

Committee(s):	Date(s):	Item no.
Markets	2 May 2012	
Subject: Smithfield Market Trading Hours during the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.	Public	
Report of: Superintendent of Smithfield Market	For Decision	
<p><b><u>Summary</u></b></p> <p>This report is to seek Members' approval to the proposed variation of trading hours at Smithfield Market during the period of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with delegated powers being conferred upon the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Markets Committee for any further variations which may be required during the period of the Games.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>a. That the Market's trading hours are varied between the periods Sunday 22 July until Friday 14 September 2012 opening from midnight until midday Monday to Friday as opposed to the current 3am to midday Monday to Friday.</p> <p>b. In the event that during this period, due to changing trading or traffic situations, further variations to the trading hours are required any such decisions should be delegated to the Town Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Markets Committee to approve.</p>		

## Main Report

### **Background**

1. The current trading hours of Smithfield Market are from 3am to midday, Monday to Friday. The Smithfield Market Tenants' Association (SMTA) has for some time been asked to provide details of possible variations they would require to the trading hours, bearing in mind possible variations to traffic movements not only affecting the Market, but London as a whole during the Olympic and Paralympic Games periods. This would include possible diversions/restrictions on deliveries both to the Market and customers taking product away from the Market to their business premises caused, for example, by the operation of the Olympic Route Networks (ORN's) and Paralympic Route Network's (PRN's) in certain parts of London.

### **Current Position**

2. A letter has been received from the Chairman of the SMTA dated 12 April 2012 requesting that from Sunday 22 July (the weekend before the Olympic Games begin) until Friday 14 September 2012 (the end of the week when the Paralympic Games finish) that the opening time of the Market should be brought forward from 3am to midnight. They have not suggested any variation to the current closing time of midday.
3. As everyone hopes the Games will generate a larger volume of trade overall, and normal traffic patterns in and around the Market will be affected, this is considered a sensible proposal to bring product into the Market earlier and stagger orders going out to customers vehicles and away from the Market. This will, however, lead to an extension of the associated Market operations such as cleaning, security and traffic movement control, but at the present time it is anticipated these tasks can be accommodated by altering/staggering shift staff patterns to accommodate these changes. It is also anticipated that currently envisaged staff shift changes can be accommodated within existing employee budgetary provisions.
4. Due to the unique situation associated with both the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as the SMTA suggest, this is a developing situation and many factors are not yet clear. It is very difficult to plan and predict the precise effects on the Markets' trade and traffic movements. As the SMTA say, flexibility from all parties will be required to changing circumstances and situations as the Games progress to minimise disruptions and maximise potential gains from the Games. They have suggested to accommodate this flexibility that any further decisions required in relation to possibly extending the opening hours even earlier than midnight during the Games period should be delegated to the Town Clerk in conjunction with the

Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Markets Committee in order that any swift decisions can be taken to changing circumstances and varying trading conditions.

5. For some months now the Market's management have been encouraging the SMTA to join with them in planning for the Olympic and Paralympic Games periods on both a best and worst case scenario. Consequently, the Superintendent fully supports the SMTA's requests contained within paragraphs 2 to 4 of this report, with flexibility on all sides being the key throughout the Games period.

## **Conclusion**

6. It is recommended that the Committee approve the proposed temporary variation to the Market's trading hours as requested under paragraph 2, and delegate any further required changes to the opening hours during the Games period as requested under paragraph 4.

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