

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES) COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 8 June 2017**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 12.00 pm**

**Present**

**Members:**

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Anne Fairweather
Mark Boleat (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Simon Duckworth	Andrew Mayer
Hugh Morris	Jeremy Mayhew
Alderman Sir Michael Bear	The Lord Mountevans
Deputy Keith Bottomley	James Tumbridge

**Officers:**

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Sir Michael Snyder and Deputy Tom Sleigh.

**2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 4 May 2017 be approved as a correct record.

**4. EDO QUARTERLY UPDATE**

Members received a quarterly update from the Economic Development Office. The report was introduced by the Director of Economic Development, who reminded Members of the uplift Members approved for the department one year ago and gave some examples of successful work the office had undertaken in the past year, including the Green Finance Summit (with 700 attendees), launch of the Institute of Apprenticeships at Mansion House, as well as work to discuss what could be included in the financial services chapter of a bespoke Free Trade Agreement between the UK and the EU27.

Members also received verbal updates from the Special Representative to the City for the EU and the Special Adviser for Asia.

The Special Representative for the EU gave background on the current political landscape and the UK's relationship with the EU, underlining that depending on

the deal struck, Brexit could have a significant risk for the future status for the City. He updated Members on his extensive travel across the EU, most recently to Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Lithuania, Italy, Austria, Poland and Brussels, which is coordinated with partners, including the Foreign Commonwealth Office network. Additionally, Members were requested to feedback on the visits reports.

The Special Adviser for Asia explained how her work was focused on three key strategic regions: Greater China, India and Singapore, as a part of “future-proofing” the City, using opportunities for trade and investment in Asia. She talked about the learnings of her recent visits make clear that there is a growing need to engage with China, including contributing to the Belt and Road initiative. She mentioned that Singapore and India are collaborators and competitors as they are global financial centres looking aggressively at opportunities, post-Brexit. She added that the City Corporation offices in Beijing, Shanghai and Mumbai were being utilised to pick up intelligence on the ground.

The Chairman fed back that she had received much praise from people across the City on the visits reports of the Special Representative to the EU and the Special Adviser to Asia. She also added that this activity was especially important in the current political climate, and particularly important to do in partnership with others, such as TheCityUK and the International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG).

The following points were made:

- The Chairman of the IRSG will be attending the Resource Allocation Sub Committee Away Day
- The risks that are posed to the City post-Brexit are also posed to the rest of the EU27. It is in everyone’s interest that a Brexit deal is struck, which maintains the City’s status as the world leading financial centre.
- Material in Chinese, including brochures and/or a video, could be produced to give out to stakeholders from China.
- Members with the relevant connections and expertise can be used to support the work in Asia and the EU.
- The Policy Chairman will be introducing a series of briefing breakfasts for Members on particular areas relating to the work of the Economic Development Office.
- There was discussion on whether it would be useful for the Special Representative and Special Advisers should be accompanied on visits, where one Member proposed that access is reduced on visits with a wider delegation.

The Sub Committee agreed that they would like to see a regular update for the Economic Development Office, each month.

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**5. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE BUSINESS PLAN 2017-18**

Members considered a report of the Director of Economic Development on the department's business plan for 2017-18.

There were some minor comments:

- It was requested that the Economic Development Office include more emphasis on youth unemployment and that we provide more office space for small businesses.
- SMEs, particularly in FinTech companies, were vibrantly important to the ecosystem and it would be useful to know how the Economic Development Office plan to work with them.
- There was also a request that there should be more focus on tackling the cyber threat, as well as noting that maritime services is a key theme for the mayoralty as part of the financial and professional services sector.

**RESOLVED**, that the Economic Development Office Business Plan 2017-18 is agreed.

## 6. **REGIONAL STRATEGY**

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of Economic Development on the City Corporation's regional strategy.

This report was well received and the Chairman commented that she had consulted a variety of business and Government stakeholders on this strategy who were also positive about it.

In response to a question, Members heard how the regional strategy will initially be piloted on three UK financial centres (Edinburgh, Belfast and Manchester), and if successful would then be rolled out to other UK cities.

Officers were also asked to consider that the strategy delivered in Belfast needs to impact wider Northern Ireland. It was confirmed that to Members that in this area, the City Corporation would be working with Invest Northern Ireland, who have a remit, which is wider than just Belfast.

It was requested that, when looking at additional centres, officers accounted for the benefit of working with cities with a high proportion of employment in the financial services' sector. It was agreed that this Sub Committee would be involved with the discussion of future cities to engage with.

**RESOLVED**, that the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that the regional strategy be approved.

## 7. **PARTY CONFERENCES**

Members considered a report of the Director of Communications on attendance of the Policy and Resources Committee at the 2017 Party Conferences.

The Chairman underlined that it was important to use Members with relevant expertise and to also ensure they were conveying corporate messages at party conferences.

It was agreed that the team of Members, who are going to each conference, should meet in the week leading up to Communications and Corporate Affairs teams to coordinate messaging strategically.

**RESOLVED**, that the attendance for future party conferences is:

- Maintain the approach of previous years, whereby funded attendance was available to all Members of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee, subject to the Corporate Affairs budget;
- Other Members of the wider Court with specific experience or relevance may exceptionally be invited to attend party conferences as a representative of the City Corporation, where appropriate, subject to the Corporate Affairs budget;
- Other Members attending party conferences in a self-funded and separate capacity would be entitled to attend Corporation dinners.

8. **MEDIA UPDATE**

The Sub Committee received a report of the Director of Communications updating on media output over the past six months.

The Chairman thanked the Communications Team for their help and support to her in the first month of her Chairmanship. The Team were also commended on how well they responded to the terrorist attack on London Bridge the weekend before.

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9. **STANDALONE WEBSITE POLICY**

Members considered a report of the Director of Communications on the City Corporation's standalone website policy.

The Director of Communications was asked to give an update on the branding strategy, to which he will come back to the particular Member to update outside of the meeting.

There was also quite a lot of discussion surrounding the functionality of the City Corporation website, particularly in relation to its search function and its ease of navigation. Members asked for a joint paper of the Director of Communications and Director of IT to be taken back to this Sub Committee proposing a digital strategy.

**RESOLVED**, that the new standalone website, setting out when and how institutions owned or wholly-funded by the City of London Corporation can set up standalone websites or digital platforms, be approved.

10. **SPORT ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Members considered a report of the Town Clerk relating to sport engagement opportunities for the City Corporation.

One Member highlighted that the hospitality should involve children from the City's family of schools as well as Members.

**RESOLVED**, that the proposed hospitality to be provided for the upcoming IAAF World Athletics Championships be noted; and that the Town Clerk, in consultation with relevant officers, be asked to look further into how the City Corporation can strategically support further major sports events and report back on a way forward.

11. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There was one question.

Prime Minister's Visit to Smithfield Market

A question was raised to ascertain the details of the Prime Minister's Visit to Smithfield Market as part of her campaign, the day before the General Election.

There were mixed opinions on this. Some Members stated that there was precedent for such visits and that Smithfield Market is a public place so is open to any party candidate during a political campaign. Others felt that the City Corporation had been inconsistent in its policy, having asked a Member of Parliament not to receive publicity during her visit at Highgate Wood during purdah.

Officers clarified that there was a difference between the Prime Minister's visit to Smithfield Market and the MP's visit to Highgate Wood, as the latter example was taking place in her own constituency. Additionally, the Smithfield Market building does not strictly belong to public council, and as there were no legal or financial assistance involving public funds, the rules of purdah do not apply in this circumstance.

The Chairman of Markets Committee who was present at the visit of the Prime Minister to Smithfield Market clarified further details, that the City Corporation did not use this as a publicity opportunity itself and no press release was issued, and that the Prime Minister was not invited by the City Corporation but the request had come through only the afternoon before from her private office at the Conservative Party Headquarters.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

Members congratulated the Remembrancer on his recent appointment as Master of Middle Temple.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds

that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

**14. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

**The meeting closed at time not specified**

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Chairman

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