



RUSSELL, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

18th June 2020
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman
Emma Edhem
Sir Peter Estlin
John Garbutt
Sir Roger Gifford
Alison Gowman
Prem Goyal
David Andrew Graves

Timothy Russell Hailes
Robert Picton Seymour Howard
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney
Gregory Jones
Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Alastair John Naisbitt King
Susan Langley
Ian David Luder

Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons
Sheriff Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli
Bronek Masojada
Sir Andrew Charles Parmley
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, William Anthony
Bowater Russell
Sir David Hugh Wootton
Sir Alan Colin Drake Yarrow

COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams
Deputy John David Absalom
Caroline Kordai Addy
Munsur Ali
Rehana Banu Ameer
Randall Keith Anderson
Alexander Robertson Martin Barr
Douglas Barrow
Adrian Mark Bastow
Matthew Bell
John Bennett
Peter Gordon Bennett
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith
Christopher Paul Boden
Mark Bostock
Deputy Keith David Forbes
Bottomley
Deputy David John Bradshaw
Tijs Broeke
Roger Arthur Holden Chadwick
John Douglas Chapman
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Karina Dostalova

Simon D'Olier Duckworth
Deputy Peter Gerard Dunphy
Mary Durcan
John Ernest Edwards
Deputy Kevin Malcolm Everett
Anne Helen Fairweather
Helen Lesley Fentimen
Sophie Anne Fernandes
John William Fletcher
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks
Tracey Graham
Caroline Wilma Haines
The Revd Stephen Decatur Haines
Graeme Harrower
Sheriff Christopher Michael
Hayward
Christopher Hill
Deputy Tom Hoffman
Ann Holmes
Michael Hudson
Deputy Wendy Hyde
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Deputy Clare James
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi

Tim Levene
Vivienne Littlechild
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge
Deputy Edward Lord
Paul Nicholas Martinelli
Andrew Paul Mayer
Jeremy Mayhew
Deputy Catherine McGuinness
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Deputy Robert Allan Merrett,
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers
Deputy Brian Desmond Francis
Mooney
Deputy Hugh Fenton Morris,
Deputy Alastair Michael Moss,
Sylvia Doreen Moys
Benjamin Daniel Murphy
Deputy Joyce Carruthers Nash
Barbara Patricia Newman
Graham Packham
Dhruv Patel
Susan Jane Pearson

John Petrie
William Pimlott
Judith Pleasance
Deputy James Henry George Pollard
Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest
Jason Paul Pritchard
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
John George Stewart Scott
Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Oliver Sells
Deputy Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson
Jeremy Lewis Simons
Deputy Tom Sleigh
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Michael Douglas
Thomson
Deputy John Tomlinson,
James Richard Tumbridge
William Upton
Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano
Wheatley
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Dawn Linsey Wright

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes *Resolved* – That the Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

4. Resolutions There were no resolutions.
5. Mayoral Visits The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to update the Court on his virtual engagement programme.
6. Policy Statement The Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee spoke to provide a brief update on COVID-19, focusing on the re-opening of shops, local businesses and SMEs, encouraging safe and responsible exploration of the Square Mile.
- The Chair then spoke in relation to the events of recent weeks in respect of the Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of the senseless and shocking death of George Floyd in the US; acknowledging that the issue of racism that sadly still exists in society. A practical outcome of the City's commitment to respond included the establishment of a Working Party dedicated to tackling racism.
- Highlighting the responsibility of individuals in eradicating all forms of racism in all we do, the Chair also announced that, following discussions with the Chief Commoner, that arrangements were underway to roll out new unconscious bias training for all Members and implored that the whole Court prioritise this training once it became available.
7. Hospital Seal There were no docquets for the seal.
8. Freedoms The Chamberlain, in pursuance of the Order of this Court, presented a list of the under-mentioned, persons who had made applications to be admitted to the Freedom of the City by Redemption:-

Clare Elizabeth Freeman-Sergeant <i>Roy Keith Sully</i> <i>Ian Kelly</i>	a Ballet Teacher <i>Citizen and Art Scholar</i> <i>Citizen and Butcher</i>	Golders Green, London
Paul Armstrong James <i>Deputy Kevin Malcolm Everett</i> <i>Mark Raymond Peter Wheatley</i>	a Banking Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Draper</i>	Harpenden, Hertfordshire
Debra Rochelle Lee <i>Stanley Ginsburg</i> <i>James John Meade</i>	a Filmmaker <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Girdler</i>	Camden, London
Melanie Jane Richards, CBE <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i> <i>Tijs Broeke, CC</i>	an Accountancy Company Deputy Chair <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Dulwich, London
Raymond John Saunders <i>Malcolm Alastair Craig</i> <i>Timothy Luke Fitzgerald-O'Connor</i>	a General Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	Queensland, Australia
David Adam Schwimmer <i>The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Chelsea, London

Read.

Resolved – That this Court doth hereby assent to the admission of the said persons to the Freedom of this City by Redemption upon the terms and in the manner mentioned in the several Resolutions of this Court, and it is hereby ordered that the Chamberlain do admit them severally to their Freedom accordingly.

9. Legislation

The Court received a report on measures introduced by Parliament which might have an effect on the services provided by the City Corporation as follows:-

Statutory Instruments

Date in force

The School Discipline (England) (Coronavirus) (Pupil Exclusions and Reviews) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No 543

1st June 2020

The Regulations extend the time limit for reinstatement decisions to 25 school days and 60 school days for longer-term fixed exclusions. Other changes to the procedural rules are made. The Regulations apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local education authority.

The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 S.I. No. 544

1st June 2020

The Regulations temporarily relax, until the end of the school year, the requirement to keep registers of pupils' attendance, as owing to covid-19 that not all pupils who would usually be expected to attend school are doing so. The Regulations apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local education authority.

22nd June 2020

The Official Controls (Plant Protection Products) Regulations 2020 S.I. No.552

The Regulations apply to the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority. They implement and provide for the enforcement of Official Controls of food and feed, animal health and welfare, and plant health & plant protection products under Regulation (EU) 2017/62. On the end of the transition period this will form part of the body of retained EU law.

Read.

(The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office).

10. Questions

Lodge, O.A.W.,
to the Chair of
the Policy &
Resources
Committee

Global passporting arrangements for financial services

Oliver Lodger asked a question of the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee concerning global passporting arrangements for financial services and work being undertaken to ensure access to the City for the worldwide financial industry, given the expected loss of all EU passporting for financial service firms and in consideration of HM Treasury's recent consultation on the Overseas Fund Regime.

Responding, the Chair welcomed the Government's focus on revisiting the

Overseas Funds Regime, noting that the arrangements governing how overseas retail and money market funds could be marketed to retail investors in the UK would need to change following the end of the Brexit transition period. The Chair observed that it would be important for this to be part of a broader review of the UK's openness to overseas capital and firms and advised that the City was currently developing proposals to address this and broader issues, such as the authorisation of branches and the equivalence regime imported from EU law. This would enable the City to put forward recommendations in collaboration with industry that would work for the City's ecosystem and ensure its long-term competitiveness.

The City was also encouraging Government and regulators to operate UK decisions on equivalence and authorisation on an open and permissive basis. The Chair noted that the UK was an open trading nation, operating on the basis of sound regulatory standards, and the City should broadcast that fact.

Recognising that the current system of passporting with the EU would come to an end, the City Corporation also continued to make the case for the greatest possible access for UK financial services to worldwide markets; not just in ensuring that financial services were covered by the free trade agreements which the UK would negotiate, but also relating to redeveloping relationships at a regulatory level, as most of the existing barriers to access in financial services could be addressed through regulatory cooperation independently of trade agreements.

The Chair advised that she and the Lord Mayor had been carrying out a virtual engagement programme with overseas markets, including China, the USA, Switzerland and Japan. In all these engagements, the Chair and the Lord Mayor continued to do all they could to secure the greatest possible access for UK financial services and to emphasise the importance of global regulatory coherence. The Chair reassured the honourable Member that this work would remain a priority.

Responding to a supplementary question from Oliver Lodge concerning Member engagement in this matter, the Chair noted that further ways to involve Members would be considered, including increasing Members' briefings and increased involvement of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee, noting that it was important to maintain a small number of Members as spokespersons in order to maintain consistency of messaging.

City Plan and future needs of businesses in the City

Matthew Bell asked a question of the Chair of the Planning & Transportation Committee concerning the assumptions of the City Plan, given the impact of COVID-19, and what leadership the City Corporation was giving to develop new working practices which challenge the reliance on physical space in the City.

In response, the Chair noted that the City Plan 2036 Plan sought to deliver a minimum of 2 million square metres of additional office floorspace during the period 2016-2036, with 1.5 million square metres of that target to be delivered in the decade to 2026. This target was based on the economic and employment growth projections of the London Plan, which expected significant growth over the medium term in central London, including in the City. The City's office floorspace target provided space for the projected 100,000 additional office jobs. Responses to

public consultation on the draft Plan also included support for the general scale of long-term office growth proposed within in it.

With reference to how future needs were being assessed by businesses, the Chair reported that feedback from City businesses was being sought actively through one to one meetings and surveys conducted by the City Corporation's City Property Advisory Team, the various Business Improvement Districts, and emerging business partnerships. Survey work was also in progress on anticipated office occupation for the current year given the ongoing pandemic. To date, feedback suggested varying responses reflecting specific business needs but some common themes were emerging, such as some consolidation of office occupation and taking account of greater use of remote working as part of agile business models. The Chair noted that many firms still considered face-to-face contact to be essential to their business and that there was also a strong preference among younger workers for a city centre base for the social and career progression benefits it offered. Space consolidation by existing office occupiers would also provide new opportunities for new occupiers to find space in the City. In the long-term, if the City was to remain an attractive place to do business, then it would also continue to attract occupier demand from other places in London, the UK, and internationally.

The Chair also reported that the City Corporation had taken the lead in encouraging new technology which supported modern business practices, such as the promotion of a standardised wayleave toolkit to speed up broadband connections, fibre-to-premises rollout for City offices, provision of the fastest outdoor mesh Wi-Fi network in Europe, and the enhancement of 4G mobile coverage. The City was also experimenting with 5G mobile coverage. Such innovations would benefit City-based firms and those with more agile business practices. The Chair was confident that the City would remain a key business center and would encourage firms to take physical space to the City to complement their online and remote working practices.

Responding to a supplementary question from Matthew Bell regarding the use of the City Plan as a reliable planning tool in the absence of a vaccine for COVID-19, the Chair advised that it was important that planning for the long term continued even in these current, exceptional circumstances. The City Plan 2036 provided a strategic context for sustainable growth over the medium term and was flexible and adaptable to accommodate shorter term shocks such as the current health and the current economic situation. It was also important to distinguish the pre-vaccine era, when unusual measures were needed for business to continue to operate safely, from a post-vaccine era when the social and economic attractions of city centre locations would likely re-emerge as drivers for growth. Although there was no vaccine at present, there was some confidence that one would be developed; therefore, it was a reasonable planning assumption that growth would resume in the City over the medium and longer term. Nevertheless, there remained scope to adapt the Plan as needed to address changing circumstances including longer-term changes in business practices and space requirements should these materialise.

With reference to a specific query regarding office occupation levels, the Chair advised that he did not have the relevant figures immediately to hand but noted that the recent level of applications and development illustrated a that demand for office

space remained high.

Use of outdoor space by businesses in Middlesex Street area

Fletcher, J.W., to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee

John Fletcher asked a question of the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee concerning the use of outdoor space by small businesses in the Middlesex Street area, namely cafes and restaurants, in order to allow businesses to recover as swiftly as possible from the impacts of COVID-19.

In response, the Chair noted that Businesses and SMEs were of utmost importance to the City and recognised the continued impact of the pandemic and social distancing on the hospitality sector. She assured the Member that the City was committed to helping businesses to recover from COVID and allow them to start generating income again; however, it was clear that there was increased and conflicting demand for outside space in the current situation, both to allow for the placing of tables and chairs, and to allow for the safe socially-distanced passage of pedestrians.

Since 21 March 2020, all 138 tables and chairs licences in the City were suspended, when businesses were no longer able to trade. The City needed to look extremely carefully at their re-instatement. The re-instatement of each licence would be on a case-by-case basis, subject to detailed criteria with public safety to the fore.

The Chair observed that issue of tables and chairs licensing was a matter for the Planning and Transportation Committee, which had established five principles to guide consideration, and which would consider a detailed report at its meeting on the 23 June. She ventured that the Chair of Planning would doubtless welcome the Member's contributions to that debate.

The Chair noted that officers would explore opportunities to reallocate carriageway space for tables and chairs where it was safe and practical to do so. In such locations, tables and chairs would be privately managed but available for public use, and this approach was being explored for Middlesex Street in liaison with The Aldgate Connect BID and Tower Hamlets. The Chair noted that it was essential to facilitate business operation while at the same time protecting public safety.

In response to John Fletcher's supplementary question regarding the appointment of a dedicated officer for Members and business representatives to contact on this matter, the Chair undertook to speak with colleagues and officers to see if a suitable individual could be identified.

Fire Safety across the City's housing stock

Thomson,
J.M.D., Deputy, to
the Chair of the
Community &
Children's
Services
Committee

Deputy James Thomson asked a question of the Chair of the Community & Children's Services Committee regarding fire safety across the City's housing stock, in light of the previous Sunday being the third anniversary of the Grenfell fire.

The Chair noted that, since the tragic events at Grenfell, the City had been carrying out a significant amount of work to ensure that City residents remained safe in their homes and that buildings were maintained to the highest possible standard. The City continued to ensure that all blocks of flats had fully compliant and up-to-date

detailed Fire Risk Assessments, delivered by an independent specialist consultant, with specific Action Plans produced from these. As well as ensuring that the relevant remedial action was taken, the City had also committed to going much further, having instigated several major projects to improve further the safety of the City's residents and the buildings they lived in.

This included a Door Replacement Programme across the City's estates to install new fire door sets that, where possible, provided 60 minutes fire resistance. Integrated fire alarms and sprinklers were also to be installed in the five high-rise social housing blocks at Great Arthur House, Petticoat Tower, and the West, East and Centre Point buildings on the Avondale Estate. Additional projects to enhance safety were also being undertaken, including upgrading all fire safety signage, installation of hard-wired smoke detectors and alarms, and upgrading of emergency lighting.

The Chair also outlined the additional work being undertaken in respect of Estate Management activities, including significant communications activities, in-home visits, and inspections to ensure that balconies, walkways and exit routes were kept clear from hazards, as well as to ensure consistency and monitoring of fire safety matters.

Whilst he was satisfied that the City's housing was compliant, the Chair observed that there was still work to be done to make homes even safer and the City was not complacent. There would be further improvements identified, either through the new round of FRAs that would take place the following year, or through the additional more intrusive surveys that the City continued to undertake, to satisfy that potential risks were mitigated.

In response to a supplementary question by Deputy James Thomson, the Chair advised that he could not give a definite date by which the additional capital projects would be completed, as some uncertainties or delays with the contracting process had arisen due to COVID-19. However, he advised that the sprinkler installations were due to be completed by the following spring, with all fire door replacements expected to take approximately two years to be fully rolled out.

11. Motion

Fredericks, M.B.;
Newman, B.P.,
C.B.E.

Motion – “That this Honourable Court resolves to convene a Working Party chaired by the Chief Commoner to report to the Court as soon as practicable on how proceedings for breach of the Code of Conduct may be conducted without Members sitting in judgment on each other.”

Marianne Fredericks spoke to introduce the Motion, clarifying that its purpose was to attempt to address the longstanding concerns of Members in relation to the current Standards Regime, facilitating the move towards a new Regime which enjoyed the support of the entire Court. She recognised that it would take time to consider this matter fully, which lent weight to the need to begin the process now. Noting the ongoing Governance Review being undertaken by Lord Lisvane, she observed that he was aware of this Motion and expressed her belief that this did not cause any conflict with his continued Review.

Through her introduction, and with the consent of the seconder, Ms Fredericks

moved a minor amendment to the Motion clarifying the composition of the Working Party, such that it be chaired by the Chief Commoner and comprise six other Members elected by the Court of Common Council.

In seconding the Motion, Barbara Newman observed that 59 Members were signatories to the Motion which demonstrated the strength of feeling amongst the Court. She suggested that the Governance Review need not delay the action proposed and urged that the Working Party be established in order that the views of Members could be sought at the earliest possible opportunity.

For the sake of clarity, the Town Clerk confirmed that the Motion before the Court was now – “That this Honourable Court resolves to convene a Working Party, which will consist of six Members elected by the Court at its next meeting plus the Chief Commoner, and be chaired by the Chief Commoner, to report to the Court as soon as practicable on how proceedings for breaches of the Code of Conduct may be conducted without Members sitting in judgment on each other.”

Ann Holmes spoke in opposition to the Motion, on the grounds that it relied on false assertions concerning the Regime. She noted that the past twelve months had been dominated by general angst in relation to the specific area of dispensations and that, following a comprehensive review, the dispensations policy had now been revised and was more liberal in processing dispensation requests. She added that placing responsibility for determining Member complaints in the hands of officers or other external parties could cause reputational damage and imply that the Court was unable to manage its own processes.

Sir Michael Snyder also spoke to state that, whilst he agreed with the general thrust of the Motion, he could not support it as currently worded. He suggested that now was not the time to focus considerable resource on this issue, given the volume of other more pressing matters for the Court of Common Council to address in the current context. Noting that Lord Lisvane was already considering the concerns raised in the Motion as part of the Governance Review, he ventured that the Court should await the Review’s findings before taking action precipitately. Sir Michael also queried the appropriateness of the Chief Commoner chairing the proposed Working Party, given that his views on the Standards Regime were already well-known and so could give rise to suggestions of a lack of independent or neutral stewardship.

Deputy Keith Bottomley echoed the suggestion that this was premature and urged the Court to refer the amended Motion to Lord Lisvane to consider as part of Governance Review, to see what further changes were necessary. He expressed his awareness that Lord Lisvane had already received many representations in respect of this matter and the initial Review findings were due to be presented to the coming weeks; given this, establishing a Working Party at this stage would be precipitate and the Court would be better served by considering the Review findings prior to agreeing any further action.

Amendment – “That this Honourable Court resolves that the Motion to convene a Working Party chaired by the Chief Commoner to report to the Court as soon as practicable on how proceedings for breaches of the Code of Conduct may be

conducted, without Members sitting in judgment on each other, be referred to Lord Lisvane for full and comprehensive incorporation into the Governance Review.”

During discussion of the amendment, James Tumbridge suggested the removal of the words “without Members sitting in judgment on each other”, observing that a jury of peers could well offer the best protection to Member complaints being dealt with fairly, notwithstanding the challenges for Members involved.

Deputy Bottomley indicated his consent to this proposed deletion and Sheriff Christopher Hayward spoke to second the revised amendment. He highlighted that the current Standards Regime had diverted considerable resource to-date and that, whilst some reform was clearly needed, establishing a Working Party at this juncture would convey the wrong message at a time when the City was seeking to emerge from an unprecedented pandemic and the nation was on the verge of a recession. He urged the Court to prioritise and focus its efforts on supporting businesses, the economy, and residents.

Mark Wheatley spoke in opposition to the amendment proposed by Deputy Bottomley. Mr Wheatley stated that he was in favour of the original motion as amended.

In closing the debate on this motion, Ms Fredericks stated that she hoped that the Court would support a new Standards Regime to be proud of and that the public and Members have confidence in.

A Division being demanded and granted, there appeared:-

For the Affirmative 74

ALDERMEN

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor,
Russell, W.A.B.
Bowman, Sir Charles
Edhem, E.
Estlin, Sir Peter
Garbutt, J.
Gifford, Sir Roger
Gowman, A.J.

Graves, D. A.
Hailes, T.R.
Hughes-Penney, R.C.
Jones, G. P.
Keaveny, V.T.
King, A.J.N.
Langley, S.

Luder, I.D.
Lyons, N.S.L.
Mainelli, Sheriff Professor, M.R.
Parnley, Sir Andrew
Wootton, Sir David
Yarrow, Sir Alan

COMMONERS

Abrahams, G.C.
Absalom, J.D., Deputy
Barr, A.R.M.
Barrow, D.
Bennett, P.G.
Bensted-Smith, N.M.
Bottomley, K.D.F., Deputy
Brooke, T.
Colthurst, H.N.A.
de Sausmarez, H.J.
Doshi Smith, G.M
Dostalova, K.
Duckworth, S.D'O.
Dunphy, P.G., Deputy
Edwards, J.E.

Graham., T.
Haines, C.W.
Hayward, C.M., Sheriff
Hoffman, T., Deputy
Holmes, A.
Ingham Clark, J., Deputy
James, C., Deputy
Joshi, S.J
Levene, T
Littlechild, V., J.P
Lodge, O.A.W.
Lord, C.E., O.B.E., J.P., Deputy
Martinelli, P.N.
McGuinness, C., Deputy
McMurtrie, A.S.

Moss, A.M., Deputy
Moys, S.D
Packham, G.D.
Petrie, J.
Pleasance, J.L.
Pollard, J.H.G., Deputy
Rogula, E., Deputy
Sayed, R.
Seaton, I.C.N
Sells, O.
Shilson, Dr. G.R.E., Deputy
Simons, J.L.
Sleigh, T., Deputy
Snyder, Sir Michael
Thomson, J.M.D., Deputy

Everett, K.M., Deputy
Fairweather, A.H.
Fernandes, S.A.

Mead, W., O.B.E
Meyers, A.G.D
Morris, H. F., Deputy

Tumbridge, J.R
Upton, W.
Wright, D.L

Tellers for the affirmative – (Affirmative) Alderman Ian Luder and Natasha Lloyd-Owen (Negative).

For the Negative 37

ALDERMEN

Goyal, P.B., O.B.E., J.P

Masojada, B.

COMMONERS

Addy, C.K.
Ali, M.
Anderson, R.K.
Bastow, A.M.
Bell, M.
Bennett, J.A., Deputy
Boden, C. P.
Bostock, M.
Bradshaw, D.J., Deputy
Chadwick, R.A.H., O.B.E., Deputy
Chapman, J.D.
Durcan, J.M.

Fentimen, H.L.
Fletcher, J.W.
Fredericks, M.B.
Haines, Rev. Stephen, D.
Harrower, G.G.
Hill, C.
Hudson, M.
Hyde, W.M., Deputy
Lloyd-Owen, N.M.C.
Mayer, A.P.
Mayhew, J.P.
Merrett, R.A., Deputy

Mooney, B.D.F., Deputy
Murphy, B.D
Newman, B.P., C.B.E
Patel, D., O.B.E
Pearson, S.J
Pimlott, W
Priest, H.J.S
Pritchard, J.P
Scott, J.G.S., J.P.
Tomlinson, J., Deputy
Wheatley, M.R.P.H.D.

Tellers for the negative – (Negative) John Chapman and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark (Affirmative).

Upon the results of the Division being announced, the Lord Mayor declared the Amendment to be carried.

Upon the Motion as amended being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be carried.

Resolved – That this Honourable Court resolves that the Motion to convene a Working Party chaired by the Chief Commoner to report to the Court as soon as practicable on how proceedings for breaches of the Code of Conduct may be conducted be referred to Lord Lisvane for full and comprehensive incorporation into the Governance Review.

12. There was no report.

13. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)

11 June 2020

(B) Annual Appointment of Committees

When the COVID-19 outbreak first became significant in the UK and, following related directives from HM Government, the City of London Corporation had undertaken to suspend the vast majority of formal decision-making meetings, with decisions being taken in the meantime in accordance with the City Corporation's urgency procedures. This suspension included the April meeting of the Court of Common Council, which is when the constitution of committees and election or appointment to those committees is made for the ensuing municipal year. This accorded with the wider national approach in respect of the deferral of local

government and Mayoral elections for the forthcoming year. It also aligned with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the Regulations”) governing meetings, which came into force on 4 April 2020.

As part of the consequential considerations arising from that cancellation, it was determined that the membership of committees should be held over unchanged until April 2021. This decision (and attendant implications, such as arrangements for Chair / Deputy Chair elections, appointment of sub-committees, and so on) was taken in view of the uncertainty at that time concerning the impact of the pandemic and the possible limitations in returning to a normal meeting cycle.

However, since that time, the introduction of virtual meetings, using technology such as Microsoft Teams and Zoom, had enabled both Committees and the Court of Common Council to resume scheduled meetings. Consequently (and further to questions at the May meeting of the Court of Common Council), and the Court was **recommended** to approve that the annual appointment of Committees for 2020/21 take place at the July 2020 meeting of the Court, thereby undoing the previous resolution (referred to as “the April resolution” for ease, hereafter) determining that committee membership be rolled forward and maintained for the current year. The report also sets out the implications of this decision on the other aspects of the April resolution, such as term limits and the election of committee chairmen and deputy chairmen, as well as how the election process will be managed.

Resolved – That:-

1. It be confirmed that the annual appointment of committees for 2020/21 take place at the 16 July 2020 meeting of the Court of Common Council and the provisions of sections 2-9 of the resolution previously approved by the Court, set out at Appendix 1, be revoked effective 12.59pm on 16 July 2020.
2. It be confirmed that the annual elections of Chairs and Deputy Chairs and the appointment of sub-committees will take place at the first meeting of each Committee following the July Court.
3. The proposed arrangements for ballots to be conducted at the July Court meeting be endorsed.
4. No change be made in respect of the provisions pertaining to the Chief Commoner.

(B) Report of Action Taken: Financial Services Skills Commission

In the absence of a meeting of the Court of Common Council in April and to facilitate the launch of the Financial Skills Services Commission on 30 April, approval had been sought under urgency procedures for the City Corporation to become a corporate member of the new financial services skills company limited by guarantee (to be known as the Financial Services Skills Commission or such other name as may be agreed), becoming one of two ‘permanent’ members of the new company. This proposal followed previous approvals in respect of support for this new body, working with Her Majesty’s Government.

The Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee also nominated as the City Corporation's appointee to the Board of Directors of the new company, with the Deputy Chairman, and/or Vice Chairmen of the Policy & Resources Committee to be appointed Alternate Directors as permitted under the Articles of Association of the new company.

Various additional approvals were also awarded to allow for the Town Clerk to undertake such actions as may be required to incorporate and register the new company, and following incorporation, as may be required for the City Corporation in the exercise of its rights as a company member; as well as for the Comptroller and City Solicitor to take any relevant steps for the incorporation and registration of the new company, including to settle the Articles of Association and any other documentation relating to or arising from the establishment of the company.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

14. **HOSPITALITY WORKING PARTY OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Tom Hoffman M.B.E)

23 April 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Commercial Court 125th Anniversary Dinner

In accordance with Standing Order No.19, urgent authority had been sought to the City Corporation hosting a dinner on Monday 30th November 2020 to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the establishment of the Commercial Court.

2020 marked the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Commercial Court in London and also the 50th anniversary of the formal creation of the Commercial and Admiralty Court. A series of events had been planned to commemorate this, including exhibitions, seminars and educational initiatives.

The senior member of the Judiciary co-ordinating the arrangements for the anniversary events had contacted the Remembrancer asking that confirmation of the event be provided as soon as possible to allow for plans to be made, taking into account the potential impact of any COVID-related restrictions that may be in place. In the absence of an April Court of Common Council meeting (when approval would have been sought), approval had been sought and obtained under urgency procedures.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

15. **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

(Alderman Ian Luder)

4 June 2020

Annual Report

The Audit and Risk Management Committee presented to the Court of Common Council its 2018/19 Annual Report, reporting on activity from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Providing this report to the Court of Common Council on an annual basis was in line with Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accounting (CIPFA) guidance on best practice for audit committees in order to effectively support the

organisation; for the Court to understand the work of the Committee; and, for the Court to hold the Committee to account.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

16. *Resolved* – that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy; Mayhew,
J.P.

Summary of exempt items considered whilst the public were excluded:-

17. *Resolved* – That the non-public Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.
18. **Finance Committee**
The Court endorsed proposals for the 2020 pay award for the Museum of London.
19. **The City Bridge Trust and Policy and Resources Committees**
The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures in relation to the distribution of funds to assist with the COVID-19 response.
20. **Property Investment Board**
The Court approved a Gateway 4b Report on refurbishment of a property.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.51 pm

BARRADELL.