

GRESHAM COMMITTEE
SERVICE OVERVIEW

Sir Thomas Gresham (1518-1579) built his London Mansion House, Gresham House in Bishopsgate, in collegiate form. In his Will, Gresham House and the Royal Exchange were left to the City Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers. From the income of the Royal Exchange the two parties were to select professors in Divinity, Astronomy, Music, Geometry, Law, Physic and Rhetoric and pay each of the seven professors the annual sum stated in the Will. The first four subjects were the responsibility of the City Corporation whilst the last three were the responsibility of the Mercers' Company. (In recent years the Mercers' Company has voluntarily added a fourth subject to their responsibility - Commerce.) The City Corporation was also obliged to maintain Sir Thomas' eight almshouses and pay each almsfolk a yearly allowance.

The professors took up residence in Gresham House (renamed Gresham College) in 1596 and lectures "for gratuitous instruction of all who chose to come and attend" began in 1598. The College had a valuable library and became "a favourite resort of learned men".

The demise of Gresham College began with the Great Fire of 1666. The College was undamaged, but the Royal Exchange was destroyed. As a result, the Lord Mayor, the Mercers' Company, the City Courts and officers and the merchants from the Exchange all moved into Gresham College, and its scholarly activities were disrupted. The buildings became ruinous and in 1767 an Act of Parliament was passed which permitted the City Corporation and the Mercers' Company to sell the ground to the Crown for an annuity in perpetuity. The Act also provided for the lecturers fees to be increased. The almshouses were subsequently relocated and are now at a site in Brixton.

In 1909, the Grand Gresham Committee established Gresham College as a base for the Gresham Lectures at the newly constructed 89/91 Gresham Street. That property was substantially refurbished in 1984 for banking purposes. At that time the College moved to Frobisher Crescent in the Barbican. In 1991 the Mercers' made available their premises at Barnard's Inn and the College moved there and this is currently the base for the Gresham Lectures. In September 2004 the long lease of 150 years on 89/91 Gresham Street was granted to Friends Provident Life Assurance Ltd. The property is currently occupied.

Annex B2

The Budgets are divided into three divisions of service. The first two shown are the responsibility of the Chamberlain and the third is the responsibility of the Director of Community and Children's Services:

1. City Moiety - This division shows the City Corporation's 50% share of the income from the Royal Exchange, 89/91 Gresham Street and the Gresham House annuity. The division also shows the City Corporation's share of the expenses of running the Estate.
2. Discretionary Expenditure- This division includes all other expenditure that does not form part of the City Moiety (item 1 above) or Mandatory expenses (item 3 below). It consists principally of the Grant to Gresham College, the non-mandatory element of the lecturers' fees and administrative costs.
3. Mandatory Expenses- This division shows the mandatory element of the City Corporation's four lecturers' fees (£400) and the cost of maintaining the almshouses and paying the almsfolk allowance