

Subject: Consultation on Extension of the Central London Congestion Charge Scheme

Report Number: 6

Report to: Transport Committee

Date: 11th December 2003

Report of: Director of Secretariat

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to agree the response (circulated separately) to the Mayor's consultation on proposals for extending the Congestion Charge Scheme westwards.

2. Background

- 2.1 Transport for London (TfL) wrote to the London Assembly and GLA Functional Bodies on 31 October 2003 seeking a response to a revision of the Mayor's Transport Strategy that includes a proposal for the extension of the central London Congestion Charging Scheme westwards. No other sections of the existing Transport Strategy are to be updated at this stage. On 12 November 2003, the London Assembly agreed that its Transport Committee should prepare a response.
- 2.2 The Mayor proposes extending the existing zone westward to create a single central Congestion Charging zone stretching from Tower Bridge in the east to the Chelsea Embankment in the west. Including more of the City of Westminster and adding most of The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea will double the size of the current charging zone.

3. Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The Transport Committee considered the proposal at its meetings on 24th and 26th November 2003. The deadline for responses to the Consultation was 10th December 2003. This deadline has been extended by Transport for London for one day in order to allow for the Assembly's response to be formally considered by the Transport Committee.
- 3.2 It was not possible to produce the final response in time for it to be despatched with the agenda. It has been circulated separately and a copy placed on the website.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Under S.141 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (the Act) the Mayor is required to develop and implement policies for the promotion and encouragement of transport facilities and services to, from and within Greater London. S.142 requires him to prepare and publish a "transport strategy" and to keep that strategy under review. The transport strategy is a statutory strategy under S.41 of the Act and under S.42(1) in preparing or revising such a statutory strategy the Mayor is required to

consult certain bodies. Under S.42 (5) he must consult the Assembly and the Functional Bodies before consulting the other bodies or persons set out in S.42(1).

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no relevant financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers: None.

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