

Report – Port Health and Environmental Services Committee

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Heathrow Animal Reception Centre – Forward Plan

To be presented on Thursday, 25th May 2023

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY OF ACTION TAKEN

1. In January 2023, the Court of Common Council agreed to make Byelaws setting a 3% increase in fees for the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC) for the financial year 2023/24. This increase was intended to offset additional energy costs and other risks, whilst attempting to remain competitive for HARC'S commercial customers.
2. Since that decision was made, the commercial environment in which HARC operates has continued to become increasingly competitive. Your Port Health and Environmental Services Committee received a report at its meeting on 28 March outlining the commercial situation for HARC and presenting the Committee with options on promoting the HARC services to allow it to compete. These options included a recommendation to change the fees and charges for 2023/24 that had recently been agreed by the Court, so that they reverted to the previous fees and charges agreed for 2022/23 and removed the processing fees. This recommendation was supported by the Committee.
3. The revised fees and charges required new Byelaws to be made by the Court, and for the Comptroller and City Solicitor to be instructed to not seal the previously agreed byelaws.
4. As the new Byelaws would need to be made and sealed by 1 April, and with the Court not due to meet again until 27 April, approval was sought and given under urgency procedures on 30 February 2023, pursuant to Standing Order No. 19. to:
 - a) instruct the Comptroller and City Solicitor to not seal the previously agreed 2023/24 Byelaws.
 - b) Make the Byelaws contained at Appendix A to the report and instruct the Comptroller and City Solicitor to seal them accordingly

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 30th day of March 2023.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley
Chairman, Port Health and Environmental Services Committee