



Court of Common Council

Date: THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY 2025

Time: 1.00 pm

Venue: GUILDHALL

12. **QUESTIONS**
Question Summary

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

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COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL – 9th January 2025

QUESTIONS SUMMARY

1. Philip Woodhouse to ask a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the City Corporation’s Sport Strategy:-

“Can I please ask the Chairman of Policy & Resources for an outline of the ambitions of our Sports Engagement Strategy and how recent events held at Guildhall, specifically those concerning a boxing event, align with that strategy?”

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2. Deputy Nighat Qureishi to ask a question of the Chairman of the Finance Committee concerning business rates and SMEs:-

“Last year I asked this Court to provide transparency on business rates applied to SMEs. As a direct result of the current cost of business rates, and prior to the changes announced in the October 2024 budget, a business has left Eastcheap after 16 years, now occupying premises in Shoreditch.

SMEs are an integral part of the City of London Corporation footprint, amounting to 93% of all business in the square mile. Yet at seminars which I hosted in my ward with the “Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre” and the “Heart of the City”, a very clear message from participants is that they are fire fighting to stay open & completely time-strapped. Costs of business rates were raised again. None were aware of the SME strategy. It is now time to provide better support to SMES from the corporation to stop the exodus.

Can the Chairman provide an update on small business rate reform, alternatives such as online sales tax and any other support which can be given to SMEs?”

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3. Luis Tilleria to ask a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning international collaboration on green investments:-

“Given the City of London’s strong commitment to global trade, sustainable finance, and international partnerships, what initiatives or collaborations could be explored with Ecuador—a country rich in biodiversity and renewable energy potential—to promote green investments and support the transition to a more sustainable global economy?”

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4. **David Sales to ask a question of the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee concerning homelessness and rough sleeping in the Square Mile:-**
"My Lord Mayor, you and the Sheriffs have recently enjoyed the pleasure of moving into new residencies.

However, there is an increasing number of individuals without a fixed abode as has been recently highlighted again in the media.

Scores of homeless people are living in tunnels near one of our wonderful City's most iconic landmarks - while City workers and tourists stroll overhead.

Tents lie in the shadows of St Paul's Cathedral on Castle Baynard Street where the capital's destitute are residing.

Could you please advise what action the Corporation has undertaken to rectify this issue?"

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5. **Deputy Ann Holmes to ask a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the publication of non-public minutes:-**

Given any potentially sensitive information, in the non-public minutes of the meeting of the Court of 26/11/24, are already in the public domain, can these minutes, once agreed, be made public?

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