

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.30 am

Present:

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)	Deputy Wendy Hyde
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)	Shravan Joshi
Deputy John Absalom	Vivienne Littlechild
Caroline Addy	Andrien Meyers
Peter Bennett	Deputy Joyce Nash
John Chapman	Henrika Priest
Mary Durcan	Deputy Richard Regan
Christopher Hill	Rehana Ameer
John Edwards	Alderman Sir Roger Gifford

Officers:

Rofikul Islam	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Carolyn Dwyer	- Department of the Built Environment
Paul Double	- Office of the Remembrancer
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Rachel Pye	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protections
Gavin Stedman	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protections
Jon Averbs	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protections
Ruth Calderwood	- Department Markets & Consumer Protections
Gary Burks	- Open Spaces Department
Paul Double	- Office of the Remembrancer
Richard Steel	- Department of the Built Environment
Thomas Parker	- Department of the Built Environment
Gerry Kiefer	- Open Spaces Department
Gary Burks	- Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Adrian Bastow, Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark, John Chapman, Peter Dunphy, Mark Wheatly, Sophie Fernandes, Alderman Gregory Jones, Tijs Broeke and Tom Hoffman.

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

In respect to item 12 of the agenda, Deputy Joyce Nash declared that she is a resident of Defoe House, at the Barbican Estate.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Electrical Vehicle Charging

Officers advised the Committee that the delivery dates for the new refuse vehicles had changed once again but there is an ongoing dialogue to ensure a smooth and timely delivery. The vehicles require a special approval, which is the cause behind the delay.

The Committee was assured that the City of London hopes to have the vehicles delivered by November 2019.

Garden Waste Recycling

The Middlesex Street's Garden Waste Recycling trial will start in the summer of 2020.

Measurement and mitigation options for operational rail noise from London Underground affecting the Barbican Estate

A detailed update will be provided at agenda item 12.

Emissions Reduction Bill Update

The City's Remembrancer informed the Committee the City of London's Emissions Reduction Bill will be presented to Parliament once the Houses reconvenes. Thereafter the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills will advise Members of the House of Lords on the Bill.

The Committee was further advised that as soon as Parliament reconvenes, the Bill will go through a ballot process. At the start of each new parliamentary year, all backbench MPs are invited to enter a ballot. Ballot Bills take priority over other Private Members' Bills when time is allocated for debates and so have a better chance of becoming law.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Electrical Vehicle Charging

A report is to be tabled to the Committee at its next meeting on November 2019.

Water Refill Point

A Member commented that a church from her ward had made an application for two water refill points, but had its application rejected, even though a charity had agreed to cover the costs of the refill points for the first two years in operation.

Officers informed the Member and the Committee that a number of factors were considered with the application when it was rejected, including level of use, feasibility

and the water connection to the mains. Additionally, Members were informed that the City of London's own guidelines state that maintenance fees for the full life cycle of the fountain, which is 20 years, should be met.

The Member in question asked the Department to reconsider the requirement for maintenance fees for 20 years. Officers were assured further dialogue with the stakeholders would take place.

The Chairman noted he had received a number of questions from Members about the possibility of bringing historic fountains and pumps back into use; he asked if this could be looked into.

Garden Waste

An update to be provided to the Committee in November 2019.

5. UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE UK LEAVING THE EU (BREXIT) ON THE PORT HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

The Committee received the report of the Port Health & Public Protection Director on the update on the impact of the UK leaving the EU (Brexit) on Port Health & Public Protection.

Members were advised that appendices 2 and 3 will be discussed in the private session.

The UK is due to leave the European Union on 31 October 2019. Whilst negotiations continue within Government concerning the terms of the UK's departure, members were informed that Port Health & Public Protection will continue to check goods coming from third countries and is preparing itself as much as possible for Brexit.

Furthermore, the Committee was informed that Heathrow Animal Reception Centre has been very busy of late. The Port Health & Public Protection Department has received additional funding from the Food Standards Agency, which has allowed the City of London to recruit additional staff to assist with the preparedness for the Brexit.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the report.

6. DEPARTMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - BREXIT UPDATE

The Committee received the report of Director of the Built Environment.

RESOLVED – Note this report and that further update reports will be made to subsequent meetings of the Committee.

7. MOOR LANE ULTRA LOW EMISSION VEHICLE ONLY PILOT (LOW EMISSION NEIGHBOURHOOD PROJECT)

The Committee considered the report of Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Moor Lane Ultra Low Emission Vehicle only pilot (Low Emission Neighbourhood project).

The report sought the closure of the Moor Lane Ultra Low Emission Vehicle only pilot (Low Emission Neighbourhood project) and asked that remaining funds to be

reallocated to Beech Street. A Gateway 4/5 report for the Beech Street zero-emission street will be brought to the Committee in autumn 2019.

RESOLVED – Members agreed that;

1. The Moor Lane ULEV pilot project be closed and superseded by the Beech Street Transport and Public Realm Improvement project. UPI 10847;
2. Note the expenditure of £58,986.04. £19,000 was spent on the feasibility study, which will inform Beech Street; £490.04 on materials for the consultation, which is abortive. The remainder was spent on the Department of Built Environment Project Management costs, some of the work undertaken for this project by the Project Manager will inform Beech Street and
3. The remaining funding from the Mayor of London (£91,000) is reallocated to the Beech Street zero-emission project. This would be subject to committee approval of a Gateway 4/5 report, due Autumn 2019.

8. **REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment on the Reduction and Recycling Plan.

There was a discussion around the City of London achieving its own ambitious recycling targets and the way it engages and educates the local community. Officers assured Members that the City is working towards achieving its target, despite the hurdles and difficulties it faces. One of the examples which was provided was that the City's Cleansing team have no direct contacts with residents in comparison to other London Boroughs, as nearly all of the City's collections are communal rather than door to door. Furthermore, within the City of London, 29 private companies collect business waste, over whom the City has no jurisdiction.

Officers agreed that the targets set are achievable, as the City of London continues to be on a par with some of the top-performing boroughs.

In terms of educating and empowering residents to recycle, the City's Cleansing team had sent educational materials to residents, which was received very positively and the team will seek to continue engaging with the residents in the future too.

RESOLVED – Members agreed to approve the Reduction and Recycling Plan.

9. **CITY AIRPORT MASTERPLAN 2020-35 CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Built Environment on the City Airport Masterplan 2020-35 consultation response.

The report provided the Committee with the City of London's response to the draft City Airport Masterplan 2020-35.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

10. **AIR QUALITY AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL**

The Committee received oral update from the City of London's Air Quality Manager on the Air Quality at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

In July 2019, Officers presented a report to the Committee providing an update on levels of air pollution at the St Bartholomew's Hospital site which was associated with a large energy centre. Following the City's intervention, Barts has made some modifications to the CCHP plant in May 2019 and since then lower levels of nitrogen dioxide have been measured in the courtyard and surrounding areas.

The data suggests the City's intervention has made a positive impact but it's difficult to tell how much at the moment as nitrogen dioxide levels in the City are seasonal and much lower levels are measured in summer than winter. In addition to that, Officers have also seeing a general drop in levels of nitrogen dioxide across the City as a whole following the introduction of the Mayor of London's ULEZ, together with an ongoing increase in electric vehicles in the Square Mile.

Additionally, Officers have met several Barts representatives on-site over the summer who are keen to resolve the problem. The City of London is working with Barts to get some hourly measurements of nitrogen dioxide, which will give a better picture of what is going on.

Representatives from Barts Health NHS Trust have been invited to the October Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the content of the oral update.

11. **AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection. As part of its statutory duties for London Local Air Quality Management, the City of London Corporation is required to produce an Annual Status Report.

Members were informed that overall, air quality is improving in the Square Mile.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the content of the 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report.

12. **UPDATE ON THE ISSUE OF OPERATIONAL RAIL NOISE FROM LONDON UNDERGROUND AFFECTING THE BARBICAN ESTATE**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the update on the issue of operational rail noise from London Underground affecting the Barbican Estate.

The Committee was informed that the Public Protection team is still waiting to hear from Duncan Weir, Head of Track at TfL. It was agreed that communication and engagement has improved. Positive steps have been taken with ballast track renewal, ballast packing and tamping and the Committee was further informed that a target date for the signalling upgrade has been confirmed for 2021 and subsequent to this the rail crossovers between Moorgate and Barbican will be removed as they will no longer be required.

However, additional longer-term noise and vibration monitoring has confirmed that Brandon Mews is still affected by noise from the points and crossings.

A Member mentioned that there have been further complaints from their constituents of increased noise levels in Brandon Mews and asked if the City explore with TfL a temporary speed restriction to deal with the problem.

The City of London will continue to work closely with TfL, monitoring the result of actions and reporting back to committee.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the content of this report.

13. **MARKETS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION BUSINESS PLAN 2019/2020: PROGRESS REPORT (PERIOD 1)**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Markets and Consumer Protection Business Plan 2019/2020: Progress Report (Period 1).

The Committee was informed that the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection's High-Level Business Plan 2019/20 sets out several top-level service delivery objectives which the department will work towards during the coming years.

Additionally, the Committee was informed that the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre had experienced its busiest July on record and had assisted with care of a serval animals which were seized from a residential home as the owner did not have Dangerous Wild Animals Licence.

The department's work around food hygiene standards continues to see improvements.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the content of this report and its appendices.

14. **PORT HEALTH & PUBLIC PROTECTION RISKS**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Port Health & Public Protection Risks.

The Committee was informed that the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection department has identified a number of departmental risks; of the risks, the most significant risks for the Committee to consider were the Air Quality and Brexit risks, which are both at an amber level.

In terms of the Brexit risk, the Committee was informed that staff are fully trained to deal with matters and are prepared.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the report and the actions taken in the Department of Markets and Consumer Protection to monitor and manage effectively risks arising from our operations.

15. **CEMETERY & CREMATORIUM BUSINESS PLAN PERFORMANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE PERIOD 1 (APRIL - JULY 2019)**

The Committee received the report of the Director of Open Spaces on the Period 1 (April – July 2019) Cemetery & Crematorium Business Plan Performance and Risk Management update.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the performance of and management of risk at the Cemetery and Crematorium during this reporting period.

16. **DEPARTMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (CLEANSING SERVICES) BUSINESS PLAN PROGRESS REPORT FOR PERIOD 1 (APRIL - JULY), 2019/20**

The Committee received the report of Director of the Built Environment on the Department of the Built Environment (Cleansing Services) Business Plan Progress Report for Period 1 (April - July), 2019/20.

The Committee was advised that with the changes of suppliers and providers the City of London continues to achieve its targets.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the content of this report and the appendices.

17. **DEPARTMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT RISK MANAGEMENT - PERIODIC REPORT**

The Committee received the report of Director of the Built Environment on the Department of the Built Environment Risk Management– Periodic Report.

The Committee was informed that there was an issue with the Department's data, which had resulted in significant change in data handling underlying the reporting of the Department's Key Risk. The Department became aware that the Driver Check Completion Report (generated from City Learning) includes a large number of records related to individuals who were no longer either agency, contract staff or volunteers of City of London.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the report and the actions taken in the Department of the built environment to monitor and manage effectively risks arising from the department's operations.

18. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

A Member raised the issue of the streets and footways smelling of sewage due to problems in the sewers and drains system and suggested that the City power washes its street and footways.

The Committee was informed that the new contract does not have power washes included in its terms and conditions, but flash wash does take place. Officer agreed to look into the matter in the hope to address the concern raised.

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

The Chairman announced that the City of London was awarded the European Parking Award, presented by the European Parking Association, which reaffirms the value of Emissions Based Parking Charges and its role in improving air quality. The award

demonstrates the City of London's continuous drive to create a cleaner and healthier environment.

The Chairman also took the opportunity to remind the Committee and extend his invitation to all the Members of the Committee to the 47th City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment, which is taking place on Saturday 12 October 2019.

20. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

The meeting closed at 13.02

Chairman

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