



RUSSELL, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

14th January 2021
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 QC
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, Alderman
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
Adrian Mark Bastow
Matthew Bell
Deputy John Bennett
Peter Gordon Bennett
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith
Christopher Paul Boden
Mark Bostock
Deputy Keith David Forbes
Bottomley
Deputy David John Bradshaw
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
Simon D'Olier Duckworth
Deputy Peter Gerard Dunphy
Mary Durcan
John Ernest Edwards
Deputy Kevin Malcolm Everett
Anne Helen Fairweather
Helen Lesley Fentimen
Sophie Anne Fernandes
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks
Tracey Graham
Caroline Wilma Haines
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
Deputy Henry Llewellyn Michael
Jones

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

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
Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
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,
Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano
Wheatley
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, subject to the correction of a typographical error.

4. Mayoral
Visits

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

5. Policy
Statement

The Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee provided Members with an update on the latest position in respect of the Covid-19 response and the end of the EU transition period.

6.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)

10 December 2020

Governance Review: Standards Regime

The Court was recommended to approve a series of proposals relating to the establishment of a new Standards regime and associated implications in respect of other existing arrangements.

The Chair spoke to introduce the proposals, noting they emerged from extensive engagement with Members in response to Lord Lisvane's review. In response to questions, she expressed her personal agreement that the principle of increased transparency should extend to co-optees and Chief Officers as well as Members, and clarified that the involvement of Members at the Appeal Stage was intended to assist the Panel through the provision of contextual information. The Chair also stressed the importance of flexibility in being able to refine and improve arrangements as required once the new system was in place.

Resolved - That:-

1. The proposals in relation to Standards made by Lord Lisvane in Section 8 of his Review (Appendix 1) be noted and the recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee thereon, as set out in paragraphs 20-30 of this report, be approved.
2. The Town Clerk be authorised to take such actions as are required to give effect to the decisions taken by this Court and facilitate their implementation.

7.

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

(Deputy Alastair Moss)

17 November 2020

City Plan 2036: Revisions to Proposed Submission Draft Plan

The draft Local Plan, titled City Plan 2036, had been agreed for Regulation 19 pre-submission consultation by the Court of Common Council at its meeting on 21 May 2020. Local Plan regulations at that time prevented consultation taking place without making physical copies of the Plan available for inspection; however, amendments to those Regulations in July 2020 now enabled a website-only consultation to occur.

Changes to the Plan were now required prior to this consultation taking place in order to address revisions to permitted development rights and the Use Classes Order, which came into effect on 31 August and 1 September 2020, as well as to

address other items, such as the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the City's climate ambitions as set out by the recently approved Climate Action Strategy.

These changes had been agreed by the Planning & Transportation Committee and Policy & Resources Committee and were now recommended to the Court of Common Council.

In response to questions concerning the future demand for office space and the potential to explore developing sites for housing, the Chair expressed his confidence that the City remained the best place to do business and would continue to attract demand. He observed that the Planning department was incredibly busy at present with a significant volume of applications, demonstrating there was clear continued appetite for office space. The Chair acknowledged that there would likely be an element of adaptation or change to how such space was used but added that this sort of evolution was natural within the City. The Chair also observed that the Plan already emphasised the importance of housing, making a clear commitment to 1460 net additional dwellings, a figure above the estimated housing need for the City over the period, whilst also strengthening the commitment to the delivery of affordable housing.

In response to a further question concerning the Bevis Marks Synagogue, the Chair was pleased to note that the Plan recognised the fundamental importance of the historic fabric of the City but suggested that he did not think it would be appropriate for specific buildings to be mentioned. However, he emphasised that he was fully aware of the specific importance of Bevis Marks and its great historical, cultural and religious significance, adding that he had had the privilege of a recent meeting with representatives of the Synagogue and was looking forward to further meetings in due course.

Resolved – That :-

1. The proposed changes to the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and the draft Local Plan be published for consultation.
2. The Director of the Built Environment be authorised to make further non-material amendments and editorial changes prior to public consultation.
3. Follow consultation, the Local Plan, the public representations and other supporting documentation be submitted to the Secretary of State, for Examination.
4. Should any material changes be required to the Local Plan following consultation and prior to submission, consideration of these changes be delegated to the Planning and Transportation Committee.
5. The Director of the Built Environment, in liaison with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Planning & Transportation Committee, be instructed to compile a list of any proposed non-material changes to the Local Plan, in response to public representations and submit this to the Secretary of State.

(Caroline Kordai Addy)

2 October 2020

Fixed Terms for Independent Persons

The Committee on Standards in Public Life had recommended that Independent Persons be appointed for a fixed term of two years, renewable once. The Committee had also recommended that the terms of multiple Independent Persons should, ideally, overlap. Both the Standards Committee and the Establishment Committee had now considered this matter and were proposing to introduce a fixed term of two years, renewable twice. The Standards Committee had also agreed in principle to stagger the appointments of the Independent Persons. The Court was now **recommended** to endorse these proposals and the necessary transitional arrangements.

Resolved – That a fixed term of office of two years, renewable twice, be adopted for the City Corporation's Independent Persons, alongside the necessary transitional arrangements as set out in the report.

9. **HOSPITALITY WORKING PARTY OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, the Chief Commoner)

21 December 2020

Applications for Hospitality

(A) Armed Forces Day 2021

Armed Forces Flag Day formed part of a week of activities across the country to raise public awareness of the contribution made by the Armed Forces. It was established to provide an opportunity to show support to members of the Armed Forces and Service families.

To mark this occasion, it was proposed that the City Corporation host a flag-raising ceremony in Guildhall Yard during the afternoon of Thursday 24th June 2021, followed by light refreshments in the Old Library. The event would provide an opportunity for the City to show its support for the Armed Forces, acknowledge the challenges encountered in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and raise awareness of the contribution made by those who are currently serving or have previously served in the Forces.

Resolved – That hospitality be granted for a flag-raising ceremony to mark Armed Forces Flag Day, followed by light refreshments, and that arrangements be made under the auspices of the Hospitality Working Party; the costs to be met from City's Cash and within the approved parameters.

(B) Commonwealth and High Commissioners Banquet 2021

The City Corporation had hosted an annual banquet for the Commonwealth High Commissioners since 2015. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) for 2020 was scheduled to take place in Rwanda in June, with the High Commissioners' Banquet was planned for September; however, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, CHOGM and the Banquet had had to be deferred. It was now

anticipated that CHOGM would take place in June 2021, subject to any public health restrictions that might be in operation at the time.

It was, therefore, proposed that the City Corporation host the High Commissioners' Banquet at Guildhall on Monday 13th September 2021, working with the Royal Commonwealth Society and Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council.

Resolved – That hospitality be granted for a banquet for the Commonwealth High Commissioners and that arrangements be made under the auspices of the Policy and Resources Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash and within the agreed parameters.

10.
Committee
Appointments

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

- (A) Two Members on the **Education Board**, for the balance of terms expiring in April 2021 and April 2024.

Nominations received:

Tijs Broeke

Alderman Robert Picton Seymour Howard

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Tijs Broeke and Alderman Robert Picton Seymour Howard to be appointed to the Education Board for the balance of terms expiring in April 2024 and April 2021, respectively.

- (B) One Member on **Christ's Hospital**, for a term expiring in March 2024.

Nomination received:

Tijs Broeke

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Tijs Broeke to be appointed to Christ's Hospital for a term expiring in March 2024.

11. 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.

Syed Ali Abbas

Ald. & Sheriff Prof. Michael

Raymond Mainelli

Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King

an Imam

Citizen and World Trader

Citizen and Blacksmith

Streatham, London

Md Shahidul Alam

Oliver Sells, QC, CC

Graeme Martyn Doshi-Smith, CC

a Cricket Development Chief
Executive

Citizen and Musician

Citizen and Information Technologist

Stratford, London

Tudor Victor Leopold

a Healthcare Service Manager

Finsbury Park, London

Porchester Baron

*Thomas Sleigh, Deputy
Ald. & Sheriff Prof. Michael
Raymond Mainelli*

*Citizen and Common Councillor
Citizen and World Trader*

Benjamin Alan Brooker

*Ian Brooker
Michael John Goddard*

a Musician
*Citizen and Upholder
Citizen and Upholder*

Rochester, Kent

Nicola Jane Bunce

*Ann-Marie Jefferys
Anne Elizabeth Holden*

a Willow Sculptress
*Citizen and Glover
Citizen and Basketmaker*

Amersham,
Buckinghamshire

Daniel Nicholas Cohen

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Timothy Levene, CC*

a Media Executive
Citizen and Carman

Primrose Hill, London

Michelle Jayne Dite

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
John Dominic Reid*

an Operations Director
Citizen and Grocer

Balham, London

Nicholas Henry Fothergill

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Hilary Ann Russell*

a Company Chairman
Citizen and Farmer

Leicestershire

Eileen Margaret Fraser

*Ann-Marie Jefferys
Dr. David Jefferys*

a Genealogist, retired
*Citizen and Glover
Citizen and Apothecary*

Radlett, Hertfordshire

Neil Anthony Fraser

*Ann-Marie Jefferys
Dr. David Jefferys*

a Genealogist and Probate
Researcher
*Citizen and Glover
Citizen and Apothecary*

Twickenham, Middlesex

Tao Geoghegan Hart

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Hilary Ann Russell*

an Athlete
Citizen and Farmer

Solder, Andorra

Philip Stephen Gregory

*Jeremy Paul Mayhew, CC
Robert James Ingham Clark,
Deputy*

a Chartered Accountant
*Citizen and Loriner
Citizen and Clothworker*

Watford, Hertfordshire

Margaret Ejodamen James-Cooper

*Ann-Marie Jefferys
Anne Elizabeth Holden*

a Political Journalist, retired
*Citizen and Glover
Citizen and Basketmaker*

Woodford Bridge, Essex

Fon Lim

*Frederick Joseph Trowman
David Robert Boston*

a Production Businessman
*Citizen and Loriner
Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre
Drawer*

Singapore

Amy Victoria Rose Marren

*Iain Reid
Edward Gradosielski, BEM*

an Apprentice Solicitor
*Citizen and Educator
Citizen and Wax Chandler*

Hornchurch, Essex

Georgia Alexandra Rose

a Business Administration

Hornchurch, Essex

Marren <i>Iain Reid</i> <i>Edward Gradosiezska, BEM</i>	Apprentice <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Wax Chandler</i>	
Sarah Louise Melvin <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Fund Management Executive <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Richmond, Surrey
Fernando Bras Messias <i>John Hartley Bowman</i> <i>Alan Robert Brumwell</i>	a Lawyer <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper</i> <i>Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Faro, Portugal
Cameron Jay Rains <i>Ald. Vincent Keaveny</i> <i>David Fergus McDonough, OBE</i>	a Law Firm Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i>	La Mesa, California, United States of America
Dame Benita Margaret Rayne <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Trustee <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Kensington
Brian Anthony Sarre <i>Alfred Bain</i> <i>Michael McAllister Todd</i>	a Community Centre Manager <i>Citizen and Turner</i> <i>Citizen and Turner</i>	St Peter Port, Guernsey
Richard Ross Smith, CBE <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>John Dominic Reid</i>	a Military Charity Senior Executive <i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	Haselbech, Northamptonshire
Michael Patrick Joseph Vaughan <i>Raymond Hollands</i> <i>Donald Howard Coombe, MBE</i>	a City of London Police Constable, retired <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	Lowestoft, Suffolk
Simon David Warshaw <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Jonathan Michael Arundell Bewes</i>	a Banker <i>Citizen and Fan Maker</i>	Ladbroke Grove, London
Susan Mary Williams <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Matron, retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Hook Norton, Oxfordshire

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.

12. Motions

Meyers,
A.G.D., Deputy;
Mooney,
B.D.F., Deputy

Resolved – That Doug Barrow be appointed to the Planning and Transportation Committee for the Ward of Aldgate, in the room of Sylvia Doreen Moys.

13. Questions

Joshi, S.J., to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

Climate Action Strategy

Shravan Joshi asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee seeking an update on the implementation of the Climate Action Strategy.

Responding, the Chair agreed that the Climate Action Strategy represented a significant great achievement and advised that the actions within that strategy were now being implemented at pace. She explained that detailed project plans for each action area, converting the targets and metrics described in the strategy into annual targets for achievement between 2021 and 2027, were now being developed, together with a new performance management system to facilitate this process. It would be vital for the strategy to become embedded in the day-to-day activity of every department and associated actions and targets were also being integrated into 2021-22 business planning process and relevant Chief Officers' performance objectives.

The Chair also outlined the various capital bids associated with the Strategy already approved by the Resource Allocation Sub Committee, together with a further £200,000 approved from the Policy Contingency Fund to support critical enabling actions in the 2020/21 financial year to accelerate the programme. She noted that dedicated officer governance had been developed to support the four delivery areas related to building interventions, as well as wider measures associated with committee reporting and decision-making.

Finally, the Chair touched on the significant engagement activity initiated across all audiences ahead of a re-launch planned for the Spring, including with bodies such as the London Assembly, City Property Association, the Annual City Residents' Meeting, Livery Companies, and the UK's Net Zero Business Champion Andrew Griffiths.

In response to a supplementary question from Shravan Joshi concerning emissions from the Barbican Estate, the Chair advised that officers were working to identify the exact site level interventions at the Barbican and other buildings, both operational and investment. This included the treatment of lighting, heating, electrical systems and building fabric, whilst the use of building monitoring systems across the estates would be expanded to better understand usage and opportunities to use solar will be reviewed. The Climate Action Team were already engaging with residents and were planning proportionate engagement with other audiences. Other measures were also being considered and further information would be presented to Members as plans progressed.

Barr, A.R.M., to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

COVID recovery and support for City businesses

Alexander Barr asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee regarding the recovery from COVID and support for SMEs and businesses in the City.

The Chair, responding, observed that the new national lockdown would make trading exceptionally difficult – if not impossible – for many businesses. She therefore welcomed the additional support outlined by the Chancellor of the Exchequer recently, including one-off top-up grants to closed businesses and a

further £594 million being made available for Local Authorities and the Devolved Administrations to support other businesses not eligible for these grants but which might be affected by the restrictions. Further information on when and how the new funding would be allocated was awaited but, when received, the City Corporation would be contacting eligible businesses accordingly.

Nevertheless, it was undoubtedly true that some businesses in the City would continue to struggle despite this announcement and the City Corporation would continue to press the Government for further support and seek to treat our own tenants considerately.

In the meantime, the Chair urged all Londoners to comply with the new rules and welcomed the vaccine rollout well under way, stressing that it was essential to bring COVID-19 under control so that London and the rest of the country could return to a semblance of normality as soon as possible. The City was also hoping for clarity on when office workers could return to COVID-secure workplaces as soon as possible.

In reply to a supplementary question from Alexander Barr concerning adjustments to the Local Plan and various related strategies necessitated by the pandemic, the Chair observed that the relevance and resilience of the new Local Plan had benefitted from the fresh thinking recently undertaken as part of the City Corporation's London Recharged Report, which had been prepared during the pandemic and was informed by interviews with many senior figures to gauge their latest views on the short term and long-term implications of the pandemic for London. The close alignment between the new Local Plan and the recommendations in the London Recharged Report provided some reassurance that the Plan was sufficiently flexible to remain relevant and, indeed, the version approved by the Court earlier in the meeting had included several changes to reflect key aspects of the London Recharged Report, such as the increased importance of providing buildings and spaces which encourage collaboration and creativity.

COVID-related road safety measures

Deputy James Thomson asked a question of the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee in relation to COVID-related road safety measures.

The Chair, replying, advised that the Planning & Transportation Committee had agreed at its 5 January 2021 meeting to retain the temporary traffic management measures currently deployed on City streets in response to Covid-19. This would ensure the safety of residents, workers and visitors while social distancing requirements remained in place, whilst also encouraging people to walk and cycle, including as an alternative to using public transport, as the gradual return to the workplace continued.

The Chair outlined the gradual replacement temporary materials such as barriers and cones with more robust but still temporary plastic wands and bolt down kerbs, which would require less maintenance and provide greater clarity to all street users. Throughout the project, feedback from street users had been sought and, where appropriate and possible, on-street changes made in response. Examples of such feedback-based improvements included on Chancery Lane, Threadneedle Street

and Lothbury.

As the timing and extent of a meaningful return to the workplace remained unclear, the Chair advised that the need for these interventions would be reviewed again in the Spring but that amendments at particular locations would continue to be made in the interim where necessary and appropriate. However, he stressed the importance of avoiding a car-led recovery, noting that this would lead to increased congestion, road danger and air pollution.

Following a supplementary question from Deputy James Thomson concerning the provision of feedback in relation to the measures, the Chair advised that the public, Members, and businesses could provide comments, including requests or suggestions for changes, via an online portal or by emailing the City Transportation team directly. Details were available on the City's website and had been promoted through various City Corporation email lists. In relation to a specific query concerning the City of London Police, the Chair advised that they had been engaged throughout the process and were represented at the officer group overseeing the transport recovery programme. There had also been several meetings with representatives of the taxi trade and private hire operators, engagement with the freight industry and industry groups such as the Brewery Logistics Group, and ongoing collaboration with Transport for London.

Marianne Fredericks asked a supplementary question in which she expressed concern as to the suspension of some bus stops in order to accommodate these temporary measures, observing the detrimental impact on those with mobility issues. She also stressed the importance of communications post-pandemic in relation to road closures and through-routes so that road users were fully cognisant of arrangements and traffic could be minimised.

Responding, the Chair advised that he did not believe the City Corporation had the power to suspend any bus stops so was not aware of any such action the Corporation might have taken. However, he undertook to raise the issue with TfL in the event they had taken such steps and reiterated his encouragement for Members to highlight any such issues to officers at any time so as to ensure improvements to any arrangements could be implemented swiftly. In relation to through-routes, the Chair reminded the Court that the Corporation's policy was to not encourage these, as it was seeking to minimise the use of roads due to safety and air quality concerns.

Staff Pay Award and Union Engagement

Anne Fairweather asked a question of the Chair of the Establishment Committee concerning the staff pay award and the latest engagement with the Unions.

The Chair reminded Members of the outcomes of the Joint Consultative Committee meeting on 9 December 2020, as articulated in subsequent communications to the Court. At this meeting, the two recognised Trades' Unions had been informed that, as a result of the economic effect on the City Corporation of the pandemic, coupled with the "pay pause" in public sector pay announced by the Government in its Spending Review published at the end of November, the pay increases arising for the second year of the three-year Pay Award agreed previously, which would have

been effective from 1 July 2021, would need to be suspended. The agreement reached with the Unions for this three-year pay award had had a clause inserted which allowed either side to require review of its terms in the event of “extraordinary circumstances” arising: it was unquestionable that the pandemic and its effects constituted such circumstances. The City Corporation would, however, continue to implement an increase of 1.525% on base pay for all employees on the lower grades A-C and their associated “Plus” and “Residential” grades. This would maximise the number of employees covered and guarantee a minimum increase of £250 to all such full-time staff in those grades where full-time base pay was £24,000 a year or less.

The Unions had since written to the Chair and, whilst not disputing the review clause itself, expressed their preference would have been for this to be activated by negotiations, rather than presented as a decision already taken. The Chair expressed the view that the decision was an honest appraisal of what the City Corporation could reasonably afford in the present circumstances and a conscious decision had been taken not to waste the Unions’ time with inappropriate offers, simply to go through the motions of ‘negotiating’ a settlement. As yet, the Chair was unaware of any proposals the Unions might make in the national local-government pay negotiations for 2021, nor what the Local Government Association’s response will be, though they felt it was unlikely to be generous.

Responding to a supplementary question from Anne Fairweather concerning pay awards in recent years made by London Local Authorities, the Chair advised that increases across the most recent five-year period respectively were 11.71% at the City Corporation and 9.05% at the rest of the inner London Boroughs.

Meeting Scheduling

Dostalova, K. to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

Karina Dostalova asked a question of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee concerning the scheduling of meetings on Monday mornings.

The Chair expressed sympathy for the difficulties faced by Members juggling personal and professional commitments, as well as for the challenges in scheduling the significant number of meetings to accommodate Chairs’ diaries and avoid clashes. She suggested that this be fed into the governance review for consideration and, in the interim, suggested it might be beneficial to liaise with relevant Chairs if there were particular meetings scheduled for times that individuals consistently could not make.

Chairmanship of the Policy and Resources Committee

Lawrence, G.A.,
to the Chair of
the Policy &
Resources
Committee

Greg Lawrence asked a question of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee regarding her intentions in respect of the future chairmanship of that Committee.

The Chair, in reply, thanked the Member for taking an interest in her plans and assured him she intended to complete her term, subject to the continued support of Members in doing so.

Financial services passporting and equivalency arrangements

Woodhouse,
P.J., Deputy, to
the Chair of the

Deputy Philip Woodhouse asked a question of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee in relation to passporting and equivalency arrangements for financial

services.

Responding, the Chair noted that, whilst the City was pleased that there was now a Free Trade Agreement, there was currently very limited coverage of financial services therein. Passporting rights had been lost and only a small number of positive EU equivalence decisions had been made. The City was already urging both sides to continue to work on these other outstanding issues in the interests of households and businesses on both sides of the Channel, whilst also continuing to urge the EU to take further equivalence decisions.

The City would also continue to engage with all parts of Government as they discussed with the EU further aspects of the UK's new relationship. This included the recently announced review of Financial and Professional Services (FPS) regulatory equivalence led by the Economic Secretary John Glen MP and senior Treasury official Katherine Braddick. The Chair was in regular dialogue with both and had just this week written to them on this issue.

In closing, the Chair added that through the recently released 'London Recharged' report the City had recognised that London needed to reinvent itself to maintain its world-leading position. That included everything – from office infrastructure to better collaboration with international partners. Regulation would be a key part of this and the London Recharged report highlighted important areas in this respect.

14.

FINANCE COMMITTEE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Jeremy Paul Mayhew)
(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)

26 November 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Update to the Code of Corporate Governance concerning delegation of write-off limits and discretionary Business Rates relief

During 2020, in an effort to streamline and accelerate the decision-making process as part of the Corporation's immediate response to the Covid-19 pandemic, amendments were made to the Scheme of Delegations affecting irrecoverable debt write-off limits. The Head of Revenues was given delegation to write-off debts of up to £100,000, and the Chamberlain was given delegation to write-off debts of up to £500,000 (the pre-Covid delegated limit was £20,000). Debts over £500,000 still required approval by your Finance Committee. These temporary measures expired on 31 October 2020.

At the same time, the limits of delegation were increased for the Head of Revenues from £5,000 to £25,000 for awards of discretionary rate relief, made under Sections 47 and 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. This was also a temporary measure which expired on 31 October 2020.

Whilst the temporary write-offs and discretionary rate relief limits had now expired, it was felt that the reason for the increased delegation limits continued, with many businesses and individuals likely to suffer further financial difficulties as a result of the pandemic.

In the absence of a November meeting of the Court its approval was, therefore, sought under urgency procedures, to extend the delegations for these revised limits until 31 March 2021.

A new grant scheme was also announced by the Government in the autumn, which involved regular support grant payments to businesses that have been forced to suspend trading due to the Covid restrictions. As this was a new scheme, there had been no previous requirement for delegation and, therefore, the Court was also asked to delegate authority for the payment of these business support grants to the Head of Revenues.

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

15. 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

European Union (Future Relationship) Act

The Bill was introduced and received Royal Assent prior to the meeting of this Court. It implements and makes provision in connection with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and other Agreements with the EU. It received Royal Assent on 30th December after Parliamentary proceedings were completed within one day, in order to pass the Act before the end of the post-Brexit transition period on 31st December. The Act makes provision in connection with the UK's future relationship with the EU and its member States, enabling the implementation of arrangements and agreements that are either foreseen in the current Agreements, or which are agreed by the UK and EU to be 'supplementary' to the TCA. The Bill also creates powers to make secondary legislation, where appropriate, to enable the Agreements to be implemented domestically or for domestic law to be interpreted in light of the Agreements.

Date in force

30th December 2020

Statutory Instruments

The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (Code of Practice) Order 2020 No. 1330

This Order brings the revised code of practice ("the Code") into operation, replacing the one which was brought into operation by a previous Order of 2015, in accordance with the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996. The Code sets out the manner in which police officers are to record, retain and reveal to the prosecutor material obtained in the course of a criminal investigation and which may be relevant to the investigation. The revisions introduced by the Code implement recommendations of the Attorney General's Review of the efficiency and effectiveness of disclosure in the criminal justice system, published in November 2018. Copies of the Code and the Explanatory Memorandum may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.

31st December 2020

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

Read.

16. Hospital Seal There were no docquets for the Seal.
17. Awards & Prizes There was no report.
18. Congratulatory Resolutions *Resolved* – That, following the reference to a number of Members and Officers of the City, Corporation and City of London Police in the New Year's Honours List and the delayed Birthday Honour's List, the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to:-
- (i) Jeremy Lewis Simons, OBE, on his recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to environmental conservation in London.
 - (ii) John Michael Petrie, OBE, on his recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to Antigua and Barbuda.
 - (iii) Douglas Gordon Fleming Barrow, MBE, on his recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to the maritime sector and to the City of London.
 - (iv) Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, MBE, on his recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to diversity and the British Hindu community.
 - (v) Sufina Ahmad, MBE, until recently Corporate Strategy Manager at the City Corporation, on her recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of her contributions to charitable service.
 - (vi) Joanne Folan, QPM, until her recent retirement a Detective Constable with the City of London Police, on her award by Her Majesty the Queen of the Queen's Police Medal.
19. *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. **Policy and Resources Committee**
The Court approved proposals in relation to the City's Wholesale Markets Consolidation Programme.

22.

Property Investment Board

The Court noted two reports of the Property Investment Board, advising of action taken under urgency procedures, as follows:-

- (A) action taken in respect of the surrender and re-grant of two long-term leases.
- (B) action taken in respect of the purchase of a long leasehold.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 2.27pm.

BARRADELL.