

Subject: London TravelWatch Business Plan and Budget Bid 2020-21

Report to: Transport Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 9 October 2019

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the London TravelWatch¹ draft Business Plan for 2020/21 attached at **Annex A**.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 **That the Committee approves London TravelWatch's proposed Business Plan for 2020-21, as set out at Annex A to the report; and**
- 2.2 **That, subject to the decision taken at Recommendation 2.1, the Committee gives in-principle agreement to London TravelWatch's budget bid for 2020-21, as set out at Appendix 2 of Annex A, for recommendation to the London Assembly's GLA Oversight Committee as part of the draft London Assembly budget submission for the 2020-21 financial year.**

3. Background

- 3.1 In accordance with paragraph 6 of schedule 18 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended), London TravelWatch must prepare and send to the Assembly not less than two months before the beginning of each financial year a statement of the expenses which they expect to incur in respect of that year for the purposes of, or in connection with, the carrying on of their functions. That statement for 2020-21 is set out within London TravelWatch's Business Plan, attached at **Annex A**.
- 3.2 London TravelWatch's annual budget forms part of the London Assembly's annual budget. As such, the budget requirement for London TravelWatch approved in principle by this Committee will be included in the report presented to the meeting of the Assembly's GLA Oversight Committee (on 16 October 2019) on the Assembly's proposed 2020-21 budget submission to the Mayor.

¹ London TravelWatch is the operating name of the London Transport Users Committee.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to approve the proposed Business Plan attached at Annex A, which includes London TravelWatch's financial statement.
- 4.2 London TravelWatch's budget bid for 2020-21 is set out at Appendix 2 of Annex A to this report. It contains a growth bid of £98,000, taking the total amount requested to £1.134m, from £1.036m in the current financial year. Members will note that the requested amount for growth is entirely related to inflationary staff pay and pension pressures.
- 4.3 The Chair of London TravelWatch, Arthur Leathley, and the Chief Executive, Joanna Simons, will be in attendance to introduce the Business Plan and budget bid and respond to any questions from the Committee.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under paragraph 6(1) of Schedule 18 to the GLA Act 1999 (as amended), the Assembly must provide London TravelWatch with funds to pay officers' and members' remuneration and other allowances as the Committee, with the approval of the Assembly, so determine. The Assembly must also provide such funding as it determines appropriate to London TravelWatch to defray expenses in connection with its functions (para 6(2), Sch 18, GLA Act). All the Assembly's functions regarding London TravelWatch are delegated to the Transport Committee.
- 5.2 By 1 February each year (or such other date as the Transport Committee determines) London TravelWatch must provide a formal "statement of expected expenses" relating to the expenses they expect to incur in connection with carrying out of their functions in the following financial year (para 6(3), Sch 18). The Transport Committee must consider that formal statement and approve it with or without modifications (para 6(4), Sch 18). Once approved (with or without modifications), it then forms part of the London Assembly's budget submission to the Mayor of London, for consideration and determination as part of the GLA's annual budget-setting process. Once the final draft budget proposals are agreed in February each year, the approved amount becomes London TravelWatch's budget for the following year.

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 London Assembly and Secretariat budget and London TravelWatch's 2020/21 proposed budget will need to be contained within the Assembly and Secretariat's 2020/21 cash limited budget.

List of appendices to this report:

Annex A – London TravelWatch Business Plan 2020/21

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