

Subject: London TravelWatch Progress Report

Report to: Transport Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 10 July 2019

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report updates the Transport Committee about action taken by London TravelWatch (LTW) to respond to the concerns and comments made by the Committee since the LTW draft budget and Business Plan was last considered on 18 November 2018.

2. Recommendations

- (a) **That the Committee notes the action taken so far by London TravelWatch to respond to the Committee's comments on its previous draft Business Plan, notes the current work programme and endorses the direction of travel (as set out at Appendix 1);**
- (b) **That consequent on this, the grant funding for London TravelWatch for the second half of this financial year be confirmed and released;**
- (c) **That, following further consultation over the summer, the Committee receives an updated and refocused Business Plan for the period 2020 to 2024 in the autumn, to be considered as part of the 2020/21 budget process; and**
- (d) **That subsequent to this, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Greater London Authority and London TravelWatch is reviewed and updated to ensure that current expectations are fully covered.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The GLA Act establishes London TravelWatch as an arms-length body of the London Assembly. London TravelWatch provides regular reports to the Transport Committee. This is the first update following the appointment of a new Chief Executive of LTW, Joanna Simons.
- 3.2 In November 2018, the Transport Committee rejected LTW's business plan, and in February 2019, the then Chair of the Committee, in consultation with party Group Lead Members, signed off the allocation of 6 months' funding to LTW, covering the first two quarters of the 2019/20 financial year.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The progress report from LTW for the Committee's consideration is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.2 The following guests have been invited to answer questions from the Committee on the update report:
- Arthur Leathley, Chair, LTW; and
 - Joanna Simons, Chief Executive, LTW.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 London TravelWatch is a separate legal entity which is funded by the London Assembly in accordance with Schedule 19 of the GLA Act 1999 (as amended). London TravelWatch funding, therefore, forms part of the Assembly Secretariat budget and, in its 2019-20 budget, London TravelWatch has been allocated £1.036m. The first six months' funding was released by the Committee under the cover of a delegated decision taken in February 2019. The remaining six months' funding for 2019-20 is held within the Assembly's budget and can be released at a time of the Assembly's choosing.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1 – LTW Progress Report, July 2019

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None
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