

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Tuesday, 5 July 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at
Aldermen's Court Room, Mezzanine Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 5 July
2022 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir David Wootton (Chairman)
Alderman Sir William Russell (Deputy Chairman)
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny
Alderman Ian David Luder
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman & Sheriff Alison Gowman
Alderman David Graves
Alderman John Garbutt
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Alastair King DL
Alderman Gregory Jones QC
Alderman & Sheriff Nicholas Lyons
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman Susan Langley
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Christopher Makin

Officers:

Rhiannon Leary	- Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Gemma Stokley	- Town Clerk's Department
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Gregory Moore	- Senior Committee & Member Services Officer
Tim Rolph	- The Swordbearer and Programme Manager
Tim Wainwright	- Relationship Manager (Continuum)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Sir Alan Yarrow.

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

Alderman Alison Gowman declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 8 stating that she was currently on the Council of the 1st Battalion London Guards.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Orders No.11 and 12, the Committee elected its Chairman for 2022/23.

RESOLVED – that, as the only Alderman in nomination, Alderman Sir William Russell be elected as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen for the ensuing year (2022/23).

[Alderman Sir William Russell thanked The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor and moved into the Chair.]

Both Sir William and the Lord Mayor paid tribute to Sir David Wootton stepping down from the role of Chair of GP after almost a decade.

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Orders No.14 and 16, the Committee elected its Deputy Chairman for 2022/23.

RESOLVED – that, as the only Alderman in nomination, Alderman Sir Charles Bowman be elected as Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen for the ensuing year (2022/23).

[Alderman Sir Charles Bowman thanked the Committee for its support.]

5. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 10 May 2022.

MATTERS ARISING

Guidance for Liveries and Guilds – Conduct of Virtual Business – Future Position (page 9) – Alderman Gowman, Chairman of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee spoke on resolution iii) set out on page 9. She stated that what she thought had been agreed was that Freedom Ceremonies may take place virtually if occasion required as opposed to if requested.

Future General Purposes, Nominations and Court of Aldermen Meeting Dates (page 11) – An Alderman questioned progress on this in terms of drawing various Aldermanic events/commitments together. The Chairman reported that Officers from Town Clerks, Remembrancers and Mansion House had already met to progress this. It was intended that all Aldermen would be

sent a rolling 12 month programme of events via email at the beginning of each month post Summer recess.

COL Committees following the April Court of Common Council Meeting (page 12) – In response to a question, the Town Clerk reported that membership of the various Aldermanic Sub-Committees was now visible on the public webpages.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 10 May 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

6. **MAYORAL PRIORITIES 2022 - 2023 - ALDERMAN NICHOLAS LYONS (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)**

The Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor, the Director of Innovation & Growth, the Deputy Town Clerk & Director of Communications and External Affairs, the Chief Strategy Officer and the Head of Equality, Diversity & Inclusion outlining the proposed 2022-2023 Mayoral Priorities which will be championed, subject to election, by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Nicholas Lyons.

Alderman Lyons stated that this report and its contents had been discussed at length with Innovation & Growth as well as with the Communications and Corporate Affairs Committee. He went on to raise two contextual points on communication and continuity. Firstly, he highlighted that it was, in his view, essential that future Mayoral themes built upon existing themes in order to really have impact upon areas of national importance. He added that a significant amount of what had been achieved under the last two mayoralties around social and economic priorities needed to continue to be built upon. Secondly, he spoke on the importance of a 'one team approach' between the mayorality and the Guildhall. Reinforcement of messages from the Policy Chair through the Mayorality and vice versa would be key and was something that Alderman Lyons had already actively discussed with the current Policy Chair. This would lead to better coordination in the messaging and would also provide greater clarity around the leadership that the mayorality can take around some of the larger, national, financial priorities.

Alderman Lyons went on to state that the current climate provided an ideal opportunity for the City to step up and provide leadership nationally and to drive change and growth. He reported that there was overwhelming support from the financial services industry behind this agenda as well as many offers of assistance to help progress this.

The Chairman invited questions from the wider Committee.

An Alderman questioned whether, in terms of coordinating messaging between the Mayorality and Guildhall, there was a system in place whereby past speeches or key messages were circulated to lead Members representing the City so that these could be cross referenced. He also questioned whether there was a system of pre-briefs in place so that key messages that the Lord Mayor

was set to share at a forthcoming event could be signposted to key Members. Alderman Lyons stated that he felt that this was exactly what was needed and that he was very keen to use members of this Committee as extensively as possible around these various different initiatives. He would therefore like to share messaging in exactly this way so that when other Aldermen were asked to participate in various task forces and the like they could have this to hand. The Deputy Town Clerk & Director of Communications and External Affairs reported that briefings and speaking notes were provided to the City's representatives who were speaking on various platforms or to the media. Pre-briefings were also provided where necessary. However, he clarified that regular, all-Member briefings were not provided to the entirety of the Court of Common Council as this had been met with some resistance in the past. Having said that, briefings could be provided on request to any elected Member representing the City of London Corporation.

The Alderman questioned whether the Court of Aldermen could regularly be provided with key quotations from mayoral speeches with links to full speeches. He added that Aldermen were often invited to speak at dinners and the like at very short notice and that this information would be very valuable to have to hand in such circumstances. The Deputy Chairman reported that some of the institutions that he currently supported circulated a 'common hymn sheet' to all on a regular basis, setting out narrative that was consistent and common for all. He agreed that this could also be extremely helpful for the Court of Aldermen going forward.

Another Alderman stressed the importance of using the expertise and areas of influence of those on this Committee to help drive these priorities forward.

Another Aldermen spoke to congratulate Alderman Lyons on this paper and underlined that he felt that the focus on the future and next steps for the City was particularly important.

An Alderman noted that the report referred to the need to ensure that the City is an attractive place to live, work, play and visit. He questioned whether Alderman Lyons felt that there was scope to expand this such that City residents felt fully engaged in his Mayoralty. Alderman Lyons reported that there were many things that happened within the mayoral year which gave residents an opportunity to participate in and engage with the mayoral themes. However, he underlined the importance of striking a balance between what the Lord Mayor was trying to accomplish given the scale of the agenda and the national priorities and the particular preferences and priorities of residents which should be a consideration for all Common Council Members. He added that the Lord Mayor continued to have a duty in his or her own Ward. He clarified that paragraph 8 of his report sought to set out that there was a real priority around residents and SMEs within the Corporate Plan and that it was important to ensure that there was joined up thinking between the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair. That being said, it was difficult to set out what could be done within the Lord Mayor's agenda that was resident specific. He asked if the Alderman had any particular thoughts on this. The Alderman stated that he would be happy to work with the Lord Mayor on this. He stated that paragraph 8

spoke of how the Mayoral priorities were interdependent with those of the Policy Chair who had recently delivered a speech at Common Council flagging issues with the relationship between the City and its residents in recent years and undertaking to rebuild these as a priority. Alderman Lyons recognised that this was a priority for the Policy Chair and if it was felt that there was something that the Lord Mayor could do to shine a light on issues that were particularly relevant for residents then he would certainly look to do that.

The Lord Mayor echoed Alderman Lyons' comments on the demands of the mayoral diary. He went on to commend this paper and underlined that he felt that this theme would effectively build upon those of Sir William's and his own mayoralty whilst giving things a fresh focus – a helpful mix of continuity and new direction. With regard to the availability of Mayoral speeches, he reported that all major keynote speeches were now being posted online.

Another Alderman reported that he was currently working with the Communications Team on a special event that Alderman Lyons was looking to hold for SMEs. The Deputy Town Clerk & Director of Communications and External Affairs confirmed that a proposal around an SME Summit to bring together and better engage with the City's community of SMEs was currently being looked at.

The Chairman also urged Alderman Lyons to ensure that there was continued focus on culture and the arts. Alderman Lyons assured the Committee that this would be the case.

RESOLVED – That Members note the 2022-2023 Mayoral Priorities as set out in the report.

7. PETITION OF THE GUILD OF HR PROFESSIONALS FOR COMPANY WITHOUT LIVERY STATUS

The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer recommending that they approve the petition of the Guild of HR Professionals' to be recognised as a Company without Livery.

The Town Clerk reported that there was a host of supporting information including financial account set out within the Non-Public agenda at Item 19.

The Chairman of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee reported that the Sub-Committee had considered and approved this matter. She reported that the Guild of HR Professionals had been well recognised and very hardworking over the last few years and were therefore felt to be well qualified to move forward as a Company without Livery at this stage. It was reported that the sponsoring Alderman for the HR Professionals was Sir Peter Estlin. Sir Peter spoke to also commend this application to the Committee but clarified that he intended to abstain from voting on the matter.

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen approve the Guild of HR Professionals' petition to be recognised as a Company without Livery.

8. **REDESIGNATION OF THE LONDON REGIMENT TO THE 1ST BATTALION LONDON GUARDS**

The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer noting the redesignation of the London Regiment as the 1st Battalion London Guards and recommending its continued treatment as a Privileged Corps of the City of London.

RESOLVED – That the Committee continue to recognise 1st Battalion London Guards, the redesignated London Regiment, as a Privileged Corps of the City of London.

9. **ALDERMANIC REPRESENTATION ON THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Chairman reported that he would be replacing Sir David Wootton as one of the Aldermanic representatives on the Policy and Resources Committee. Alderman Luder would remain on the Committee as would Alderman Hailes. It was reported that SABBAC also had a place on the Policy and Resources Committee and that Alderman Lyons would therefore rotate off after the September meeting and be replaced by Alderman Mainelli. The Chairman reported that this would be revisited regularly and welcomed any comments that Alderman might have either now or outside of the meeting.

The Chairman went on to report that he also had a number of ex-officio places on various Committees but also had the right of delegation to some of these. With this in mind, he reported that it was his intention to allow Sir David Wootton to continue as his representative on the Capital Buildings Committee to ensure continuity and to ask the Deputy Chairman, Sir Charles Bowman to sit on the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee.

Alderman Hailes reported that he was also on the Capital Buildings Committee as an ex-officio appointment from the Police Authority Board. In terms of the Operational Property and Projects Sub Committee which he now chaired, he reported that the terms of reference for this were extensive and included responsibility, in conjunction with the relevant service Committees, for all of the City Corporation's operational property including areas of particular interest for the Aldermen such as Mansion House, the Central Criminal Court and the Magistrates Court. He therefore reassured the Committee that, in chairing this new Sub Committee, he would be in a position to ensure that the Court of Aldermen's voice was heard in relation to these matters.

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee agree the revised appointments to the Policy and Resources Committee.

10. **LORD MAYOR'S SHOW LIMITED - FINANCE CHAIRMAN AS DIRECTOR**

The Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Show Limited reported that part of the settlement arrangements entered into with the Corporation around the Show through the Policy and Resources Committee included underwriting the financial risk and it was therefore felt appropriate that the Chairman of Finance or his or her nominee be invited to become Directors of the Show Limited.

Whilst this was technically a decision for the Board of the Lord Mayor's Show Limited, the Court of Aldermen indicated from time to time who it felt it would be appropriate to have on the Board.

The request today was that the Committee recommend to the Board of the Lord Mayor's Show Limited that the former Chairman of Finance, Jamie Ingham Clark be replaced as a Director by the new Chairman of Finance, Henry Colthurst or his nominee.

The Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Show Limited went on to report that he had already had numerous discussions around how best to take things forward and commercialise the offering now that the Lord Mayor's Show had been stabilised. He went on to state that the kind of things looked at as part of the Lord Mayor's Appeal, namely the appointment of external, non-executive directors who could bring particular skills sets such as marketing and commercial merchandising to the Board might be an interesting avenue to explore.

He therefore also sought the support of this Committee for the Board to explore this further. Whilst a majority of Aldermen would be maintained, it was felt that this could be an effective means of diversifying the skills set of the Board of Directors.

Alderman Lyons spoke to fully endorse this recommendation and underlined that he felt that it was now critical to begin to explore new sources of income that could be generated from the Show. With regard to the relationship with the Corporation and their underwriting of any potential losses, Alderman Lyons reported that he had been discussing the possibility of offering three free floats to the Corporation each year which they could use to signpost issues of particular relevance to them in any given year. He reported that Epping Forest would be represented this year as would City Pride. He went on to state that it was also important for each Lord Mayor to make the Show his or her own and to have organisations that were of importance to them participating. Finally, he acknowledge the costs associated with securing and designing floats and the requirements of the BBC for each float to be visually impactful and suggested that identifying new sources of income would be a useful means of supporting these costs.

RESOLVED: - That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen:

- i) recommend to the Board of the Lord Mayor's Show Limited that the former Chairman of Finance, Jamie Ingham Clark, be replaced by the new Chairman of Finance, Henry Colthurst or his nominee as a Director;
- ii) support the Board's desire to explore new means of diversifying the skills sets of its Directors.

11. SPONSORING ALDERMAN FOR THE GUILD OF INVESTMENT MANAGERS

The Town Clerk reported that Alderman John Garbutt was currently the sponsoring Alderman for the Guild of Investment Managers who would be standing down from the Court of Aldermen later this month. The proposal was therefore that Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney be appointed as the Guild's new sponsoring Alderman.

RESOLVED – That Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney be appointed as the sponsoring Alderman for the Guild of Investment Managers in place of Alderman John Garbutt.

12. SILENT CEREMONY - SCREENING AND LIVE-STREAMING

The Town Clerk reported that this matter had initially been raised by the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee and that they were keen to increase visibility at Common Hall by erecting various screens within the Great Hall so that those in all seats could have a good view of the proceedings. The proceedings would also be live streamed via YouTube. The option of further tiered seating had also been discussed although the Town Clerk reported that this was already in use and could be costly to extend further. The erection of screens would therefore seem to be a more cost-effective solution and quotes received indicated that the cost of this would be approximately £5,000. However, the AV costs of the ceremony were already paid for each year from the Town Clerk's Local Risk Budget (approximately £2,000) and so there would only be an additional £3,000 to find for this purpose. It was proposed that this cost might be met from the Aldermanic Contingency Fund in the first instance with the effectiveness of this solution assessed thereafter. If it were to be a success then this could lead to a business case being made for ongoing funding centrally.

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen agree that the additional costs associated with the erection of additional screens within the Great Hall for the broadcasting of Common Hall be met from the Aldermanic Contingency Fund for 2022/23.

13. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST

The Committee considered the Outstanding Actions List which had been updated since the last meeting.

RESOLVED: - That –

1. the Outstanding Actions List be noted; and
2. that completed items be removed from the list.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT
The Livery and Diversity

An Alderman reported that he had recently attended the launch event of an LGBTQ+ network with the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. He stated that this was the first time that he had seen anything like this being

done by a Livery Company around diversity and he wished to congratulate them on the initiative.

It was reported that there was a Livery Diversity Open Seminar scheduled to take place on the afternoon of 21 July at Mercers Hall. It would be taking forward the Diversity Charter issues and looked set to be very well attended.

16. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 10th May 2022.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 10th May 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

18. **MINUTES OF THE MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB (GENERAL PURPOSES) COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the minutes of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee meeting held 9 June 2022.

19. **PETITION OF THE GUILD OF HR PROFESSIONALS FOR COMPANY WITHOUT LIVERY STATUS**

These non-public appendices were considered in conjunction with the public report at Agenda Item 7 which was approved.

20. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2021/22**

The Committee received a joint report of the Town Clerk, the Chamberlain and the Remembrancer comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by it in 2021/22 with the final approved budget for the year.

21. **ALDERMANIC QUALIFICATIONS - CHECKS**

The Committee considered a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor setting out options for discussion for the introduction of checks in relation to Aldermanic Qualifications.

22. **POLICY CHAIRMAN**

The Policy Chairman addressed the Committee and spoke on his key priorities.

23. **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

The Committee noted the lists of forthcoming events and hospitality to be managed by the Events Teams at Mansion House and Guildhall (Remembrancer's Department).

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

There were no questions raised in the non-public session.

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

The Aldermen wished to place on record their congratulations to Baroness Scotland on her recent re-election as Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

The meeting ended at 12.23 pm

Chairman

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