

Report – Policy and Resources Committee

Central Criminal Court – Reporting Lines

To be presented on Thursday, 23rd June 2016

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons of
the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

SUMMARY

The Central Criminal Court (CCC) does not fit naturally within the existing workload of any single Committee and currently reports to the Corporate Asset Sub (Finance) Committee. The next few years will be a particularly important time for the CCC in view of the extensive refurbishment works planned for the building, as well as the work currently in-hand with the Recorder and Sheriffs to review and improve working arrangements and practices and to extend the community engagement role. Bearing this in mind, the CCC was identified as an area that would benefit from greater coordination and dedicated attention in terms of Member support and oversight.

The Finance Committee, General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and Policy and Resources Committee considered this matter and all Committees agreed that it would be appropriate for the Policy and Resources Committee to create a Sub-Committee to be responsible for the CCC for a period of five years (to April 2021).

To allow this proposal to be enacted, amendment should be made to Committee Terms of Reference. Although the Finance Committee is currently responsible for the CCC, this is not set out explicitly within the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference, so no change is required to that Committee's Terms of Reference to enact this change. To ensure clarity, it is proposed that explicit reference is made to the Central Criminal Court in the Policy and Resources Committee's Terms of References.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended to the Court of Common Council approves the amendment of the Policy and Resources Committee's Terms of Reference to state "For a period of five years, from June 2016 to April 2021, to be responsible for oversight of the management of all matters relating to the Central Criminal Court" (as set out at Appendix 1), to allow this Committee to create a Central Criminal Court Sub-Committee.

MAIN REPORT

Background

1. The Central Criminal Court (CCC) does not fit naturally within the existing workload of any single Committee and currently reports to the Corporate Asset Sub (Finance) Committee. Given the extensive refurbishment works planned for the building as well as the work currently in-hand with the Recorder and Sheriffs

to review and improve working arrangements and practices and to extend the community engagement role, the CCC was identified as an area that would benefit from greater Member support and oversight.

Current Position

2. Therefore, the Finance Committee, General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and Policy and Resources Committee considered whether it may be appropriate to amend the reporting lines for the CCC and particularly whether it may be appropriate to create a new Grand Committee which is responsible for the CCC for a period of five years (to April 2021).
3. Both the Finance Committee and the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen agreed that it would be beneficial for a specific body to be created to have responsibility for the work of the CCC, but both Committees agreed that it would be more appropriate for it to be constituted as a Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee. The Policy and Resources Committee agreed this proposal.
4. The Sub-Committee will comprise:
 - Two Aldermen nominated by the Court of Aldermen;
 - Two Members appointed by the Court of Common Council;
 - One Member appointed by the Policy and Resources Committee;
 - One Member appointed by the Finance Committee;
 - the Recorder and Sheriffs at the Central Criminal Court (Ex-officio) (with the Recorder and any Sheriff who is not a Member of the Court of Common Council not having voting rights)

Proposal

5. To allow this proposal to be enacted, amendment will need to be made to the Terms of Reference of Committees. Although the Finance Committee (through its Corporate Asset Sub-Committee) is presently responsible for the CCC, this is not currently set out explicitly within the Finance Committee's Terms of Reference, so no change is required to that Committee's Terms of Reference to enact this change.
6. To ensure clarity, it is proposed that the Court approves the addition to the Policy and Resources Committee's Terms of Reference of the following clause: "For a period of five years, from June 2016 to April 2021, to be responsible for oversight of the management of all matters relating to the Central Criminal Court."

Conclusion

7. Creating a new Sub-Committee to have responsibility for the work of the CCC will be beneficial for the CCC, and the Finance Committee, General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and the Policy and Resources Committee have agreed that this would be best constituted as a Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee. The Court is therefore asked to agree the amendment to the Policy and Resources Committee's Terms of Reference to allow this proposal to be enacted.

All of which we submit to the judgement of this Honourable Court.

DATED this 19th day of May 2016.

SIGNED on behalf of the Committee.

Mark Boleat
Chairman, Policy and Resources Committee