

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 8 November 2018

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 8 November 2018 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)	Deputy Kevin Everett
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)	Anne Fairweather
Deputy John Absalom	Christopher Hill
Caroline Addy	Deputy Tom Hoffman
Alderman Nick Anstee	Deputy Wendy Hyde
Adrian Bastow	Shravan Joshi
Deputy John Bennett	Vivienne Littlechild
Peter Bennett	Andrien Meyers
John Chapman	Jason Pritchard
Peter Dunphy	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Mary Durcan	Mark Wheatley

In Attendance

John Scott (Chief Commoner)

Officers:

Sacha Than	- Town Clerk's Department
Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
Laura Simpson	- Town Clerk's Department
Christopher Bell	- Chamberlain's Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Jaysen Sharpe	- Remembrancer's Department
Jim Graham	- Department of the Built Environment
Joe Kingston	- Department of the Built Environment
Zahur Khan	- Department of the Built Environment
Steve Presland	- Department of the Built Environment
David Smith	- Director of Markets and Consumer Protection
Jon Averbs	- Department of Markets and Consumer Protection
Ruth Calderwood	- Department of Markets and Consumer Protection
Gary Burks	- Department of Open Spaces

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Alexander Barr, Tijs Broeke, Graeme Harrower, Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark, Andrew McMurtrie, and Deputy Joyce Nash.

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

There were no declarations.

3. EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROPOSAL

The Committee received a joint report of the Director of Markets and the Remembrancer which sought approval of London specific, focused proposals which would provide new adoptive powers for London local authorities to control emissions from combustion plant.

The Director of Port Health and Public Protection introduced the report adding that a resolution of the Audit and Risk Management Committee had been tabled at this meeting which asked that greater emphasis should be placed on the element of risk posed by air pollution to the health and wellbeing of local inhabitants. The Director advised that this would be incorporated as part of the revisions of the Air Quality Strategy in 2019.

The Remembrancer provided an overview of the timeline, explaining that following consultation, the proposals would be introduced as a private members bill in early 2019 with the intention of them either becoming law or informing policy.

A Member raised the point there were new boilers being installed at Golden Lane Estate and it was asked whether to reduce pollution, these could be made to comply with the tighter emission controls as set out in the report before Members. The Member also noted the emissions being produced from the bio mass system at St Giles Cripplegate Church.

In response, the Director of Port Health and Public Protection advised that officers were aware of past emissions issues with the biomass plant, and it was thought those issues had been resolved, but officers would investigate. With regards to the new boilers, officers agreed to look into this further, but advised that timing would be a factor and whether the installation would take place before the new legislation was passed.

The Director also responded to Members' comments on addressing emissions from existing generators, advising that from a practical standpoint this would be difficult and therefore the primary focus of the proposals would be on new equipment being brought into the City and setting a standard to control emissions, particularly in areas with poor air quality.

In response to the proposal to increase fines for stationary idling vehicles from £20 to £100, Members queried whether there was scope to increase this further. The Director of Port Health and Public Protection noted this comment to include at discussion during the consultation stage.

Responding to some of the points raised, the Remembrancer explained that setting emissions limits would be a matter for the Secretary of State based on scientific evidence, and with regards to setting a level of fines for stationary idling vehicles, comparable fines issued by other Local Authorities for a similar level of offence would also need to be considered.

A Member commented that the bill could expand into other areas to address the air and noise pollution caused by lorries and motorbikes at London Wall, and stationary vehicle idling at the Barbican Estate. In response, the Director of Port Health and Public Protection advised that points such as these could be incorporated into the Air Quality Strategy in 2019 which would be brought to the Committee for discussion at a later date. He also advised that sufficient resources would be required for enforcement, and an uplift in the base level budget for the Air Pollution Team would be sought.

RESOLVED – That the Committee approve the principles of the proposals and grant authority to consult with the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the Greater London Authority, London Boroughs and other interested parties, and to seek the assent of London Councils.

4. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Chairman raised the following items of business:

Visit to the Cemetery and Crematorium

The Chairman thanked Members of the Committee for attending the visit to the Cemetery and Crematorium, noting this had been an interesting and informative visit, and thanked Gary Burks, the Superintendent of the Cemetery and Crematorium for organising this event.

Director of Transportation and Public Realm

The Chairman advised the Committee that Steve Presland, the Director of Transportation and Public would retire at the end of the week and Members placed on record their thanks and best wishes for his work over the past 11 years.

Director of Markets and Consumer Protection

The Chairman advised Members that this was the final meeting of the Committee which David Smith, the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection would attend before his retirement. Members gave their sincere thanks to the Director for his work and enormous contributions over the past 16 years and wished him well for his future endeavours. In response, the Director thanked Members for their kind words and paid tribute to the great work carried out by his team.

6. **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 on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

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7. **WASTE COLLECTION, STREET CLEANSING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES CONTRACT FINAL RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment which sought approval for the contract award for Waste Collection, Street Cleansing and Ancillary Services.

8. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was one item of business.

The meeting ended at 11.36 am

Chairman

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