

RESOURCE ALLOCATION SUB (POLICY AND RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Thursday, 23 July 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources)
Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday,
23 July 2020 at 2.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Sheriff Christopher Hayward
Jeremy Mayhew (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Deputy Edward Lord
Tijs Broeke	Alderman Ian Luder
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	Deputy Tom Sleight
Karina Dostalova	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Anne Fairweather	

In Attendance

Randall Anderson
Alderman Alison Gowman
Alderman Prem Goyal
Deputy Alastair Moss
Deputy James Thomson

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Peter Kane	- Chamberlain
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Deputy Chamberlain
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Carolyn Dwyer	- Director of Built Environment
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation and Growth
Stuart Wright	- Innovation and Growth
Nigel Lefton	- Remembrancer's
Vic Annells	- Executive Director of Mansion House & CCC
Paul Thomson	- Open Spaces
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Major Projects
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Members Services
Becky Muscat	- Town Clerks
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerks

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Sir Michael Snyder.

The Policy Chair took the opportunity to thank Simon Duckworth and Deputy Dr Giles Shilson for their hard work and commitment to the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

4. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN**

This item was withdrawn.

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

Return to Guildhall

A question was raised concerning the plans for the City Corporation to return its staff to Guildhall and related activities.

The Gold Command Lead and the Director of Members Services explained that the City Corporation was continuing to follow government guidance, which stated that workers could return to the workplace as long as workplaces were Covid secure. It was reported that the City Surveyor had been working hard to produce a road map on return with risk assessments in place. The HR department would also need to undertake risk assessments on each individual member of staff. Members heard that the North Wing was still in operation and work was being undertaken to open the West Wing too, but with all of the Guildhall offices only operating at a 40% capacity. The Director of Members Services added that the aim was to enable Members to return to Guildhall, if they wished to, by September 2020. The message was reinforced that Members could not expect the same level of physical service as in pre-pandemic times. In particular, committee meetings would likely be hybrid with a small number of Members coming into Guildhall but the majority of Members still accessing meetings remotely. Members also noted that to help the track and trace system, the City Corporation would be implementing a booking system.

Further discussion ensued and the following points were raised:

- The Property Investment Board had discussed the importance of building confidence in London and the City Corporation should demonstrate this by bringing its workers back into the office;
- It was important that the technology in committee rooms be improved to ensure good levels of sound quality for hybrid meetings;
- When talking to Government and London Councils, the City Corporation should continue to emphasise how important it is for digital meetings to continue beyond the sunset of the Coronavirus Bill.

- Consideration should be given to turn the Club Cook and Butler dining room into a fifth committee room to provide more space.
- It was important that Members did not feel pressurised to return especially if they were vulnerable and/or in the shielding category.

Frequency of Resource Allocation Sub Committee meetings

A Member asked for views on the frequency of Resource Allocation Sub Committee meetings and whether they should take place monthly rather than fortnightly come the Autumn. Others felt it was important for meetings to take place when needed rather than necessarily every fortnight, and the Policy Chair reminded officers of her request for an overall governance timeline, which brought together the fundamental review, target operating model, governance review and the Fraser review.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

7. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.
8-9

Paragraph No.
3

8. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.

9. NOTE OF THE INFORMAL MEETING

The note of the informal meeting held on 9 July was received.

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

Wanstead Flats Artificial Grass Pitches

A Member asked for clarification as to why the Wanstead Flats Artificial Grass Pitches delegated authority had not yet been approved. The Deputy Chamberlain explained that at the meeting the suggestion had been for this to be invest to save, however the project managers had since clarified that this could not be undertaken via an invest to save scheme and so further discussions were being undertaken at officer level.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 3.00 pm

Chairman

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