

CAPITAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 6 February 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Capital Buildings Committee held at the Guildhall, EC2 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Peter Bennett	Deputy Edward Lord
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Alderman Ian Luder
Alderman Alison Gowman	Hugh Morris
Christopher Hayward	Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	Alderman Sir David Wootton

Officers:

Peter Kane	-	Chamberlain
Ian Dyson	-	Commissioner of the City of London Police
Paul Wilkinson	-	City Surveyor
Gregory Moore	-	Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Doug Barrow, Jeremy Mayhew, Deputy Catherine McGuinness and Deputy James Thomson.

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

There were none.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Order of the Court of Common Council, appointing the Committee and setting its terms of reference, was received.

Members noted that the current terms of reference were somewhat ambiguous in certain areas, likely as a consequence of the need to establish the Committee quickly. Having had the benefit of further time for reflection, Members were able to make several observations and suggested amendments, agreeing that it would be prudent to revisit the terms of reference and submit revised proposals to the Policy and Resources Committee and the Court. The following amendments were suggested:

- That the terms of reference be widened to encompass all major capital building projects, not solely the Police Accommodation and Courts projects.
- That the membership of the Committee be expanded to include, as ex-officio Members, the Chairmen/Deputy Chairman of service committees with relevant projects that move to the remit of the Capital Buildings Committee.

- Requisite amendments be made to terms of reference and Standing Orders to allow for the Chairmen/Deputy Chairmen of Policy and Resources and Finance to be able vote in the election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
- That it be made clear that the Capital Buildings Committee would own the designated projects in their entirety, so that the approvals of the Projects Sub Committee or service committees were no longer required. This would extend to matters such as property disposals.
- That co-option rights should be re-explored, to allow the Committee to co-opt from the Court as well as externally.

Authority was subsequently delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to review and submit revised terms of reference.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, to review and submit revised terms of reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Order No.29, the Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman for the year ensuing. The Town Clerk read a list of Members eligible to stand and Sir Michael Snyder, being the only Member expressing his willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chairman.

The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 30, the Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year. The Town Clerk read out a list of Members eligible to stand and both Deputy Edward Lord and Alderman Ian Luder indicated their willingness to serve.

A ballot was therefore conducted and the results were as follows:

	Votes
Deputy Edward Lord	5
Alderman Ian Luder	2

Deputy Edward Lord was duly elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **MEETING FREQUENCY AND METHOD OF WORKING**

Prior to consideration of this item, the Town Clerk relayed a request from Deputy Doug Barrow that the matter be deferred until the next meeting, given that neither he nor the Deputy Chairman of the Police Committee were able to be in attendance at today's meeting and in view of the significance of the Police Accommodation project to that Committee.

After discussion, the Committee was minded that the item should not be deferred, given the urgency of proceeding with business and given that it was not intended to definitively confirm any arrangements at this stage in any case.

It was agreed that an informal Briefing session should be held during March to afford all Committee Members the opportunity to be brought up to speed on the latest position in respect of both projects. Whilst site visits should also be offered in due course, the Chairman was minded that there was less benefit to be had at this early stage than there would be later in the process.

It was also asked that the Chamberlain prepare a financial briefing for the Committee, outlining expenditure to date and anticipated costings across the projects so that Members could get a sense of net commitments and incomings.

The Chairman suggested that the Committee should meet at least quarterly, but accepted that there may be a need to convene additionally on an *ad hoc* basis or more frequently as a matter of course, given the nature of the projects. Once reporting was underway and Members had been briefed, it would be possible to make an informed judgement as to future meeting frequency.

The Committee also observed that it was highly likely that the vast majority, if not all, of its business would need to be conducted in non-public session, given the likely commercial and security implications of the Police Accommodation and Courts projects. The Chairman asked that the Comptroller & City Solicitor be requested to provide formal guidance and clarification that this would be the case.

The City Surveyor took the opportunity to provide an update on the ongoing feasibility study concerning the Police Accommodation and new Courts project, which was expected to be complete by the end of February. He agreed to circulate a copy of a related update presentation to Members on the basis that this be treated confidentially.

The relationship with Her Majesty's Court Service and the court users was discussed. The Deputy Chairman of the Courts Sub-Committee made particular reference to ongoing high-level engagement taking place and emphasised the importance of including this Committee in this activity.

RECEIVED.

7. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am

Chairman

Contact Officer: Gregory Moore
tel. no.: 020 7332 1399
gregory.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk