

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

Monday, 26 February 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 12.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Andrew Mayer
Sir Mark Boleat (Deputy Chairman)	Jeremy Mayhew
Simon Duckworth	The Lord Mountevans
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Anne Fairweather	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Christopher Hayward	
Deputy Edward Lord	

In attendance:

Tijs Broeke

Officers:

John Barradell	-	Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Bob Roberts	-	Director of Communications
Paul Double	-	Remembrancer
Damian Nussbaum	-	Director of Economic Development
Alistair Sutherland	-	Assistant Commissioner of CoL Police
Vic Annells	-	Executive Director of Mansion House & CCC
Sherry Madera	-	Economic Development Office, Town Clerk's
Giles French	-	Economic Development Office, Town Clerk's
Sarah Mayes	-	Economic Development Office, Town Clerk's
Eugenie de Naurois	-	Communications Department, Town Clerk's
Peter Cannon	-	Communications Department, Town Clerk's
Nigel Lefton	-	Remembrancers
Emma Wade	-	Remembrancers
Emma Cunnington	-	Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Peter Estlin, Hugh Morris and Sir Michael Snyder.

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 18 January 2018 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

- On diversity, a Member updated the Sub Committee that following a meeting with the Town Clerk's department, she was content that work on increasing diversity at the City Corporation was progressing. The Town Clerk and the Chairman confirmed that a paper will be considered by the Establishment Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee in due course to help support staff diversity networks and other diversity initiatives.
- Members were told that a revised and more succinct version of the key messages on business of trust would be reported to the next meeting of this Sub Committee. A Member also enquired into mayoral themes more generally as to check whether they aligned with corporate strategies. The Executive Director of Mansion House assured Members that the business of trust theme, aligned with objectives of the Corporate Plan, and that the Senior Alderman Below the Aldermanic Chair (SABTAC) has reported his mayoral themes to this Sub Committee for next year.
- Members requested key messages could be made more widely available to the Members of Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee. The Director of Communications reminded Members of the existing channels but agreed to look at ensuring that Members of this Sub Committee were given more information on "lines-to-take".
- Regarding Chatham House membership, the Policy Chairman updated Members that attendance at events might sometimes need to be flexible if there is, for example, a particular individual identified who should represent the City Corporation. A Member reminded officers to send out instructions on how to access the Chatham House benefits. The Sub Committee agreed that the next Chatham House briefing session should be opened up to all Members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

4. **POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE**

The Director of Communications was heard regarding recent political activity, London elections and the new Labour candidate for the City and Westminster.

The Remembrancer then updated the Sub Committee on some of the work of his department, including that the EU Withdrawal Bill was currently working its way through the House of Lords, that the Open Spaces Bill is having its third reading tomorrow and that, following a meeting between the Policy Chairman and the Chairman of the House of Lords' EU Financial Affairs Sub-Committee, Baroness Falkner, the City Corporation and a number of trade associations are briefing the Sub-Committee on the effect of Brexit on financial services.

The Chairman thanked both the Director of Communications and the Remembrancer for their work.

5. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Director of Economic Development updated the Sub-Committee on the work of the Economic Development Office. On Brexit, this focused on the three “Ts” – seeking appropriate transition, trade access, and talent (ie access to workforce) for the financial and related professional services sector.

On transition, he reported that this appeared to have been largely agreed in principle and so there had not been as much focus on this area, currently.

On trade, he reported that the City Corporation is working with the financial services sector to promote the messages of the IRSG report, *Mutual Recognition – A Basis for Market Access After Brexit*, to the 27 EU countries and to Government.

On talent, whilst this has so far been focused on the least, the Director reported this was something that the City Corporation was now working on. He reported that whilst other trade associations had some top line work around messages for immigration, the City Corporation were working with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) around competitiveness and the customer journey.

Members discussed how newer Members could feel more involved with messaging as the debate on whether the City Corporation should take a position on the UK leaving the EU at Court of Common Council took place before many were elected on the Court. Members agreed that if Members are minded to introduce a significant change in the City Corporation’s current position, this would need to go through a formal governance process.

In addition, the Sub Committee requested that the Policy Chairman send more information via email to the Sub Committee outlining her political and business engagements and insight from this.

RESOLVED – that the Members of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee receive regular emails outlining the Policy Chairman’s political and business engagements.

The Director of Economic Development and the Assistant Commissioner of Police then gave an update on the development of the cyber security work, following feedback from Members at the Policy and Resources Committee. Members were pleased that feedback had been taken on board. A Member advised that before this is implemented, it is clear what the costs are surrounding this and whether there is a demand for this. Members suggested that the Director of Economic Development arrange a workshop with interested Members to discuss the proposal further.

RESOLVED – that the Director of Economic Development and the Commissioner of Police set up a workshop with interested Members to discuss

the cyber work further, then bring back a fully worked-up proposal in due course.

6. **ASIA UPDATE**

Members received an update from the Special Adviser for Asia on recent insight and activity in that market, including:

- The Policy Chairman's recent visits to China, once as a policy trip and once to join the Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- The City Corporation has been viewed by Chinese stakeholders as contributing to the success of Green Finance, RMB trading and the Belt and Road initiative.
- Engagement with Hong Kong is now increasing with a Hong Kong dialogue and engagement with the Hong Kong Monetary Group.
- In India, the 10th EFD will be taking place in April, with the key discussions topics including internationalisation of the rupee, masala bonds, fintech and non-performing assets. The Special Adviser also reported on a recent trip that Sir Michael Snyder had undertaken to India to mark the tenth anniversary of the opening of the City Corporation offices in Mumbai.

A Member asked what the City Corporation is currently doing in Japan, and the Director of Economic Development confirmed that, as the market is critical to the UK, the City Corporation is using relationship management with Japanese firms and working very closely with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Members were too reminded of Sir Roger Gifford's role on the advisory committee.

7. **PARTY CONFERENCES**

Members considered a report of the Director of Communications, asking Members to review and approve the top-line proposals for the 2018 conference season.

RESOLVED, that:

- **it be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee that the City Corporation continue hosting events at the Liberal Democrat, Labour, Conservative and SNP Conference and**
- **it be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee that the City Corporation organise a set number of events tailored to each party conference as detailed in the report.**

8. **EUROPEAN UNION (WITHDRAWAL) BILL**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the City Remembrancer outlining the parliamentary proceedings on the European Union (Withdrawal) Bill and activity being undertaken to highlight issues of importance to the City.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

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

One question was raised as follows -

Length of Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee meetings

Members discussed whether the meetings of this Sub-Committee were the right length to discuss all the business of the agenda. It was agreed that there needed to be more written reports rather than oral presentations and that, where possible, the meetings should be extended by half an hour.

RESOLVED – that there should be more written reports going forward, and where possible, the Town Clerk should extend the time of the meetings by thirty minutes.

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

The following items of urgent business were raised –

Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee Away Day

The Chairman advised that the PRED Sub Committee Away Day has been arranged to take place on Tuesday 27 March at The Carter Lane gallery at The Grange St Paul's Hotel. There will be a buffet lunch from midday at the art gallery, with the formal meeting starting at 12:45pm and finishing with a drinks reception. Members were advised that Sir Simon Fraser (Founder and Managing Partner of Flint Global) will give Members an overview of his findings, following a series of interviews with external stakeholders, on the City Corporation's impact in relation to its financial and professional services' work across the last year – with a particular focus on the new areas being taken forward by the Economic Development Office.

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	Paragraph
12, 13	3

12. **NON-PUBLIC POLITICAL AND PARLIAMENTARY UPDATE**

There was no non-public political and parliamentary update.

13. **NON-PUBLIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

There was no non-public economic development update.

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

There were no questions.

15. 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 1.05 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Emma Cunningham
emma.cunnington@cityoflondon.gov.uk**