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Court of Common Council

Date: **THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2026**
Time: **1.00 pm**
Venue: **GUILDHALL**

11. **QUESTIONS**

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

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COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL – 25th of June 2026

QUESTIONS SUMMARY

1. **Deputy Sir Michael Snyder to ask a question of the Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee concerning taxi access to Bank Junction: -**

   "In June 2024, this Court voted to allow licensed taxis access to Bank Junction under an experimental traffic order. That experiment began in July 2025, and a consultation process is now underway to determine whether it will be made permanent.

   This Court was clear that it wanted access maintained, and that as a business City we should be facilitating easy access for all, including those with mobility issues, and recognised that taxis access is a vital element of that. Given this, I have some concern that the consultation seems designed to require positive evidence the experimental scheme should be continued, rather than on ensuring that there are no, or few, adverse effects caused by taxi movements.

   Could the Chairman advise whether he thinks that the terms of the consultation are consistent with what the Court wanted?"

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2. **Shravan Joshi to ask a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning business rate relief: -**

   "Flexible and serviced workspace across the Square Mile is where many of our most innovative and fastest growing firms take their first foothold. I recognise the pressure on the public finances and on our own, and the proper desire to protect the tax base. But the Valuation Office Agency's move to assess these workspaces as a single hereditament, with the operator treated as the ratepayer rather than the individual firm, is quietly stripping small business rate relief from exactly those occupiers, and the cost is being passed back to them through their licence fees: an entirely predictable outcome of the change in approach.

   Would the Chairman agree that this approach risks undermining the very business growth that the City champions, and that ultimately sustains the long term tax base, and will he make representation to Government on behalf of this Court to the Valuation Office Agency, to press for a fairer and more proportionate approach to how these workspaces are assessed?"

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