

## **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, 10 December 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held over Microsoft Teams (streamed at <https://youtu.be/9Vv2rzLxHl8>) on Thursday, 10 December 2020 at 1.45 pm

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair)  
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman) (*in the Chair for Items 4 and 7-21*)  
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Vice-Chairman)  
Deputy Tom Sleigh (Vice-Chair)  
Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)  
Rehana Ameer  
Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Ex-Officio Member)  
Tijs Broeke  
Karina Dostalova  
Anne Fairweather  
Marianne Fredericks  
Alderman Timothy Hailes  
Deputy Wendy Hyde (Ex-Officio Member)  
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark  
Deputy Edward Lord  
Alderman Vincent Keaveny  
Alderman Ian Luder  
Jeremy Mayhew  
Andrew McMurtrie  
Wendy Mead  
Deputy Brian Mooney (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)  
Deputy Alastair Moss (Ex-Officio Member)  
Sir Michael Snyder  
Mark Wheatley  
Deputy Philip Woodhouse  
Alderman Sir David Wootton

#### **In attendance**

Helen Fentimen  
Alderman Alison Gowman  
Graeme Harrower  
Ann Holmes  
Barbara Newman  
Graham Packham

#### **Officers:**

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Peter Kane	- Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer

Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Carolyn Dwyer	- Director of Built Environment
Vic Annells	- Executive Director of Mansion House & Central Criminal Court
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Deputy Chamberlain
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk
Kate Smith	- Town Clerk's Department
Amelia Ehren	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's Department
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Giles French	- Innovation & Growth
Anna Dunne	- City Surveyor's Department
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Peter Young	- City Surveyor's Department
David Farnsworth	- Chief Grants Officer and Director of City Bridge Trust
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Grace Rawnsley	- Town Clerk's Department
Peter Shadbolt	- Department of the Built Environment
Ellen Wentworth	- Technology Support Officer
Charlotte Gordon	- Electoral Services Manager, Town Clerk's Department
Divindy Grant	- Chamberlain's Department

## **COVID UPDATE**

Prior to considering the business on today's agenda, the Chair updated Members on the situation in relation to Covid, noting that infection rates in London were particularly high and that urgent action would be needed to bring things under control and avoid London moving into Tier 3, shutting down businesses just before Christmas. There would be increased communications interventions over the next few days to remind people of the current rules and restrictions and the Chair asked Members for their support in helping to share these messages to their networks and the electorate.

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Deputy Andrien Meyers, Shravan Joshi, Deputy James Thomson, the Rt Hon Alderman the Baroness Patricia Scotland of Asthal, and the Rt Hon Alderman William Russell, the Lord Mayor.

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

Alderman Tim Hailes and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark declared an interest in respect of Item 11 in respect of their positions as Churchwardens of St Lawrence Jewry.

### 3. MINUTES

- a) The public minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 19 November 2020 were agreed.

#### **Matters Arising**

**Planning Protocol** – The Chair noted discussions at the last meeting, particularly in relation to the Corporation's planning arrangements more broadly and the context of the overall governance review. She suggested that Members might support bringing forward the stage of the review intended to consider those recommendations associated with the Planning and Transportation Committee as a consequence. Members expressed support for this approach and the Chair undertook to adjust the review timetable to accommodate this.

**Tomlinson Review** – A Member took the opportunity to clarify that the Chamberlain had confirmed that any budgetary changes associated with the Tomlinson Review proposals would not come into effect until 2022/23.

- b) The public minutes of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 November 2020 were noted.
- c) The public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 November 2020 were noted.
- d) The public summary of the Tackling Racism Taskforce meeting held on 13 November 2020 were noted.
- e) The public summary of the Tackling Racism Taskforce meeting held on 27 November 2020 were noted.

### 4. ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN MANAGER RECRUITMENT

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the prospective recruitment of a temporary post to manage electoral campaigning during 2021.

During discussion, the following points arose:

- In response to queries concerning the maximum potential total number of business voters in the City, the Assistant Town Clerk undertook to circulate the figures following the meeting.
- With reference to the proposed £55,000 allocation for campaign activities, Members emphasised the importance of taking a strategic approach to intervention. Consequently, it was felt that the new campaign manager should present a strategy with costed options for approval, including rationales for particular activities, prior to any approval as to the release of funds.
- It was observed that the report appeared to propose the funding be charged to City's Cash; however, as a City Fund activity the accuracy of this was questioned. The Chamberlain undertook to explore this matter

following the meeting and obtained Members' support for charging the allocation to the correct fund, as appropriate.

- A number of individuals reiterated the importance of Members' role in energising and appealing to the electorate, thereby encouraging greater participation. It was added that greater communication or messaging about the role and impact of the City Corporation, both locally and nationally, would also aid in increasing voters' awareness and interest.
- A Member observed that there was currently an issue with the processing of applications, commenting that they were aware of several voters who had submitted forms but whose registration had not yet been processed. They urged that sufficient resource be made available on the administrative side to ensure applications were processed expeditiously.
- It was also suggested that targets or performance metrics might be considered in relation to registration numbers, to assist Members in scrutinising performance.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Reconfirm support for the recruitment of a temporary Election Participation Campaign Manager to maximise numbers on the Electoral Register and encourage diversity of candidates and voter turnout in the elections.
2. Approve a funding package of up to £150,000 to cover the cost of the post (approximately £75,000 plus £20,000 on costs the equivalent of Grade H and subject to job evaluation) and up to £55,000 to fund the cost of any additional campaign activities.

*NB – Approval for the release of the latter sum (£55,000) is to be the subject to the approval of a further report by the postholder, once the scope of the campaign has been developed.*

3. Authorise the Chamberlain to ensure that the charge of the funds at recommendation 2 is made to City Fund rather than City Cash, following confirmation as to the position.
4. Note that the role will report to the new Deputy Town Clerk and Chief Executive and that in the interim the recruitment and other arrangements associated with the temporary post would be overseen by the Director of Communications.

5. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW: STANDARDS REGIME**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning those aspects of the Governance Review relating to the Standards Regime. The report presented the recommendations of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee (RASC), following an informal engagement process intended to gather the views of all Members.

The Chair thanked Sheriff Christopher Hayward for his efforts in managing the consultation process to-date and drew Members' attention to RASC's proposals as set out in the report. The Committee proceeded to debate the various recommendations in turn:

- (i) ***Do Members agree with the recommendation to establish an Independent Panel, composed only of independent persons?***

The Committee agreed with this proposal.

- (ii) ***Should such a Panel receive allegations of misconduct, determine whether to investigate, present findings to the Court, and hear any appeal?***

Noting the recommendations and views of RASC in respect of a three-stage process operated by the Independent Panel, Members supported the proposal but noted an important clarification in respect of the first stage and the role of the Chief Commoner. It was emphasised that the Chief Commoner's informal dispute resolution role was distinct from this three-stage process and that the first stage of the new process being recommended here would be overseen by the Independent Panel. The three stages would comprise:

- A first stage of a more informal / conciliatory nature, seeking to resolve swiftly those issues which might be addressed through dispute resolution or a conversation and apology (with external dispute resolution advice to be made available to the Panel and a suitable protocol produced for such stage to be produced).
- The second stage to then be the formal Hearing process, utilising the Independent Panel, as outlined by Lisvane (i.e. determination of investigation and breach and reporting to the Court of Common Council for endorsement).
- The third stage to be the Appeal stage, the Panel for which should also include a minority of Members of the Court of Common Council, to help provide any relevant internal context.

- (iii) ***What should its composition be?***

The Committee agreed that the Panel should be entirely independent (i.e. non-City Corporation Members) and that the sub-panels at the hearing and appeal stages should be comprised of entirely different people, although drawn from the same overall pool. Consequently, the Independent Panel itself would need to be sufficiently large to ensure that this was always possible. A panel of nine was agreed, with Members also agreeing that staggered terms would be important to provide for both continuity and turnover.

Whilst there was a preference for the Panel to have a range of individuals with background in arbitration, judicial, or tribunal processes, Members also felt strongly that the Panel should be comprised of a diverse group of individuals and so some flexibility or pragmatism may be required to ensure this.

The principle that an entirely new Panel should be appointed was agreed (rather than seeking to roll-over or extend the appointments of existing Standards Committee co-optees, for instance). However, following discussion as to the position of some individuals who had been appointed

very recently, it was noted that an open and fair recruitment process would provide an opportunity for those currently serving to apply, should they so wish.

(iv) ***How should it be appointed to?***

Members noted that, ultimately, it would be for the Court to approve the appointment of individuals and agreed that, prior to longer-term consideration as to appointments processes through the Lisvane Review, appointments should be made through a fair and transparent advertising process with the Policy Chair, the Chief Commoner, and the Chair of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen (or their representatives) acting as the interview panel and recommending appointments to the Court.

(v) ***Should the positions on the Panel be remunerated?***

The Committee supported RASC's view that positions on the Panel should be remunerated to ensure good candidates were available, using the standard rate for public appointments (c. £300 per day).

(vi) ***Who should be responsible for supporting the Panel, or for producing the Panel's rules and procedures (including possible sanctions)?***

It was agreed that this should continue to be the Monitoring Officer (i.e. the Comptroller & City Solicitor), together with an element of clerking or administrative support.

(vii) ***How should the Court consider its recommendations (i.e. should a Standing Order, preventing debate on any of the Panel's recommendations, be progressed?)***

The Committee supported RASC's view that it was inappropriate and undesirable for such recommendations to be debated in full at the Court of Common Council. However, it was felt that trying to establish and uphold a Standing Order prohibiting debate at Court would be impractical in reality, notwithstanding views as to desirability. Members also noted the legal requirement for decisions to be made by the Court, or one of its committees, sub-committees, or officers (or an appointed other local authority or joint committee). Ultimately, it was felt that the proposed new three-stage process, with Member involvement at the appeal stage, would ensure that allegations were dealt with properly and efficiently from the outset, thereby granting confidence in the process and mitigating against the risk of debate at Court.

(viii) ***Do Members agree with the proposal to abolish the Standards Committee and Standards Appeal Committee?***

Members supported the proposal for the Standards Committee and the Standards Appeals Committee to be disbanded but noted that a new interim "owner" for several areas of the Standards Committee's remit would need to be determined.

(ix) ***If yes, what is the preferred timescale for abolition?***

It was agreed that efforts should be taken to have the new arrangements in place for the coming (2021/22) municipal year.

- (x) ***If abolition is prior to the establishment of a new overall committee framework, what should happen in the interim to those areas of responsibility under the purview of Standards Committee which do not relate to complaints and so would not necessarily go to the new Panel***

The Committee discussed the proposal that the Members Privileges Sub-Committee, chaired by the Chief Commoner, should take on these functions on an interim basis and expressed a number of reservations, particularly in relation to dispensations.

Ultimately, given that it would be on an interim basis, it was agreed that all elements with the exception of dispensations should be transferred to the purview of the Members' Privileges Sub-Committee.

- (xi) ***In particular, where should responsibility for Dispensations and the Code of Conduct sit, and do any changes need to be sought to either procedure at this point in time?***

It was agreed that responsibility for considering applications for dispensations should be transferred to the new Independent Panel; however, it was noted that the Panel could not legally make any final determination. Instead, it was agreed that the Panel's findings should be put to the Town Clerk for ratification.

Further, it was observed that an urgent decision in respect of an application may be required on the occasion when it was not possible for the Independent Panel to consider any application and make a recommendation to the Town Clerk. In such case, it was agreed that the Comptroller and City Solicitor should also be authorised to make determinations as to urgent applications, should they arise.

- (xii) ***Are Members happy to support a change to the way in which the Register of Interests is set out?***

Members supported a change with a view to greater transparency, as proposed.

- (xiii) ***Should training on standards and conduct matters be made mandatory?***

Noting the range of views on this matter, it was felt that the majority view was that training should only be mandatory in some areas, in respect of those specific committees with a statutory or quasi-judicial function, and not across the board. With reference to training around standards and conduct in particular, it was felt that such training should be made available for all Members immediately after each election. In all cases, training should be made available and be purposeful and up-to-date, with refresher sessions available to allow for continuous learning or development.

(xiv) ***If so, what sanction should be applied in the event of non-compliance?***

In the event of non-compliance in respect of those areas where training should be mandatory, it was felt that any sanction should be automatic and relate to the specific committee, i.e. consistent with the current approach in respect of the Licensing Committee, whereby any Member unwilling to undertake the relevant training was not permitted to serve on the hearing sub-committees.

The Chair thanked Members for their helpful contributions and was pleased to be in a position to present consensus proposals to the Court.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Note the proposals in relation to Standards made by Lord Lisvane in Section 8 of his Review (Appendix 1).
2. Note the feedback provided by Members through the informal engagement process (Appendix 4).
3. Determine to present recommendations in respect of the various proposals, as set out in discussion above, to the Court of Common Council.

6. **PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief Grants Officer & Director of The City Bridge Trust, the Comptroller & City Solicitor, and the Town Clerk concerning the creation of a dedicated Bridge House Estates (BHE) Committee, supported by its own sub-committees, for implementation from April 2021.

Whilst supportive of the establishment of such a Committee in principle, a number of Members raised particular points of concern or areas where clarification was required:

- Arrangements for the appointment of the proposed external Members were queried, with Members keen to understand the process and criteria that might be used. Further elements of clarification were also sought in respect of the appointment of Common Councillors, pending longer-term consideration as to any prospective Governance & Nominations Committee.
- The need to delegate authority in respect of the production of Terms of Reference was questioned, with it observed that timescales should permit for the Committee to take a more in-depth look at proposals prior to their presentation to the Court.
- The precise nature of the continued role of the City Bridge Trust Committee was discussed, with Members seeking confirmation as to how grant-making decisions would be managed within the new construct.
- Concern was expressed in respect of the implication that this new Committee could create sub-committees as it saw fit, with Members noting the resource implications that would arise in supporting the system and the



wider governance implications in respect of the Corporation's overall committee structure.

- It was highlighted that any changes involving a BHE-specific investment strategy could have significant impacts on the City Corporation's overall investment strategy and on particular portfolios and asset classes. A Member urged that the investment piece be considered in the round and carte blanche was not provided for a single committee to make major decisions in isolation which might affect the Corporation's overall investment capabilities.
- Members also articulated some reservations in respect of the budget-setting process, noting that there may well be tension in respect of allocation decisions around the primary and ancillary objective, as well as in relation to the role of the Finance Committee. It was emphasised that clarity in this area would be particularly important.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions and reiterated the importance of ensuring new arrangements complied with best practice. She noted Members' support in principle for the new BHE Committee but that formal approval would be subject to consideration of a further paper at a coming meeting, clarifying Members' concerns and presenting terms of reference for review.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. Members agree, in principle, to support the creation of a BHE Committee, which would exercise management and control of the charity, for implementation from April 2021.
2. A further report be requested, presenting terms of reference for consideration and clarifying points of detail, prior to the submission of formal proposals to the Court of Common Council.

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*At this point in the meeting, the Chair was obliged to depart on official business and the Deputy Chairman took the Chair until her return at Item 22.*

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## **7. LIVERY COMMITTEE: CONSULTATION ON COMPOSITION**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning proposed changes to the composition of the Livery Committee.

In response to queries, it was clarified that the nomination rights to the Committee for Common Councillors and Aldermen were distinct, and that the Committee was appointed by (and accountable to) Common Hall.

RESOLVED: That the proposed reduction to the number of Common Councillors serving on the Livery Committee be endorsed, as set out in the report.

8. **CITY PLAN 2036: REVISIONS TO PROPOSED SUBMISSION DRAFT PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment presenting revisions to the City's draft Local Plan ("City Plan 2036"), following a period of consultation subsequent to the Court of Common Council's approval of the draft plan on 21 May 2020.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Agree the proposed changes to the Proposed Submission draft Local Plan set out in Appendix 1 and that the draft Local Plan be published for consultation;
2. Authorise the Director of the Built Environment to make further non-material amendments and editorial changes prior to public consultation;
3. Agree that, following consultation, the Local Plan, the public representations and other supporting documentation be submitted to the Secretary of State, for Examination;
4. Agree that, if any material changes are required to the Local Plan following consultation and prior to submission, consideration of these changes should be delegated to the Planning and Transportation Committee; and
5. Authorise the Director of the Built Environment, in liaison with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Planning & Transportation Committee, to compile a list of any proposed non-material changes to the Local Plan in response to public representations and submit this to the Secretary of State.

9. **NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of the Built Environment concerning an invitation from Lord Toby Harris to participate in the work of a National Preparedness Commission, looking at what needed to be done systemically to improve societal preparedness and resilience, drawing on any lessons from the current crisis.

RESOLVED: That the invitation to participate in the National Preparedness Commission be accepted.

10. **CAPITAL FUNDING - PRIORITISATION OF 2021/22 ANNUAL CAPITAL BIDS - STAGE 2 PROPOSALS**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning the Stage 2 proposals of the prioritisation of 2021/22 Annual Capital Bids.

It was noted that the report had been considered and approved by the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee earlier that day.

With reference to comments around affordability within the report, particularly in relation to City's Cash, a Member queried the City's approach in relation to expenditure and its investment strategy. Other Members noted the City Corporation's longstanding policy in respect of the maintenance of its asset portfolio and the importance of revenue generation through this, suggesting that, whilst there was a legitimate conversation to have in this area, it would be

a matter to consider in relation to longer-term investment strategy.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. It be noted and agreed that the plans be affordable, sustainable and prudent.
2. The green rated bids amounting to £83.5m detailed in the report's appendix, which represented the position agreed with Chief Officers and Services Committee Chairs, be agreed.
3. A business case be brought back to this Sub-Committee concerning the re-ignited bid for loan funding of £15.6m for the City of London School for Girls.
4. It be agreed that provisions of £83.5m plus it be agreed in principle that a loan facility of up to £15.6m (indicative at this stage), subject to a full business case, be made in the draft medium term financial plans of the three funds and that appropriate contingencies be set aside for approval by the Finance Committee and Court of Common Council as part of the annual budget setting process.
5. Request that the Corporate Asset Sub and Projects Sub Committees closely scrutinise the scope of the St Lawrence Jewry repairs project to ensure that all value engineering opportunities are fully explored, with a keen eye on value for money.
6. It be agreed that the bids rated as amber detailed in the appendix be placed on a reserve list to be funded from savings in provisions for green rated schemes should their urgency escalate.
7. It be agreed that the financial disciplines currently in place be continued whereby
  - a) Central funding will be withdrawn for schemes that slip by more than one year; and
  - b) The operation of the 'one-in, one-out' approach to funding of bids outside of the annual process.
8. It be agreed to the carry-over of the unallocated provision of 332m of loan facilities previously agreed for the Police and HRA.

#### 11. **CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning capital prioritisation and the 2020/21 round of annual capital bids.

It was noted that the report had been considered and approved by the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee earlier that day. The Sub-Committee had additionally agreed that, in view of the health and safety concerns associated with the Smithfield Market Canopy replacement, delegated authority should be granted to allow expeditious consideration of the drawdown of monies for these works, once the figures had been finalised. Members of the Policy and Resources Committee endorsed this additional recommendation.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The following schemes, in the context of the current financial climate, be confirmed of their continued essential priority at this time:

- a) Wanstead Park Ponds – further drawdown of £40k to undertake additional survey to reach next gateway
  - b) Public Realm Security Programme – release of £225k to prepare for the next stage of security works
  - c) St Lawrence Jewry Church - £55k top-up to reach the next gateway
  - d) Lindsey Street Bridge Strengthening - £30k to reach the next gateway
  - e) Oracle Property Manager (OPN) System Replacement - £545k requested to implement the scheme
  - f) Personal Device Replacement - £2.25m requested to implement the scheme.
2. The release of up to £3.145m from the reserves of City Fund, City's Cash and Bridge House Estates as appropriate, subject to the approval of the relevant gateway reports.
  3. Delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, to consider the drawdown request for the Smithfield Market Canopy project.

## 12. **PROGRESS UPDATE ON MOBILISATION FOR CLIMATE ACTION**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth presenting progress to-date in respect of the actions approved under the Climate Action Strategy in October 2020.

Particular reference was made to paragraph 2(f) and the role of Heart of the City. Given the importance of the Climate Action Strategy, it was advised that Heart of the City had recently agreed to the City Corporation having an additional representative on their Board, to help strengthen oversight and governance arrangements. Members supported the appointment of Sheriff Hayward, as Deputy Chair of Policy & Resources, in this capacity.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Note that Officers are mobilising for implementation on the actions named under the Climate Action Strategy.
2. Note that a full mobilisation report will be submitted to Policy & Resources in March 2021.
3. Approve the drawdown of £200,000 from the Policy Contingency Fund (current balance of PCF is £407k) to support the financing of critical enabling actions in 20/21.

## 13. **ANNUAL RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Chief Grants Officer & Director of The City Bridge Trust providing an update on the progress and impact of the Responsible Business Strategy and proposing eight priority areas for action for Year 3.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the *Responsible Business Annual Report – Year 2* set out in Appendix 1 and endorse the identified Responsible Business Year 3 priority activities.

## 14. **POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain which provided an update on those projects and activities which have received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund, the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund, Committee's Project Reserve, COVID19 Contingency Fund, and Brexit Contingency Fund.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its content noted.

## **15. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

### **Waterloo & City Line**

In response to a question concerning the potential re-opening of the Waterloo & City Line, it was advised that the Chair had recently engaged with TfL on this issue and it was agreed that relevant correspondence could be circulated to Members of the Committee. It was also noted that the Chair would be continuing dialogue in the coming period, including through the London Councils Transport and Environment Committee.

### **COVID Lockdown Impact**

With reference to comments made at the outset of the meeting and the likelihood of London being placed into Tier 3, several Members commented on the prospective economic impact of such measures. The importance of making the case for business was emphasised, particularly given the immediate consequences for the hospitality and retail sectors at the current time, with several Members urging that the City Corporation delineate a clear position and robust messaging to articulate these concerns to decision-makers in Government. Notwithstanding this, it was also noted that COVID cases were rising across London and so a safe and balanced public health response was of the utmost importance; the need to propagate compliance messaging to help keep infection rates down was emphasised, so as to try and minimise the risk of moving to Tier 3.

Several Members commented more broadly on the need for internal conversations as to the Corporation's policy position in respect of lockdown and related matters, so as to confirm a corporate viewpoint rather than necessarily always echoing the position of London Councils, given the slightly different position of the City to the London Boroughs. The need for a coherent plan based around an anticipated return of the workforce, once the vaccine rollout timetable was understood, was also highlighted.

Following extensive debate, Members requested that the Chair articulate the importance of support for businesses and the economic impact of lockdown to Government through the appropriate channels. It was noted that it would be important for the Chair to be able to utilise discretion as to the optimal method of conveying this messaging.

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*RESOLVED: That the Committee agrees to extend the business of the agenda beyond two hours, in accordance with Standing Order 40, in order to conclude the business on the agenda.*

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

**Tomlinson Review Working Party**

It was noted that two Members had recently resigned from the Education Board, both of whom had been members of the Working Party looking at the Tomlinson recommendations. It was advised that a report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee concerning the future of the Working Party, so as to allow it to continue and conclude its activities expeditiously.

The opportunity was taken to thank Henry Colthurst in particular, as Chair of the Working Party until recently, for his significant efforts to date.

In response to a question concerning the role of the Education Board and the scope of the Governance Review, it was confirmed that the totality of the committee structure would be considered through the Review process.

**17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

**18. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19 November 2020 were agreed.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 November 2020 were noted.

**19. MARKETS CO-LOCATION PROGRAMME: UPDATE AND BUDGET REQUEST**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor concerning the Markets Co-location Programme.

**20. HOUSING DELIVERY PROGRAMME – PROGRESS REPORT**

The Committee considered and approved a joint report of the City Surveyor and the Director of Community & Children's Services concerning the housing delivery programme.

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

There were no questions.

22. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**

There were two urgent non-public items.

23. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 19 November 2020 were agreed.

24. **CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX: MARKETS CO-LOCATION PROGRAMME**

The Committee noted a confidential appendix relating to Item 21.

**The meeting ended at 4.50pm.**

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Chairman

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