



RUSSELL, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

3rd December 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

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
Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Alastair John Naisbitt King
Susan Langley
Ian David Luder

Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons
Sheriff Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli
Bronek Masojada
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
Randall Keith Anderson
Alexander Robertson Martin Barr
Douglas Barrow
Matthew Bell
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
Thomas Cowley Clementi
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst

Graeme Doshi-Smith
Karina Dostalova
Deputy 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
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

Deputy Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi
Angus Knowles-Cutler
Tim Levene
Vivienne Littlechild
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
Deputy Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers
Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney
Hugh Fenton Morris
Alastair Michael Moss
Barbara Patricia Newman
Graham Packham
Susan Jane Pearson

John Petrie
William Pimlott
Judith Pleasance
Deputy James Henry George Pollard
Jason Paul Pritchard
Stephen Douglas Quilter
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
John George Stewart Scott
Oliver Sells QC
Deputy Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson
Jeremy Lewis Simons
Deputy Tom Sleight
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson
Deputy John Tomlinson
James Richard Tumbridge
William Upton QC
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
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.

4. Mayoral Visits The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor took the opportunity to update the Court on his virtual engagement programme.

5. Policy Statement There was no statement.

6. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(Jeremy Paul Mayhew)

13 October 2020

Resetting of Departmental Budgets 2020/21

The Court was **recommended** to approve a series of proposals arising from an in-year re-budgeting exercise, intended to assist in repairing the damage to the City's budgets arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. This was considered to be a vital step in ensuring that the City Corporation put its finances on a sustainable footing for the medium term.

The Chairman spoke to introduce the report, noting that the impact of COVID-19 stood at just over £28m in 2020/21 and that, whilst the City expected to recover an estimated £13.6m from the Government's compensation scheme, the remaining deficit would need to come from reserves. He outlined the process by which the re-budgeting exercise had been progressed and urged Members to support the proposals.

In response to a query, the Chairman undertook to have a copy of his introductory speech circulated to Members for information.

Resolved – That:-

1. The steps already taken to reduce the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.
2. The adjusted departmental budgets totalling £14.2m be approved outlined in the report, including a downward revision of £1m for the Barbican explained at paragraph 7 and a reduction of £400k to the original proposal for the Open Spaces Department explained at paragraph 9.
3. Proposals to continue working with departments to identify further savings where possible be approved.
4. The continuation of recruitment controls aligned to the Target Operating Model (TOM) be approved, noting these may give further savings in the year.

7. **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Alastair Michael Moss)

15 October 2020

Gateway 4b: Bank Junction Improvements Project: All Change at Bank

Approval was sought at Gateway 4b to progress the 'All Change at Bank' Bank Junction Improvements project. The project aimed to improve the safety, air quality and pedestrian experience of the area around the Bank junction and reflect the historic and iconic surroundings with the appropriate sense of place. The project

enacted the City of London Corporation's longer-term ambitions for the junction and was a product of the Bank Area Enhancement Strategy agreed by the Court of Common Council in May 2013.

The Chair spoke to introduce the report, reminding Members of the genesis of the project, summarising the proposals before the Court, and setting out the timescales for future activity, including the public consultation process in 2021. He also addressed the interaction with temporary road layout amendments associated with the Covid-19 response.

During discussion, a Member spoke to express their concern as to the closure of Threadneedle Street and the knock-on impact on Broad Street and the surrounding area, challenging the general move to restrict traffic movements particularly in the current context. The Chair noted that the City's Transport Strategy prioritised pedestrian movements and that there were also health and safety and air quality considerations informing decisions; however, all steps were being managed in such a way as to take other road users into consideration, recognising the need to ensure that traffic could still move through efficiently where required.

Responding to several Members' queries in relation to consultation and engagement with local businesses, the Chair agreed with the importance of this and advised that a full consultation process with all businesses and stakeholders would be progressed during the coming year. With reference to a particular concern regarding disabled access, the Chair provided assurances that the views of disabled user groups, including the City Access Group, would be a key part of the process.

In response to several queries in relation to the possibility of providing a taxi-rank outside the NED, the Chair advised that there would remain a step-free access and drop-off point on Princes Street and that discussions with the NED were ongoing as to the possibility of a rank on Poultry.

Resolved – That the progression of project be approved past Gateway 4b, noting:-

1. The intention to submit a Gateway 5 in September/October 2021.
2. That Design Option 1 would be taken forward to detailed design stage (the closure of Threadneedle Street and further restriction of Queen Victoria Street and Princes Street).
3. That further investigation into permitting general traffic on the 'open arms' during the current restricted hours would not be carried forward for further investigation.
4. The cost of £541,935 to reach the next gateway, giving a cumulative approved budget of £1,923,410 after allowing for the underspend to date of £201,983.
5. That funding for this budget would be partially met from unspent S106 deposits arising from the underspend to date, with the balance of £339,953 to be drawn down from the central funding agreed in principle via the 2020/21 annual capital bid process.

6. The total estimated cost of the project at £5.0m - £5.7 million.
7. The approved Costed Risk Provision of £95,000 (to be drawn down via delegation to Chief Officer).
8. That the Gateway 4c Detailed Design report and all further decisions on reports would be delegated for approval via the Streets and Walkways and Projects Sub Committees.

8. **BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD**

(Deputy Tom Sleight)

11 November 2020

Barbican Centre Board: Review of Composition and Terms of Reference

The Barbican Centre Board had recently considered its governance arrangements with a view to determining whether or not they remained fit for purpose, or where improvements might be achieved. This was of particular salience for the Barbican given the challenging circumstances arising from the COVID-19 outbreak, together with other emerging challenges affecting the cultural sector more generally.

Following its deliberations, the Board now wished to progress changes to:

- its composition and, in particular, its ability to increase the external expertise available to it (by two additional individuals);
- its own rules in relation to term limits, where a lack of clarity had become apparent (applying a consistent nine-year limit on membership); and,
- a minor amendment to the Board's Terms of Reference, to reflect better the Barbican's creative learning activities and the Board's oversight thereof.

These recommendations had been considered and supported by the Policy & Resources Committee at its November 2020 meeting.

It was noted that the outcomes of Lord Lisvane's comprehensive Governance Review would also reflect on the Barbican Board's governance. The Board's proposals at this stage were intended to be complementary to any Barbican-specific recommendations that emerged from Members' wider consideration of that Review over the longer-term, facilitating the effective implementation of proposals within the context of the Barbican's current needs, whilst also taking into account best practice across the arts sector and comparator institutions.

Resolved – That approval be granted in respect of:

1. An alteration to the composition of the Barbican Centre Board, to allow for two additional external Members (see paragraphs 5-11).
2. The consistent application of a nine-year term limit across the Barbican Centre Board's membership, applying to all Members (see paragraphs 12-20).
3. A clarification in respect of the Board's Terms of Reference in relation to the Barbican's creative learning activities (see paragraphs 21-27).
4. The consequent amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 1.

9.
Committee
Appointments

The Court proceeded to consider appointments to the following Committees:-

- (A) One Member on **the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama**, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2021.

Nominations received:-

Andrew Paul Mayer

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Andrew Mayer to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama of Andrew Mayer, for a term expiring April 2021.

- (B) Seven Members on the **Community & Children's Services Committee**, for the balance of terms expiring in April 2021.

Nominations received:-

Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley

Tijs Broeke

Sheriff Christopher Michael Hayward

Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark

Deputy Elizabeth Rogula

Sir Michael Snyder

Dawn Lindsay Wright

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Keith Bottomley, Tijs Broeke, Sheriff Christopher Hayward, Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark, Deputy Elizabeth Rogula, Sir Michael Snyder and Dawn Wright to be appointed to Community & Children's Services Committee, for the balance of terms expiring in April 2021.

- (C) Two Members on the **Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee**, for the balance of terms expiring April 2021.

Nominations received:-

Andrew Paul Mayer

Barbara Newman, C.B.E.*

**NB – Barbara Newman had been appointed to the Committee under urgency procedures on 2 November, following e-mail consultation of the Court and in advance of the Committee's November meeting, in order to assist with quoracy concerns.*

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Andrew Mayer and Barbara Newman to be appointed to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for the balance of terms expiring in April 2021.

- (D) One Member on the **Standards Appeals Committee**, for the balance of terms expiring in April 2021.

Nominations received:-

Alderman Gregory Percy Jones, Q.C.

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderman Gregory Jones Q.C. to be appointed to the Standards Appeal Committee for the balance of a term expiring in April 2021.

- (E) Two Members on **Christ's Hospital**, for terms expiring in March 2024 and June 2024.

Nominations received:-

Deputy Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Dr Giles Shilson to be appointed to Christ's Hospital for a term expiring in June 2024.

10. 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.

Abdal Uddin Ahmed <i>Munsur Ali, CC</i> <i>Rehana Banu Ameer, CC</i>	a School Games Organiser <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Limehouse, London
Asad Aamir Ansari <i>Ald. Prof. & Sheriff Michael</i> <i>Raymond Mainelli</i> <i>Mark Raymond Peter Wheatley</i>	an Operations Director and Consultant <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Draper</i>	Loughborough, Leicestershire
Suneel Bakhshi <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sir Roger Gifford, Kt.</i>	a Banker <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Holland Park, London
Jessica Jane Bates <i>James Nicholas Bromiley-Davis</i> <i>Ald. Emma Edhem</i>	a Jeweller <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	Penge, London
Lt. Col. Christopher Colin Stephen Booth <i>Geoffrey Charles Bond</i> <i>Col. Anthony William King- Harman, CBE</i>	a Livery Company Clerk <i>Citizen and Glazier</i> <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i>	Farnham, Surrey
David Bulbrook <i>Donald William Randall, MBE</i>	a Fire Brigade Borough Commander <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	Bexleyheath, Kent

<i>Graham Bassett</i>	<i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	
Jason Charles Burgoin <i>Michele McCarthy</i> <i>John A Welch</i>	a Canadian Army Officer <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
John Stefan Burmicz <i>Alan Leslie Warman</i> <i>Diane Irene Warman</i>	a Company Director <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i>	Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire
Stephen Peter Cleary <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Civil Servant <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire
James Dominic Edward Close <i>The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Chartered Accountant <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Harrow on the Hill, London
Anthony Richard Grenville Cowland <i>Graham George Cooke</i> <i>Hugh Stuart Stucley Trotter, DFC</i>	an Artist, Designer and Photographer <i>Citizen and Painter Stainer</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Wadhurst, East Sussex
Ann Elizabeth Farquharson <i>Michael Peter Cawston</i> <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett</i>	a Barrister <i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer</i> <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	Ontario, Canada
Alison Mary Kent Gordon <i>Alan Leslie Warman</i> <i>Diane Irene Warman</i>	a Company Secretary, retired <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i>	Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire
John Malcolm Gordon <i>Alan Leslie Warman</i> <i>Diane Irene Warman</i>	a Mechanical Engineering Company Director, retired <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i>	Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire
Katherine Helen Greig <i>The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Senior Transition Specialist <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Chelsea, London
Adrienne Rita Harper <i>Wesley Gavin Harper</i> <i>Yasmeen Stratton</i>	a Livery Company Clerk <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i> <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	North Warnborough, Hampshire
John Anthony Helliwell <i>The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Musician <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Newbiggin, Carnforth, Cumbria
Dr Patrick William Jordan <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Researcher and Advisor <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Butleigh, Somerset
Million Joseph <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett</i> <i>Geoffrey Gray Lunn</i>	a Mental Health Service Manager <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i>	Islington, London

Klaus Roderick Kaiser <i>John Alexander Smail</i> <i>Dorothy Newlands of Lauriston</i>	a Real Estate Company Chairman <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Loughborough, Leicestershire
Perry Keena <i>Scott Marcus Longman</i> <i>Garry Wykes</i>	a Financial Consultant <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Joiner & Ceiler</i>	Maidenhead, Berkshire
Sam Perry Keena <i>Scott Marcus Longman</i> <i>Garry Wykes</i>	an Independent Mortgage Consultant <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Joiner & Ceiler</i>	Surbiton, Surrey
Helene Kay Koot <i>Michael Peter Cawston</i> <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett</i>	a Hotel Manager <i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer</i> <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Richard Joseph Logue <i>David O'Reilly</i> <i>Richard Evans</i>	a Project Management Consultant <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Mill Hill, London
Pamela Jane Magill <i>Dr Lesley Patricia Muriel Taor</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Astley-Cooper</i> <i>Eggar</i>	a School Receptionist, retired <i>Citizen and Art Scholar</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Edgbaston, Birmingham
Dawn Allison McCafferty <i>Gilbert Aubrey Singleton</i> <i>John James Tunesi of Liongam,</i> <i>The Younger</i>	a Royal Air Force Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	St Blazey, Cornwall
Jordan Michael David Meade <i>Ald. Prof. & Sheriff Michael</i> <i>Raymond Mainelli</i> <i>Elisabeth Mainelli</i>	a Senior Policy Advisor and Councillor <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Mason</i>	Gravesend, Kent
Air Vice Marshal Ian Craig Morrison, CBE <i>Air Commodore Richard Skene</i> <i>Peacock-Edwards, CBE AFC</i> <i>Air Marshal Clifford Rodney</i> <i>Spink, CB CBE</i>	a Royal Air Force Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Air Pilot and Air</i> <i>Navigator</i> <i>Citizen and Air Pilot</i>	Heacham, Norfolk
Fiyaz Akhtar Mughal, OBE <i>Mark Raymond Peter Wheatley</i> <i>Ald. Emma Edhem</i>	a Director <i>Citizen and Draper</i> <i>Citizen & Woolman</i>	Wood Green, London
Norman Hugh Savill <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony</i> <i>McGuinness</i> <i>Sir David Wootton, Kt., Ald.</i>	a Trade Association Director of Regulation <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	Navestock, Essex
The Hon. David Louis Taylor <i>The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Civil Servant <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Clapham, London
Paul Stuart Thompson	a Management Accountant,	Frinton-on-Sea, Essex

<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Michael Matthew Wall <i>Geoffrey Douglas Ellis</i> <i>Garry Wykes</i>	a Hotel General Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Joiner</i> <i>Citizen and Joiner & Ceiler</i>	Sheffield, South Yorkshire
David Geoffrey Ward <i>Donald William Randall, MBE</i> <i>Graham Bassett</i>	a Security Company Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i> <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	Gillingham, Kent
Kevin Allen Webber, BEM <i>The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Bank Manager <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Epsom, Surrey
Antony Wong <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony</i> <i>McGuinness</i> <i>Jeremy Lewis Simons, CC</i>	a Dental Surgeon, retired <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Scientific Instrument</i> <i>Maker</i>	St John's Wood, London
Prof. Christopher Barry Wood <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>Jonathan Patterson Shiels</i>	a Chief Medical Officer <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Joiner & Ceiler</i>	Highcliffe, Dorset
Rume Zahan <i>Munsur Ali, CC</i> <i>Rehana Banu Ameer, CC</i>	a National Health Service Patient Access Officer <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Stepney, London

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 thereby ordered that the Chamberlain do admit them severally to their Freedom accordingly.

11. Questions

Lodge, O.A.W.,
to the Chair of
the Policy &
Resources
Committee

Competitive environment for captive insurance companies

Oliver Lodge asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the provision of a competitive environment for captive insurance companies.

Responding, the Chair advised that she was speaking regularly to the CEO and Chair of the London Markets Group (LMG), who were leading and co-ordinating industry efforts to build the onshore captive insurance market. The LMG had had constructive recent meetings with HM Treasury and the Financial Conduct Authority on this issue, including with Ministers, and would be consulting the industry shortly with a view to submitting formal proposals for the legislative and statutory changes required to build the captive insurance market. This would be in the context of Government's consultations on the future of the Solvency II regime.

She added that the LMG had welcomed the City Corporation's interest and offers of future support on this issue and had indicated that they were happy with the current direction and pace of travel with Government.

Oliver Lodge asked a supplementary question, concerning the City Corporation's role as the principal supporter of the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) sector and the need to involve Members more effectively in the creation of an economic development strategy, with a view to ensuring the City remained the most attractive domain for FPS businesses.

The Chair agreed that the City Corporation should focus on making the City as competitive and attractive as possible and suggested that this was achieved most effectively by listening to what the sector needed and ensuring this was reflected clearly and practically to Government, where the City Corporation was aligned. In this particular instance, LMG was taking the lead and doing just this, so she suggested it would be most appropriate for the City Corporation to support them in this work. In relation to a query concerning the City's own captive insurance arrangements, she advised that this would be a matter for the Finance Committee.

Alderwoman Sue Langley asked a supplementary question, seeking clarity on the international element in supporting insurance and how the City Corporation was helping London win new business and stay competitive. She also queried the impact of Brexit on insurance, particularly in relation to the shape of post-Brexit regulation, and what the City Corporation was doing in this area.

In reply, the Chair noted that the London market was a truly global one, with more commercial business now written in London from the US and Canada than from the UK and Ireland. As such, securing and maintaining investment would be crucial for the future. The US was the key partner in this respect and the role of the dominant US brokers Aon and Marsh in bringing US and global business to London was central to the City's competitiveness. The Chair outlined the regular engagement with Aon and Marsh, as well as the relationships with other US and European firms who were important investors in both the London market and the retail sector. Further afield, through the Lord Mayor's programme, the City supported UK retail firms such as Prudential, Aviva and BUPA build their business in China and other developing markets in Asia, Africa and the Gulf.

With reference to the impact of Brexit on the London market, the Chair suggested that this was likely to be mixed. Lloyd's had established a new platform in Brussels and were confident that Brexit would have limited impact on their volumes and business models; however, for the non-Lloyd's market, it must be acknowledged that firms needed to plan for no-deal and that business had been lost, with nearly 60% of EU premiums previously written in London having returned to local markets. However, this had been compensated to some degree by gains in new business from other markets, including indeed from European investors in London building their non-EU business in the US and elsewhere. An equivalence regime, which the City Corporation continued to press for, would help stabilise and regrow the remaining EU business and retain EU investment in the London Market. The Corporation was speaking regularly to the Association of British Insurers (ABI) about the challenges that Brexit posed for the UK retail sector.

The Chair also referenced the Chancellor's intended full-scale review of Solvency II, the EU Directive covering insurance which formed the basis of the current UK regulatory regime, advising that the ABI and major UK retail firms had requested

reform of several aspects. For Lloyd's and the London Market the priority would be to keep close enough to the EU's evolving regime to maintain equivalence.

Replying to a supplementary question from Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark, the Chair agreed with the principle that building a strong market in the UK for captive insurance would require a competitive environment, with the right coverage and technical support available at the right price. With reference to the City Re captive, she noted that this had been established by the Finance Committee and any decision to move it from Guernsey to London would be made by that Committee.

In response to an additional supplementary question from Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark on linking insurance to the City Corporation's work on green finance and COP26, the Chair noted that insurance firms had large volumes of data and expertise about climate modelling, including the financial risks for business and communities through climate change. The City Corporation was looking to integrate that expertise into the workstreams leading towards COP26 in Glasgow, whilst also working with insurance firms as major asset managers to transition their asset allocation towards Environmental, Social and Governance) principles, underpinned by the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

The Chair added that the City was also working with the Department for International Trade on a virtual Resilience Summit to take place in March, followed by a face-to-face event later in the year on the road to COP26. This would focus on the role insurance can play building climate resilience, especially for vulnerable communities.

Planning process review

Graeme Harrower asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee in relation to a recent planning application concerning 150 Aldersgate, urging that the decision be referred to the Court and also calling for a wider review of the planning process. This was particularly in view of the fact that the City Corporation was the freeholder of 150 Aldersgate but that the Corporation's financial interest in the outcome of the application had not been disclosed in the report presented to the Planning and Transportation Committee.

The Chair opposed the implication that the application had been considered on an improper basis, observing that redevelopment by long leaseholders of City Corporation freehold property was very common and that, where there were such planning applications submitted by long leaseholders, the City Corporation's freehold interest was not a material planning consideration. Therefore, the Planning and Transportation Committee could not lawfully take it into account and this was why this type of interest had not been included in the report presented to the Committee. She expressed reservations as to whether doing so in future would be lawful and noted that it would be unhelpful to tell the Committee of an irrelevant fact, only to then tell them they must disregard it. However, she undertook to speak further with the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee and relevant officers on this issue.

Having looked at the legal advice, the weight of documentation presented to the Committee, and length of time given to discussion of the application, she was

satisfied that the planning process had been followed fully. She added that the Planning and Transportation Committee would be looked at as part of the Lisvane Review and Members would have the opportunity to make their views known there.

Graeme Harrower asked a supplementary question, in which he advanced the role of protocols and procedures in raising standards above the minimum threshold required by the law and asked the Chair to recognise that the City Corporation should aspire to meet a higher threshold, thereby obtaining public confidence. Replying, the Chair did not accept that the current planning processes were deficient, noting there was a detailed planning protocol with careful advice and she had every confidence in the Planning and Transportation Committee's application of the proper processes.

A supplementary question was asked by Tijs Broeke, who suggested that it would be helpful for those Members who did not serve on the Planning and Transportation Committee to be provided with a better understanding of the process and extent of deliberations in relation to the planning application in question. Through a second supplementary question, he also sought clarity as to the paperwork and information provided to Members ahead of decision-making. Responding, the Chair advised that the Committee first heard from officers who presented the scheme in detail, then from five objectors, following which the committee members had a chance to ask questions of the objectors. The applicant then addressed the Committee and answered several questions of Members. The Committee then moved to ask questions of officers and express views in relation to the application, before a motion to move to the vote was put, seconded and approved by a majority of the committee. Upon the substantive motion then being put, the Committee resolved by majority to grant planning consent. The Committee had been considering the item for over 1 hour and 40 minutes when it was put for decision. The Chair also confirmed that the report for pre-reading was 281 pages long, with additional letters also circulated to the committee.

Through two supplementary questions, Marianne Fredericks suggested that it was the substance rather than the length of debate that was important, highlighting that the termination of debate was precipitate and prevented proper questions to and answers from planning officers, adding that there had also been interruptions and delays caused by technical issues. She sought the Chair's view on a wholesale review of the Corporation's planning processes, which she argued was imperative to restore public confidence and to address Lord Lisvane's observations of deficiencies through his recent review. In reply, the Chair commented that the planning protocol had only recently been reviewed and updated and reiterated her confidence in the City's processes and in the Planning and Transportation Committee. Whilst accepting the importance of restoring confidence to any regime where it was lacking, she cautioned that this was a highly regulated area and concerns should be addressed in the proper way through the Lisvane Review process. She added that she would be happy to meet with concerned Members in meantime to discuss particular issues.

Alderman Prem Goyal asked two additional supplementary questions in relation to the City's Planning Protocol and the particularly salient elements of it, asking in particular what elements had been recently updated to ensure full compliance with

good practice and the law. The Chair provided a summary of the Protocol in response to indicate its comprehensive nature and which, along with planning law, allowed the City to discharge its functions in a fair, effective and lawful manner. She added that the Planning Protocol ran to 24 pages of rules and regulations, all of which were designed to ensure the highest standards of conduct and probity at all times, adding that it had been updated only recently following debate and approval by both the Policy and Resources Committee and the Planning and Transportation Committee in the light of the Holocaust Memorial judgement and also to make any member meetings with applicants, objectors or other stakeholders even more tightly regulated, so as to preserve trust in the planning system.

*Fredericks, M.B.;
Newman, B.P.,
C.B.E.*

Motion – That, pursuant to Standing Order No.2, Standing Orders No.13(6) and 13(9) be suspended to allow for debate to continue.

Upon the Motion being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be lost.

12. Motions There were no motions.

13. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)

27 October 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Markets Co-location Programme, Interim Budget

At its meeting on 22 October 2020, the Policy & Resources Committee had considered a report on the Markets Co-location Programme (MCP), which updated on the project's development and outlined progress towards submission of a Private Bill in November 2020 to move the City of London Corporation's three wholesale markets to Dagenham Dock. Members agreed that it was of paramount importance that the Private Bill be laid before Parliament at the optimal time and with supporting evidence which maximised the chances of achieving Royal Assent. In view of the Programme's position at that time, the view was taken that it was not sufficiently well progressed to submit the Private Bill in November 2020 and it was agreed to delay submission by one year until November 2021, thereby providing a period in which to address a number of outstanding issues.

Noting that the previously approved budget for running the Programme was due to expire at the end of November 2020, support was granted for interim funding to allow requisite activities to be progressed and for work to continue, in view of the delay. Specifically, this was to allow for outline planning to be completed to achieve planning permission supported by a legal agreement to the terms of the s106 agreement, and to fund the Programme team until the end of January 2021, whilst a detailed budget report for funding in 2021 was drafted for submission in December 2020.

The sum total of this interim funding amounted to £779,000, to be funded from City's Cash Reserves. The approval of the Court was required to allow for these funds to be drawn down. As the Court of Common Council was not due to meet until December 2020, in order to allow for work to be progressed and a revised business case submitted for that month's meeting of the Policy and Resources

Committee, a decision was sought and obtained under urgency procedures.

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

14.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

(Deputy Alastair Michael Moss)

2 November 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Gateway 4b – Tower Bridge High Voltage System Replacement and Increasing Resilience

The Court noted urgent action taken in relation to a project involving the refurbishment of the High Voltage (HV) and Low Voltage (LV) electrical infrastructure at Tower Bridge. This project was at a critical stage and the refurbishment of electrical equipment was necessary as a matter of urgency, as the current electrical network and switchgear was 20 years beyond its design life and the existing secondary supply could only power bridge-lifts at half speed. This affected the ability to complete bridge lifts as covered under the Corporation of London (Tower Bridge) Act 1885.

The approval of the Court was required to proceed at Gateway 4b given that the overall cost of the project (£8.4m) was in excess of £5m. Provision had been made within the Bridge House Estate maintenance plan for all budget requested to progress this project (i.e. no new monies were being requested). Approval was, therefore, granted under urgency to proceed with the project and progress to Gateway 4c, the Detailed Design stage). Approval of the project and any associated amendments at Gateway 4c and Gateway 5 stages was also delegated to the Planning & Transportation and Projects (Policy & Resources) Sub-Committee.

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

15.

Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

16.

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:-

Statutory Instruments

Date in Force

Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Extension of the Relevant Period) Regulations 2020 No. 1031

29 September 2020

These Regulations extend the temporary measures of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020, which aim to mitigate the financial impact of the Coronavirus and which were due to expire on 30th September. The Regulations extend until 31 December 2020 a suspension on serving statutory demands and restrictions on filing petitions to wind up companies. They also extend until 30 March 2021 the temporary moratorium rules, which allow a company subject to a winding-up petition to access a moratorium simply by filing the relevant documents in court, rather than having to make an application to court. The

regulations also disapply the rule that prevents a company from entering a moratorium if it has been subject to a company voluntary arrangement, been in administration, or been in a previous moratorium within the past 12 months. Further, the Regulations extend until 30 March 2021 the Act's small supplier exemption from termination clause provisions. Subsequent SI No. 1033 provides that some of the provisions relating to the temporary moratorium rules cease to have effect on 1st October 2020, but this does not apply in relation to a moratorium which came into force, or for which an application was made to the court, before 1st October 2020.

The Air Quality (Domestic Solid Fuels Standards) (England) Regulations 2020 No. 1095 1 May 2021

These regulations make it an offence to supply less than two cubic metres of wood for the purposes of combustion in domestic premises in England, unless the wood is authorised by an "approved wood certification body". They also make it an offence to supply wood in units of two cubic metres or more without an accompanying notice that it is not suitable for burning until it has a moisture content of 20% or less. Further offences are created for the supply a manufactured solid fuel that is not an authorised fuel under these Regulations, and the supply of coal that is not exempted. A person who commits any of these offences may be issued with a fixed penalty of £300. These Regulations are to be enforced by the relevant local authority, which may include the Common Council depending on the circumstances of the supply of the fuel. The local authority may recover the expenses reasonably incurred by it in enforcing these Regulations from a person in respect of whom it has taken any action under these Regulations.

The Value Added Tax (Refund of Tax to Museums and Galleries) (Amendment) Order 2020 No. 1167 17 November 2020

Section 33A of the Value Added Tax Act 1994 entitles bodies to claim a refund of the VAT incurred by them that is attributable to the provision of free admission to specified museums and galleries which they operate. The Museum of London is one such specified museum. This Order amends the postcode for "Museum of London, London Wall London", to "EC2Y 5HN" from "EC2Y 5NH". It also omits "Museum of London Archaeological Service Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1", as a relevant museum, and inserts "Museum of London, Site bound by Charterhouse Street, East Poultry Avenue, Smithfield Street, Snowhill, Farringdon, London EC1*".

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020 No. 1200 5 November 2020

These Regulations impose restrictions on the occasions on which a person can leave or be outside of the place where they are living and on both indoor and outdoor gatherings. There are a number of exceptions, for example with respect to people from the same or linked households. The Regulations also require the closure of businesses such as bars and pubs, and impose restrictions on businesses, such as prohibiting the sale of food or

drink for consumption on premises. The regulations expire on 2 December 2020.

The Local Authorities (Collection Fund: Surplus and Deficit) (Coronavirus) (England) Regulations 2020 No. 1202 1 December 2020

These Regulations amend existing provisions for the discharge by a billing authority of liabilities to meet any estimated surplus or deficit in that billing authority's collection fund, and provide that liabilities for a negative exceptional balance for the financial year beginning on 1st April 2021 can be met over a period of three years. The Regulations amend the way in which billing authorities calculate their estimated surplus or deficit on their collection fund in respect of non-domestic rating income for the relevant years beginning on 1st April 2021 and 1st April 2022. In calculating its exceptional balance, the Regulations require a billing authority to estimate the amount of rates relief it awarded in the preceding year in accordance with guidance issued by the MHCLG and the Treasury. The Regulations apply to the City of London as is a billing authority.

The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 No. 1212 29 November 2020

These Regulations amend existing provisions concerning the accounting practices to be followed by local authorities, including (in particular) with respect to the charging of expenditure to revenue accounts. The Regulations provide that, where a local authority has a deficit on its school budget, the authority must not charge any such deficit to its revenue account, but rather to a separate account, established and usable solely for that purpose. The Regulations apply to accounts prepared for the financial years beginning in 2020, 2021 and 2022, and provides formulae for calculating whether a local authority has a schools budget deficit in relation to each such financial year.

The Public Health (Coronavirus) (Protection from Eviction and Taking Control of Goods) (England) Regulations 2020 No. 1290 17 November 2020

These Regulations prevent attendance at a dwelling house for the purpose of executing a writ or warrant of possession or restitution or delivering a notice of eviction, except where the court is satisfied that the claim is against trespassers who are persons unknown or where it was made wholly or partly on the grounds of anti-social behaviour, nuisance, false statements, substantial rent arrears that predate 23rd March 2020 or, in cases where the person attending is satisfied that the dwelling house is unoccupied at the time of attendance, death of the occupant. This provision expires on 11th January 2021. The Regulations also prevent use of the procedure set out in the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 to take control of goods located inside a dwelling house, until the expiry of the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 4) Regulations 2020.

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

17. Hospital Seal There were no docquets for the Seal.
18. Awards & Prizes There was no report.
19. *Mooney, B.D.F., Deputy; Mayhew, J.P.* *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 the Local Government Act, 1972.
- Summary of exempt items considered whilst the public were excluded:-**
20. *Resolved* – That the non-public minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.
21. **Establishment Committee**
The Court approved proposals in relation to the Target Operating Model.
22. **Finance Committee**
The Court:-
(A) noted action taken under urgency in respect of a contract variation associated with sexual health e-services; and
(B) noted action taken under urgency in respect of the award of a contract for energy and gas supplies.
23. **Property Investment Board**
The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures in relation to the refurbishment of a property.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.20 pm

BARRADELL.