

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

**TUESDAY, 29 MAY 2018**

# **CONFIDENTIAL**

**By virtue of paragraph 3 and 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.**

**23. CONFIDENTIAL URGENT BUSINESS**

Brexit – Plan B

The Chairman confirmed that whilst the sector remained firmly behind the mutual market access proposal for Brexit, thought was of course being given to the implications of different solutions.

Special Representative for the City to the EU

The Chairman updated Members that the decision had been made to not extend the Special Representative for the City to the EU's contract beyond the Summer.

Recruitment of Managing Director, Brussels Office

The Town Clerk updated Members on the planning for the interim arrangements for the Managing Director of Brussels Office while a permanent solution was being sought. The Town Clerk explained that it was important for a balance to be struck, as the salary that the City Corporation were prepared to pay would only perhaps be attractive if someone could work, for example, two days a week and have other employment elsewhere.

A question was raised about the process for the interim decisions and the Town Clerk agreed that consent was needed across the organisation but in an efficient and fast manner. It was agreed that the Chairman of Establishment and the Chairman of Finance would be consulted in the interim arrangements.

One Member challenged the Sub-Committee to consider those who might be open to short-term maximisation of income.

Another Member urged the Sub-Committee to give the Town Clerk flexibility so that arrangements could be achieved quickly.

Bookings of Guildhall Club

A Member expressed strong concern at the processes surrounding the booking of the Guildhall Club, which it was claimed, damaged the City Corporation

reputationally due to the right-wing political guests in attendance. Additionally, he expressed concern that Members had spoken to The Guardian about this and claimed that The Guardian would not have picked this up from a Member's Twitter feed, which was what was initially purported. The Member went on to urge Members to follow the advice of the Director of Communications and the PR protocols in place and that one elected Member should not think they are speaking on behalf of the City Corporation alone.

Following this, the following points were made:

- The event was for a legitimate organisation, Select Milano, and was not a platform for Senator Siri or Nigel Farage to deliver a far-right message;
- Those with far-right or far-left views should not be restricted in being invited to the Guildhall otherwise a debate to persuade them to more moderate views cannot happen;
- Members were free to speak to the press to give their own opinions, but they should be careful if claiming to speak on behalf of the City Corporation;
- Members were entitled to speak to the media, but they should not do it in a particular role, e.g. as a Chairman of a Committee;
- The Remembrancers' Office should not oversee bookings with the Guildhall Club, due to the competition element;
- There is difficulty in controlling what other guests put on social media after events, this could also be picked up by the press;
- It is difficult to stop the media claiming that someone is speaking "on behalf of the City Corporation".

#### Diversity of the electorate for the Sheriffs

A Member raised a reputational issue for the City Corporation in that the majority of Liverymen who elect the Sheriffs are white men. Another Member suggested that the livery companies be encouraged to be more diverse.

**The meeting ended at 16:30**

-----  
Chairman

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