meeting the educational requirements of the students. The visit began with a site induction, refreshments and Q&A session followed by a 90-minute tour of the stands and waste compound. The students were able to locate specific produce and held many detailed discussions with traders about the origins and availability of produce. The tour was enjoyed by all attended and the team were praised for hosting such a valuable visit.

10. Air Quality

Working in partnership with one of our ancillary tenants who provides on-site fuel to traders and customers, we held a number of meetings with the Air Quality team and representatives from Crown Fuels to look at the options for providing biofuel for use in forklift trucks and other mechanical equipment with an aim to improving the Air Quality within the Market Pavilion.

There was a change in Government legislation that prohibited the use of Red Diesel on 1st April 2022, which gave us as an opportunity to introduce a new site rule. From 1st June 2022 tenants are permitted to use biofuel only when operating within the Market Pavilion. At present there are air quality monitoring units throughout the site with samples being sent for monthly evaluation. The goal of this new site initiative is that we shall see a marked improvement in the air quality results by the end of 2022.

New Spitalfields Market:

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