

COURTS SUB (POLICY AND RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 26 October 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Courts Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Michael Hudson
Alderman Sir Michael Bear	Sheriff & Alderman William Russell
Deputy Alex Deane	James de Sausmarez
Sheriff & Alderman Peter Estlin	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Nicholas Hilliard	

Officers:

Charles Henty	-	Secondary and Under Sheriff of London and High Bailiff of Southwalk
Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Peter Lisle	-	Assistant Town Clerk
Peter Collinson	-	City Surveyor's Department
Natasha Dogra	-	Town Clerk's Department
Steven Humpleby	-	Central Criminal Court
Alison Hurley	-	Assistant Director Corporate Property Facilities Management
Paul Wilkinson	-	City Surveyor

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mark Boleat, John Scott and Nicholas Bensted-Smith.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

The Sub-Committee was invited to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30.

Resolved – Alderman Sir David Wootton was elected to serve as Deputy Chairman of the subcommittee.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Members of the Sub-Committee was invited to consider the terms of reference and frequency of meetings. It was noted that the current terms of reference did not correctly reflect the purpose and priorities for the subcommittee as set out

in the report proposing its establishment, nor did they set out the constitution or quorum for the group. Members agreed that the terms of reference should also include that for a period of five years, from June 2016 to April 2021, the Sub-Committee would be responsible for oversight of the management of all matters relating to the Central Criminal Court, the City of London Magistrates' Court and the Mayor's and City of London Court.

The Deputy Chairman said that the Sub-Committee was being provided with an opportunity to promote and manage the work undertaken by the three City of London courts.

The Deputy Chairman also highlighted that the future of another Court in London was currently under consultation; if this resulted in the closure of the Court it was possible that more cases would need to be considered at the City of London Magistrates' Court or the Old Bailey. This would have implications on whether certain maintenance and upgrade works would need to be undertaken at these Courts. Members agreed that the strategy regarding the contribution of the courts would help to identify which works needed to be prioritised.

It was agreed that the remit of the subcommittee should take a holistic approach regarding all three City of London Courts and that a strategy should be drawn up covering all three rather than approaching items of work individually. The Town Clerk was tasked with revising the terms of reference and setting up a special meeting of the subcommittee in the beginning of December where the terms of reference and strategy would be considered, after which the reports would be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for their consideration at the meeting on 15th December 2016.

The Chairman asked Members to consider inviting Alderman Alison Gowman to serve as an observer on the Sub-Committee in her capacity as Chairman of the Aldermen and Magistracy Sub-Committee. Members agreed that this would be beneficial to the work of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved – That, Alderman Gowman be invited to serve as an observer on the Courts Sub-Committee and that the Town Clerk revise the terms of reference and arrange a special meeting of the subcommittee in December 2016.

5. CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT BUSINESS PLAN 2016-19

The Sub-Committee considered the Business Plan which related to the Central Criminal Court. Members noted that the plan was due to be refreshed and in future the plan would combine the business plans of all three City Courts. Members noted that the department had continued to expand its wider educational and outreach roles with some 71 visits having taken place in the past year. There had been a significant increase in daytime visits from schools, universities and judicial related initiatives with a particular emphasis on diversity and inclusion.

The Sheriffs had also expanded the target audience for lunches and a number of "themed" lunches had taken place specifically focusing on certain target audiences, promoting the rule and significance of law in successful commerce

and to promote the close relationship with the Judiciary and the Corporation of London's responsibility for the Central Criminal Court.

A Member queried whether an event could be hosted to thank the Treasury Counsel for their work. The Chairman agreed to investigate this matter outside of the meeting.

In response to a query regarding the financial aspects of the business plan, the Secondary and Under Sheriff agreed to circulate a paper relating to these matters to Members of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved – that the report be received.

6. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME - CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Secondary and Under Sheriff of London detailing the future works to be undertaken at the Central Criminal Court.

Members noted that in future the report would refer to all three City Courts. The Sub Committee agreed that it would be beneficial to visit all three courts before the Sub Committee met in the new year.

Resolved – that the report be received and that the Town Clerk be requested to arrange for the Sub Committee to visit the three City of London Courts.

7. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

9. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved - that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

Item No.	Paragraph No(s).
10-13	3

10. MOBILE TELEPHONES & MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT)

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Secondary and Under Sheriff of London.

11. CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS: ANTI-SHATTER FILM AND BOMB BLAST CURTAIN RENEWAL

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Secondary and Under Sheriff of London.

12. **CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS: CCTV**
The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Secondary and Under Sheriff of London.
13. **CITY OF LONDON MAGISTRATES COURT: MINOR AND MAJOR WORKS**
The Committee received a presentation from the City Surveyor.
14. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB COMMITTEE WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were two non-public questions.
15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There was one item of private urgent business.

The meeting closed at 11.25 am

Chairman

Contact Officer: Gemma Stokley
tel. no.: 020 7332 1407
gemma.stokley@cityoflondon.gov.uk