



RUSSELL, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

10th September 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

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
Ian David Luder
Sheriff Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli

Bronek Masojada
Sir Andrew Charles Parmley,
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, William Anthony
Bowater Russell
The Rt Hon the Baroness Patricia Scotland of Asthal
Sir David Hugh Wootton

COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams
John David Absalom, Deputy
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
Keith David Forbes Bottomley,
Deputy
David John Bradshaw, Deputy
Tijs Broeke
Roger Arthur Holden Chadwick
John Douglas Chapman
Thomas Cowley Clementi
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst
Graeme Doshi-Smith
Karina Dostalova

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

Vivienne Littlechild
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge
Edward Lord, Deputy
Andrew Paul Mayer
Jeremy Mayhew
Catherine McGuinness, Deputy
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Robert Allan Merrett, Deputy
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers
Brian Desmond Francis Mooney,
Deputy
Hugh Fenton Morris, Deputy
Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy
Benjamin Daniel Murphy
Barbara Patricia Newman
Graham Packham
Dhruv Patel
Susan Jane Pearson
John Petrie
William Pimlott
Judith Pleasance
James Henry George Pollard,
Deputy

Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest
Jason Paul Pritchard
Stephen Douglas Quilter
Deputy Richard David Regan
Elizabeth Rogula, Deputy
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
John George Stewart Scott
Ian Christopher Norman
Seaton
Oliver Sells
Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson,
Deputy
Jeremy Lewis Simons
Tom Sleigh, Deputy
Sir Michael Snyder
James Michael Douglas
Thomson, Deputy
John Tomlinson, Deputy
James Richard Tumbridge
William Upton
Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Delano Wheatley
Philip Woodhouse, Deputy
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 outline priorities for the coming period, linked to the Corporate Plan. Specifically, she touched on recovery, finalising our programme of internal reform, progressing the City's major projects, working to support London at this pivotal time, and supporting UK competitiveness, especially for the financial and professional services sector.
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:-

Omobolajoko Ayoka Anuoluwa Aramide Aderayo Oluwabukola Ajose <i>Howard Andre Beber</i> <i>Brian John Coombe</i>	an Events Manager <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	Catford, London
Prince Adewale Oluwatobiloba Oluwatoyin Akanni Ajose <i>Howard Andre Beber</i> <i>Brian John Coombe</i>	a Teacher <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	Catford, London
David Olalekan Amodu <i>Timothy John Macandrews, TD JP</i> <i>Hugh Edwin Henry Hobson</i>	a Housing & Regeneration Officer <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	Edgware, Middlesex
Nisha Anumeha Arora <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	a Policy Director <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Ealing, London
Alison Barker <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Picket Piece, Hampshire
Christine Lindsay Batty-Smith <i>Alan Frederick Graeme Groom</i> <i>Sarah Louise Phillips</i>	a Radiographer <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Barber</i>	Peckham, London
Keith Joseph Black <i>Maurice Murray Kahn</i> <i>Neville Barry Kahn</i>	a Retail Company Director <i>Citizen and Painter Stainer</i> <i>Citizen and Painter Stainer</i>	Hampstead, London
General Sir Mark Alexander Popham Carleton-Smith, KCB,	The Chief of the General Staff of the British Army	Herefordshire

CBE, ADC

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Hilary Ann Russell*

Citizen and Farmer

Dabirul Islam Choudhury

*Munsur Ali, CC
Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE*

a Factory Worker, retired
*Citizen and Common Councillor
Citizen and Plumber*

Bow, London

Stephen Thomas Cook

*Graeme George Harrower, CC
Susan Jane Pearson*

a Civil Servant, retired
*Citizen and Scrivener
Citizen and Common Councillor*

Palmers Green, London

Matthew James Corner

*James Nicholas Bromiley-Davis
James Edward Price*

a Management Consultant
*Citizen and Gardener
Citizen and Woolman*

Battersea, London

Lucy Katherine Edevane

*Anthony John Paice
Martin Victor Edwards*

a College Deputy Principal
*Citizen and Mason
Citizen and International Banker*

Winchester, Hampshire

Dr Amy Louise Erickson

*Tijs Broeke, CC
Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.*

an Academic
*Citizen and Goldsmith
Citizen and Fletcher*

Stoke Newington, London

**Edward Mycroft Grahame
Handley-Carrington-Smith**

*Lorna Zaitzeff
Michael Peter Cawston*

a Soldier
*Citizen and Wax Chandler
Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer*

Milton Keynes,
Buckinghamshire

**The Hon. Thomas Alexander
Gavin Henderson**

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Hilary Ann Russell*

a Charity Chairman
Citizen and Farmer

Cirencester, Gloucester

Nicholas Brenton Hinchliffe

*Leslie Gordon Alwyne Clarke
Ann-Marie Jefferys*

a Management Consultant
*Citizen and Plaisterer
Citizen and Glover*

Haslemere, Surrey

Michael Anthony Holding

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Hilary Ann Russell*

a Cricket Commentator
Citizen and Farmer

Pembroke Pines, Florida,
United States of America

Jason Michael Honeyman

*Richard Leslie Springford
Dr Iain Reid*

a Chief Executive
*Citizen and Carman
Citizen and Ironmonger*

Chislehurst, Kent

David Ian Hudson, MBE

*Peter John French, MBE
Yasmeen Stratton*

a Company Chairman
*Citizen and Security Professional
Citizen and Security Professional*

Perth, Western Australia,
Australia

Pamela Rita Hudson, MBE

Peter John French, MBE

a Teacher, retired
Citizen and Security Professional

Perth, Western Australia,
Australia

<i>Yasmeen Stratton</i>	<i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	
Clifford Austin Hunt	a Hairdressing Company Director	Banstead, Surrey
<i>Colin George Ring</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	
<i>George Richard Cannell</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	
Alan Graham James	a Chartered Accountant	West Wittering, West Sussex
<i>Richard Henry Clay</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
Dr Michael Benjamin Jampel	a Regulator in Financial Reporting	Camden, London
<i>Alan Roy Willis</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
<i>James Adam Barnett</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
Nicholas Ross Murdoch Lazaroo-Hood	a Group Chief Executive Officer	Bromley, Kent
<i>Malcolm Alastair Craig</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Ernest Mark Lyndon Cockburn</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
Farah London	an Entrepreneur	Tower Hill, London
<i>Leslie Gordon Alwyne Clarke</i>	<i>Citizen and Plaisterer</i>	
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
Antony John Matthews, QVRM VR	an Account Manager	Hornchurch, Essex
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor John Dominic Reid</i>	<i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	
James William Moran	a Financial Regulator	Peckham Rye, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Catherine Sidney McGuinness, Deputy</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
Harry Victor Owen Owen	a Chief Operating Officer	Twickenham, Middlesex
<i>Ald. & Sheriff Prof. Michael Raymond Mainelli</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
<i>Elisabeth Mainelli</i>	<i>Citizen and Mason</i>	
Sir Michael John Parker, CBE, KCVO	a Regular Army Officer, retired	Hampshire
<i>Gordon Lenham Warren</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Brian Cyril Turner</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
Ebony-Jewel Cora-Lee Rosamond Camellia Rainford-Brent	a Sports Broadcaster	Vauxhall, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Hilary Ann Russell</i>	<i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	
Carlton Reid	an Author and Journalist	Jesmond Dene,

<i>John Sidney Francis Marriott</i> <i>Michael Smyth</i>	<i>Citizen and Mason</i> <i>Citizen and Mason</i>	Northumberland
Amir Hassan Salaripour <i>Abdul Latif</i> <i>Dr Amin Latif</i>	a Chief Financial Officer <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire
Bhavini Bharat Shah <i>Dawn Kendall</i> <i>Eoin Angus Murray</i>	a Diversity and Inclusion Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Highbury, London
Robert Jason Sherman <i>Maurice Murray Kahn</i> <i>Reginald Edward Denby</i>	a Theatrical Producer and Songwriter <i>Citizen and Painter Stainer</i> <i>Citizen and Plaisterer</i>	Mayfair, London
Michael James Stewart, OBE <i>Ald. Gregory Percy Jones, QC</i> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	a Cricket Manager and Coach, retired <i>Citizen and Leatherseller</i>	Cobham, Surrey
Bolanle Morenikeji Tobun <i>Andrien Meyers, CC</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	an Accountant <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Eltham, London
Vesa Visa Viitaniemi <i>Alastair Yates Redpath-Stevens</i> <i>David John Hammond</i>	a Banker, retired <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Turku, Finland
Oliver Anthony Cochrane Watson <i>Hugh Seymour Wolley</i> <i>David Michael Nelson Howorth</i>	a Recruitment Company Chief Operating Officer <i>Citizen and Tallow Chandler</i> <i>Citizen and Tallow Chandler</i>	Wandsworth, London
Christopher Woolard <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony</i> <i>McGuinness</i>	a Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Otford, Kent

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. Bill for Act of
Common
Council

Bill for an Act of Common Council: Common Council Elections

A Bill for an Act of Common Council, to provide for the date of the next ordinary Common Council elections being postponed from 18 March 2021 until 23 March 2022, was presented to the Court for its first and second reading, together with a report of the Policy and Resources Committee thereon.

The Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee spoke to introduce the report, outlining the rationale for the proposal and, in particular, commenting on the difficulties associated with voter registration in the current climate.

Several Members spoke to oppose the proposal, with the following comments made:

- Whilst concerns around the impact of COVID-19 on turnout were noted, it was argued that protecting the democratic mandate should take precedence. It should be for voters to decide whether or not to go to polling stations, not for the City Corporation to presume to judge whether they would wish to or not.
- The opportunity to push for increased use of postal votes and to explore electronic voting was also raised, with it suggested that this could go some way towards off-setting turnout concerns.
- It was also observed that turnout varied significantly across Wards and across elections in any case, depending on the candidates and the specific issues in play.
- The rationale given for postponement was questioned, with it cautioned that there would be an external perception of Members voting in their own interests in delaying elections. The fact that the US Presidential Elections were proceeding demonstrated that such things were possible and reflected poorly on the City should it not also seek to proceed.
- Questions were raised as to the legalities of Bill, with it noted that a response on these matters was expected from the Recorder prior to the Bill's third reading.
- A Member suggested that the impact of COVID was such that many businesses might not return to the City in any case, so the arguments in relation to business voter registration were not compelling.
- Noting the implication that no by-elections could take place in the coming period, a Member expressed concern that this potentially forced incumbents to continue serving against their will or, should they resign, would leave the affected Ward short of representation.

Several Members also spoke in favour of the proposal:

- It was argued that it was desirable to postpone elections given the significant difficulties in compiling a full electoral registration list at this point in time.
- The precedent for delaying elections, including the next Greater London Authority elections, was noted, as was the precedent in terms of accepting that the quality of electoral registers at the current time would be inadequate, with the example provided of the ongoing Boundary Review in Parliament.
- It was observed that the shortened second electoral period proposed would mean that there would still be two elections within the eight-year cycle.
- The limitations and requirements of the City's franchise were outlined, with it noted that the electoral registration process could only happen at this time of year and that it was only Parliament which could change this. Given the requirement to facilitate the business vote and being cognisant of low office occupation levels at present, to proceed would lead to very material concerns around the legitimacy of results, particularly in some smaller Wards.

- The opportunity to use the window provided by any postponement to make significant efforts to reach out and increase registration was noted, with Members commenting on the discussions at Policy and Resources Committee which had made clear that this would be a condition of any delay.
- It was suggested that this proposal would provide a measure of stability and certainty in what were unprecedented and uncertain times. In particular, with a second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak likely, this stability would allow the City Corporation to focus on support for businesses and residents at this crucial time.
- In relation to concerns about potential vacancies caused by resignations without the facility for by-elections, it was observed that the City benefitted from a larger number of Members per Ward than other local authority areas and so there would still be Ward representation in such a circumstance.

A Division being demanded and granted, there appeared:-

For the Affirmative - 84

ALDERMEN

Edhem, E.

Howard, R.P.S.

Masojada, B.

Garbutt, J.

Hughes-Penney, R.C.

Scotland, Baroness Patricia, Q.C.

Gifford, Sir Roger

King, A.N.

Wootton, Sir David

Gowman, A.J.

Langley, S., O.B.E.

Russell, W.A.B., The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor

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

Luder, I.D., J.P.

Hailes, T.R.

Mainelli, Prof. M.R., Sheriff

COMMONERS

Abrahams, G.C.

Fairweather, A.H.

Moss, A.M., Deputy

Absalom, J.D., Deputy

Fernandes, S.A.

Murphy, B.D.

Addy, C.K.

Graham, T.

Packham, G.D.

Ali, M.

Haines, C.W.

Petrie, J.

Ameer, R.B.

Hayward, C.M, Sheriff

Pleasance, J.L.

Anderson, R.K.

Hill, C.

Priest, H.S.J.

Barr, A.R.M.

Hoffman, T.D.D., M.B.E., Deputy

Pritchard, J.P.

Barrow, D.G.F.

Holmes, A.

Regan, R.D., O.B.E., Deputy

Bastow, A.M.

Hudson, M.

Rogula, E., Deputy

Bennett, P.G.

Hyde, W.M., Deputy

Sayed, R.

Bensted-Smith, N.M., J.P.

James, C., Deputy

Seaton, I.C.N., M.B.E.

Bottomley, K.D.F., Deputy

Jones, H.L., Deputy

Sells, O.M., Q.C.

Bradshaw, D.J., Deputy

Joshi, S.J.

Shilson, Dr G.R.E., Deputy

Brooke, T.

Knowles-Cutler, A.

Simons, J.L.

Chadwick, RAH, O.B.E., Deputy

Levene, T.C.

Sleigh, T., Deputy

Chapman, J.D.

Littlechild, V., M.B.E., J.P.

Snyder, Sir Michael

Ingham Clark, J., Deputy

Lodge, O.A.W.

Thomson, J.M.D., Deputy

De Sausmarez, H.J.

Lord, C.E., O.B.E., J.P., Deputy

Upton, W., Q.C.

Doshi-Smith, G.M.

Mayer, A.P.

Wheatley, M.R.P.H.D.

Dostalova, K.

Mayhew, J.P.

Wright, D.L.

Duckworth, S.D., O.B.E., D.L.

McGuinness, C.S., Deputy

Durcan, M.

Mead, W., O.B.E.

Edwards, J.E.

Merrett, R.A., Deputy

Everett, K.M., Deputy

Meyers, A.G.D.

Tellers for the affirmative – Deputy Edward Lord and Susan Pearson.

For the Negative - 22

ALDERMEN

Estlin, Sir Peter

Parmley, Sir Andrew

COMMONERS

Bell, M.L.

Harrower, G.G.

Pimlott, W.

Bennett, J.A., M.B.E., Deputy

Fredericks, M.B.

Pollard, J.H.G., Deputy

Bostock, M.

Lloyd-Owen, N.M.C.

Quilter, S.D.

Clementi, T.C.

McMurtrie, A.S., J.P.

Scott, J.G.S., J.P.

Colthurst, H.N.A.

Newman, B.P., C.B.E.

Tomlinson, J., Deputy

Dunphy, P.G., Deputy

Patel, D., O.B.E.

Woodhouse, P.J., Deputy

Fentimen, H.L., O.B.E.

Pearson, S.J.

Tellers for the negative – Henry Colthurst and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.

Abstentions were recorded from Alderman David Graves, Deputy Brian Mooney, and James Tumbridge.

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

Resolved – That the report be agreed to and that the Bill be read a first and second time.

10. 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:-

Bills**Date in force****Business and Planning Act 2020**

22nd July 2020

The Act introduces a new temporary fast-track process by which premises may obtain permission from their local authority for table and chair licences. The Act also automatically extends licences that only permit the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises. The Act applies to the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority. A briefing was supplied to London MPs during the House of Commons stages and the Act will be the subject of Committee reports.

Statutory Instruments**The Education (Pupil Information) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 No. 599**

9th July 2020

These Regulations amend Schedule 1 to the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005 ("Schedule 1"), which requires head teachers of maintained schools to provide an annual report to parents and adult pupils in respect of every registered pupil at the school, in light of changes to pupil attendance and the cancellation of assessments due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Business Tenancies (Protection from Forfeiture: Relevant Period) (Coronavirus) (England) Regulations 2020 No. 602

29th June 2020

S.82 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 provides that a right of re-entry or forfeiture under a relevant business tenancy for non-payment of rent may not be enforced, by action or otherwise, during the relevant

period. These Regulations provide that the relevant period is extended from 30th June to 30th September 2020.

The Town and Country Planning (Permitted Development and Miscellaneous Amendments) (England) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 No. 632

1st August 2020

The Regulations introduce permitted development rights allowing for the construction of new dwelling-houses without the need for a full planning application, including work for the construction of up to 2 storeys to create new flats on the topmost residential storey of a building which is an existing purpose-built, detached block of flats. The Regulations also provide that an applicant and authority can agree to a longer period for determination of prior approval applications, and require the local planning authority to consider the provision of adequate natural light to all habitable rooms by the proposed change of use from commercial uses to a dwelling-house.

The Traffic Management Act 2004 (Commencement No. 9) (England) Order 2020 No 659

29th June 2020

The New Roads and Street Works Act provides that a street authority shall keep a register showing with respect to each street for which they are responsible such information as may be prescribed with respect to the street works. This Order amends the 1991 provisions to permit the Secretary of State to require a street authority to share information in their possession with a person appointed to keep a central register of street works.

The Electric Scooter Trials and Traffic Signs (Coronavirus) Regulations and General Directions 2020 No 663

4th July 2020

The City of London is participating in a trial of electric scooters, which is aimed at assessing their suitability for use on roads. These regulations enable the trial to take place, by removing requirements for those e-scooters used in the trial to be licenced and registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, and removing the requirement for a driver of an electric scooter being used in a trial to wear a motorcycle helmet. The Regulations also amend the meaning of "cycle lane" and "pedestrian and cycle zones" to permit an e-scooter being used in a trial to share those road spaces.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) Regulations 2020 No. 684

4th July 2020

These Regulations require the closure of businesses such as nightclubs, impose restrictions on gatherings both inside and outside of more than 30 people, and give the Secretary of State power to restrict public access to any public outdoor space. The restrictions last until they are terminated by a direction given by the Secretary of State, who must review the need for the restrictions every 28 days or, in the case of restricting public access to land, every 7 days.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No. 2) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 No. 719

11th July 2020

These Regulations amend the previous Regulations to permit the following to open: outdoor swimming pools and water parks (from 11th July 2020); nail bars and salons, tanning booths and salons, spas and beauty salons, massage parlours, tattoo parlours, and

body and skin piercing services (from 13th July 2020).

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) (No. 3) Regulations 2020 No. 750

18th July 2020

These Regulations make provision for a local authority to give directions closing or restricting entry to premises, events and public outdoor places in its area if the local authority considers that this is in the interest of public health. The local authority must review a direction given under these Regulations at least once every 7 days. The Regulations also give the Secretary of State power to direct the local authority to give (or revoke) such directions.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 2020 No. 755

31st August 2020

This order introduces new classes of permitted development rights, which permit the construction of up to two new storeys for residential use above detached and terraced buildings which are commercial or mixed use, including where there is an element of residential use. Two storeys may be added if the existing building is two or more storeys tall, or one additional storey where the building consists of one storey.

The Investigatory Powers Act 2016 (Commencement No. 12) Regulations 2020 No. 766

22nd July 2020

These regulations bring into force provisions of the Investigatory Powers Act 2016 which removes the powers of public authorities to obtain communications data outside of the 2016 Act without the consent of the telecommunications operator or the postal operator holding the communications data. The 2016 Act applies to the City of London police force.

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 No. 808

1st August 2020

These Regulations amend provision made by earlier Regulations for the conduct of local authority meetings held before 7th May 2021. The provisions of the earlier Regulations, for members of local authorities to attend meetings remotely and for local authorities to alter the frequency of meetings without requirement for further notice, apply to the Common Council of the City of London in its capacities as a local authority, port health authority and police authority.

The Rating Lists (Valuation Date) (England) Order 2020 No. 832

31st August 2020

This Order specifies 1st April 2021 as the day by reference to which the rateable values of non-domestic hereditaments are to be determined for the purposes of local and central non-domestic rating lists when they are next compiled for England. This Order also revokes a 2018 Order which had specified 1st April 2019 as the day for the purposes of the next local and central non-domestic rating lists to be compiled.

The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications, Deemed

2nd September

**Applications, Requests and Site Visits) (England) (Amendment) 2020
Regulations 2020 No. 836**

These Regulations introduce fees for prior approvals associated with permitted development rights which were recently created by other Regulations. These Regulations also introduce a 'second application' exemption from the newly introduced fee for applications for prior approval which are made by the same applicant, in respect of the same development on the same site or part of the same site and within 12 months of a determination of an earlier application or, in the case of an earlier application under new Part 20 which was withdrawn, the date when that application was received by the local planning authority.

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

11.
Appointments

The Court proceeded to consider appointments to the following Committees and Outside Bodies:-

Where appropriate:-

** denotes a Member standing for re-appointment.*

- (A) One Member on **Education Board**, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2022.

Nominations received:-

Shravan Jashvantraï Joshi

Jeremy Lewis Simons

Read.

Resolved – That, in accordance with the outcomes of the indicative ballot process, the appointment to the Education Board of Shravan Joshi, for a term expiring in April 2022, be confirmed.

- (B) One Member on the **Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee**, for a term expiring in April 2021.

Nominations received:-

Matthew Bell

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Matthew Bell to be appointed to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee, for a term expiring April 2021.

- (C) One Member on the **Board of Governors of the Museum of London**, for a term expiring in October 2024.

Nominations received:-

*Alderman Alison Gowman

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderman Alison Gowman to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London, for term expiring October 2024.

12. Questions

Training of City of London Police Officers

William Pimlott asked a question of the Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board concerning the training of officers at all levels, particularly in relation to unconscious bias, policing of protests, lawfulness of stop and search, dealing with young people, and de-escalation training.

Responding, the Chair noted the importance of public support for the UK's policing by consent model and, by extension, the importance of ensuring trust in the police is maintained. He reassured Members that efforts in ensuring equality, eliminating bias, and maintaining a zero tolerance to racism were constantly under review and scrutiny, with recommendations for continual improvement and such recommendations tracked against implementation. Consequently, he was satisfied that there was sufficient existing oversight and scrutiny of these areas. The Chair also outlined the various training plans in place for all officers in relation to the appropriate, proportionate and legitimate use of powers.

With reference to Stop and Search in particular, the Chair noted that this was a complex matter but, used appropriately, could be a highly effective tool in combating serious crime. He provided statistics in relation to its usage over the last quarter noting that, of those whose ethnicity was identified, 28% of the Force's stops had been of those of BAME background, compared with 56% in the same period for the Metropolitan Police. By way of context, across London 59% of people identified as White, 18% as Asian, 12% as Black and 11% as Mixed or Other. The Chair also outlined the significant scrutiny mechanisms in place as to the performance, outcomes and legitimacy of stop and search usage within both the Force and the Police Authority, as well as through Community Oversight groups such the Independent Advisory Group and Scrutiny Group.

In response to a supplementary question from William Pimlott concerning the issuing of COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), the Chair advised that the City of London Police had adopted the national position and guidance throughout the pandemic in relation to the enforcement of emergency powers legislation. Some 27 of these fixed penalty notices had been issued under COVID-19 Regulations in the City, ten of which had been to BAME individuals (37%). City officers had also issued 52 FPNs outside of the City of London whilst undertaking mutual support activities with the Metropolitan Police, 60% of which were to BAME individuals.

With regard to complaints investigated by Professional Standards, complaints on discrimination remain very low, with two allegations of discrimination recorded in the last quarter (out of 58). One of these has been finalised, and not upheld. The issuance of FPNs would be discussed by the Professional Standards & Integrity Committee at its meeting on 14 September and any recommendations emerging would be acted on by the Force.

Return to the Workplace

Oliver Sells asked a question of the Chair of the Establishment Committee expressing his concerns around the lack of pace in returning staff and Members to Guildhall and seeking an update as to next steps.

Responding, the Chair empathised with the Honourable Member's frustrations and noted that the Establishment Committee would be discussing the detail of staff physically returning to the workplace at its meeting next week. He observed that officers were having to continually assess the position in light of changes in official guidance, but noted that communications to officers regarding a phased return to the workplace had recently been issued. He outlined the three principles guiding this return: firstly, staff safety is paramount; second, workplaces are COVID-19 secure; and third that new flexible ways of working are embedded.

The position now was that staff could physically return to the workplace if: their work could not be done at home, in total or in part; they felt they would benefit from attendance at the office; they needed access to specialist equipment or physical documents; they needed to attend a physical meeting, event or essential training; or it formed part of the operational requirements of our venues or our institutions. Indeed, staff at several of the City's institutions had worked on-site throughout or had already returned in large numbers. Officers had been working hard to put COVID-19 secure measures in place to ensure safe working environments and social distancing for staff and Members, including the development and adaption of the Guildhall to allow hybrid committees. Unfortunately, there had been a delay in the procurement process which had in turn caused a delay in implementation.

Responding to a supplementary question from Oliver Sells concerning the importance of urgency in this matter, the Chair reiterated his views in this area and expressed his hope that hybrid meetings would be progressed swiftly, including the use of some of the larger rooms at Guildhall to facilitate this.

Risk Assessments at Guildhall

Alderman Ian Luder asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee regarding risk assessments undertaken in respect of the use of Guildhall, particularly seeking a commitment to liaise with the Director of Public Health to assess the impact and risk of increasing the numbers permitted into the Members' areas at Guildhall at any one time.

In reply, the Chair expressed the view that this would not be appropriate, as the matter did not fall completely within the Director's remit and, in any case, the rules were sufficiently fluid that advice was likely to be out of date as soon as it was received. However, she assured the Honourable Member that the City was working very closely with the Director in all it did.

The Chair took the opportunity to outline the various measures being put in place in relation to COVID-19 secure measures at Guildhall, so as to ensure safe working environments and social distancing for staff and Members, and their implications in respect of the Members' areas in particular. These would be subject to regular review. She also expressed her awareness of some Members' frustrations on pace and lack of involvement, advising that she had asked for a Member briefing session

to be arranged accordingly.

13. Motions
Nash, J.C., O.B.E.,
Deputy; Mooney,
B.D.F., Deputy

Resolved – That Barbara Newman and Adrian Bastow be appointed to the Barbican Residential Committee, both for the Ward of Aldersgate.

Tomlinson, J.,
Deputy; Mooney,
B.D.F., Deputy

Resolved – That Deputy David Bradshaw, Deputy John Tomlinson, Mary Durcan, and Mark Bostock, be appointed to the Barbican Residential Committee for the Ward of Cripplegate.

Wheatley,
M.R.P.H.D.;
Mayer, A.P.

Motion - “That this Honourable Court reiterates our support for the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong.

It notes the view of the British Government that China's imposition of the new National Security law breaches the terms of this treaty.

It notes the view it undermines the right of Hong Kong citizens to enjoy "a high degree of autonomy" in the governance of their affairs.

It notes the British Government has in response extended residence rights to British Nationals (Overseas) citizens living in Hong Kong.

It notes this offer extends the right to live and work in the UK from 6 months to 5 years, with a right to apply to settle after a further 12 months.

This Honourable Court welcomes this policy and adds further that those seeking to live, work, settle under this scheme or to apply for asylum if persecuted under the new National Security law will always be welcome in the City of London.

This Honourable Court welcomes the 23 years of cooperation, investment and friendship between Britain and China, between the City of London and Hong Kong, prior to the imposition of the new National Security law, and hopes for a return to that state of affairs at the earliest opportunity.”

Mark Wheatley spoke to introduce the Motion, noting the strong historical relationship with Hong Kong, the commitments made through the Sino-British Joint Declaration and recently reaffirmed by the Government, and referencing the strong British legacy of welcoming others to work and trade. He clarified that the Motion was in no way intended to suggest any challenge to the sovereignty of the Peoples’ Republic of China over Hong Kong, nor their right to introduce such a law; neither was it a comment on continued trade, where the UK’s clear position was to open trade as far as possible. Rather, the Motion reflected the values and commitments of London and the United Kingdom, particularly with reference to its history of openness, free trade, and global regulatory standards.

During debate, several Members commented on the close relationship between China and the United Kingdom and the strong trading links between the two, adding that friends told each other what they did not necessarily wish to hear. Consequently, there was an onus on the City and the UK to raise concerns, with particular reference made to Mao Zedong’s statement that “the differences between friends cannot but reinforce their friendship.” A Member also expressed the view

that they would hope other countries would raise similar concerns should this be taking place in the UK.

It was also suggested that it would be disingenuous to argue that the City Corporation should not involve itself in foreign policy in this way, given that it regularly hosted banquets and receptions for leaders of foreign governments and that trade was such a large factor in foreign policy. A wider point was made relating to the City's position across the board where there might be political or human rights concerns with trading partners, with it suggested that a wider policy in respect of responding to such issues should be considered, rather than adopting a case by case approach.

Other Members spoke to oppose the Motion, observing that making such a statement would not provide any tangible benefit or assistance to those in Hong Kong, but would serve to diminish the City Corporation's voice and impair its wider work in encouraging Sino-British co-operation, as it would be viewed as a political statement regardless of its intent. The view was expressed that it was not appropriate for the City Corporation to become engaged in foreign policy; rather, it was to support its stakeholders in the sectors it spoke for, who were clear on the importance of nurturing the strong economic ties between the two countries. Whilst it was recognised that there were challenging issues in China, there were similar concerns in many others nations with which the UK traded, and to stray into the realms of commenting on each would be outside of the City's role and would diminish its ability to effect change.

Mark Wheatley spoke to close the debate, reminding the Court of the historic links between Hong Kong and London and the shared values they held. He reiterated his respect for China's sovereignty but emphasised the importance of sending a moderate and measured message of welcome to those in Hong Kong who were unsettled by recent events.

A Division being demanded and granted, there appeared:-

For the Affirmative - 49

ALDERMEN

Graves, D.A.

Hughes-Penney, R.C.

Masojada, B.

COMMONERS

Abrahams, G.C.

Graham, T.

Packham, G.D.

Addy, C.K.

Harrower, G.G.

Patel, D., O.B.E.

Ali, M.

Holmes, A.

Pearson, S.J.

Anderson, R.K.

Hudson, M.

Pimlott, W.

Barrow, A.M.

Hyde, W.M., Deputy

Pollard, J.H.G., Deputy

Bennett, J.A., M.B.E., Deputy

James, C., Deputy

Quilter, S.D.

Bensted-Smith, N.M., J.P.

Joshi, S.J.

Sayed, R.

Chadwick, R.A.H., O.B.E., Deputy

Knowles-Cutler, A.

Scott, J.G.S., J.P.

Chapman, J.D.

Littlechild, V., M.B.E., J.P.

Simons, J.L.

Dostalova, K.

Lloyd-Owen, N.M.C.

Thomson, J.M.D., Deputy

Dunphy, P.G., Dunphy

Lord, C.E., O.B.E., J.P., Deputy

Tomlinson, J., Deputy

Durcan, M.

Mayer, A.P.

Tumbridge, J.R.

Fairweather, A.H.

Mayhew, J.P.

Wheatley, M.R.P.H.D.

Fentimen, H.L., O.B.E.

Merrett, R.A., Deputy

Woodhouse, P.J., Deputy

Fernandes, S.A.
Fredericks, M.B.

Newman, B.P., C.B.E.

Wright, D.L.

Tellers for the affirmative – Deputy Edward Lord and Deputy David Bradshaw.

For the Negative - 28

ALDERMEN

Gowman, A.J.

Mainelli, Prof M.R., Sheriff

Sir David Wootton

Hailes, T.R.

Sir Andrew Parmley

Russell, W.A.B., the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor

Howard, R.P.S.

COMMONERS

Bennett, P.G.

Haines, C.W.

McMurtrie, A.S., J.P.

Bottomley, K.D.F., Deputy

Hayward, C.M., Sheriff

Morris, H.F., Deputy

Bradshaw, D.J., Deputy

Hill, C.

Petrie, J.

Doshi-Smith, G.M.

Hoffman, T.D.D., M.B.E., Deputy

Pleasance, J.L.

Duckworth, S.D., O.B.E., D.L.

Ingham Clark, J., Deputy

Regan, R.D., O.B.E., Deputy

Edwards, J.E.

Levene, T.C.

Rogula, E., Deputy

Everett, K.M., Deputy

McGuinness, C.S., Deputy

Seaton, I.C.N., M.B.E.

Tellers for the negative – John Petrie and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.

Abstentions were recorded from Rehana Ameer, Alderman John Garbutt, Oliver Lodge, Alderman Ian Luder, Wendy Mead, Deputy Brian Mooney, Jason Pritchard, and Sir Michael Snyder.

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

Resolved – That this Honourable Court reiterates its support for the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong.

It notes the view of the British Government that China's imposition of the new National Security law breaches the terms of this treaty.

It notes the view it undermines the right of Hong Kong citizens to enjoy "a high degree of autonomy" in the governance of their affairs.

It notes the British Government has in response extended residence rights to British Nationals (Overseas) citizens living in Hong Kong.

It notes this offer extends the right to live and work in the UK from 6 months to 5 years, with a right to apply to settle after a further 12 months.

This Honourable Court welcomes this policy and adds further that those seeking to live, work, settle under this scheme or to apply for asylum if persecuted under the new National Security law will always be welcome in the City of London.

This Honourable Court welcomes the 23 years of cooperation, investment and friendship between Britain and China, between the City of London and Hong Kong, prior to the imposition of the new National Security law, and hopes for a return to that state of affairs at the earliest opportunity.

Deputy

Motion – “That, in line with the privilege accorded to the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, the Court is minded to invite Deputy Brian Mooney to extend his term in office as Chief Commoner for a further year.”

John Scott spoke to introduce the Motion, which had been accepted by the Lord Mayor for urgent consideration in accordance with Standing Orders 12(4) and 12(7). He made reference to the difficult circumstances presented by the COVID-19 outbreak, which it was now clear would continue for longer than had been originally anticipated, and the subsequent impact on the current Chief Commoner's term of office. In view of these circumstances and the decision to extend the terms of the incumbent Sheriffs and Lord Mayor, he asked that the Court grant the same privilege to the Chief Commoner.

Several Members spoke in opposition to the Motion, making the following comments:

- Whilst entirely sympathising with the impact on the current Chief Commoner, it was argued that there had been insufficient notice to inform a full and reasoned debate. In view of the importance of the matter and the number of Members who had already departed the meeting, it was suggested that it would not be fair to take this decision now.
- It was observed that the primary driver for the extension of the Shrieval and Mayoral terms had been the impracticability of convening Common Hall to allow for elections to proceed. This did not apply in this instance given the ability to allow for electronic and remote voting. Given the concerns expressed during debate under Item 9 earlier in the meeting in relation to delaying the City elections, it was suggested that it would be incongruous to delay this election.
- Whilst the impact on the term of the current Chief Commoner was unfortunate, it was difficult to predict how long the COVID-19 impact would last and it seemed unfair to deprive another Member of the opportunity to serve.
- The question of whether to extend the term of office had been considered by the Court previously when the impacts of COVID were known, meaning that various candidates had already expended considerable efforts campaigning ahead of October's scheduled election. This seemed unfair to those candidates, with it ventured that one option could be to extend the current Chief's term of office but proceed with the election nonetheless, with the successful candidate taking office a year later in 2022/23.

A number of Members also expressed support for the Motion:

- The profound effect of the COVID-19 outbreak on the incumbent Chief Commoner's year was noted, with it observed that original expectations as to when there might be a return to normality had been misplaced.
- It was now clear that the COVID-19 impact might last for some time, meaning that the incumbent Chief Commoner's term could well be entirely affected. This would seem unfair and leave him unable to deliver on a number of undertakings made upon being elected.
- Noting the decision at Item 9 to proceed with a postponement of the City elections, a Member suggested that this evidenced things were not back to

normal and it would be odd for this election alone not to be deferred too.

- The question of parity with the position for the Mayoral and Shrieval terms was highlighted, with Members expressing disquiet as to an inconsistent approach.

In response to a query, it was clarified that the incumbent Chief Commoner would not be eligible to stand again under the current rules.

The Chief Commoner spoke to express his sympathy with the views put forward on all sides of debate, making clear his neutrality in the matter and that he wished only to follow the will of the Court and not to be the source of any disunity.

In the interests of determining the will of the Court, a Division being demanded and granted, there appeared:-

For the Affirmative – 47

ALDERMEN

Garbutt, J.	Howard, R.P.S.	Wootton, Sir David
Goyal, P.B., O.B.E.	Parmley, Sir Andrew	Russell, W.A.B., the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor
Graves, D.A.		

COMMONERS

Absalom, J.D., Deputy	Harrower, G.G.	Mead, W., O.B.E.
Anderson, R.K.	Hayward, C.M., Sheriff	Merrett, R.A., Deputy
Barrow, D.G.F.	Hudson, M.	Pearson, S.J.
Bradshaw, D.J., Deputy	Joshi, S.J.	Pimlott, W.
Chapman, J.D.	Knowles-Cutler, A.	Pleasance, J.L.
Duckworth, S.D., O.B.E., D.L.	Levene, T.C.	Pollard, J.H.G., Deputy
Dunphy, P.G., Deputy	Littlechild, V., M.B.E., J.P.	Quilter, S.D.
Durcan, M.	Lloyd-Owen, N.M.C.	Scott, J.G.S., J.P.
Edwards, J.E.	Mayhew, J.P.	Seaton, I.C.N., M.B.E.
Everett, K.M., Deputy	McGuinness, C.S., Deputy	Thomson, J.M.D., Deputy
Fentimen, H.L., O.B.E.	Morris, H.F., Deputy	Tomlinson, J., Deputy
Fredericks, M.B.	Newman, B.P., C.B.E.	Wheatley, M.R.P.H.D.
Hill, C.	Patel, D., O.B.E.	Wright, D.L.
Hoffman, T.D.D., M.B.E., Deputy		

Tellers for the affirmative – John Chapman and Deputy David Bradshaw.

For the Negative – 17

ALDERMEN

Mainelli, Prof. M.R., Sheriff

COMMONERS

Add, C.K.	Fairweather, A.F.	Lodge, O.A.W.
Bennett, P.G.	Fernandes, S.A.	McMurtrie, A.S., J.P.
Bensted-Smith, N.M., J.P.	Haines, C.W.	Packham, G.D.
Bottomley, K.D.F., Deputy	Ingham Clark, J., Deputy	Rogula, E., Deputy
Broeke, T.	James, C., Deputy	Sayed, R.
Dostalova, K.		

Tellers for the negative – Deputy Edward Lord and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.

Abstentions were recorded from Munsur Ali, Deputy John Bennett, Alderman Tim Hailes, Ann Holmes, Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney, Deputy Edward Lord

Alderman Ian Luder, Deputy Brian Mooney, Jeremy Simons, and Deputy Tom Sleigh.

Lloyd-Owen,
N.M.C.; Hayward,
C.M., Sheriff

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

Resolved – That, in line with the privilege accorded to the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs, the Court is minded to invite Deputy Brian Mooney to extend his term in office as Chief Commoner for a further year.

Motion – That, in accordance with Standing Order 2, Standing Order 16 be suspended to allow for the meeting to continue.

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

Resolved – That, in accordance with Standing Order 2, Standing Order 16 be suspended to allow for the meeting to continue.

14. Awards &
Prizes

There was no report.

15.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)

1 September 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Proposed revisions to SO 29(4) and SO 30(5): Election of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen

During the annual election process for Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Committees, the provisions of Standing Orders 29(4) and 30(5) have long required the committee clerk to call out the list of all those Members eligible to stand.

Although this had been the practice for many years, the process can delay the elections unnecessarily, especially when the committee is particularly large or where the election is uncontested, and there are other ways in which Members might more helpfully be made aware of who is/is not eligible to stand for either position.

On the basis that the existing practice is unnecessary and, following suggestions from some Members that a more efficient approach could be adopted, revisions were proposed to Standing Orders No. 29(4) and 30(5) to obviate the requirement for all names to be read.

In order to allow for the arrangements to be adjusted in time for the September meetings of various committees (and the elections due to take place there), the proposals were considered and approved under urgency procedures.

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

16.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Jeremy Paul Mayhew)

10 July 2020

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Funding request to support an extension of Heart of the City's responsible business programme (and consequent revision to the 2020/21 Budget)

The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures in relation to a budget uplift to facilitate funding for Heart of the City. Heart of the City delivers the City Corporation's Corporate Strategy Objective 5, points c and d, whilst also working alongside others in the City Corporation to deliver its Responsible Business Strategy and the Social Mobility Strategy.

Normally, any request for funding is submitted to the January meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee (and Resource Allocation Sub-Committee) and, following approval of an appropriate sum, is incorporated within the Corporation's budget submitted to the February meeting of your Finance Committee, and the March meeting of the Court of Common Council.

However, in January 2020, the Policy & Resources Committee had asked officers to come back with revised proposals. This was done, and a revised sum was approved at the February meeting. Unfortunately, as a consequence of the month's delay and the timing around the budget submission, this sum was omitted from the budget. It was not immediately noticed due to the unfolding COVID-19 crisis but became apparent thereafter, and so an in-year budget adjustment was required to facilitate the award of the money.

The funding was for core funding of the organisation, primarily covering salaries. As a result of the commitment given by the Policy and Resources Committee in February, the charity continued its operations in 2020-21 in good faith.

Approval was, therefore, granted by the Finance Committee and the Court of Common Council under urgency procedures to agree to one-year's funding of Heart of the City for 2020/21, totalling £202,000, to be met from City's Cash, resulting an in-year revision to the 2020/21 budget.

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

17.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD

(Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson)

2 July 2020

City of London Police: Policing Plan 2020-23

The Court received the City of London Policing Plan 2020-2023, representing the plan for policing the City of London over the next three years.

The Chairman spoke to introduce the report, highlighting the critical areas of focus and the intention to make the City the safest in the world. He also advised of the opportunity to participate in the creation of the Policing Plan for 2021-2024 and encouraged Members to do so.

In response to a query concerning the prospective outsourcing of neighbourhood policing to private security firms, the Chair confirmed that neighbourhood policing was a central pillar of the Policing Plan and that policing activities to deliver this

would be undertaken by the Force only, with no plans for this to change. However, he clarified that community safety was a shared responsibility and reminded Members of obligations in respect of the Safer City Partnership, through which the City Police and City Corporation worked with a range of partners to achieve a safe environment, and that third party organisations were used by the City Corporation to deliver some of these associated services.

A Member asked a further question in relation to concerns from the BAME community in respect of equal treatment by the Police, noting that there was currently no specific reference within the Policing Plan on this matter and asking whether an explicit undertaking might be incorporated. Responding, the Chair noted that the current Policing Plan had been articulated in relation to key priorities based on strategic risks, threats, and harm, so there were many items which were priorities for the Force which were not necessarily recorded in this particular document. He confirmed that this issue could absolutely be considered in the formulation of priorities for the 2021-24 Policing Plan and encouraged the Honourable Member to engage in that process to ensure something suitable might be incorporated.

Resolved – That the report be received and its content noted.

18. *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.

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

19. *Resolved* – That the non-public Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

20. **Property Investment Board**
The Court approved the grant of a long-term lease.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 4.15 pm

BARRADELL.