

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 21 January 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at
<https://youtu.be/BMknAuKOZpk> on Thursday, 21 January 2021 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair) (*in the Chair for Items 1-21*)
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman) (*in the Chair for Items 22-36*)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Vice-Chairman)
Deputy Tom Sleigh (Vice-Chair)
Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Rehana Ameer
Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Ex-Officio Member)
Tijs Broeke
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Deputy Wendy Hyde (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 Andrien Meyers
Deputy Brian Mooney (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson (Ex-Officio Member)
Mark Wheatley
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Sir David Wootton

In Attendance:

Caroline Addy
Sophie Fernandes
Helen Fentimen
Graeme Harrower
Natasha Lloyd-Owen
Deputy John Tomlinson

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Peter Kane	- The Chamberlain

Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Financial Services Director
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk
Nigel Lefton	- Remembrancer's Department
Kate Smith	- Town Clerk's Department
Simon Latham	- Town Clerk's Department
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Cunningham	- Town Clerk's Department
Karen Atkinson	- City Bridge Trust
Jeremy Blackburn	- Mansion House
Nick Bodger	- Town Clerk's Department
Tim Fletcher	- Communications
Nick Gill	- City Surveyors
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancers
Aqib Hussain	- IT
Tim Jones	- Culture Mile
Kerstin Mathias	- Innovation & Growth
Sir Nick Kenyon	- Managing Director of Barbican Centre
Thomas Regan	- Communications
Adam Rout	- Mansion House
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Richard Woolford	- Strategic Security Director
Theresa Yurkewich Hoffman	- Innovation & Growth
Amelia Ehren	- City Bridge Trust
Hayley Hajduczek	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Alistair Moss, Deputy Joyce Nash, and the Rt Hon Alderman William Russell, the Lord Mayor.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 10 December 2020 were approved.
- b) The public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 December 2020 were noted.

- c) The public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 11 January 2021 were noted.
- d) The public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 December 2020 were noted.
- e) The public summary of the Tackling Racism Taskforce meeting held 11 December 2020 were noted.

4. **COVID 19 DEBRIEF**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Major Projects concerning the City Corporation's response to the global pandemic and the outcomes of an officer operational debrief.

During discussion of the report, the following points arose:

- The reality was that the organisation had to react very quickly to the crisis, and the view of looking (through the governance review) whether an emergency or contingencies committee should be set up in times of future crises, was supported. There was a suggestion that the Resource Allocation Sub Committee could be used for this purpose.
- There was a comment on improving communications with Members, businesses and residents. It was suggested that Members could also help to relay communications to their electorate.
- Another Member felt that the reactive process was successful, and Members were consulted as much as possible.
- The City Corporation should urge Parliament to continue the legislation allowing virtual and hybrid meeting.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Noted the range of activity undertaken in mitigation against the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Agreed that an alternative means of Member-level decision making is / is not required should a future crisis occur.
3. Agreed that civil resilience training should / should not be included as part of the Member development programme training offered to Members each year.

5. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW: COMPETITIVENESS**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning those aspects of the Governance Review relating to Competitiveness. The report presented the recommendations of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee (RASC), following an informal engagement process intended to gather the views of all Members.

The Committee proceeded to debate the various recommendations in turn:

- (i) **Do Members agree with the need to establish a dedicated group, body, or committee in relation to competitiveness?**

This proposal was strongly endorsed.

(ii) If so, do Members agree with the recommendation to establish a free-standing Competitiveness Committee, or would an alternative vehicle / format be preferable?

Members were in favour of this approach.

(iii) What should the composition of such a body be, noting the requirements to draw on both external and internal expertise more effectively?

The Committee supported the Resource Allocation Sub Committee's views on the composition of this body. The Policy Chair clarified there would be a core group and then bringing in other Members ad hoc for particular issues.

(iv) How should the membership of such a body be determined and appointed?

One Member felt that this should be an elected body rather than an appointed body. The Deputy Chairman relayed the views of the consultative exercise for the composition to be a skills-based approach. He also outlined that this would be an advisory body and that Policy & Resources Committee (made up of elected Members) would continue to hold decision-making powers. This point was underlined and supported by other Members. One Member suggested that Policy & Resources Committee ratify a list of individuals who should be appointed – this would be sufficiently democratic but allows for the technocratic element as well.

(v) What should the Terms of Reference of such a body be?

The Policy Chair relayed the Resource Allocation Sub Committee's views that any Terms of Reference should define firm outputs, encompassing both market promotion and policy.

This was supported by the Committee.

(vi) Should any new body take on the functions of the Hospitality Working Party?

It was agreed that the Advisory Body should be able to give advice on the strategic deployment of hospitality in certain areas but without taking away from or stepping into the remit of the Hospitality Working Party.

(vii) What should happen to the PRED Sub-Committee?

It was agreed that the PRED Sub-Committee should be reconstituted to take away the "Economic Development" element of its role, but retained as a dedicated sub-committee to focus more on the scrutiny around communications and messaging, including public affairs. It was, however, noted that the PRED Sub-Committee would then also need to be re-named.

(viii) How should the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee be referred to?

The Policy Chair relayed a conversation that she had with the Remembrancer that "Leader of the Council" might not be the right term for the City Corporation constitutionally and that this should be considered further.

A Member felt that it was important that "Court of Common Council" be referred to but not "Council". Others felt that "Leader" was an acceptable title and did not think

“Political Leader” was appropriate, and asked for the Remembrancer to put his concern in writing.

It was agreed that this matter should be deferred back to the Resource Allocation Sub Committee to be considered again in more detail and in light of the Remembrancer’s advice.

(ix) **Are Members supportive of Lisvane’s general commentary in respect on other areas set out in paragraph 11 above (and paragraphs 200 – 231 in the Lisvane Review itself)?**

This commentary was noted.

The Chair thanked Members for their helpful contributions and was pleased to be in a position to present consensus proposals to the Court.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Note the proposals in relation to Competitiveness made by Lord Lisvane in Section 6 of his Review (Appendix 1).
2. Note the feedback provided by Members through the informal engagement process (Appendix 2).
3. Determine to present recommendations in respect of the various proposals, as set out in discussion above, to the Court of Common Council.

6. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TACKLING RACISM TASKFORCE

The Committee considered a report detailing the findings and recommendations of the Tackling Racism Taskforce across six workstreams.

The Chair began by thanking the Taskforce and the Co-Chairs’ leadership on this important issue, which has been carried out at pace and in a considered and respectful way. The Chair urged Members to support and endorse the proposals in the paper.

The Co-Chairs spoke to introduce the item and thanked the Committee for their support in giving this issue the focus and attention it deserved. They also referenced the recent ministerial statement from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out their position of “retain and explain” in relation to contested heritage, yet argued that there was still a very particular consideration to remove, re-site and explain the statues of Beckford and Cass, and the approach of the Taskforce’s recommendation aligned with the Government’s position. As Beckford was attached to a Grade I listed building (the Great Hall), Members heard how the next step would be to apply for Listed Building Consent, which would require consultation with Historic England, a public consultation and a wider consultation with Members through the committee process. The Co-Chairs concluded it was important that these recommendations of change were not only endorsed by the Committee but “chiselled” into the Corporation’s policies and practices.

During discussion of the report, the following points arose:

- The Chief Commoner spoke out in opposition of the recommendation of removing the statues of Beckford, citing its homage to free speech and felt that it would be better to explain its context, in its current location. He also felt that the consultative exercise results were not followed in this

recommendation. He indicated he would like to put forward an amendment to approve all the recommendations in the report except that recommendation on the statue.

- Members commented on how quickly this report had been turned around and how much consideration had gone into this. It would be important to track these recommendations too, and one Member suggested an annual or quarterly report back to Policy & Resources Committee, which could be drafted by officers. A Member suggested that the City Corporation should not take a self-selected survey (i.e. the consultative exercise) as a democratic vote.
- It was felt important that all the other recommendations were not overshadowed by the discussion on statues, which were warmly supported by the Committee.
- One Member felt that there should be a clear commitment to the timeframe of the recommendations, which should be brought forward earlier than 24 months.
- The City Corporation's nominations process should be considered to ensure that our governance become more diverse.
- These recommendations need to be woven into our policies and used to tackle modern-day slavery and racism. The City Corporation need to stand out to speak out against all forms of racism.
- It was acknowledged that the Livery Committee were looking to improve diversity through signing of the Diversity Charter, although there was some difficulty for them to collect data on their existing memberships.
- It was important to look at diversifying attendance at events.
- It was suggested that a number of people outside of London would have responded to the consultative exercise and there was an organised group which promoted this consultative exercise amongst its followers.
- A Member felt that the Beckford statue could not be contextualised properly within the Guildhall due to lack of space. The true history of Beckford and the slave trade was evil and a small sign to contextualise this would be inappropriate. It was suggested that the Museum of London may be a more appropriate location for re-siting the statue.
- A Member commented that we should not underestimate our emotional response to slavery as a legitimate consideration in making the decision of removing the Beckford statue. Members heard how two years before Beckford became Lord Mayor, there was a major rebellion on the plantation in Jamaica that he was responsible for; as a result, 400 slaves were rounded up and executed. It was argued that it was perfectly legitimate to have an emotional response to hearing this story. The City Corporation should get to the heart of the ongoing injustice that slavery created.
- Two Members felt that they were not in a position to vote either way on the statues recommendation until they understood further all the information and options explored by the proposed Working Group. It was noted that some people saw the statue as a "celebration of free speech", whereas other people saw the statue as a "celebration of oppression".

The Co-Chairs of the Tackling Racism Taskforce responded to the discussion and summarised the arguments to remove and re-site (and contextualise) the two statues, and the importance of the symbolism of taking this action.

The Chief Commoner then proposed the following amendment that:-

“The full list of recommendations of the Tackling Racism Taskforce be wholeheartedly approved, except for the recommendations concerning removing, re-siting and contextualising the Beckford and Cass statues, which be deferred until a wider consultation is carried out with the Court of Common Council, members of the public and other relevant stakeholders.”

This amendment was seconded by Mark Wheatley.

Members then proceeded to vote on the amendment by the raising of hands. The amendment was defeated by 27 to 5 votes (with two abstentions from Marianne Fredericks and Alderman Tim Hailes).

Members then proceed to vote on the substantive recommendations, which were approved by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Approved the full list of recommendations of the Tackling Racism Taskforce outlined in Appendix 1 and agreed for work to be carried out to implement these recommendations, subject to any further reports to relevant committees

7. **TOMLINSON REVIEW UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk which provided an update on the work undertaken by the City Grants Education Spending Working Party in response to the review conducted by Sir Mike Tomlinson.

During discussion of the report, the following points arose:

- Alastair King and Henry Colthurst should be added to the Working Party.
- The proposal needed to be attached to a 3-month timeframe so the decisions were not delayed further. A Member commented that the Tackling Racism Taskforce were able to start the work and report back with findings within six months and this work should also keep up with this pace.
- It would be important to keep some of the individuals who had previously worked on this be included as the knowledge bank remained useful to feed into discussions.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Noted the progress made to date by the Working Party and relevant Departments;
2. Agreed that the remaining work on the recommendations should be continued with the oversight of a Working Party; and
3. Agreed the refreshed Terms of Reference and Membership of said body.

8. **LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS SCHEME**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the proposed expenditure and the City Corporation's subscription to the London Councils Grants Scheme for 2021/22.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Approved the total amount of expenditure to be incurred in 2021/22 under the Scheme (£6.668m) and to the City Corporation's subscription for 2021/22 (£7,233) as set out in Appendices A and B of this report; and
2. Agreed the levy of £6.668m (as set out in Appendix B), subject to the Court of Common Council's approval (as levying body for the Scheme. It should be noted that the Court's approval will be sought using the urgency procedures and is subject to at least two-thirds of the constituent councils agreeing the total expenditure to be incurred before 1 February 2021.

9. **DEPARTMENTAL 2021/22 BUDGET ESTIMATES - POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk, Chamberlain and Remembrancer which presented the budget estimates for 2021-22 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 2021-22 be approved for submission to the Finance Committee.
2. The Town Clerk's and Remembrancer's Departments' 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, Target Operating Model (TOM) savings, other reviews and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme; and
4. It be agreed that minor amendments for 2020-21 and 2021-22 budgets arising during budget setting be delegated to the Chamberlain.
5. The factors taken into consideration in compiling the Business Plan be noted, including efficiency measures.

10. **DRAFT TOWN CLERK'S CORPORATE & MEMBERS SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22**

The Committee considered and a report of the Town Clerk which presented the proposed Business Plan for 2021-22 for the Town Clerk's Corporate & Members Services.

A Member requested that the performance indicators were more strategically informed and committed to working with the Director of Members Services to improve this.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The report be noted.

11. DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS TEAM BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications which presented the proposed Business Plan for 2021-22 for the Communications Team.

A Member felt strongly that the communications around electoral registration should be robust and agree that the Elections Campaign Manager should report to the Director of Communications.

There were general comments about the information around prioritisation of the 12% savings across all of the business plans being made clearer to Members.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The report be noted.

12. DRAFT INNOVATION & GROWTH BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth which presented the proposed Business Plan for 2021-22 for the Innovation & Growth Department.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The report be noted.

13. DRAFT REMEMBRANCER'S OFFICE BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the City Remembrancer which presented the proposed Business Plan for 2021-22 for the Remembrancer's Office.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The report be noted.

14. CULTURE MILE CORE REVENUE BUDGET 2021-23

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Town Clerk & Culture Mile Director which presented the budget estimates for Culture Mile for 2021-23.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Approve the allocation of an annual revenue budget for essential core Culture Mile activities from City Fund of £139,203 for the 2021/2 financial year and £284,984 for the 2022/23 financial year
2. Approve the carry forward of £96,000 from the 2020/21 Culture & Visitor Services Outdoor Arts budget (funded by Central Risk) and £89,000 from the 2020/21 Culture Mile core revenue budget into the core Culture Mile budget for 2021/22
3. Note that a bid to the CIL Neighbourhood Fund would be made in spring 2021, as a means for Culture Mile to maintain its communities work as part of the City's recovery programme.

15. CITY OF LONDON EU STRATEGY

The Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning the market plan for Europe, previously agreed by Policy & Resources, following the commencement of the UK's transition period.

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

16. **UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LONDON AND THECITYUK**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth which provided an update on the implementation of the Partnership Agreement between the City of London and TheCityUK.

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

17. **INNOVATION & GROWTH UPDATE ON TECH**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth which provided an update on activity being undertaken by Innovation & Growth in relation to technology companies within and around the Square Mile.

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

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

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain which provided a schedule of projects and activities which have received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund, the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund, Committee's Project Reserve, COVID19 Contingency Fund and Brexit Contingency Fund for 2020/21 and future years.

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

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

There were no questions.

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

There was one urgent item:

Recovery Taskforce: Interim Update with Preliminary Blueprint

The Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth which provided Members with an update on the Recovery Taskforce's work since November 2020.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and the preliminary blueprint of the Recovery Task Force and plans for engaging with stakeholders be noted.

21. **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 of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

22. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 10 December 2020 were approved as a correct record.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 December 2020 were noted.
- c) The non-public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 December 2020 were noted.
- d) The non-public minutes of the Hospitality Working Party meeting held on 21 December 2020 were noted.

23. **OVERALL FINANCIAL POSITION AND MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL PLAN**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Chamberlain outlining decisions around the overall financial position and the medium-term financial plan.

24. **GREEN HORIZON SUMMIT EVALUATION AND COP26 PREPARATIONS**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth providing an evaluation of the City's role at the Green Horizon Summit together with plans in relation to COP26.

25. **SUPPORT FOR INNOVATE FINANCE**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth proposing financial support for Innovate Finance.

26. **BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES TRANSITIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT**

The Committee considered and approved a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Chief Grants Officer & Director of the City Bridge Trust proposing the adoption of a transitional investment strategy statement for Bridge House Estates.

27. **BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE REVIEW - UPDATE FIVE**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Grants Officer & Director of the City Bridge Trust presenting an update in respect of the strategic governance review of Bridge House Estates.

28. **BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES: ANNUAL UPDATE & 2021 STRATEGY**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting the annual update and strategy in respect of the Bridge House Estates property investment portfolio.

29. **CITY FUND PROPERTY INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO - ANNUAL UPDATE & STRATEGY REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting the annual update and strategy report in respect of the City Fund investment portfolio.

30. **STRATEGIC PROPERTY ESTATE (CITY FUND & CITY'S ESTATE) -ANNUAL UPDATE & STRATEGY FOR 2021**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting the annual update and strategy report in respect of the Strategic Property Estate (City Fund and City's Estate).

31. **CITY'S ESTATE: ANNUAL UPDATE & 2021 STRATEGY**

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor presenting the annual update and strategy report in respect of City's Estate.

32. **CULTURE AND COMMERCE TASKFORCE: PUBLICATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee received a report of the Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Major Projects concerning the recommendations of the Culture and Commerce Taskforce.

33. **NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX: CULTURE MILE BUDGET**

The Committee noted the non-public appendix to Item 14.

34. **NON-PUBLIC DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of two actions taken under delegated authority or urgency procedures since the last meeting.

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

There was one question, concerning the Waterloo & City Line.

36. **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.

The meeting ended at 4.28pm

Chairman

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