

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Policy and Resources Committee	7 June 2018
Subject: Ex-officio Membership on the Policy and Resources Committee	Public
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Decision
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Summary

At the 3 May 2018 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, it was suggested that thought should be given to the composition of the Committee in respect of ex-officio Membership. This suggestion was made with particular reference to the potential inclusion of the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee, given the increasing profile and strategic importance of this area of the City Corporation's activities.

Currently the ex-officio places on the Policy Committee are as follows:-

- Lord Mayor;
- the Chief Commoner;
- Chairmen of nine committees (see paragraph 4);
- Deputy Chairmen of the Finance and Investment Committees; and,
- Any Member who has a seat in Parliament.

This report outlines the existing ex-officio Chairmen who serve on the Committee and invites Members to consider whether a further place should be allocated to the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee.

This report responds directly to the proposal regarding the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee raised at the previous meeting. It does not explore whether a case should be made for Chairmen of other committees, nor address the wider question of ex-officio membership in general and the relative merits of existing or prospective ex-officio membership.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that, given the financial scale of the City Bridge Trust and the strategic significance of its work to the City Corporation, consideration be given as to whether the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee should also have an ex-officio place on the Policy and Resources Committee.

Main Report

Background

1. At the May 2018 meeting, Members suggested that consideration should be given to the ex-officio membership of the Committee. This was with reference to the increasing profile of the City Bridge Trust, with it suggested that it would be sensible for the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee to become an ex-officio Member of the Policy and Resources Committee.
2. The most recent wholesale examination of the Committee's ex-officio appointments was undertaken in 2011, when a thorough review took place to ensure that the ex-officio appointments were the right ones for present day needs.
3. As a consequence of that review, additional places were reserved for the Chairmen of the Investment and Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committees, as well as for the Deputy Chairman of the Investment Committee.
4. This report does not re-visit that review, nor assess the merits of other potential additions to the Committee. Neither does it assess the continued membership of existing ex-officio Members.
5. There may well be other Chairmen who feel that it would be appropriate for their Committee to be represented on Policy and Resources through ex-officio membership. Indeed, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama has suggested that an ex-officio place should be reserved for the Chairman of that Committee, in view of the City's increasing strategic focus in respect of culture and the Culture Mile specifically, of which the Guildhall School is a key partner. Ex-officio places are currently reserved on Policy and Resources for both the Chairmen of the Culture Heritage & Libraries Committee and Barbican Centre Board.
6. Should Members wish to explore the option to add further ex-officio Chairmen to the Committee, it is suggested that it would be more prudent to undertake a more holistic and measured review, rather than seek to assess additional individual suggestions on an *ad hoc* basis.

Current Position

7. The full composition of the Committee is set out at Appendix 1. Currently, ex-officio places on the Committee are reserved for:
 - i) Nine Members who serve on by virtue of being Chairman of a particular Committee, viz.:
 - Finance
 - Planning & Transportation
 - Port Health & Environmental Services
 - Police
 - Community & Children's Services

- Establishment
 - Barbican Centre
 - Investment
 - Culture, Heritage and Libraries
- ii) Two Members who serve by virtue of being Deputy Chairman of a particular Committee, viz.:
- Finance
 - Investment
- iii) The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor
- iv) The Chief Commoner
- v) Such Members who have seats in Parliament (*N.B. - Two Members serve in this capacity at present*).

The Rationale for Ex-Officio Places for Committee Chairmen

8. Ex-officio places were introduced for Committee Chairmen to ensure that Committees with strategic remits and responsibilities (and in most cases significant budgets) are able to play a part in the policy setting process.
9. The award of ex-officio places provides a mechanism for key representatives of those committees to influence our policy decisions and our strategic direction. All ex-officio Members on the Policy and Resources Committee have full voting rights, including for the election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
10. As mentioned earlier in the report, nine Committee Chairmen currently have a reserved place on the Policy and Resources Committee and each represent areas of significant strategic or operational importance for the City Corporation.
11. It is prudent to keep under review these ex-officio appointments to ensure that Committees with significant remit and responsibilities are able to play a part in the policy setting process. For example, in 2011, culture had become an area which was becoming increasingly prominent and which also had substantial resource implications – thus, the inclusion of the Chairman of the new Culture Heritage & Libraries Committee.

Proposal

12. The role of the City Bridge Trust (CBT) has changed significantly in recent years. CBT now supports the Social Investment Board, managing the potential and actual social investments within BHE through the Head of Charity Finance and Social Investment; the delivery of the Central Grants Programme through the Central Grants Unit; the development of a philanthropy strategy, encompassing all the City Corporation's philanthropic activity; and the management of the pan-City Corporation charities database.

13. In addition, the Chief Grants Officer & CBT Director, together with key members of his staff, increasingly engages on behalf of the City Corporation with major stakeholders within the voluntary sector, including through representative bodies, and with government stakeholders at national, regional and local levels.
14. The recent promotion of the Chief Grants Officer & CBT Director to a Senior Management position also reflects the growing corporate importance of a strong City Bridge Trust, and that department's strategic significance.
15. As a consequence, the City Bridge Trust has become an ever-more important area of the City Corporation's overall portfolio. Serious consideration should therefore be given as to whether an ex-officio position on the Policy and Resources Committee should be set aside for the Chairman of the CBT Committee, to bring the position in line with that for other committees of similarly high strategic importance.
16. It should be noted that this report deals only with the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee and does not consider whether a case could be made for other Chairmen.
17. Should Members wish to give consideration to additional appointments, or the ex-officio membership of the Committee more generally, it is suggested that the Committee agrees to a holistic review being undertaken (rather than making *ad hoc* or iterative changes on a piecemeal basis). This would facilitate a more strategic approach to your deliberations.
18. It should be noted that the final approval of the Court of Common Council would be required in respect of any changes to the Policy and Resources Committee's composition.

Conclusion

19. Members are asked to consider whether the composition of the Policy and Resources Committee should be amended to include the Chairman of the City Bridge Trust as an ex-officio Member, in view of the increasing strategic importance of Bridge House Estates and the charitable activities undertaken by the City Bridge Trust.

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