



## Court of Common Council

**Date:** THURSDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2025

**Time:** 1.00 pm

**Venue:** GUILDHALL

9. **MOTIONS**

An amendment to the Motion.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 3 - 4)

12. **QUESTIONS**

Question Summary.

(Pages 5 - 6)

**Ian Thomas CBE**  
**Town Clerk and Chief Executive**

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## 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Court of Common Council: Addendum

### Amendment to be considered in conjunction with Item 9

The below amendment to the Motion by Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano Wheatley is expected to be moved at Item 9 of the Court of Common Council Agenda (proposed additions are marked in red and underlined, deletions are ~~struck through~~):

**By Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward:**

1. *“This Honourable Court notes that:-*
  - a. *The City of London Corporation has a unique and complex role in the provision, management, and oversight of housing within and beyond the Square Mile. We own and manage several housing estates both within and outside the City boundaries, and it engages with residents, stakeholders, and external agencies on a wide range of housing-related issues, including affordability, quality, and safety.*
  - b. *At present, these functions are divided between a number of our various Committees and Sub-Committees.*
  - c. *In light of the evolving nature of housing policy, the growing strategic importance of housing in the Corporation’s service delivery and reputation, and in recognition of feedback from residents and Members alike, there is increasing interest in reviewing whether a dedicated Housing Committee of the Court of Common Council should be established.*
  - d. *Such a committee could provide more focused oversight, strategic leadership, and accountability for the Corporation’s housing responsibilities. However, given the implications of such a structural change, this Court affirms that a period of careful consideration, consultation, and evidence-gathering is essential.*
2. *Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 26(1), which requires that any new Sub-Committee or Working Party shall be subject to the approval of the Policy & Resources Committee, and Standing Order 26(2) which sets out the process of appointment for Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Sub-Committees*[\[1\]](#)*this Honourable Court consequently agrees:*
  - a. *To establish a task and finish Working Party to consider whether or not the Court of Common Council should create a dedicated Committee that would oversee the City Corporation’s housing functions that are currently under the auspices of the Community & Children’s Services Committee and Barbican Residential Committee.*
  - b. *That such a Working Party shall be composed of no more than twelve Members,**comprising:*
    - *eight Members* *to be elected by the full Common Council at the next formal meeting of the Court; and*
    - *four ex-officio Members, namely the Chairmen (or nominated Deputy Chairmen) of the Community and Children's Services Committee, the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee, the Barbican Residential Committee, and the Policy & Resources Committee.*

- ~~e. That no fewer than six Members of the Working Party, shall be residents within the City of London.~~
- d. That the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Working Party be elected by the Working Party's membership, at its first meeting which will be held no earlier than 1 March 2026 and no later than 31 March 2026.
- e. The Working Party shall be expected to:
- i. Call upon internal and external experts to provide evidence or advice as required.
  - ii. Use existing resource, or make resource bids (as required) via its parent committee to seek resident opinion to ensure that the voices of tenants, leaseholders, and other housing stakeholders are heard and considered diligently.
  - iii. Examine governance models in other local authorities or relevant bodies for comparative purposes.
- f. The Working Party shall report into the Policy & Resources Committee that will be required to make a recommendation back to the Court with its findings and recommendations within twelve months of first convening. The report should include:
- i. An assessment of the current governance arrangements for all housing functions within scope.
  - ii. Analysis of the benefits and risks of creating a single dedicated Housing Committee.
  - iii. A summary of all stakeholder engagement.
  - iv. A recommendation on whether to proceed with the establishment of such a committee, and if so, proposals for its remit and structure.”

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[1] Standing Order 1(4) states that “Working Parties of the Court and its committees are, by definition, non-decision making bodies, appointed to study and report on a particular question, making recommendations based on its findings. Whilst informal in nature, where appropriate, the conduct of business of Working Parties should be managed in accordance with these Standing Orders”



## **COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

### **QUESTIONS SUMMARY**

**1. Deputy Madush Gupta to ask a question of the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee concerning the electoral review:-**

*“I rise to address a commitment made to this honourable Court some 21 months ago by my honourable friend, Deputy Hayward. In January 2024, when I raised the urgent matter of our long-overdue electoral review, the Deputy assured the court that work would commence immediately after the March 2025 elections.*

*We now find ourselves in September 2025, with half of our 25 wards operating with councillor allocations based on voter registration data that hasn't been refreshed since 2010. That's not just administratively untidy - it's a deficit affecting the very heart of our ancient democracy. The refresh is critical to keep our electoral rolls fully subscribed.*

*Will the Deputy now commit to a specific completion date - not a project plan, but a firm deadline - for this electoral review and future reviews after each election cycle?”*

\*

**2. Josephine Hayes to ask a question of the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee concerning pension fund investments:-**

*“Last Wednesday the Lord Mayor said that through the Mansion House Compact and Accord we're making sure that some of the huge sums in the hands of British pension funds are being invested in technology.*

*Will the Chair of Policy and Resources confirm that this Court of Common Council is acutely conscious that one of the main reasons for the 2008 financial crisis was excessive risk-taking in the years leading up to it, and that the government had to bail out a number of lenders which were too big to fail, at immense cost to the UK taxpayer; and that since pension funds are responsible for safeguarding long term pensions for their members, British pension fund trustees must be left to decide what risks they are prepared to take, without being influenced to engage in high risk investments? ”*

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