

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Markets	19 September 2014
Subject: Christmas 2014 – Smithfield Market Traffic Management Plan Update	Public
Report of: Superintendent – Smithfield Market	For Decision

Summary

This report is to update Members on the outcome of investigations to identify possible alternative sources of funding private stewards in order to implement a more comprehensive Traffic Management Plan at Smithfield Market for the Christmas period 2014, the final details of which are attached as Appendices 1-3 to this report, in order to alleviate the congestion, and at times gridlocking, of traffic around the Market which was experienced during Christmas 2013.

Whilst officers have not been able to identify any alternative non Market Committee sources of funding for this and other additional costs identified, they have identified that funds could be made available from a projected underspend on Smithfield Central Risk budgets or from reducing the period of any concessionary parking by one week to maintain car parking charges to cover these additional costs.

If the Committee is not prepared to approve the funding of these additional measures from its own resources then it will not be possible to implement the attached Traffic Management Plan and officers will need to be instructed to immediately prepare a Christmas Traffic plan based upon previous years arrangements with the inherent difficulties encountered as a result.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the Final Traffic Management Plan attached to this report.
- Approve funding the private stewards from a reduction in the concessionary car parking period from two weeks to one week.
- Approve funding the additional signage and bay suspensions of £3,500 from the projected underspend on Smithfield Central Risk budgets.

Main Report

Background

1. At your meeting on 16 July 2014 the Committee resolved that Members approve the traffic management plan in principle, and that a further report be submitted to the next meeting on the funding proposals for providing additional traffic control measures such as the appointment of private stewards.
2. It was also minuted at the meeting that in relation to the funding of the new traffic management plan, Members were of the view that there should be no cost impact to this Committee. It was agreed that officers would explore potential funding streams, including the On-street Parking Reserve (OSPR) and bring a report to the next meeting.

Current Position

3. As instructed by Members the Superintendent has held further discussions with City of London Police (CoLP) officers who have confirmed that in their view, if a Traffic Plan and extra dedicated police resources are required then this would constitute an “event” similar to other events held in the City such as The City Festival held on 27 June 2014, Virgin London Marathon on 13 April 2014 and the Tour De France road cycling race held on 7 July 2014.
4. In recognition that this is classed as an event a further 2 officers are being assigned to the Market for Christmas 2014 in addition to CoLP 2013 staffing levels (1 sergeant and 4 constables increasing to 6 this year). Having agreed to fund the two additional officers for 2014, the CoLP have stated that they will not contribute further funding for stewarding as this type of service is funded by the organisers of the event.
5. Officers have investigated the possibility of funding the stewards from the OSPR. It is the view of officers with responsibility for the management of the OSPR that the additional traffic calming measures required are as a direct result of the increased Market activity over the Christmas period, so fall outside the scope of the OSPR and are, therefore, a matter for the Markets Committee to consider funding from within their own resources.
6. The Chamberlains Department has also advised that there are no other suitable alternative sources of funding outside the Markets Committee’s own resources.

Financial Implications

7. There are no provisions within the Market’s Local Risk budget for costs associated with a Christmas 2014 traffic campaign, Total costs that do not have an approved funding stream total £8000, excluding the additional police officers which are funded from the CoLP.

8. The costs outlined in Appendix 1, paragraph 11.1 are:
 - traffic management signage of approximately £1,000;
 - bay suspensions of £500
 - additional Rotunda Car Park signage and relining of £2,000 and
 - private stewards of £4,500
9. Officers have, however, identified from the Smithfield budget forecast position for 2014/15 an underspend on Central Risk which could cover the £8,000.00 in full.
10. However, Members will have seen in the Non Public Section a report recommending concessionary parking for Christmas 2014 either for a similar two weeks free period as granted in 2013, or reducing this concession to one week. Depending on the outcome of Members decision to the non-public report, funding for additional stewards could be met from maintaining car parking charges for a further week. If Members do not agree to reduce the concession, the £4,500 cost of stewards can be funded from the Central Risk projected underspend.

Conclusion

11. Members are asked to approve the implementation of the proposed Final Traffic Management Plan attached as Appendices 1-3 and agree to fund either from the projected Central Risk underspend or from a reduction in car parking concessions.
12. If Members decide not to approve either of the funding recommendations in this report then it will not be possible to implement the proposed Traffic Management Plan, and there will be no alternative but to revert to a similar arrangement as in previous years with the inherent difficulties of traffic congestion and gridlocking as experienced and evidenced over many years.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Smithfield Market Christmas Traffic Planning 2014 – Traffic Management proposals
- Appendix 2 – Traffic Plan
- Appendix 3 – Road Junction Restrictions

Background Papers:

Markets Committee Report 16 July 2014 Agenda Item 7 – Christmas 2014 Smithfield Market Traffic Management Plan

Markets Committee Report 29 January 2014 Agenda Item 5 – Christmas 2013 Smithfield Market Traffic Management Plan update

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