

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 23 January 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 23 January 2020 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman) (in the Chair)
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Vice-Chairman)
Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Douglas Barrow (Ex-Officio Member)
Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Deputy Tom Hoffman (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Shravan Joshi
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Alderman Ian Luder
Jeremy Mayhew
Andrew McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Deputy Alastair Moss (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Joyce Nash
Graham Packham (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Jeremy Simons (Ex-Officio Member)
Sir Michael Snyder
Mark Wheatley
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Sir David Wootton

In attendance:

Oliver Sells

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Major Projects
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Member Services
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's Department
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Kate Smith	- Town Clerk's Department
Peter Kane	- Chamberlain

Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Deputy Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth Development
Giles French	- Department of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Eugenie de Naurois	- Communications Team
Nicholas Gill	- City Surveyor's Department
Ian Hughes	- Department of the Built Environment

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Chair Deputy Catherine McGuinness, The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell, Marianne Fredericks and Deputy Tom Sleigh.

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

There were none.

3. MINUTES

- a) The public minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 12 December 2019 were approved.
- b) The public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 December 2019 were noted.
- c) The draft public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 December 2019 were noted.
- d) The draft public minutes of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 December 2019 were noted.

4. LONDON COUNCILS GRANT SCHEME

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the London Councils Grants Scheme, including levels of expenditure and the City Corporation's contribution to the scheme.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. Approval be given to the total amount of expenditure to be incurred in 2020/21 under the Scheme (£6.668m) and to the City Corporation's subscription for 2020/21 (£6,520) as set out in Appendices A and B of this report.
2. Subject to the Court of Common Council's approval (as levying body for the Scheme), the levy of £6.668m (as set out in Appendix B) be agreed.
3. It be noted that the Court's approval would be sought using urgency procedures and would be subject to at least two-thirds of the constituent

councils agreeing the total expenditure to be incurred before 1 February 2020.

5. **FUNDING REQUEST TO SUPPORT AN EXTENSION OF HEART OF THE CITY'S RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning financial support for Heart of the City.

The Deputy Chairman, in the Chair, advised that the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee had considered this report earlier that day and had expressed a view that the proposed level of funding might not be appropriate. It had been asked that officers explore the proposed funding level and examine the implications of offering a lower level of grant, with a further proposal to be submitted to the next available meeting once this activity had concluded.

Members endorsed the recommendation of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That officers be asked to re-examine the proposed grant and re-submit a report to a future meeting.

6. **SPONSORSHIP OF NEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT NETWORK 'COMMUNITY MOBILISATION' PROJECT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications proposing sponsorship of a research project to be undertaken by the New Local Government Network (NLGN).

RESOLVED: That sponsorship of the NLGN research project be approved at a cost of £12,500, to be met from the Committee's 2019/20 Policy Initiatives Fund and charged to City's Cash.

7. **DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET ESTIMATES AND HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY BUSINESS PLAN 2020/21**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk, Chamberlain and Remembrancer which presented the budget estimates and final high-level summary Business Plans for 2020-21 for those departments overseen by the Policy and Resources Committee.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The Town Clerk's, Remembrancer's and Culture Mile Departments' proposed revenue budget for 2020-21 be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
2. The Corporate & Members Services, Communications, Innovation & Growth and Remembrancers Department's proposed capital and supplementary revenue projects budgets for 2020-21 be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
3. The Chamberlain be authorised, in consultation with the Town Clerk and Remembrancer, to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications

arising from Corporate Projects, other reviews and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme.

4. It be agreed that minor amendments for 2019-20 and 2020-21 budgets arising during budget setting be delegated to the Chamberlain.
5. The factors taken into consideration in compiling the Corporate & Members Services, Communications, Innovation & Growth and Remembrancers Department's Business Plan be noted, including efficiency measures.
6. The final high-level summary Business Plans for 2020-21 be approved.

8. **POLICY INITIATIVES FUND AND COMMITTEE CONTINGENCY**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain relative to the Policy Initiatives Fund, Committee Contingency Fund, Brexit Contingency Fund and the Committee's Projects Reserve.

Members noted that there had been limited expenditure from the Brexit Contingency Fund to date as a consequence of the delay to the implementation of Brexit. It was suggested that, in several areas, many of the implications of Brexit would not be clear until the end of 2020 at the earliest; consequently, it would be prudent to retain the fund into the next year to ensure money was available and could be spent most effectively.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

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

There were two questions:

Unconscious Bias Training

In response to a query concerning the provision of training to Members, the Assistant Town Clerk advised that a bespoke training session concerning unconscious bias, equalities and inclusion had been arranged for 2 March. Further sessions were in the process of being arranged to ensure that as many Members as possible were able to take up the training.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)

Replying to a query concerning a prospective commitment to the UN's SDGs, the Deputy Chairman (in the Chair) advised that officers would be producing a report for a forthcoming meeting which set out those areas in which the City was already aligning with the SDGs, where there was scope to do more, and making relevant proposals.

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

There were no urgent items.

11. **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.	Paragraph No.
13a – 21	3
23a - 24	1, 2, 3 & 4

12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 12 December 2019 were approved.
- b) The draft non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 12 December 2019 were noted.
- c) The draft non-public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 December 2019 were noted.
- d) The draft non-public minutes of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 December 2019 were noted.
- e) The draft non-public minutes of the Hospitality Working Party meeting held on 17 December 2019 were noted.

13. OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Chamberlain concerning the City Corporation's overall financial position and medium-term financial plan.

14. PRIORITISATION OF ANNUAL CAPITAL BIDS

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain which presented a number of capital bids for consideration and funding allocation.

15. WAIVER REQUEST: CORPORATE PROJECT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk in relation to a waiver for project management software.

16. STRATEGIC PROPERTY ESTATE (CITY FUND & CITY'S ESTATE) - ANNUAL UPDATE & STRATEGY FOR 2020

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting an annual update on the City's Strategic Property Estate.

17. CITY'S ESTATE STRATEGY REPORT

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting an annual update on and review of the strategy for the City's Estate, the investment property portfolio held by City's Cash.

18. CITY FUND STRATEGY REPORT

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting an annual update on the City's Fund property investment strategy.

19. **BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES: ANNUAL UPDATE & 2020 STRATEGY**
The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting an update on the property investment strategy for the Bridge House Estates.
20. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There was one question, concerning the Centre for Music.
21. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**
There were no urgent items.
22. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
The confidential minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 12 December 2019 were agreed.
23. **FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW**
The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk concerning the Fundamental Review.

The meeting ended at 2.35 pm

Chairman

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