



RUSSELL, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

17th June 2021
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman
Emma Edhem
Sir Peter Estlin
John Garbutt
Alison Gowman
Prem Goyal

Timothy Russell Hailes
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney
Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Susan Langley
Ian David Luder
Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons

Sheriff Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli
Bronek Masojada
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman
William Anthony Bowater Russell
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
Matthew Bell
John Bennett
Peter Gordon Bennett
Christopher Paul Boden
Mark Bostock
Keith David Forbes Bottomley,
Deputy
David John Bradshaw, Deputy
Tijs Broeke
Michael John Cassidy, Deputy
Roger Arthur Holden Chadwick,
Deputy
John Douglas Chapman
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst

Graeme Doshi-Smith
Karina Dostalova
Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy
Mary Durcan
John Ernest Edwards
Kevin Malcolm Everett, Deputy
Helen Lesley Fentimen
Sophie Anne Fernandes
John William Fletcher
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks
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

Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi
Tim Levene
Vivienne Littlechild
Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge
Edward Lord, Deputy
Paul Nicholas Martinelli
Andrew Paul Mayer
Jeremy Mayhew
Catherine McGuinness, Deputy
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Robert Allan Merrett, Deputy
Brian Desmond Francis Mooney,
Deputy
Hugh Fenton Morris
Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy
Benjamin Daniel Murphy
Barbara Patricia Newman,
Deputy
Graham Packham
Susan Jane Pearson
John Petrie

James Henry George Pollard,
Deputy
Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest
Jason Paul Pritchard
Stephen Douglas Quilter
Elizabeth Rogula, Deputy
James de Sausmarez
Ruby Sayed
John George Stewart Scott, Deputy
Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Oliver Sells QC
Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilton,
Deputy
Sir Michael Snyder
James Michael Douglas Thomson,
Deputy
John Tomlinson, Deputy
James Richard Tumbridge
Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano
Wheatley
Philip Woodhouse, Deputy
Dawn Linsey Wright

This meeting was held as an informal one, with the views reached by the Court approved formally by the Town Clerk after the meeting, in accordance with the Court of Common Council's Covid Approval Procedure. This process reflects the current position in respect of the holding of formal Local Authority meetings and the Court's decision of 15 April 2021 to continue with virtual meetings, with formal confirmation of decisions provided through a delegation to the Town Clerk after the informal meeting has taken place and the will of the Court is known.

1. Resolution of Condolence

Resolved unanimously – "That, upon his terribly sad and unexpected death, the Members of this Honourable Court wish to place on record their most sincere condolences, as well as their heartfelt thanks to:

Snyder, Sir
Michael;
Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy

Sir Roger Gifford

for the most distinguished service that he gave to the City Corporation, as Alderman for the Ward of Cordwainer from 2004, Sheriff in 2008/09 and as the 685th Lord Mayor of the City of London in 2012/13.

A highly respected and visible senior figure in international banking, Sir Roger's entire professional life was spent in financial services – a far cry from reading chemistry at Trinity College, Oxford. He started out at SG Warburg in the 1970s before joining SEB, the Nordic banking group in 1982, where he would spend the remainder of his career. He served as SEB's UK Country head from 2000 to 2017, following a six-year stint prior to that heading up their Tokyo operations. A great love and affinity for Japan was formed during his time there - during the COVID world of virtual meetings we have just experienced, colleagues were regularly treated to Roger sitting in front of a silk screen or other antiquities from Japan! - and he was a great champion of UK-Japan relations in both business and culture, contributing to deepening the friendship and ties between the City of London and Tokyo.

I must also mention Roger's selfless and unstinting commitment to his Ward during the 17 years we were privileged to have him as our close colleague and friend. Not only did he strive to make himself available whenever needed to local businesses, but he was also a constant source of support to me and to Alex Barr, Tracey Graham, George Gillon and Sir Mark Boleat, the current and previous Common Councillors for Cordwainer during his term. Roger also showed his support for the Ward through his enthusiastic patronage of our many shops, restaurants, and bars – not least the Japanese restaurant in which he forever 'waxed eloquent' about the food he fell so in love with during his time in Japan – praise which was definitely justified!

Many people outside this Court will be most familiar with Roger from his energetic term as Lord Mayor. The theme of his Mayoral year was "The City in Society", championing the role that business, and financial services in particular, can play in nurturing talent, supporting the wider economy, creating jobs and making a social contribution across society. He was a great advocate for the UK and the City's positive global influence through its internationally respected institutions and traditions, including Common Law, and highlighted the significance of soft power at every opportunity.

Of course, his Mayoralty almost didn't happen, as Roger often recounted the tale of the wheel of the Lord Mayor's coach falling off during his Lord Mayor's Show! However, with a swift recovery, our new Lord Mayor was able to get the Show back on the road, so to speak, and be 'seen' this time via the less fragile platform of the back of a military Land Rover. Roger's successful mayoralty was marked by many events, but the words of his post-election speech "...service is, and must be, at the heart of the financial services industry of the UK...the City must serve society – and be seen to do so" summed up everything that was selfless about Roger.

After his Mayoralty, he fashioned a new role for himself as a persuasive and well-connected advocate for the embedding of financial services in the climate action

agenda, as Chair of the Green Finance Institute, and the Government's Green Finance Taskforce. Undoubtedly, Roger leaves a strong legacy in this rapidly growing area as the UK prepares to host the COP26 international climate summit in Glasgow later this year, where he played a key role for the City and the UK in shaping plans.

Master Musician in 2016, the arts - and music especially - were Roger's abiding passion. He was a talented performer on the piano and, during his Mayoralty, he would often fill the short gaps between business meetings by playing the Mansion House grand piano. It was also not unknown for the Mayoral recorder to be produced for an impromptu recital on overseas visits! His was the guiding hand behind the City's Diamond Jubilee gift to Her Majesty The Queen, a spectacular pipe organ now installed in the Lady Chapel of Westminster Abbey. He was Chairman of the English Chamber Orchestra and the Tenebrae Choir, Chair of the St Paul's Cathedral Council and a Trustee of St Paul's Cathedral Choir School, and his Lord Mayor's Appeal supported the City Music Foundation, which he co-founded with his wife Clare, to help young musicians into the world of professional performance. His charitable and philanthropic activities beyond that are too many to list, but covered areas as diverse as the creation of Gifford Wood and the Presidency of the Bank Workers Charity Trustees Board.

Sir Roger brought enthusiasm, energy and passion to all that he did. Through his vision and stewardship in the area of Green Finance he leaves a permanent mark on the industry. For all Members of this Honourable Court and those across his many professional and personal networks, he will always be remembered with great fondness, and I am proud and honoured to have known Roger, my friend and colleague.

In expressing our most sincere condolences to Clare and the family, I am sure that all colleagues on the Court will join me in recording our heartfelt thanks for all that he did and mourn the passing of someone who made such an impact, had so much *joi de vivre*, and so much kindness. Rest in peace Roger."

On behalf of the Lord Mayor, the Town Clerk also relayed to the Court the sad news concerning the very recent death of Joyce Nash, long-standing Member for the Ward of Aldersgate. It was noted that a resolution of condolence would be presented to the next meeting.

The Court proceeded to pause for a moment's silence and reflection.

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 2. Apologies | The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted. |
| 3. Declarations | There were no additional declarations. |
| 4. Minutes | <i>Resolved</i> – That the Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded, subject to the correction of a minor typographical error at the top of page 8 in the resolution of Item 7, whereby the words "and would" are to be deleted. |
| 5. Mayoral | The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor took the opportunity to update the Court on |

Engagements

his recent engagement programme.

6. Policy
Statement

The Chair of Policy and Resources Committee provided the Court with an update on the Government's recent COVID Recovery Roadmap announcement, as well as the City's own recovery activities.

7. **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Alastair Michael Moss)

1 June 2021

Pedestrian Priority Programme

It was proposed that approval be granted for the Pedestrian Priority Programme, a three-year programme implementing pedestrian priority and pavement widening schemes and projects across the Square Mile intended to enhance the comfort and safety of people walking.

The Chair spoke to introduce the report, outlining the intentions of the programme and referring to the consultation processes that would be undertaken.

Whilst expressing support for the broader proposals, several Members urged that licensed Hackney carriages should enjoy an exemption from the proposed restrictions. In response to related queries, the Chair confirmed that it would be possible to separate exemptions for Hackney carriages from other taxis and noted Members' observations about the environmentally-friendly nature of the black cab-fleet and the robust safety record of licensed Hackney Carriage Drivers. He reflected on his regular engagement with the Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (LTDA) and cognisance of the strengths of their fleet, in both environmental and safety terms, whilst recognising the concerns of businesses in some parts of the City concerning the difficulty of being dropped-off or hailing a taxi due to transit restrictions.

A number of Members also advocated for the ability of taxis to travel more freely around the City generally, including the unfettered use of bus lanes, observing that the current restrictions required taxis to make potentially unsafe "u-turns" in some areas and that black cabs. It was also noted that they were of fundamental importance from an accessibility perspective, as well as in terms of providing a safe alternative method of travel for those in need.

The importance of policing of any new pedestrianisation schemes was also highlighted, with a Member referencing recent examples of interactions with electric scooters which had caused safety concerns or difficulties for pedestrians.

The Chair reassured the Court that the proposed approach would be an iterative process, through which he was entirely committed to meaningful and robust engagement. He expressed his willingness to engage on site-by-site level, including on the question of exemptions for Hackney carriages, both with Ward Members and through the wider consultation processes articulated in the report, reminding Members of the many instances in which many arrangements had been reversed or adapted in recent times in direct response to feedback. He also undertook to keep the Court fully informed of developments as the programme was progressed.

Resolved – That –

1. The Pedestrian Priority Programme be approved for progression.
2. All future decisions on the projects be delegated to the Streets & Walkways Sub-Committee and Projects Sub Committee.
3. The total estimated cost of the overall programme be noted at £6-8 million (excluding risk); including a total estimated cost of Year 1 of the programme of £2.5-£3.2million, with funding for the overall programme granted through the 2021/22 Capital Bid.

8. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

(Ruby Sayed)

30 April 2021

York Way Estate Provision of Social Housing

The Court considered proposals in respect of the provision of social housing at the York Way Estate, in the context of the City Corporation's target for delivering social housing.

Resolved – That the progression of the York Way Estate Provision of Social Housing project beyond Gateway 4b be approved and, in so doing –

1. The designs which have been developed up to RIBA Stage 3 be endorsed.
2. The additional budget of £508,177 to further develop the scheme and reach Gateway 5 be approved.
3. It be agreed that the project can now progress to the construction stage, subject to the approval of the planning application, for the delivery of 91 new homes.
4. The total estimated cost of the project at £28,317,157, excluding risk and inflation, be noted. *(NB - The total estimated cost including risk and inflation was £32,393,000)*
5. Consideration of future project report approvals be delegated to the Community & Children's Services Committee and Projects Sub-Committee, and such relevant committees as may be required in respect of any unanticipated funding matters.

9. **BOARDS OF GOVERNORS OF THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL AND CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

(Tim Levene)

(Nicholas Bensted-Smith)

3 June 2021

Name of the New Junior School

It was proposed that the new joint co-educational three-form Junior School of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls, be named "City Junior School", with "a City of London School" to be used in headings and wherever appropriate.

Resolved – That the joint co-educational Junior school be named City Junior School and that the additional line of ‘a City of London School’ be used in headings and wherever appropriate.

10. HOSPITALITY WORKING PARTY OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, Chief Commoner)

18 May 2021

Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Showcase Reception

The Northern Ireland Office, working with the Department of International Trade and Invest NI, were planning to hold a major business event promoting Northern Ireland businesses at the Queen Elizabeth II Centre in London on 15th September 2021, as one of a number of events to mark the centenary of the establishment of Northern Ireland.

It was proposed that the City Corporation would host a reception at Guildhall on the evening preceding the launch of the Showcase at which business representatives, particularly from the Finance and Professional Services sector, including FinTech, would be able to meet with representatives of Northern Ireland-based small and medium-sized companies.

It was, therefore, **recommended** that hospitality be granted and that arrangements be made under the auspices of the Policy and Resources Committee; the costs to be met from City’s Cash within approved parameters.

Resolved – That hospitality be granted for an evening reception preceding the Northern Ireland Business and Innovation Showcase, with arrangements made under the auspices of the Policy and Resources Committee; the costs to be met from City’s Cash and within the approved parameters.

11. 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:-

Edward Thomas Addison <i>Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.</i> <i>Ald. Vincent Keaveny</i>	a Housing Outreach Officer <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Tottenham, London
Christopher John Bates <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i> <i>Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.</i>	a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	Clapham, London
Nicholas Arthur Berry <i>Revd. Christopher John Damp</i> <i>Edward Philip James Cowen</i>	a Parliamentary Committee Operations Manager <i>Citizen & Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Plaisterer</i>	St. Neots, Cambridgeshire
Joseph Harold Blake <i>Michele McCarthy</i>	a Justice Court Clerk, retired <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Petawawa, Ontario, Canada

<i>John A Welch</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
Charlotte Anna Carruthers Brown <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	a Personal Assistant. <i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	Tooting
John Robert Brown <i>Michele McCarthy</i> <i>John A Welch</i>	a Lawyer, retired <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America
Rt. Hon. Sir Vincent Cable <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	a Politician <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Twickenham, Middlesex
Karen Margaret Fulton <i>James Frank Bryan</i> <i>Dr Maria Hebel</i>	a Guild Clerk <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Management Consultant</i>	Kings Langley, Hertfordshire
Professor Peter Garrard <i>Martin Klocek</i> <i>Henryk Stanislaw Klocek</i>	a Professor of Neurology <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	Islington, London
David John Goodwin, JP <i>Prof. Graham Buckton</i> <i>Sarah Marianna Chatham</i>	a Stockbroker, retired <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i> <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i>	Bude, Cornwall
Douglass William Hocker <i>Michele McCarthy</i> <i>John A Welch</i>	an ID Audit Consultant <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Arlmore, Pennsylvania, United States of America
Paul Holloway <i>Kristen James Cottier</i> <i>Robert George Munson</i>	a Mayoral Attendant <i>Citizen and Spectacle Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Builders Merchant</i>	Bexleyheath, Kent
Peter John, OBE <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i> <i>Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.</i>	a Barrister <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	Pattiswick, Essex
Daniel Perham Lodge <i>Gerald Michael Edwards</i> <i>Anthony John Paice</i>	a Head Teacher <i>Citizen and Fruiterer</i> <i>Citizen and Mason</i>	Horsham, West Sussex
Bharat Mehta, OBE CBE <i>Ald. Alison Jane Gowman</i> <i>Ald. Sir Peter Kenneth Estlin</i>	Chief Executive of a Charitable Foundation <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	Palmers Green, London
Sternford Moyo <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness</i>	a Lawyer <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Kambanji, Harare, Zimbabwe

Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.

Citizen and Fletcher

Mark Bradley Phillips

a Library Manager

Mississauga, Ontario,
Canada

Michele McCarthy

Citizen and Scrivener

John A Welch

Citizen and Pattenmaker

**Edward Thiravej
Ploysongsang**

an Attorney

Bangholaem, Bangkok,
Thailand

Michele McCarthy

Citizen and Scrivener

John A Welch

Citizen and Pattenmaker

William Angrave Redfern

a Chartered Surveyor

Southfields, London

The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor

Deputy Andrien Meyers

Citizen and Common Councillor

**Jonathan Neil Reynolds,
MP**

a Member of Parliament

Stalybrdge, Cheshire

The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor

*Deputy Catherine Sidony
McGuinness*

Citizen and Solicitor

Matthew Robinson

a Funding Manager

Southfields, London

Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.

Citizen and Fletcher

Ald. Vincent Keaveny

Citizen and Solicitor

Peter Michael Rogers

a Community Development
Manager

Highams Park, London

Michael Richard Butler

Citizen and Poulter

James Frank Bryan

Citizen and Educator

Tracey Anne Rogers

a Community & Outdoor
Pursuits Manager

Highams Park, London

Michael Richard Butler

Citizen and Poulter

James Frank Bryan

Citizen and Educator

Antony Justin Travers

an Academic

Fitzrovia, London

Jeremy Paul Mayhew, CC

Citizen and Loriner

Ald. Sir David Wootton, Kt.

Citizen and Fletcher

Mark Edward Tucker

a Bank Group Chairman

Edinburgh, Scotland

The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor

*Deputy Catherine Sidony
McGuinness*

Citizen and Solicitor

John Edward Turner

a Tax Consultant

Newdigate, Surrey

Patrick James Turner

Citizen and Gunmaker

Stephen David Dickenson

Citizen and Gunmaker

Brett Patrick Wilson

Vice President of a Wholesale
Distribution Company

Keizer, Oregon, United
States of America

Michele McCarthy

Citizen and Scrivener

John A Welch

Citizen and Pattenmaker

James Martin Wilson	President of a Wholesale Distribution Company	Keizer, Oregon, United States of America
<i>Michele McCarthy</i>	<i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	
<i>John A Welch</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
Dr Nigel David Wilson	a Financial and Insurance Group Chief Executive	Southwark, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>		
<i>Hilary Ann Russell</i>	<i>Citizen and Farmer</i>	

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.

12.
Appointments

The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments:-

One Member on the **Board of Governors of the City of London School**, for the balance of a term expiring in July 2023.

Nominations received:-

Deputy Robert Merrett

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Robert Merrett to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School, for the balance of a term expiring in July 2023.

13. Motions

There were no motions.

14. Questions

Harrower, G.G.,
to the Chair of
the Policy &
Resources
Committee

Engagement with China

Graeme Harrower asked a question of the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the City Corporation's engagement with the People's Republic of China, given ongoing human rights concerns, calling for a Motion to be brought to the Court's next meeting for discussion.

Responding, the Chair suggested that it would be procedurally unusual for the Chair of a Committee to bring a matter to the Court in such a way and, in any event, felt it would be inappropriate to do so. She emphasised the condemnation of human rights abuses around the world, wherever they were found, observing that there were many countries with such concerns, including several with which the UK traded. The Chair stressed that it was the role of the national government to lead on foreign affairs and the role of City of London Corporation to support the City. As an organisation, the City Corporation had made clear for many years that this was one of its core purposes and, as part of that role, had engaged with many varied business partners across the world and throughout the years. It was a matter for

Members to decide whether that role in standing up for the City should continue; however, it would reflect a radical change of direction were the Corporation to move from this position and would, she suggested, significantly limit its ability to play an impactful role.

The Chair added that the City Corporation had a distinctive place on the international stage as a supporter of the jobs and growth that came from the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) industries and related sectors. In doing this, the City took its lead from the Government, which pointed to where the City should be focussing its efforts in order to support UK growth and jobs against a backdrop of strong domestic and international standards. In the case of China, the City Corporation had operated there for some 15 years and Government had made clear that it valued the Corporation's role and supported continued engagement.

Graeme Harrower asked a supplementary question, through which he expressed concern that this position ran contrary to the will of Parliament, as well as to many Members' concerns around the oppression of fellow humans. In particular, he sought assurances that the Chair would abide by the will of the Court, should it support a prospective Motion calling for a change in the City Corporation's position.

The Chair disputed the suggestion that the City's position was contrary to will of Parliament, observing that the Foreign Secretary had recently expressed the desire for a constructive and calibrated approach to engagement with China, which is what the City was doing. With reference to the question of a prospective Motion, the Chair expressed her firm agreement that the Court was sovereign in such matters but cautioned that any decision to change its direction of travel in supporting the business City should be considered very carefully, as this would amount to a radical change which would reduce the impact for positive change the City might have globally, including in China around green finance and climate matters.

Responding to a supplementary question from Alderman Alison Gowman, the Chair confirmed that the City Corporation was seeking to work with international partners, including China, on the global challenge of climate change. This was particularly important with COP26 now only a matter of months away. China currently accounted for 30% of global emissions and, over recent years, Chinese regulators and investors had begun to take more concrete actions on climate and environmental issues. This was, in part, in response to increasing engagement by international investors and collaborations with international organisations like the City Corporation, including through the UK-China Green Finance Taskforce. One of the Taskforce's key achievements had been the Green Investment Principles, which had been recognised by People's Bank of China as part of their green finance development roadmap and was a project which had now been expanded to other countries. Work also continued on projects such as the UK-China Climate and Environmental risk Disclosure pilot, established to advance climate disclosure practice in both countries, and the practitioner-led ESG Leaders Forum. Only with Chinese action could global efforts to combat climate change succeed and the City Corporation, alongside wider ongoing UK, EU, and US encouragement and engagement, had a valuable role to play.

Mark Wheatley posed a further supplementary question, suggesting that the City

Corporation was providing credentials to nations with human rights abuses. In particular, he highlighted the City's commitments to ESG and suggested that the City Corporation's engagement with China amounted to a "green-washing" of human rights abuses. Responding, the Chair refuted this suggestion and stated that the Corporation's activities consisted of engagement with Chinese businesses and regulators on relevant issues in order to support and promote trade, including a particular focus on climate and environmental issues, some of which had been commissioned by Government. With reference to more detailed questions circulated by email, the Chair acknowledged that her response had not addressed each question line-by-line but it did make clear that ESG remained a focus for the City. She argued that a focus on environmental and sustainability issues would achieve the most impact for the City Corporation, as it had a genuine locus to speak in that area.

15. **COMMUNITY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE**

(Ruby Sayed)

1 June 2021

Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2019/20 and Corporate Parenting Strategy Update

The Court was recommended to note the Corporate Parenting Annual Report 2019/20 and Corporate Parenting Strategy Update, which advised all Members of the Court of Common Council of their responsibilities as corporate parents.

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

16. **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

(Alexander Robertson Martin Barr)

27 May 2021

Annual Report

The Audit and Risk Management Committee presented to the Court of Common Council a report of its activities covering the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. 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 received and its contents noted.

17. 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**

Non-Domestic Rating (Lists) Act 2021 c. 8

This Act sets the date of the next business rate revaluation as 1 April 2023 and moves the latest date for publishing the draft rating list from 30 September to 31 December in the year preceding the revaluation.

15 March
2021

Statutory Instruments

The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (Coronavirus) (Change of Expiry Date) Regulations 2021 No. 441 1 April 2021

Section 20 of the Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 (the 2020 Act) grants the Secretary of State powers to amend or modify the effect of specified corporate insolvency or governance legislation in Great Britain by Regulations. Under the 2020 Act, the power to make Regulations under section 20 was due to expire on 30 April 2021. These Regulations substitute the date so that Regulations made using that power may not be made after 29th April 2022.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps and Local Authority Enforcement Powers) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 No. 455 12 April 2021

These Regulations amend the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021, to relax Coronavirus restrictions by moving England from the Step 1 area to the Step 2 area. The change took effect on 12th April 2021. The Regulations also make minor amendments to the definition of “linked household” and clarify that customers may enter premises serving alcohol to pay for their food and drink, in addition to other minor amendments.

The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Order 2021 No. 467 16 April 2021

This Order amends the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (GPDO). The GPDO provides for the granting of permission for certain classes of development without the requirement for a planning application to be made. This Order is intended to support hospitality businesses and historic visitor attractions to utilise outdoor space as coronavirus restrictions are lifted, by introducing a new temporary permitted development right in force from 16 April 2021 until 1 January 2022 to allow, subject to specified limitations and restrictions, for the provision of moveable structures on land within the curtilage of cafes, restaurants and drinking establishments including where these are listed buildings, and historic visitor attractions only where they are listed buildings.

The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2021 21 April 2021

This Direction replaces The Town and Country Planning (Consultation) (England) Direction 2009 and requires local planning authorities in England to consult the Secretary of State before granting planning permission for Green Belt development,

development outside town centres, World Heritage Site development, playing field development, flood risk area development or commemorative object development, where the application is received on or after 21 April 2021.

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

Read.

18. Hospital Seal There were no docquets to be sealed.

19. Awards & Prizes There was no report.

20. *Mooney, B.D.F., Deputy; Ingham Clark, R.J., Deputy* *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:-

21. *Resolved* – That the non-public minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

22. **Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls**
The Court approved recommendations relating to a project to establish a new Junior School.

23. **Finance Committee and Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls**
The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures relating to the site of a new Junior School.

24. **Property Investment Board**
The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures relating to the disposal of a long-term lease.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.07 pm

BARRADELL.