



RUSSELL, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

21st May 2020
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman
Emma Edhem
Sir Peter Estlin
John Garbutt
Sir Roger Gifford
Alison Gowman
Prem Goyal
David Andrew Graves

Timothy Russell Hailes
Robert Picton Seymour Howard
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney
Gregory Jones
Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Alastair John Naisbitt King
Susan Langley
Ian David Luder

Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons
Sheriff Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli
Sir Andrew Charles Parmley
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, William Anthony
Bowater Russell
Sir David Hugh Wootton
Sir Alan Colin Drake Yarrow

COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams
Deputy John David Absalom
Caroline Kordai Addy
Munsur Ali
Rehana Banu Ameer
Alexander Robertson Martin Barr
Douglas Barrow
Matthew Bell
John Bennett
Peter Gordon Bennett
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith
Christopher Paul Boden
Mark Bostock
Deputy Keith David Forbes
Bottomley
Deputy David John Bradshaw
Tijs Broeke
Deputy Michael John Cassidy
Deputy Roger Arthur Holden
Chadwick
John Douglas Chapman
Dominic Gerard Christian
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Karina Dostalova

Simon D'Olier Duckworth
Peter Gerard Dunphy
Mary Durcan
John Ernest Edwards
Deputy Kevin Malcolm Everett
Anne Helen Fairweather
Helen Lesley Fentimen
Sophie Anne Fernandes
John William Fletcher
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks
Tracey Graham
Caroline Wilma Haines
Deputy The Revd Stephen
Decatur Haines
Graeme Harrower
Sheriff Christopher Michael
Hayward
Christopher Hill
Deputy Tom Hoffman
Ann Holmes
Michael Hudson
Deputy Wendy Hyde
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Deputy Clare James
Shravan Jashvantra Joshi

Angus Knowles-Cutler
Tim Levene
Vivienne Littlechild
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-
Owen
Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge
Deputy Edward Lord,
Paul Nicholas Martinelli
Andrew Paul Mayer
Jeremy Mayhew
Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Deputy Robert Allan Merrett
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers
Deputy Brian Desmond Francis
Mooney
Deputy Hugh Fenton Morris,
Deputy Alastair Michael Moss,
Sylvia Doreen Moys
Benjamin Daniel Murphy
Deputy Joyce Carruthers Nash
Barbara Patricia Newman
Graham Packham
Dhruv Patel

Susan Jane Pearson
John Petrie
William Pimlott
Judith Pleasance
Deputy James Henry George
Pollard
Jason Paul Pritchard
Deputy Richard David Regan
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Oliver Sells
Deputy Dr Giles Robert Evelyn
Shilson
Jeremy Lewis Simons
Deputy Tom Sleight
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy John Tomlinson
James Richard Tumbridge
William Upton
Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Delano Wheatley
Philip Woodhouse, Deputy
Dawn Linsey Wright

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes *Resolved* – That the Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded, subject to

Alderman David Graves being recorded as present.

4. Resolutions There were no resolutions.
5. Mayoral Visits The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to advise the Court of the virtual engagement programme which he and the Chair of Policy and Resources were undertaking during the current period of travel restrictions. In particular, he commented on various meetings with Trade Commissioners and other key stakeholders to discuss COVID challenges and the response of businesses, as well as the future of the British economy post COVID.
6. Policy Statement The Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee spoke to provide an update on COVID19. The Chair outlined the challenges that the COVID had caused and thanked, on behalf of the Court, those Officers who had been instrumental in helping in these difficult times. The Chair outlined the City's response across all its functions and noted the challenges ahead for the country and the City particularly.
- With reference to City Corporation specific matters, the Chair also took the opportunity to advise that it would be proposed that the annual appointment of committees, which had previously been deferred until April 2021, now take place at the July 2020 meeting, if Members were so minded.
7. Hospital Seal There were no docquets for the seal.
8. Freedoms The Chamberlain, in pursuance of the Order of this Court, presented a list of the under-mentioned, persons who had made applications to be admitted to the Freedom of the City by Redemption:-

<p>Mark Brian Abraham Ald. & Sheriff Vincent Keaveny Amanda Josephine Keaveny</p>	<p>an Entrepreneur Citizen and Solicitor Citizen and Fletcher</p>	<p>Fulham, London</p>
<p>Francis Osade Akpata Simon Jonathan Mark Burrows Michael Alan Rutherford</p>	<p>a Financial Consultancy Company Director Citizen and Framework Knitter Citizen and Management Consultant</p>	<p>Shoreditch, London</p>
<p>Sharon Ann Ament Ald. Prof. & Sheriff Michael Raymond Mainelli Vivienne Littlechild, CC, JP</p>	<p>a Museum Director Citizen and World Trader Citizen and Glover</p>	<p>East Dulwich, London</p>
<p>Christopher Thomas Barnes Stephen Lawrence Purdy Ivor Macklin</p>	<p>a Broker, retired Citizen and Painter Stainer Citizen and Painter Stainer</p>	<p>Maldon, Essex</p>
<p>Antje Breslin Donald Henry McGarr Peter John Lambert</p>	<p>a Head of Quality & Customer Services Citizen and Basketmaker Citizen and Pavior</p>	<p>Tower Hamlets, London</p>
<p>Robert James Breslin Donald Henry McGarr Peter John Lambert</p>	<p>an Executive Director, retired Citizen and Basketmaker Citizen and Pavior</p>	<p>Tower Hamlets, London</p>

Sally Anne Chicken <i>Frank Hoyt Moxon</i> <i>Robin Vivian Darbyshire</i>	a Credit Union Director <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	Chelmondiston, Suffolk
Naomi Elizabeth Margaret Coventry <i>Robert Adrian Joseph</i> <i>Waddingham, CBE</i> <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	a Marketing Director, retired <i>Citizen and Actuary</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i>	Exeter, Devon
Neil Edward Coulter Danner <i>Andrew Charles Marsden</i> <i>Debra Susan Marmor</i>	a Bar Manager <i>Citizen and Marketor</i> <i>Citizen and Marketor</i>	Tower Hamlets, London
Matthew Elis Davies <i>Flora Ann Reed</i> <i>Alan Roy Willis</i>	a Student <i>Citizen and Glass Seller</i> <i>Citizen and Baker</i>	Newtown, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Cynthia Viviana Espinola Cano <i>Frederick Joseph Trowman</i> <i>David Robert Boston</i>	a Student <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	Pimlico, London
Bruce Richard William Goller <i>Wyndham Seymour-Hamilton</i> <i>Antony David George Harvey</i>	a Software Engineer <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Southampton, Hampshire
Andrew William Gould <i>Wyndham Seymour-Hamilton</i> <i>Antony David George Harvey</i>	a Shipbroker <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Surrey
Laura Ann Gould <i>Wyndham Seymour-Hamilton</i> <i>Antony David George Harvey</i>	a Project Manager <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Surrey
Dr Alexander Clemens Johann Paul Marie Graff <i>Lawrence John Day</i> <i>David Michael Bole</i>	a Surgeon <i>Citizen and Maker of Playing Cards</i> <i>Citizen and Maker of Playing Cards</i>	Vienna, Austria
David James Hassall <i>Anthony William Emanuel Ellison</i> <i>Issa Tahhan</i>	a Commercial Cleaning Company Director <i>Citizen and Environmental Cleaner</i> <i>Citizen and Environmental Cleaner</i>	Chelmsford, Essex
John Clinton Hewett <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Hampshire
Mark James Hillery <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Hedge Fund Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Wimbledon, London
Richard James Jutten <i>Alan Leslie Warman</i> <i>Diane Irene Warman</i>	a Police Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i>	New Waltham, Lincolnshire
Dov Gideon Katz <i>Neil George Parry Edwards</i>	a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Feltmaker</i>	Mill Hill, London

<i>Alan Roy Willis</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
Nighat Khan <i>Rehana Banu Ameer</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Reinsurance Operations Manager <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Purley, Surrey
Thomas Martin Kiely <i>Richard George Clerk Thornton, TD</i> <i>Robert James Ingham Clark, Deputy</i>	a Software Engineer <i>Citizen and Leatherseller</i> <i>Citizen and Clothworker</i>	Shrewsbury, Shropshire
The Reverend David Latimer, TD <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>Peter Gerard Dunphy, CC</i>	a Minister of Religion <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Draper</i>	Prehen, Londonderry, Northern Ireland
Wacyn Lewis <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Hilary Ann Russell</i>	an Insurance Broker, retired <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Hammersmith
Elizabeth Alice Longhurst, BEM <i>Michael John James</i> <i>James Patrick Vaughan</i>	a School Teacher, retired <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	Marsworth, Hertfordshire
Steffan Rhys Madoc <i>Alan Montague Ware, MBE</i> <i>John Walter William Argent</i>	a Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Painter Stainer</i>	St.Albans, Hertfordshire
Peter Michael Mathews, CMG <i>Benjamin Andrew Vincent Browning</i> <i>John Anthony James</i>	a Recycling Company Director <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Skinner</i>	Kinver, Staffordshire
Kauser Mirza, JP <i>Kevin Joseph McNicholas</i> <i>Alan Edward Scriven</i>	a Magistrate & Teacher, retired <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Pavior</i>	Lewisham, London
Audrey Nelson <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i> <i>Ald. Sir Roger Gifford</i>	a Local Government Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Hove, Sussex
Michael James Peet <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>Jonathan Patterson Shiels</i>	a Wine Merchant <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Joiner & Ceiler</i>	Beech, Hampshire
Robert Anthony Pitts <i>Michael Peter Cawston</i> <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett</i>	a Border Force Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer</i> <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	Ventnor, Isle of Wight
Brian George Reeve <i>Neil Graham Morgan Redcliffe</i> <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	an Interpreter, retired <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i>	Smithfield, London
Verna Elizabeth Rhodes <i>Iain Reid</i> <i>Richard Leslie Springford</i>	a Higher Education Deputy Director <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Sidcup, Kent
William James Ritchie	a Chartered Accountant	Walton On Thames, Surrey

<i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
<i>Deputy Charles Edward Lord,</i>	<i>Citizen and Broderer</i>	
<i>OBE, JP</i>		
Sir Hector William Hepburn Sants	a Civil Servant	Kensington, London
<i>Ald. Sir David Wootton</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
<i>Deputy Catherine Sidony</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
<i>McGuinness</i>		
Peter Francis Sheridan	a Chief Executive Officer	Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>		
<i>Deputy Catherine Sidony</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
<i>McGuinness</i>		
Nemasala Sorubi Sivayogan	a Chartered Accountant	Thornton Heath, Surrey
<i>Andrien Meyers, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	
Clarel Emmanuel Roselin Sookun	an IT Director	Hither Green, London
<i>Deputy Thomas Dieter Dirk</i>	<i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer</i>	
<i>Hoffman, MBE</i>		
<i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
Lady Anne Kristine Mackintosh Stoneham, MBE	a Solicitor, retired	Droxford, Hampshire
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	
<i>Andrien Meyers, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
David Arthur Taylor	an Automotive Consultant, retired	Swindon, Wiltshire
<i>David William Walker</i>	<i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	
<i>Ian Drury</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
Douglas George Thomas	a Civil Servant	West Glamorgan, Wales
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Wg Cdr Peter Thorbjornsen	a Royal Air Force Officer	Carterton, Oxfordshire
<i>Timothy Luke Fitzgerald-</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>O'Connor</i>		
<i>Malcolm Alastair Craig</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
Antony Phillip Barker	an Actuary	Grappenhall, Cheshire
<i>Andrien Meyers, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	
Dame Professor Winifred Mary Beard	a Professor of Classics	Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
<i>Ald. Sir David Wootton</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
<i>Tijs Broeke, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Dr. Maurizio Bragagni	a Chief Executive Officer	Smithfield, London
<i>Wendy Mead, OBE, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Paul Nicholas Martinelli, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Butcher</i>	
Brady Daine Brim-Deforest of Balvaire Castle	an Entrepreneur	Topanga, California, United States of America
<i>John Alexander Smail</i>	<i>Citizen and Distiller</i>	
<i>Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	

Graham Brown <i>Hilary Miller</i> <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett</i>	an Incident Manager <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	Maldon, Essex
Nicholas Butter <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	an Athlete <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Cranborne, Dorset
Pamela Cary <i>Martin John Davies</i> <i>Katharine Jane Ray</i>	a Writer and Editor <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i>	Burgess Hill, Sussex
Steven Terence Chambers <i>Alison Taylor West</i> <i>Joanna Clare Howell</i>	a Director <i>Citizen and Chartered Secretary & Administrator</i> <i>Citizen and Distiller</i>	Leigh-on-Sea, Essex
John Robert Terry Charlton <i>Terence Harragan</i> <i>William James Murray</i>	a Police Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Feltmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Feltmaker</i>	Petersfield, Hampshire
Katherine Lucy Garrett-Cox <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Brechin, Angus, Scotland
Hidayet Gulfem Goren <i>Ald. Emma Edhem</i> <i>John William Fletcher, CC</i>	a Head of Administration <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councilman</i>	Potters Bar, Hertfordshire
Rachel Green <i>Andrien Meyers, CC</i> <i>Anne Helen Fairweather, CC</i>	a Company Director & Diversity Campaigner <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Hackney, London
Jean Isaac <i>Ald. Sir Peter Kenneth Estlin</i> <i>Deputy Richard David Regan, OBE</i>	a Housekeeper <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	Witney, Surrey
Birsan Kaya Hughes <i>Ald. Emma Edhem</i> <i>John William Fletcher, CC</i>	an Administrator <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councilman</i>	Walthamstow, London
Simon Mackenzie Smith <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	an Investment Banker <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Maldon, Essex
Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan, CBE <i>Ald. Sir David Wootton</i> <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	a Cricketer <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Primrose Hill, London
Professor David Nott <i>Ald. Sir David Wootton</i> <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	a Consultant Surgeon <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Hammersmith, London
Justin Chukwuma Onuekwusi <i>Andrien Meyers, CC</i> <i>Anne Helen Fairweather, CC</i>	a Fund Manager <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Norbury, London

David George Orr	a Head of Strategy	Rothersthorpe, Northamptonshire
<i>Michael John James James Patrick Vaughan</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
Joanna Frances Painter	a Secretary and Administrator	Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire
<i>David Mark Spofforth, OBE Veronica Anne Spofforth</i>	<i>Citizen and Horner Citizen and Baker</i>	
Matthew Francis Parris	a Journalist, Writer and Broadcaster	Bakewell, Derbyshire
<i>Ald. Gregory Percy Jones , QC Ald. Sir David Wootton</i>	<i>Citizen and Leatherseller Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
Robert Charles Grenville Perrins	a Chief Executive	Chobham, Surrey
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Hilary Ann Russell</i>	<i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	
Daniel Michael Riordan	a Sales and Design Executive	Denton, Manchester
<i>Shaun David Southall Simon Paul Green</i>	<i>Citizen and Security Professional Citizen and Security Professional</i>	
Anthony George Robinson	a Deputy Headteacher, retired	Buckinghamshire
<i>Michael Peter Cawston John Francis Purnell</i>	<i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer Citizen and Security Professional</i>	
Nathan Thomas Rodgers	a Media Officer	Bromley, Kent
<i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
Samuel Alan Michael Tidswell-Norrish	a Financial Services Executive	Barnes, London
<i>Ald. Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman Ald. Sir Peter Kenneth Estlin</i>	<i>Citizen and Grocer Citizen and International Banker</i>	
Mark Simon Turner	a Teacher, retired	Long Buckby, Northamptonshire
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Francisco De Mendia Vassalo	a Consultant	Estoril, Portugal
<i>Anthony John James Bailey, OBE Elizabeth A Thornborough</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner Citizen and Upholder</i>	
Leopoldo Villareal III	an Artist	New York City, New York, United States of America
<i>Ald. Sir David Wootton Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
Jonathan Edward Windust	a Police Officer, retired	Havant, Hampshire
<i>Terence Harragan William James Murray</i>	<i>Citizen and Feltmaker Citizen and Feltmaker</i>	
Matthew Simon Wood	a Fire Safety Engineering Company Director	Banstead, Surrey
<i>Colin George Ring George Richard Cannell</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner Citizen and Loriner</i>	

Stanley John Wright
Terence Harragan
William James Murray

a Director
Citizen and Feltmaker
Citizen and Feltmaker

Horndean, Hampshire

Read.

Resolved – That this Court doth hereby assent to the admission of the said persons to the Freedom of this City by Redemption upon the terms and in the manner mentioned in the several Resolutions of this Court, and it is hereby ordered that the Chamberlain do admit them severally to their Freedom accordingly.

9. Legislation

The Court received a report on measures introduced by Parliament which might have an effect on the services provided by the City Corporation as follows:-

Bills

The Coronavirus Bill

The Bill was introduced and received Royal Assent prior to the meeting of this Court. The Act is expansive and contains exceptionally broad powers. The powers in Act are be limited to two years, and unlike the powers in the Civil Contingencies Act, the powers granted to the Secretary of State do not require Parliamentary authorisation every 28 days. Measures include powers to reduce obligations on local authorities and granting local authorities and central government powers to help tackle the coronavirus crisis. Additionally, local government elections are postponed to 2021. This provision does not apply to City of London local elections.

In the absence of standard reporting arrangements, a briefing on the Bill's second reading in the Commons was supplied to members of the Policy and Resources Committee, Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-committee and Chief Officers.

Statutory Instruments

The Working Time (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 365

Date in force
 26th March 2020

The Regulations remove the prohibition on carrying over unused leave where it is not reasonably practicable for a worker to take some or all of the leave to which that worker was entitled as a result of the effects of coronavirus. Leave may be carried over and taken during the following two years.

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 392

4th April 2020

The Regulations enable meetings to be moved, cancelled or their frequency altered. Provision is made to enable remote meetings to be held and the access to information provisions are consequentially amended as a result. The Regulations are only applicable to meetings which are required to be held or are held before 7th May 2021. The Regulations apply to the Common Council in capacities as a local authority, a port health authority and a police authority.

The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 445

24th April 2020

The Regulations make temporary amendments to existing legislation, which relate to children's social care. The Regulations will cease to

have effect on 25th September 2021. Changes made by the Regulations includes amending adoption procedures and relaxing timescales during which a local authority must have taken specified steps. Additionally, the Regulations make it permissible for any person to be approved as a local authority foster carer for a temporary period of 24 weeks. The Regulations apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority.

The School Admissions (England) (Coronavirus) (Appeals Arrangements) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No 446

24th April 2020

The Regulations make temporary procedural and constitutional amendments concerning school admission appeals as a result of coronavirus. Principally, they allow for remote hearings based on written submissions and provide greater flexibility over deadlines. The Regulations will cease to have effect on 31st January 2021 and apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority.

Read.

(The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.)

10. Questions

Fairweather,
A.H., to the
Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

Impact of COVID-19

Anne Fairweather asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning assessments of the impact of COVID-19 to the City of London Corporation's budget, on smaller businesses which serviced office workers, and changes needed to support social distancing in the City.

In reply, the Chair confirmed that COVID-19 had had a significant impact on the Corporation's finances and that the overall net cost was being tracked, reported and discussed by the Finance Committee. The informal meeting of Resource Allocation Sub Committee in early July would receive an update on both the in-year budget position and Medium-Term Financial Plan, leading on to a re-budgeting exercise in early autumn; efforts to control costs in the meantime would be vital.

With reference to the impact on small and medium sized businesses, the Chair City advised that the Corporation was doing what it could to help mitigate the impact; however, the scale of this problem was such that there were serious limits to the extent that it could provide relief. She noted that there was a separate question on the order sheet on this matter, where she would address the issue in more detail.

In relation to changes that would need to be made to the City's environment, the Chair referenced forthcoming proposals to alter the City's streets so as to provide more space for walking and cycling, in order to enable social distancing on the City's streets and support the safe return of employees to the workplace. Measures to support businesses and manage travel demand were also included.

In closing, the Chair also highlighted the opportunity for cultural organisations in the City to focus on serving local communities and neighbours in different way. She made reference to work with the London Festival of Architecture and London Open House to showcase our buildings and streetscape, as well as work underway to welcome people back to cultural spaces as soon as it was possible to do so.

She also advised that more detailed answers to this and the coming question had been published on the website and circulated electronically to this Court.

Support for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Wheatley,
M.R.P.H.D., to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

Mark Wheatley asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the Corporation's work to support SMEs, including liaison with Government and stakeholders on various support schemes, as well as direct support for local SMEs through rates and rental relief.

Noting that a fuller response had been published and circulated in view of the breadth of information available, the Chair outlined ongoing activity with both Government and business stakeholders in this area, such as asking Government to widen the number of businesses that qualified for rate relief and grants and calling for a review of rate relief thresholds, as they currently disadvantaged SMEs in central London. The City had also supported pan-London lobbying efforts with the Mayor of London, London Councils and the various representative business groups to make sure the needs and priorities of SMEs were heard.

Other support for SMEs was also highlighted, such as through the work of the City Business Library, the City Property Advisory Team, the support for tenants at the wholesale markets, and the specific advice offered to cultural and tourism sectors by the Cultural and Visitor Development Team. The work of individual elected Members in lobbying on behalf of constituents was also highlighted as a significant factor and, with reference to the Government's announcements on Small Business, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Funds, the Chair confirmed that the Corporation had now directly paid out £14.5m of the original £14.7m allocation.

Responding to a supplementary question from Mark Wheatley concerning additional activity and the possibility of a Working Party to look at SME support specifically, the Chair was happy to look at the general issue in more detail but was not in favour of a Working Party, in view of the risk of an additional layer of bureaucracy and slowing any response.

Reopening of primary schools

Merrett, R.A.
Deputy, to the
Chairman of
the Education
Board

Deputy Robert Merrett asked a question of the Chairman of the Education Board concerning the reopening of primary schools in line with Government advice and resources being made available to ensure this was achieved safely.

Responding, the Chairman noted that all schools were planning for a potential phased re-opening, ahead of confirmation that the Government's five key tests were met. The Government expected children in childcare and Early Years settings to return first and for Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to be back in school in smaller sizes no earlier than 1 June. For the City, the relevant affected schools were, therefore, the Sir John Cass grant-maintained school, the three Academy primaries (City of London Primary Academy Islington, Redriff and Galleywall) and the three independent schools. However, related planning and the same principles would affect all schools within the City's Family and the Chair undertook to provide more detailed information with regard to any City school, should any Member so wish.

The Chairman observed that, at all places of primary learning, the City had a duty to provide support to vulnerable children and so there was a particular focus on ensuring they could return to their schools and have continued access to their education, including via remote learning where appropriate. He also outlined responsibilities regarding Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and children plus young people with Education Health and Care Plans.

There was much for each School to consider and he acknowledged the support provided by the Education Unit to ensure that each could plan for re-opening by refreshing their risk assessments and other health and safety advice for children, young people, and staff, including regular review of government advice, identifying protective measures, and ensuring that all health and safety compliance checks had been or would be undertaken before any potential opening. He stressed that initial responsibility rested with each school and its local governing body who must look closely at four main areas of risk: health, learning, support for staff, and financial solvency. Planning needed to be flexible and locally based, with a particular focus on communication, provision of data and monitoring.

The Chairman also advised that, at an early stage in lockdown, the Education Board had freed up restrictions governing City Premium Grants provided to Academies to allow them to use such monies in the most effective way to address COVID-19 challenges. In addition, various fora had been held in order to offer the latest advice, provide support and answer questions.

In closing, the Chairman observed that this was an extremely fluid situation and the position would undoubtedly evolve. He cautioned that the challenge would be how best to address the growing long-term challenge faced by disadvantaged children whose learning gap became wider and long-term opportunities became narrower with each day of lockdown, set against potential dangers to health of children and staff from too early a return to face-to-face learning.

With reference to a supplementary question from James Tumbridge, the chairman confirmed that the position in respect of all year groups, not just those due to return to school first, was being kept under constant review.

Broeke, T., to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

Annual Appointment of Committees

Tijs Broeke asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the annual appointment of committees, noting the Chair's earlier reference to the intention to bring forward proposals to hold this process in July.

The Chair confirmed that she had asked for a paper to be produced to assess the options in this respect and that it would be brought to the next cycle of meetings for consideration.

Electric Scooters

Gowman, A.J.,
Alderman to the
Chair of the
Planning &
Transportation
Committee

Alderman Alison Gowman asked a question of the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee concerning the use of electric scooters and the City Corporation's views in respect of their legalisation, in order to provide a further option to commuters to travel to work during the COVID-19 recovery.

Responding, the Chair noted that electric scooters were not currently legal for use on public highways in the UK but that the Government had committed to reviewing this position, with trials of rental e-scooter schemes planned as part of this review process. The City Corporation itself did not currently have a formal position on e-scooter use but was keen to do whatever it could to help businesses and workers return as safely as possible to the City and their places of work. Consequently, a report on this issue would be considered by the Planning & Transportation Committee at its meeting on 23 June. The views of the Committee would help inform potential participation in any future trials and guide responses to any consultations as part of the legislative review. The Chair stressed that he would not want to presume to make a judgement on what these views might be ahead of that meeting.

The Chair also took the opportunity to reference developing proposals to change the City's streets to enable more people to move around the City either on foot or by cycle, which would go a considerable way to ensuring that people living in, visiting or returning to their workplace in the Square Mile were safe whilst also supporting the City's Post COVID-19 recovery.

Affordable Housing

Fentimen, H. to
the Chair of the
Planning &
Transportation
Committee

Helen Fentimen asked a question of the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee concerning affordable housing and provision for key workers within City boundaries. She also sought a commitment to provide the number of housing units identified in the City Plan 2036, as well as an undertaking to revise the position on the future requirements for office space, given that many businesses were likely to propose new ways of working with less reliance on City accommodation.

Responding, the Chair confirmed that the City Plan 2036 provided a clear commitment to make provision for a minimum of 1,460 net additional dwellings in the City between the years 2019/20 and 2028/29. He outlined the mechanisms through which this would be achieved, including by encouraging new housing development on appropriate sites in or near identified existing residential areas, and by protecting existing housing where it was of suitable quality in a suitable location. The new Plan also included a policy commitment to the delivery of a minimum of 50% affordable housing on public sector land and required residential development in the City with the potential for more than 10 units to provide a minimum of 35% affordable housing on-site.

The Chair noted that the existing policy of refusing new housing in locations where it would prejudice the primary business function of the City would continue, in recognition that the City was considered in both national and Mayoral policy to be a leading financial and professional services centre having a key role in the UK economy. Therefore, housing was not appropriate for every site in the City, although commercial developments were required to contribute financially to affordable housing provision through extensive planning obligations. Funding delivered through these obligations was used by the Department of Community and Children's Services to deliver the new affordable housing.

With regard to the suggestion that the position on future requirements for office space be revised, the Chair cautioned that it would be precipitate to say how the

effects of COVID-19 would impact on the City in the medium to longer term, noting that a number of previous trends may or may not resume whilst other, new trends, would emerge. The new Plan sought to look beyond the current situation to a period when a probable vaccine would renew the attractiveness of accessible and vibrant city centres and the current experience of pre-application discussions suggested there remained a strong appetite for further office development in the City. He considered that the new City Plan provided a flexible framework for the delivery of appropriate office floorspace in the City as part of sustainable growth, adding that regular monitoring of trends and close liaison with developers and occupiers would identify any long-term changes in business practices and space requirements which could be reflected in future alterations to the Local Plan.

Investment Strategy

Lord, C.E.L.,
O.B.E., J.P., Deputy
to the Chair of
the Investment
Committee

Deputy Edward Lord asked a question of the Chair of the Investment Committee regarding the City Corporation's future investment strategy and the importance of demonstrating the organisation's values through its investment portfolio, particularly in the context of the current COVID-19 crisis and its impacts.

In reply, the Chair agreed that businesses should be acting in the interests of their staff, communities, and in the national interest, as well as in the interests of shareholders, at this time of crisis. He also agreed that the City Corporation should be investing for the long-term in a sustainable way, balancing the maximisation of income streams whilst holding itself to the highest standards and investing consistently with the UN Principles for Responsible Investment that it had signed up to. He added that the City Corporation was working with its investment managers to promote responsible business in line with its Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) commitments, through active engagement with businesses within the portfolio, and was also promoting these principles strongly through the Green Finance Institute and Impact Investing Institute.

Support and financial assistance for service departments affected by COVID

Graham, T. to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

Tracey Graham asked the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee a question concerning the financial impact of COVID on service departments, seeking clarification as to what assurances had been given in relation to making up for lost external income.

Responding, the Chair observed that she was not able to provide assurances that the losses of individual departments or institutions could be made good, noting that the pandemic had had a significant impact on the City's overall finances potentially in the order of an annualised deficit of £60m-70m, with around two-thirds of that impact falling on City Fund.

Lost income had been the primary driver and significant thought would need to be given to a range of options for managing the position. The informal meeting of Resource Allocation Sub Committee in early July would receive an update on both the in-year budget position and the Medium-Term Financial Plan, leading on to a re-budgeting exercise in early autumn when decisions could be taken. In the meantime, it was vital that every effort be made to contain costs and minimise loss of income.

Replying to a supplementary question from Tracey Graham concerning the Fundamental Review, the Chair confirmed that consideration would need to be given to the impact of COVID in taking this forward.

In response to a supplementary question from Deputy Philip Woodhouse concerning the potential for furloughing staff, the Chair advised of the limitations of that scheme in the context of the City Corporation's myriad functions and the difficulties of applying any a blanket policy due to the contracts of employment used. The approach had been not to furlough staff at this time but to seek to redeploy them wherever possible; however, if re-deployment was not an option, then furloughing was not ruled out. The situation was under constant review and a report on furloughing options and employee redeployment was to be considered by the Establishment Committee at its next meeting.

Homelessness Provision

*Lloyd-Owen,
N.M.C., to the
Chair of the
Community &
Children's
Services
Committee*

Natasha Lloyd-Owen asked a question of the Chair of the Community & Children's Services Committee, referencing recent news articles concerning financial support from central government in respect of homelessness provision. She sought confirmation that there was continued funding for the provision of hotel or other temporary accommodation for those willing to accept it and whether steps were being taken to ensure that all those who had accepted temporary accommodation could remain until they could be supported into longer-term accommodation.

Responding, the Chair advised that he was encouraged to note that the Government had been swift to respond to media articles, refuting suggestions that funding was being withdrawn or that people would be asked to leave hotels. He added that he was also looking forward to further clarification from central government regarding individuals with no recourse to public funds.

The Chair confirmed that 48 people referred by the City's outreach team were being accommodated in government-funded provision, with a further 44 housed from the streets by the City Corporation in bed spaces procured in hotels, specialist hostels and the Youth Hostel at St Pauls. There was continued funding for these. And officers were already exploring options to secure pathways and to provide the supported accommodation that could assist in achieving a lasting end to rough sleeping.

11. Motions There were no motions.

12. Awards & Prizes The Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee spoke to inform the Court that the Planning and Transportation Committee's long standing legal advisor, Deborah Cluett, had been named as the Planning Resource Magazine's council legal department's number one individual solicitor 2020, following the 23rd edition of the Planning Law Survey. On behalf of the Court, he took the opportunity to offer public congratulations on this accolade. He also congratulated the wider Planning legal team, which had made the second spot in terms of the most admired local authority legal teams in planning terms in this same survey, expressing his gratitude for their dedication and expertise.

13. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)**

17 April 2020

(A) Reports of Action Taken: COVID-19 Response

As a consequence of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak in the United Kingdom and related directives from Her Majesty's Government, the City of London Corporation suspended the vast majority of formal decision-making meetings towards the end of March 2020. Whilst formal meetings had since been reinstated following the introduction of new Regulations permitting virtual meetings, a number of decisions concerning the immediate response to the outbreak had been required to be taken in the interim, in accordance with the City Corporation's urgency procedures. The various actions taken were as follows:

i) Postponement of the election of Sheriffs and other Officers usually elected in Common Hall on Midsummer Day

Arising from the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, Hm Government suspended the London Mayoral, Police and Crime Commissioner and local government elections until May 2021. These provisions did not apply to municipal elections in the City, which remained under the control of the City Corporation, but reflected a clear statement of national policy. It was, accordingly, necessary to give consideration to the election of Sheriffs and other Officers by an assembly of the Livery in Common Hall on Midsummer Day (24 June). The timeline was also relevant to the Mayoral election in Common Hall due in September 2020.

Given the national position and uncertainty about the length of time during which restrictions and effects on normal activities may be in place, it was recommended that the elections on Midsummer Day should be delayed for a year, until Midsummer Day in 2021, which would have the effect that the terms of office of the incumbent Sheriffs and other Officers would also be extended accordingly. This could be implemented though a formal resolution of the Court of Common Council. The Court of Aldermen resolved similarly the intention for the currently serving Lord Mayor to be selected to serve a second term.

To allow for the required adjustments to be actioned appropriately, the views of the Policy & Resources Committee were sought at an informal meeting on 16 April 2020, after which the proposals were ratified under urgency procedures in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a) and, thereafter, submitted and approved by the Court in accordance with Standing Order No.19.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

ii) Postponement of the Annual Appointment of Committees and Consequential Matters

In response to the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak and related directives from HM Government, the City of London Corporation suspended the vast majority of formal decision-making meetings towards the end of March 2020, with decisions being taken in the meantime in accordance with the City Corporation's urgency procedures.

This suspension included the April meeting of the Court of Common Council, which was when the constitution of committees and election or appointment to those committees would be made for the ensuing municipal year. Therefore, the Court of Common Council would be unable to appoint its Committees, nor elect and appoint to those Committees for 2020/21. There was also a consequential impact in respect of other Standing Orders, including the ability of the Chief Commoner-Elect to take office, which needed to be addressed.

Given the position and uncertainty about the length of time during which restrictions and effects on normal activities may be in place, together with limited resource with which to work through immediate implications, it was felt that the pragmatic response in the circumstances would be to roll forward the existing arrangements in respect of committee membership and associated matters - i.e., to preserve the status quo subject to any further decision of the Court.

This accorded with the wider national approach in respect of the deferral of local government and Mayoral elections for the forthcoming year. It also aligned with *The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 governing meetings* ("the Regulations") which came into force on 4 April 2020, which set out such an approach.

A report detailing the proposed action was circulated to all Members of the Court for comment, with responses received relayed to an informal meeting of Members of the Policy & Resources Committee on 16 April 2020. Following discussion at that meeting and a minor amendment emerging from that discussion, the proposals were ratified under urgency procedures in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a) and, thereafter, submitted and approved by the Court in accordance with Standing Order No.19.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

iii) Temporary Amendments to Code of Corporate Governance in response to COVID-19/Coronavirus

The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic had led to the suspension of ordinary City of London Corporation activity, including aspects of the City Corporation's Committee process. Whilst emergency legislation was enacted to facilitate the holding of formal virtual decision-making meetings, which progressed as of 24 April, there was still a requirement to streamline decision-making in a small number of relevant areas, allowing both resources and decision-making meetings to focus as far as possible on critical and / or frontline services, where these decisions would have greatest impact and importance.

To this end, 14 requests were made by service departments in respect of potential changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers and the Project Procedure, requesting temporary delegations to Chief Officers to make decisions on certain matters without recourse to Committees. Of the 14, following review by the Town Clerk and Director of Human Resources, 3 were recommended for rejection, while a further 7 were recommended for approval subject to Member involvement (e.g.

delegated authority arrangements, rather than solely to officers). 4 were recommended for approval without amendment.

The views of the Policy & Resources Committee were sought at an informal meeting on 16 April 2020, after which the proposals were ratified under urgency procedures in accordance with Standing Order No. 41(a) and, thereafter, submitted and approved by the Court in accordance with Standing Order No.19. The amendments were made on a time-limited basis, expiring 31 October 2020.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

iv) COVID-19 Contingency Fund

In order to manage through the challenging period caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the various unanticipated issues arising therefrom, it was recommended that a COVID-19 Contingency Fund be established to support those business continuity arrangements required to enable the City Corporation to continue its activities as best as it could during this period.

In December 2018, the Court had agreed the establishment of a £2m Brexit Contingency Fund, to support the City Corporation's strategic aims during the Brexit period, as well as to manage the risks to service delivery. Given the ongoing delays to the delivery of Brexit, the majority of funds remained unspent to-date, with no foreseeable major draw-down required in this area in the coming period. It was, therefore, proposed that a portion of the funds be reallocated to meet the COVID requirements, and that £1.5m be transferred from the Brexit Contingency Fund to the COVID-19 Contingency Fund, to support contingency arrangements required during this time.

In view of the ongoing crisis and the need for access to contingency funds as soon as possible, so as to facilitate an expeditious response to emerging issues and to take mitigating actions proactively, the approval of the Court was sought and obtained in accordance with Standing Order No.19 to reallocate £1.5m from the Brexit Contingency Fund to the COVID-19 Contingency Fund.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

17 April 2020

(B) Report of Action Taken: City of London Academies Trust

The City of London Corporation (CoLC) was the sponsor of a number of academies, with the governance of these academies managed through The City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT). However, two Academies for which the CoLC was a co-sponsor - the City of London Academy Islington (COLAI) and The City Academy, Hackney (TCAH) – had, until now, operated outside of CoLAT.

On 2 December 2019 and 22 January 2020 the Governing Bodies of COLAI and TCAH respectively resolved to support the proposal for their academies to join the CoLAT, and for the academies' joint sponsors to enter into formal discussions to that end. In each instance the proposals were supported by the respective co-sponsors. Both the London Borough of Hackney and the London Borough of Islington were also supportive. In addition, the Regional Schools Commissioner

(RSC), whose consent is required, approved these academies joining CoLAT.

Following consideration by the relevant Committees and engagement with the Department for Education, urgency procedures were subsequently employed to approve the transfer of TCAH and COLAI to CoLAT.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

14. **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Alastair Moss)

31 March 2020

City of London Local Plan Review: Proposed Publication of the City Plan 2036

The City Corporation had reviewed its Local Plan, which set out the Corporation's vision, objectives and policies for planning the City of London. The current City Local Plan was adopted in 2015 and set the context for land-use and development requirements up to 2026. The new Local Plan would have an end date of 2036.

Preparation of the new Local Plan had been informed by two rounds of public consultation, as well as national planning policy, the Mayor of London's current London Plan and the emerging new London Plan, an evidence base of research, including a viability assessment, a supporting Integrated Impact Assessment, and delivery of the Corporate Plan and other City Corporation strategies.

The Court of Common Council was now recommended to agree to the publication of the *Proposed Submission City Plan 2036* for a final period of public consultation, following which it would return to the Planning & Transportation Committee for final consideration before being submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector. Consultation would take place after the Recess and when feasible in line with Government health advice. The new Plan was currently expected to be adopted in 2021 and a full version of the Proposed Submission City Plan 2036 was available at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityplan2036.

Whilst it was too soon to understand the long-term effects of COVID-19, the Chair advised that the Plan was flexible and capable of adapting to change as might be required.

Following a suggestion that the report should be rejected at this time, an indicative vote was held, following which the Lord Mayor declared the report to be carried.

Resolved – That the Proposed Submission City Plan 2036 set out at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/cityplan2036 be approved for public consultation.

15. **MARKETS COMMITTEE**

(James Richard Tumbridge)

4 March 2020

Proposed Amendment to Terms of Reference

This item was **withdrawn**.

The Chairman, on a point of order, spoke to explain the rationale for the withdrawal and referenced the agreement of a protocol, which had been circulated to all Members. This protocol articulated the information-sharing arrangements in respect of the Markets Consolidation Programme and obviated the requirement for an amendment to the Terms of Reference.

16.

THE CITY BRIDGE TRUST COMMITTEE

(Dhruv Patel, OBE)

7 April 2020

Report of Urgent Actions Taken: COVID-19 Response

Following the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak in the United Kingdom, the City Bridge Trust Committee had proposed two actions be taken which required the approval of the Court of Common Council, in accordance with the City Corporation's urgency procedures. These actions were intended to assist with the immediate response to the crisis and were as follows:

i) Covid-19 Response: Grant to London Funders

London Funders, the umbrella body for any corporate, independent or governmental organisations who fund civil society in London, had determined to co-ordinate a response to the COVID-19 crisis for London's funding community.

A proposal for a pooled fund to provide support to civil society organisations in need of additional resources was subsequently devised, with it further proposed that the City Bridge Trust allocate £1 million (out of its agreed 'Bridging Divides' grants budgets) towards this pooled fund, with the City of London Corporation (acting as trustee of the Bridge House Estates charity) administering the fund through City Bridge Trust.

Approval was subsequently granted under urgency procedures in respect of the allocation of £1 million towards a pooled fund, this pooled fund to be held by the City of London Corporation (as trustee to the Bridge House Estates charity), administered by CBT working with London Funders and its members. Approval was also granted for the City of London Corporation, as trustee of Bridge House Estates, establishing the London Community Response Fund, a separate trust fund within the ancillary object of Bridge House Estates.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

ii) Temporary amendments to thresholds for grant approvals under delegated powers and the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (Chief Grants Officer)

Following the establishment of the London Community Response Fund outlined above, decisions on the first wave of applications were due during the week commencing 6 April 2020.

Ordinarily, the Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust (CGO) would consider and approve grants up to a certain threshold. However, the CGO was seconded full-time to the London-wide COVID-19 response and the ordinary tempo of decision making by Committee was disrupted by the cancellation of meetings

and the redeployment of staff who would ordinarily support the decision-making process. Therefore, it was proposed to both amend the threshold of delegation to allow the Deputy Director of City Bridge Trust (DCGO) to act in the CGO's absence and increase the threshold at which the CGO or DCGO can approve grants, without recourse to the City Bridge Trust Committee or the Town Clerk.

The proposed amendments would be subject to review after three months of operation. Moreover, a report for information would be submitted to The City Bridge Trust Committee summarising grant making made under these arrangements. The CGO and the Comptroller & City Solicitor were content with the proposals following consultation. The relevant approvals were obtained under urgency procedures in accordance with Standing Order No.19.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

17. **FREEDOM APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

(Alderman Sir David Wootton)

17 April 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Award of the Freedom of the City of London by Special Nomination to Thomas Moore

In recognition of his initiative to raise money for the NHS during the COVID-19 coronavirus crisis, the Lord Mayor had nominated Thomas Moore, also known as Captain Tom Moore, for Freedom of the City of London by Special Nomination. The nomination was seconded by the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, Deputy Catherine McGuinness. The Freedom Applications Committee considered this nomination and was highly supportive of the award.

The Freedom was the first to be given virtually and was live streamed on YouTube. The request for approval was submitted under urgency to provide this recognition to mark the completion of the 100 laps of his garden and his 100th birthday, where it was intended that the Freedom of the City would form one of many honours that were bestowed upon Captain Moore.

Approval was, therefore, granted by the Court of Common Council under urgency procedures to admit Thomas Moore, also known as Captain Tom Moore, to the Freedom of the City of London by Special Nomination; being nominated by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, and Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness, Citizen and Solicitor.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

18. *Resolved* – that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Summary of exempt items considered whilst the public were excluded:-

19. *Resolved* – That the non-public Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

20. **Planning and Transportation Committee**
The Court approved a project proposal at Gateway 4b concerning a series of waterproofing, drainage and landscaping works.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 2.30pm.

BARRADELL.