

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 10 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 4.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman)	Andrew Mayer
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Jeremy Mayhew
Tijs Broeke	Alderman William Russell
Anne Fairweather	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Alderman Prem Goyal	James Tumbridge
Christopher Hayward	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation and Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Paul Double	- Remembrancer
Nigel Lefton	- Director of Remembrancer's Office
Vic Annells	- Executive Director of Mansion House & CCC
Eugenie de Naurois	- Head of Corporate Affairs
Callum Anderson	- Economic Development Office
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Karina Dostalova.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 2 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

Member attendance at Party Conferences

Under item 6 of the minutes, the Chair consulted the Sub-Committee on their view of a Member being in attendance for the Green Party Conference.

Members were generally supportive but also asked for Member attendance at party conferences to be looked at as part of the fundamental review. Officers were also urged to make use of Members as much as possible at party conferences and the Head of Corporate Affairs reminded Members of the upcoming party conferences briefing taking place on Thursday 12 September.

RESOLVED, that:-

- Deputy Edward Lord represent the City Corporation at the Green Party Conference, alongside an officer from the Corporate Affairs Team.

4. IG MONTHLY UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth updating Members on the key activity undertaken by the Innovation and Growth Directorate (IG) in July and August.

A Member asked for the Director to consider holding the 'India Day' event in collaboration with the Department for International Trade more regularly.

Following a question, the Director reported feedback from external stakeholders of the recent change of name, which had been primarily very positive.

Members then proceeded to discuss and ask questions around the priorities of the City Corporation's work with the US and particularly if there plans to do anything to help further a UK-US trade deal. The Chair and the Director gave an overview of the work that the City Corporation does, particularly around boosting bilateral regulatory and supervisory cooperation and using the Lord Mayor's and Policy Chair's visits to do this.

RESOLVED, that:

- The progress of IG workstreams be noted.

5. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications updating Members of the Corporate Affairs team's activities in supporting the City Corporation's strategic political engagement.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

6. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Remembrancer updating Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement.

The Remembrancer gave Members an oral update on the status of the Air Quality Bill, particularly light in the recent prorogation of Parliament.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

7. **PREPARING FOR A DEAL AND A NO DEAL IN FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth setting out the work being undertaken by the Innovation & Growth Directorate, enabling the City Corporation to help the City thrive and forge ahead through any Brexit scenario.

The Chair informed Members that she would be making a statement at Court to set out more detail on how we are preparing businesses (particularly small businesses) and EU citizens in the event that the UK left the EU on 31st October.

Members asked questions about the web traffic on the new Global City platform and suggested that officers look at how to increase search engine optimisation for this site.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

8. **US STRATEGY & CAMPAIGN**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth setting out the new US Campaign approach.

Members had some comments on the structure of the report and asked for this to be changed ahead of it being reported to the Policy & Resources Committee. In addition, Members wanted the cost implications of the campaign made much clearer. There was also some discussion as to the definition of fintech and ensuring that the City Corporation were engaging with all sizes of fintech companies.

RESOLVED, that:

- It be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee to approve the new US campaign approach.

9. **JAPAN FPS STRATEGY UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth which proposed workstreams and delivery channels for Members to agree as part of the City Corporation's Japan FPS Strategy.

RESOLVED, that:

- It be recommended to the Policy & Resources Committee that the updated City Corporation Japan FPS Strategy including workstreams and delivery channels be approved.

10. **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES COUNCIL (PBSC) UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth providing Members with an overview of the City Corporation's involvement with the Professional and Business Services Council (PBSC).

A Member asked for more information on our work with the insurance sector, particularly in light of the increase of Members of the Court with expertise in this area.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

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

Questions were raised as follows -

Regional Immigration Policy

A Member asked a question concerning the idea of a regional immigration policy and what the City Corporation's position on this would be. The Policy Chair explained that the City Corporation recognised that London's labour market differs from other parts of the UK and although the City Corporation published research on such a proposal in 2016, it was not adopted as policy. Additionally, the Director of Innovation & Growth informed Members of the work the City Corporation had undertaken in this area including publishing research on streamlining the UK visa process.

City Corporation response to Kashmir and Hong Kong

A Member asked a question as to the position that the City Corporation were taking in relation to the situations in both Kashmir and Hong Kong respectively. The Director of Communications updated Members that the City Corporation had not taken a public position.

Policy Chair's Visit to Switzerland

A Member asked for a report of the Policy Chair's recent visit to Switzerland. It was confirmed that this would be reported to this Sub-Committee at its next meeting.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The following items of urgent business were raised –

Animal Rebellion Protests at Smithfield Market

The Chairman of the Markets Committee informed Members of potential upcoming *Animal Rebellion* protests which would be taking place over a two-week period in the coming weeks. The Director of Communications assured Members that there was a communications response prepared and it was requested that elected Members representing Farringdon Without be informed of the corporate response.

13. **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	Paragraph
14	3

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on Tuesday 2 July 2019 were approved.

15. **BREXIT**

The Chair of Policy and Resources updated the Sub-Committee on issues around Brexit.

16. **INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**

The Chair of Policy and Resources updated Members on a few current issues in respect of international engagement.

17. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at time not specified

Chairman

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