

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

Wednesday, 14 November 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman)	Andrew Mayer
Sir Mark Boleat	Jeremy Mayhew
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Alderman William Russell
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Anne Fairweather	James Tumbridge
Christopher Hayward	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	

Officers:

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor and Sophie Fernandes.

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 amended public minutes and summary of the meeting held on Tuesday 9 October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

- The Sub-Committee heard how the Sports paper was on track to be submitted to this Sub-Committee at its December meeting.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Members received an outstanding actions report of the Town Clerk and asked for the deadline of action 2 regarding the voting system for electing co-opted Members be brought forward.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

5. EDO MONTHLY UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Economic Development providing highlights of the key activity undertaken by the Economic Development Office in late September and October.

The Director of Economic Development updated Members that the period had been incredibly busy and productive for the both the Chair of Policy & Resources and the Lord Mayor, and gave a summary of the appendices which had been separately circulated and remained available electronically.

The Policy Chair gave an update on the cliff edge issues which the City Corporation had been highlighting in political meetings.

A Member conveyed his view that no deal was worse than the Prime Minister's deal and that could be made clearer in the City Corporation's messaging.

Another Member requested that issues around clearing derivatives and contract continuity with smaller, international trade associations.

Members agreed that this was a historic moment. It was made clear that there were two separate issues concerning the issue of the particular deal and the date that the UK would leave the EU. The Remembrancer clarified that the UK would leave the EU on the 29 March 2019 unless there was some kind of emergency bill.

Members were updated on the event that was due to take place on 20 November to launch a report proposing a new immigration/visa system undertaken jointly between the City Corporation and EY, and encouraged to pass on the invitation to their business contacts.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

6. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications updating Members on key elements of the Corporate Affairs team's activity in support of the City Corporation's external political engagement and corporate communications.

The Director of Communications underlined the close working of the Communications Team, the Economic Development Office and the Remembrancer's Office.

A Member highlighted a few grammatical errors in the paper and another Member asked for future meetings to have these items mirrored in non-public to allow Members to have a more in-depth discussion. A Member also suggested that more up-to-date information could be tabled at the meeting of our corporate activity and consideration be given to the Policy Chair to give oral updates.

The Policy Chair asked the Director of Economic Development to see if TheCityUK could come to a future meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee meeting.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

7. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Remembrancer updating Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement.

The Remembrancer updated Members that the ambulatory references issues was still on-going.

Members were interested in the work that the City Corporation was undertaking on legal initiatives in partnership with other organisations, such as the Brexit Law Committee, and asked for an overview of this work to be submitted to the Sub-Committee in due course.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.
- The Remembrancer and Director of Economic Development to update Members on an overview of legal initiatives that the City Corporation is involved in.

8. REVIEW OF THE LORD MAYOR'S DRAGON AWARDS

The Sub-Committee received a joint report of the Director of Economic Development and the Chief Grants Officer, City Bridge Trust, concerning the recent consultation exercise to refresh the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards in 2020 and the Awards' website.

Following a question, the Director of Economic Development committed to finding out who owned the rights to the Awards.

A Member spoke, from his own experience, of concerns relating to how the Awards seemed to be given to organisations with the best entries, rather the best projects. Other Members reported that, in the last year, this had improved, and smaller organisations had been included.

Members, then, began to discuss the dress code for the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards Dinner and whether black tie is appropriate, and the format fit for business. Others felt that this was a celebratory event and so the dress code should remain black tie.

A Member also felt that beneficiaries of the projects ran by these organisations should also be invited to the dinner, and reported that this balance had been better than in previous years.

Following a discussion, Members gave the steer to the Director of Economic Development that there was no need to change the format of the Awards for 2019 but to review this in more detail for 2020.

RESOLVED, that:

- The approach of building on the recent consultation exercise to consider how best to refresh the Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards in 2020, and a planned refresh of the Awards website for 2019 to improve its functionality, be noted.

9. NEW CORPORATE RISK - BREXIT

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Chamberlain detailing information on the new corporate risk focused on minimising the impact of disruption to key City Corporation services following the departure of the UK from the EU on 29 March 2019 (Brexit).

The Town Clerk assured Members that he had requested that there be an item on every committee agenda on Brexit risks, and that the Establishment Committee would be considering any issues around staffing and dependences, particularly non-UK EU staff who needed support to settle their legal status in the UK.

Members made the following comments:

- The City Corporation had been slow to undertake this work, compared to other organisations;
- SMEs needed to be reminded of support they could access when planning for Brexit scenarios;
- It was vital that non-UK EU citizens receive reassurance, education and support to settle their legal status in the UK before the UK leaves the EU, and that there was a lack of understanding of what was needed;
- The impact of Brexit on property was not clear in terms of yield and returns;
- A Finance Fund was available for certain functions such as Port Health Authority, but government guidance for public body was still being developed.

The Chair of the Establishment Committee informed Members that there was over 100 staff that were non-UK EU nationals working at the City of London Corporation and that a paper would be coming to the Establishment Committee looking at options to ensure that these staff feel safe, secure and supported.

RESOLVED, that:

- The inclusion of a new corporate risk (CR26) in relation to Brexit be noted;
- The eight subsidiary Brexit related risks be maintained by Chief Officers on departmental risk registers.

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

Questions were raised as follows -

Publicity of HRH The Duke of Cambridge Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade

A Member asserted that there had not been any media surrounding the 'Mansion House Declaration' from when HRH The Duke of Cambridge had come to Mansion House to sign a declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade. The Head of Media committed to circulating details of coverage of this matter.

Business Canvass and Vote

A Member asked a question regarding the statistics of the business canvass and voter registration, as he had learnt that the City Corporation had 50% less uptake on voter registration than in previous years. There were some concerns expressed regarding up-to-date information that the Electoral Services team used to contact businesses and potential new voters. The Town Clerk committed to circulating a note outlining to Members the statistics on voter registration uptake.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The following items of urgent business were raised –

Communications to residents and electors

The Policy Chair reminded Members that all communications (including to residents) needed to be signed off by the Director of Communications, and suggested that there had been some confusion about how Members could now communicate with Members in light of the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). It was recommended that training sessions be set up for Members to assist them.

There was discussion of the issues around data protection and how there were exemptions to make political engagement possible.

The Chair of the Members Diversity Working Party updated the Sub-Committee on some of the preliminary discussions that had been had in that Working Party regarding attracting candidates to stand for Common Council from a diverse range of backgrounds.

RESOLVED, that:

- Member briefing sessions be set up covering communication to residents and electors.

Lord Mayor's Banquet

The Policy Chair requested Members to give feedback on the Lord Mayor's banquet. The following points were made:

- The omission of the late Lord Mayor's speech was sensible;
- Discussion ensued around the idea that to make the Banquet more business focused, Members only received a single invitation to allow

more space for business leaders. Others felt that, in the same way that the Banquet was used for the late Lord Mayor and the new Lord Mayor to thank those who had and would be supporting them during their respective Mayoralities, the same principle should apply to the wider Court;

- The Lord Mayor and Prime Minister's speeches were well aligned with the Prime Minister referencing the City Corporation's digital strategy.

12. 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.

Item	Paragraph
13, 14	3, 2

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 9 October 2018 were approved.

14. BREXIT RELATED RISKS FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Economic Development concerning Brexit related risk for the City Corporation.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

At this point, the fire alarm sounded and the meeting was adjourned between 12:12 and 12:26 as the building was evacuated.

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

The following items of urgent business were raised:

1. Managing Director of the Brussels Office;
2. Recent media interest.

The meeting closed at 12.34 pm

Chairman

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