

GENERAL MANAGER UPDATES

NEW SPITALFIELDS

As is typical of this time of year, it has been a very quiet period. Recruitment has remained a key focus in order to get the Market back to a full complement of staff. Any other information worth noting is covered in other reports in this meeting.

SMITHFIELD

On the 4th July there was a serious fork lift truck accident at Smithfield in the south covered way of the Poultry Market involving two Market workers from the same company. This has resulted in life changing injuries for one of the employees (IP) concerned. The Market transport risk has been updated to reflect.

The City of London police and London Ambulance Service attended the scene and the IP was taken to hospital. The police seized the fork-lift truck for tests (this has since been returned as being compliant) and undertook a formal investigation of the incident before passing the case to the HSE. The employer notified the HSE immediately after the accident and have provided to CoL satisfactory training records for the driver. The driver is suspended from using a fork-lift or pumper truck for 12 months and could be subject to further disciplinary procedures, pending the outcome of the police report and any charges they may bring.

The HSE visited site on the 3rd August and served an improvement notice on the common user areas where the accident occurred to CoL on the 23rd August. Immediately following the incident, officers from the department, corporate health and safety and the City's Environmental Health team have met on site and have provided guidance regarding governance. Following the visit of the HSE, the Director of Markets visited site on the 8th August, an action plan was drafted with assigned owners and timescales for delivery. The focus of actions centre around product delivery, the movement of fork-lift and pumper trucks, types of vehicle movements and segregation of pedestrians as much as reasonably practicable, traffic routes, signage, storage and movement of product, enhanced written systems of work and site rules. Actions have been prioritised with owners to ensure they are focused and completed as soon as possible and no later than the compliance deadline set by the HSE of 15th November 2022.

A working group with representatives from all three Markets, Corporate teams and the tenant association convenes every two weeks to oversee and input to the action plan, and officers meet weekly to review all action tasks and progress against that plan. Learning from the incident and improvements identified are shared with New Spitalfields and Billingsgate to ensure a consistent standard is delivered across the estate.

Members will be updated as the processes and works are implemented to completion.

