

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

Tuesday, 5 November 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Jeremy Mayhew
Tijs Broeke	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Alderman Prem Goyal	Alderman Sir David Wootton

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Giles French	- Assistant Director of Economic Development
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Economic Development
Vic Annells	- Executive Director of Mansion House & CCC
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Nigel Lefton	- Director of Remembrancer's Office
Eugenie de Naurois	- Head of Corporate Affairs
Sam Hutchings	- Corporate Affairs, Communications
Sufina Ahmad	- Corporate Strategy Manager, Town Clerk's
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dominic Christian, Karina Dostalova, Anne Fairweather, Sheriff Christopher Hayward, Andy Mayer and James Tumbridge.

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 10 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications providing Members with an update of the Corporate Affairs Team's activities in supporting the City Corporation's strategic political engagement.

Members were also updated on the recently announced party candidates for the Cities of London and Westminster seat. The Chair of Policy and Resources also informed Members that roundtables were being set up with mayoral candidates from different parties ahead of the London mayoralty elections in 2020.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

5. **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 updated Members on the election of the Speaker of the House of Commons as well as the Emissions Bill.

The Chair of Policy and Resources added that the meeting with Assembly Member, Caroline Russell, had been postponed until after the General Election.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

6. **INNOVATION & GROWTH MONTHLY UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth providing Members with highlights of the key activity undertaken by the Innovation & Growth Directorate (IG) in October 2019.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

7. **EU ENGAGEMENT**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth outlining the recently hosted high profile events in Brussels, which promote the City Corporation's core messages regarding its relationship with the EU, with a specific focus on sustainable finance.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted; and
- Member representation at the Brussels Annual Reception include:
 - Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee
 - Deputy and Vice Chair(s)/men of the Policy and Resources Committee, or representatives of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee in their absence.

8. **CPR/LM VISIT TO NEW YORK AND CPR VISIT TO WASHINGTON**

Members received two reports concerning the joint Lord Mayor and Chair of Policy & Resources' visit to New York City, and the Chair of Policy and Resources' visit to Washington D.C.

RESOLVED, that:

- The reports be noted.

9. **CPR VISIT TO SWITZERLAND**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth concerning the Chair of Policy and Resources visit to Switzerland in September 2019.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

10. **DRAFT SPORTS & PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY 2020-25**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the City Corporation's draft Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2020-25.

Members discussed the importance of having an overview of the current spend associated with existing activity under the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy ahead of the next meeting of this Sub-Committee to allow for informed prioritisation.

The Sub-Committee also gave officers a steer as to try and ensure the Working Party that would oversee the successful implementation of this strategy was kept rather smaller and that overlap of Members representing different committees be the aim.

RESOLVED, that:

- The draft version of the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy be noted;
- Officers set out the current spend associated with existing activity under the Sport and Physical Activity Strategy ahead of the next meeting of this Sub-Committee.

11. **SOCIAL MOBILITY STRATEGY 2018-28 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of City Bridge Trust and Chief Grants Officer presenting the first annual report of the City Corporation's Social Mobility Strategy for 2018-28, which was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee in September 2018.

The Corporate Strategy Manager gave Members an overview of how social mobility links with other strategies (such as Education and Responsible Business strategies) to create a corporate narrative. Members suggested that simple factsheets be created to ensure that the work of this strategy could be clearly communicated, particularly including the work of the City of London Academies Trust.

The Sub-Committee also discussed the City Corporation's ranking on the Social Mobility Employer Index and the Town Clerk suggested he bring a report to the Establishment Committee considering some of the ways that the ranking could improve.

RESOLVED, that:

- The Social Mobility Strategy Annual Report be endorsed and prioritised.

12. DIGITAL SKILLS STRATEGY

The Sub-Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Innovation and Growth and the Director of Community and Children's Services concerning the first annual report of the Digital Skills Strategy, 2018-23.

RESOLVED, that:

- The Digital Skills Strategy Annual Report be endorsed and prioritised.

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

Questions were raised as follows -

Battle of Ideas

A Member asked for clarification on the decision made for the City of London Corporation to continue to support the Battle of Ideas conference for future years. The Town Clerk agreed to get more information and discuss with the Member outside of the meeting.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

The following items of urgent business were raised –

Corporate Strategy Manager

The Chair and the Town Clerk took the opportunity to thank the Corporate Strategy Manager for her work ahead of her imminent departure from the City Corporation.

Regularity of meetings

The Chair raised that this Sub-Committee currently met 11 times a year and suggested that this be reduced in future. Members were in unanimous agreement.

RESOLVED, that:

- The Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee meetings be reduced to six meetings a year from 2020 onwards.

Financial Services Skills Taskforce

The Chair asked the External Affairs Director in Innovation and Growth to update the Sub-Committee on the Financial Services Skills Taskforce launched by the previous Chancellor of the Exchequer to look at the UK's long-term competitiveness in regard to skills in the short to medium term. The External Director advised that although the report was due to be launched shortly, there had now been a delay due to the pre-election period. Members heard that the

Policy and Resources Committee would receive a non-public paper in due course to give a sense of the recommendations from the report.

15. **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
16	3

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 10 October 2019 were approved.

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

One question was raised in respect of departments working together.

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 3.50 pm

Chairman

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