



General Purposes Committee of Aldermen

Date: TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2024

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members:

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor,	Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE
Alderman Michael Mainelli	Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley	Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman	Alderwoman & Sheriff Dame Susan Langley, DBE
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin	Alderman and Sheriff Bronek Masojada
Alderman Sir William Russell	Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE	Alderman Christopher Makin
Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons	Alderman Tim Levene
Alderman Alastair King DL	Alderwoman Jennette Newman
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE	Alderman Kawsar Zaman
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP	Alderwoman Martha Grekos
Alderman Robert Howard	Alderman Simon Pryke
Alderman Gregory Jones KC	

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<https://www.youtube.com/@CityofLondonCorporation/streams>

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Ian Thomas CBE
Town Clerk and Chief Executive

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public

1. **APOLOGIES**

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

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

To elect a Chair for the year ensuing, in accordance with The Court of Aldermen's Standing Orders 11 and 12.

Nominations received: Alderman Sir William Russell

For Decision

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

To elect a Deputy Chair for the year ensuing, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Orders 14 and 16.

Nominations received: Alderman Sir Charles Bowman.

For Decision

5. **MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 14 May 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 7 - 18)

6. **APPOINTMENT: -**

Planning and Transportation Committee/Planning Applications Sub-Committee

To approve the appointment of Alderwoman-Elect Liz King to the Planning and Transportation Committee and the Planning Applications Sub-Committee for the ensuing civic year.

For Decision

7. **PRESENTATION - THE HONOURABLE ARTILLERY COMPANY**

For Information

8. **APPOINTMENT OF AN HONORARY COLLECTOR OF TOLL ON WINE**

Report of the City Remembrancer.

For Decision
(Pages 19 - 20)

9. **BRIDGEMASTERS**

Report of the Deputy Town Clerk.

For Information
(Pages 21 - 24)

10. **MAYORAL PRIORITIES 2024-25 ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)**

Joint report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor, the Director of Innovation & Growth, the Deputy Town Clerk and the Chief Strategy Officer.

For Information
(Pages 25 - 30)

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

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

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION - 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.

For Decision

Part 2 - Non-Public

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To approve the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 14 May 2024.

For Decision
(Pages 31 - 38)

15. **PRESENTATION ON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SECTOR - ALDERMEN BARR, HOWARD AND PRYKE**

For Information

16. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND POTENTIAL DISQUALIFICATION FOR ABSENCE**
Report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive.
- For Decision**
(Pages 39 - 46)
17. **ASSOCIATED REGIMENT STATUS: THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF SCOTLAND**
Report of the City Remembrancer.
- For Decision**
(Pages 47 - 52)
18. **ALDERMANIC AWAYDAY PLANS**
Chair to be heard.
- For Information**
19. **ALDERMANIC STRATEGY GROUP THREE UPDATE**
Chair of Strategy Group Three to be heard relative to the 'Court of Aldermen 2024' document.
- For Information**
20. **KEY COMMITTEE ISSUES**
- For Information**
21. **MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**
To receive the draft minutes of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee meeting held on 7 June 2024.
- For Information**
(Pages 53 - 60)
22. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 14 May 2024 at
10.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chairman)
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Michael Mainelli
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Alderman Alastair King DL
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Gregory Jones KC
Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman & Sheriff Dame Susan Langley, DBE
Alderman and Sheriff Bronek Masojada
Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Christopher Makin
Alderman Tim Levene
Alderwoman Jennette Newman
Alderwoman Martha Grekos
Alderman Simon Pryke

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk
Polly Dunn	- Assistant Town Clerk
Gemma Stokley	- Town Clerk's Department
Rhiannon Leary	- Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Wright	- Remembrancer
Alison Littlewood	- Executive Director of HR & Chief People Officer
Caroline Jack	- Executive Director & Private Secretary to Lord Mayor
Mark Gettleston	- Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Chairman, Alderman Sir Charles Bowman, Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, Alderman Gowman, and Alderwoman Pearson.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 19 March 2024.

MATTERS ARISING

APPOINTMENTS (Page 5) – The Chairman reported that Alderman Hailes would be serving as his representative on the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee for the year ensuing.

MAYORAL THEME 2024-25 - ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (SUBJECT TO ELECTION) (Page 8) – Alderman King reported that his friend and colleague Ms Lee who had served as his Aldermanic and Shrieval Consort would also be called upon to attend certain events whilst Mrs King (Lady Mayoress for 2024/25 subject to election) was serving as a reservist. It had been agreed with Mansion House and the Remembrancer that Ms Lee's status when standing in for the Lady Mayoress would be 'Representative Lady Mayoress' and he wished to place this formally on record at this stage.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 19 March 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee considered appointments to the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee, the United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation and the Emanuel Hospital Management Sub (Court of Aldermen) Committee.

RESOLVED: - That the Aldermen approve:

- (a) The re-appointment of Alderman Alison Gowman to the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee for the ensuing civic year;
- (b) The appointment of Alderman Simon Pryke as a Trustee of the United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation for a four-year term expiring in May 2028; and
- (c) The appointment of Alderman Christopher Makin to the Emanuel Hospital Management Sub (Court of Aldermen) Committee for the remainder of a three-year term expiring in November 2026.

5. **PRESENTATION - MARK GETTLESON - CITY BELONGING**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Gettleson, Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement.

Mr Gettleson updated the Committee on the 'City Belonging' project and gave a presentation on the City Corporation's. He began by highlighting how different the City was in terms of its community by depicting both the residential and worker population here with that across other London local authorities. Uniquely, workers voted in City elections and the City had a citizenry who, for the majority, had a primary civic relationship elsewhere.

Mr Gettleson went on to speak on the purpose of community engagement and covered points around democratic legitimacy, statutory engagement/consultations, creating communications channels/insight gathering about the community, changing perceptions of the organisation, recognising that businesses want to locate to a vibrant community, delivering meaningful change to citizens within the square mile and, essentially, recognising that good community engagement would make everything the City Corporation did easier.

Mr Gettleson highlighted the challenges associated with community engagement in the City, reiterating the point that the primary civic relationship of much of the citizenry was based elsewhere. A high worker population also made the citizenry hard to reach and track through traditional methods used with residents. He went on to focus on solutions and the desire to engage 'gatekeepers' at all City workplaces and to create a holistic engagement model with the goal of engaging every workplace and every worker. It was recognised that it would be important to draw upon the resources of those City businesses wanting to engage with this work and to focus on their needs and priorities. In terms of the business community, it was reported that there were over 6,000 City workplaces and that 1,000 or these had more than 100 staff and approximately 100 of these had more than 1,000 staff. Not all small workplaces were SMEs, some were part of larger companies with smaller offices based in the City and not all large workplaces were Financial and Professional Services businesses. When engaging with City businesses, there were near universal themes emerging around a desire to have happy staff who felt part of a community, an importance placed upon diversity and inclusion (albeit with a recognition that budgets around this were shrinking) and a desire to embed new starters. Larger workplaces were keen to serve their smaller communities in terms of their diversity and inclusion needs whilst it was clear that smaller workplaces were reliant upon the wider eco-system including the City Corporation for help. Mr Gettleson observed that Staff Networks of City firms were the largest sub-sets of community organisation in the Square Mile.

Mr Gettleson went on to speak on 'The City Belonging Project' campaign launched just over a year ago which focused on four key areas: - Powerful Events (event improvement – opening up invitations to the City's own events and advertising those of others), Deepening Community (engaging new starters and promoting registration and candidature), Super-networks (creating City-wide networks) and Building Connections (building and tracking at every workplace). Mr Gettleson commented that he was working to establish a point of contact at every City workplace for this kind of diversity and community engagement so that they in turn could feel empowered to engage their Staff

Network Leads and Internal Comms so that the information could then be promoted amongst the wider workforce.

Mr Gettleson reported on various first year successes for The City Belonging Project since its launch event in June 2023 which had attracted 250 attendees from 170 workplaces. A point of contact had now been established at over 80% or larger workplaces (those with more than 1,000 staff) and at 35% of mid-size workplaces (those with more than 100 staff). There had been over 750 new attendees at existing City of London events including 4 standalone City Belonging events. The Project had also worked to promote more than 100 external events. Following the commencement of the current crisis in the Middle East the City were also able to very quickly convene community conversations on the topic which had attracted 121 sign-ups. Through the City Belonging Project, approaches were made by the Link Insurance Network who were keen to sponsor this year's City Pride Reception event meaning that the Project would become a profit-making initiative. Other partners had offered free use of their event spaces as well as project management assistance.

In terms of what the current community engagement model could be used for, Mr Gettleson highlighted voter registration, community reassurance and deepening connections with the City. Looking ahead, it was highlighted that Alderman King had undertaken to make upscaling the City Belonging Project a key part of his Mayoralty. The ambition was to establish multiple points of contact at each City workplace and for every Staff Network within these workplaces. A new starter programme would be piloted which had attracted 25 sign ups to date and it was also envisaged that the City's community event offering would be increased – assistance from both businesses and the Livery would be sought in terms of hosting. Voter registration and candidature information would also be integrated into future events. A staff network event was set to be held in the Guildhall in September and a 'Faith in the City' programme would soon be launched.

Mr Gettleson concluded by recognising that there was universal support for the programme which would engage all parts of the organisation's ecosystem such as the Barbican, City Police, City Churches, and the BIDs. Corporate partners were engaged and keen to assist and the work in terms of changing perception and providing a long-term bridging of the divide between City workers and residents would be a significant opportunity, better connecting people around community and identity. Things to consider would be the need to scale up both in terms of output and tools, cultural change and recognising engagement as a function. He also spoke of potential future engagement structures in terms of establishing relationships across the community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gettleson for his presentation and invited questions from the floor.

In response to a question regarding wider comms, Mr Gettleson reported that this was currently managed through a cascaded model with established points of contact within each workplace in the case of City workers who cascaded down to Staff Network leads and Internal Comms. He added that he had also

fed into the City's own Comms Strategy work to look at what might be done to convene internal comms managers of the City as a coherent community to cascade information on the City Corporation's behalf.

In response to a question around exploring links with Ward Clubs, Mr Gettleson stated that he would be happy to explore establishing links and welcomed any introductions that the Aldermen may be able to facilitate in this respect but recognised that this would come later in the process and be secondary to first engaging City workers in issues immediately relevant to them.

An Alderwoman queried whether there had been engagement with the Electoral Services Team on this work and spoke of the issue of leases versus licences for City Businesses and voter registrations. The Comptroller and City Solicitor reported that this was a statutory rule with the law on this very well established. The Remembrancer reported that an undertaken ad recently been given to the Policy and Resources Committee to undertake a review of the electoral franchise in the City post the March 2025 all-out elections, subject to Officer resource for this being established. This could include the bringing forward of primary legislation if this was what was agreed by Members.

An Alderman queried how visitors to the City might also be captured by the programme and went on to query how the City might reach out to its schools and other learning establishments within the City. Mr Gettleson stated that, by pursuing a community driven model, the universities themselves and also barristers' chambers had their own various diversity networks and that, by establishing contacts here, links were able to be made. It was reported that representatives from the City of London School and City of London School for Girls Pride Networks had been invited to attend the Pride Reception here at Guildhall this Summer. With regard to visitor engagement, it was reported that this was being considered by the Destination City Team who Mr Gettleson had worked alongside and would continue to do so in terms of how best to engage people with the City's community and heritage. The Town Clerk added that the Policy and Resources Committee had recently endorsed a review of Destination City with a new vision and Cultural Strategy aimed at promoting increased footfall across the City between Friday-Monday.

An Alderman queried how the City Belonging Project work was funded and whether this funding was stable. Mr Gettleson reported that there had been success around securing either direct or in-kind funding around events and activities. In terms of 'core business' this was currently funded through the Policy Initiatives Fund.

An Alderman commented on the use of email in terms of engagement, noting that many workers were experiencing email overload, particularly with remote working practices, and that many businesses were therefore increasingly using other communication platforms such as social media as an important means of disseminating information. He therefore encouraged more strategic thinking around this and cautioned that simply increasing the number of email contacts held was not necessarily a solution to any engagement barriers. He went on to query whether there might be a developing strand within this work around the

role of the Court of Aldermen and the pipeline to the Mayoralty and how this might be articulated in terms of voter engagement. Mr Gettleson remarked that, in the conversations he was having, people were particularly interested in the unique role of the Lord Mayor and stated that he was incredibly happy to engage with the Aldermen in terms of how best to articulate this and the role of the wider Court of Aldermen going forward. He reiterated that Alderman King had undertaken to help promote this work as part of his Mayoralty and that, for his Lord Mayor's Show, staff networks would be invited to participate in the parade for the first time. In terms of use of email, it was reported that the work being undertaken by the Director of Comms around a future Comms Strategy would look at what content was being provided to our community and which platforms might best facilitate this including messages posted via City business intranet sites for example.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gettleson for his time and congratulated him on his work to date.

6. SHRIEVAL PLAN 2023/24 - MID-YEAR UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor providing a detailed mid-year update of progress against the 2023/24 Shrieval Plan of Sheriffs, Alderwoman Susan Langley, and Alderman Bronek Masojada.

Alderwoman Langley highlighted the nocturnal nature of many of the Shrieval activities with 4-5 dinners to attend each week. With this in mind, the Sheriffs had taken a different approach this year whereby if there was more than one event taking place on the same evening they would split the Civic Team to ensure representation at each. This had been commented upon positively for the most part. In terms of outreach, both Sheriffs had been trying to deliver something with longevity and take a common approach. For example, some of the Shrieval outreach buffet lunches were all being delivered in partnership with a third party and could therefore continue into a new Shrievalty rather than being associated with an individual, named Sheriff.

Alderman Masojada spoke on the extensive work of the Shrieval consorts which was a huge part of the success of any Shrievalty and also helped with broader community engagement with the Livery for example.

In response to a question on matters that forthcoming Sheriffs might find useful to consider, Alderwoman Langley spoke of the amount of interaction with and support from the Livery. Alderman Masojada remarked that the role was very much about the office as opposed to the individual thereby further underlining the importance of the continuum.

RESOLVED: - That Members note and endorse the update report.

7. MAYORAL THEME 2024-25 - ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor outlining the proposed mayoral theme to be championed,

subject to election, by the Lord Mayor of London 2024-25, Alderman Alastair King.

Alderman King reported that he had now hosted 19 Mayoral Theme events over the course of the past 3-4 months which had attracted approximately 250 attendees. He reported that the chosen Mayoral Theme for 2024-25 would focus on Inspiring Growth within the City – this would be delivered through three key strands, one of which would focus on pushing for regulatory and mindset reform, one would focus upon innovative technologies and another on celebrating the networks which make up the City.

Alderman King reported that his focus between now and November would be around developing a programme that would bring in elements of the City Belonging Project and also the Vision for Economic Growth published last year. Engagement with government and opposition would also be key. He reported that he was keen to organise a session specifically for the Court of Aldermen to launch his Mayoral Theme and to keep them regularly updated with progress against this thereafter.

An Alderman mentioned that the Quoted Companies Alliance who championed and advised the UK's community of small and mid-sized businesses were also very focused on the Growth Agenda at present. He therefore undertook to facilitate introductions with the CEO. Alderman King commented that there was recognition across the current Mayoral continuum that growth would be a key theme across the next few mayoralities which had gone down very well with key stakeholders.

In response to a question regarding Permanent Secretaries, Alderman King confirmed that he was reaching out to these individuals across the various sectors to build relationships. He added that he would also be embarking on a series of meetings with them and His Majesty's Trade Commissioners.

RESOLVED: - That Members note the draft Mayoral theme.

8. **REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL WARDMOTES**

The Aldermen took the opportunity to reflect upon the annual Wardmotes held in March.

The Town Clerk reminded all that this had first been introduced as an agenda item last year and that the Aldermen had expressed a desire for it to now feature annually to facilitate discussion. Aldermen had been asked to reflect specifically on attendance on this occasion.

During the course of discussion the following points were raised:

- The Bread Street Wardmote had attracted the normal number of attendees (approximately 20) and had featured a Motion concerning taxi access to Bank Junction.
- The Billingsgate Wardmote had approximately 15 attendees and the number one concern aired had been in relation to cyclists and their

inability to obey the rules of the road through Bank Junction and elsewhere.

- The Cheap Wardmote had a good turnout of around 40 and involved a standard, business as usual agenda.
- The Farringdon Without Wardmote had seen increased turnout this year and a Motion regarding permitting taxi access to Bank Junction had been carried. Concerns around cyclists had also been raised.
- The Langbourn Wardmote had attracted 15 attendees and the resolution passed here had related to Leadenhall Market which was the main concern locally.
- The Cornhill Wardmote had 15 voters in attendance which was slightly up on last year. A local police officer had been in attendance to talk on crime in the area which had been well received. Issues around bicycle parking was raised.
- The Cordwainer Wardmote had been attended by 15 voters which was comparable with attendance figures from recent years. A motion to allow taxi access at Bank Junction had also been passed here.
- The Bridge Wardmote had attracted 35 attendees which was approximately double that of last year. The Wardmote had been changed to an evening event on this occasion and had been followed by a drink's reception. A Corporation Officer had been in attendance to speak on the new Corporate Plan and a local police officer had also joined the meeting which had been very well received.
- The Aldersgate Wardmote had been attended by between 60-80 people with standing room only – a slight increase on the turnout of last year. Issues raised here concerned the implementation of the Considerate Lighting Charter and the management of Tudor Rose Court which the Lord Mayor had recently visited.
- The Bassishaw Wardmote had passed a motion to allow taxi access to Bank Junction and it was noted that a total of six other Wards had passed similar. Attendance this year had been approximately 40 which was down on last year which had seen a record of 100 attendees. Prior to COVID attendance had sat at around 15-20 as the norm. Issues raised here also concerned cyclists.
- The Aldgate Wardmote had welcomed around 25 attendees. There had been mixed views around Bank Junction and so no motion had been passed.
- The Castle Baynard Wardmote had seen its largest attendance of around 30 with a mixture of both residents and businesses represented. Lots of questions on local issues such as construction/development had been raised and all Ward Councillors had been in attendance. It was noted that no one had been a fan of the formal set up and so alternatives would be explored going forward as would more informal/regular engagement sessions.
- The Walbrook Wardmote had seen much improved attendance this year with around 30 present. A motion to allow taxi access to Bank Junction had also been passed here and concerns around cyclists and safety were raised. Four City police officers were in attendance which had been

well received. Concerns around the increase in rough sleepers in the area were also aired.

- The Portsoken Wardmote had been managed by the Ward Deputy as the Alderman had been engaged with a visit to Edinburgh with the Policy Chair. The event had been well attended by between 20-30 people.
- Candlewick had only recently held a Wardmote around the Aldermanic election but, nevertheless, the March event had been attended by 15-20 people who had come to offer their support to their elected Members.
- The Farringdon Within Wardmote had welcomed 59 electors which was an improvement on last year and certainly on levels pre-COVID. There was a 50/50 split between residents and workers which was representative of the wider Ward make-up. Many of the issues already highlighted had been raised here too as well as a local issue relating to the design of the new public space at Christchurch/Greyfriars which would be created with the re-routing of traffic and the opening of the HSBC building and wanting this to be the best possible public amenity it could be.
- The Coleman Street Wardmote had attracted record numbers of attendees (approximately 20) on this occasion. Many attendees had limited knowledge of the City and so the meeting sought to provide some historical context in the first instance. Concerns around cyclists were raised. In terms of format, the Wardmote took place in two parts, commencing with the formal meeting and then an opportunity for questions over drinks.

Noting that cyclists were a major issue across the board in terms of both cycle safety and parking, the Town Clerk commented that the City Police had undertaken some magnificent work in terms of tackling unsafe cycling. Since the Cycle Response Unit had been introduced approximately 9 months ago around 1,000 fixed penalty notices had been issued and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress had recently been engaged in an education and enforcement awareness campaign.

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

There were no questions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration.

11. 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.

12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The Committee considered and approved the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 19 March 2024.

13. **PRESENTATION - THE CHAMBERLAIN - CITY FUND & CITY'S ESTATE FINANCES**

The Chamberlain gave a presentation and responded to subsequent questions on City Fund and City's Estate Finances.

14. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND POTENTIAL DISQUALIFICATION FOR ABSENCE**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive relative to a request for a leave of absence and potential disqualification for absence.

15. **HONORARY SECONDARY**

The Committee considered and approved a late, separately circulated report of the Town Clerk, submitted on behalf of the Counsel to the City & Under-Sheriff in relation to the post of the Honorary Secondary.

16. **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN TO ADMINISTER THE SIR WILLIAM COXEN TRUST FUND**

The Committee received the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee of Aldermen to administer the Sir William Coxen Trust Fund held on 6 March 2024.

17. **MINUTES OF THE MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the minutes of the last meeting of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee held on 8 March 2024.

18. **STRATEGY GROUP 3 UPDATE - COURT OF ALDERMEN 2024 DOCUMENT**

Members of Aldermanic Strategy Group Three updated the Committee on their work regarding Communications and Stakeholder Engagement - specifically the production of the 'Court of Aldermen 2024' document.

19. **KEY COMMITTEE ISSUES**

Aldermen reported on recent wider Committee issues.

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

There were no questions raised in non-public session.

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

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration in non-public session.

22. **MEMBER-LED RECRUITMENT - DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

The Committee considered and approved a confidential report of the Chief People Officer relative to the Member-led recruitment process for the post of Deputy Town Clerk.

The meeting ended at 12.06 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Gemma Stokley
gemma.stokley@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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Committee(s): General Purposes Committee of Aldermen	Dated: 16 July 2024
Subject: Appointment of an Honorary Collector of Toll on Wine	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Paul Wright, City Remembrancer	For Decision
Report author: James Edwards, Senior Parliamentary Briefings Officer	

Summary

This paper outlines the historic role and duties of the Collector of Toll on Wine at Customs House and recommends provision be made for the title to be recreated in an honorary capacity.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to agree that the Lord Mayor may appoint an honorary Collector of Toll on Wine in order to honour a senior figure in the taxation industry.

Main Report

1. The City of London Corporation historically had responsibility for the collection of tolls and duties on certain goods coming into the City, including coal, corn, salt, fruit and wine. Clerks, Meters and Collectors were accordingly appointed by the City Corporation to collect and administer what was owed.
2. A 1694 *Act for the Relief of the Orphans and other Creditors of the City of London* granted the City Corporation the right to collect a toll of 4 shillings per tun of wine imported into the Port of London in order to raise monies to discharge the Corporation's obligations to the City's Orphans, the sons and daughters of freemen for whom legacies had been deposited in the City's Chamber.
3. The Act also licensed the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to appoint an individual to collect the duties owed. The Corporation accordingly began to appoint a Collector of Toll on Wine at Custom House. Historically, the appointment was made by the Court of Alderman, and by the time of the 1837 report into the municipal corporations of London and Southwark, the office was also held by an Alderman.

4. While the provision for the Corporation to appoint a collector to collect duties on wine imported into the Port of London was formally abolished by the *Statute Law (Repeals) Act 2013*, the Lord Mayor has expressed an interest in appointing an honorary Collector of Toll on Wine in order to honour a senior figure in the tax industry during his term of office.
5. Members are accordingly recommended to agree that the Lord Mayor may appoint an honorary Collector of Toll on Wine. This honorary appointment will be made subject to no objection being made following consultation with HM Revenue and Customs.

James Edwards

Senior Parliamentary Briefings Officer

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Committee(s): General Purposes Committee of Aldermen	Date: 16 July 2024
Subject: Bridgemasters	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	N/A
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Greg Moore	

Summary

This paper outlines briefly the role and duties of the Bridgemaster, one of the historic offices of the City Corporation which has some element of interaction with the Court of Aldermen.

Following the recent electoral contest at Common Hall for the office of Bridgemaster, and in response to several queries around process and background that arose therefrom, this paper is presented for information in the interests of advancing a shared understanding of the history of the office and the respective remits of the executive bodies of the City Corporation (i.e., the Court of Common Council, Common Hall, and the Court of Aldermen) in relation to it.

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted and its content received.

Main Report

Background

1. The role of the Bridgemasters dates back to c.1200, when the Mayoralty and Commonalty of the City of London took over responsibility for London Bridge and began the practice of appointing “Wardens” to oversee it. Originally, Aldermen were eligible to serve in this capacity and were often appointed; however, when the rights of the City in respect of the Bridge were confirmed by a Charter of Edward II on 8 June 1319, Aldermen were prohibited from service. The Charter provided:

“that the keeping of the Bridge and the rents and profits to the same pertaining be committed to two good and sufficient men of the City other than Aldermen who shall be thereunto chosen by the Commonalty, who shall be answerable therefore to the Commonalty and to none others.”

2. The Bridgemasters collected and accounted for the rents and revenues associated with the Bridge and had estate management duties. They received salaries and fees on leases and licences, together with a residence and “other perquisites”. The accounts of the Bridgemasters are extant from 1381.
3. An Act of Common Council, dated 23 September 1404, resolved that “two good and discreet citizens” to undertake these duties should be elected as Masters or Wardens of the Bridge at Common Hall each year, following the election of Sheriffs. Attendance (and thus the right to vote) was confirmed to Liverymen by the Court Common Council through a resolution of 13 September 1475.
4. The role of the Livery in the appointments was further settled in the Election Act of 1724, which confirmed the election of the Bridgemasters on the Livery in Common Hall. The Livery is thus the elective body, but the Court of Common Council is the body exercising control over the officers, in accordance with the Charter provision.

Current Position

5. The responsibility of the Bridgemasters ceased for all practical purposes in 1855. At a meeting of the Common Council in 1854, the Lord Mayor declared a vacancy in the office of Bridgemaster occasioned by the death of an incumbent and the matter was referred to the Officers and Clerks Committee to consider the proper course to be adopted. Pending the outcome of the inquiry, the Court of Common Council resolved that the same Committee be authorised to make arrangements for the temporary discharge of the duties of the office.
6. The Committee subsequently reported to the Court of Common Council in 1855 and this resulted in a major change to the duties. In future, the ancient responsibility of receiving the rents and profits of the Bridge House Estates and of keeping the accounts was to be transferred to the Chamberlain. The Committee also reported that it had appointed Mr. Comptroller’s Clerk temporarily to discharge the duties of the office and this practice continued when later temporary vacancies occurred.
7. In response to this, in 1869 the Livery Committee reported to Common Hall advocating very strongly that the functions should be restored and commenting that the Court of Common Council had removed from the ancient offices of Bridgemasters the duties as of right and charter belonging to those offices, and had reduced the offices in question to practical sinecures of insignificant pecuniary value.
8. The report stated: “*The Committee therefore recommended that the spirit of the charters in the matter of the Bridgemasters be carried out; the more so since they find in the records of Common Council very zealous protestations for the authority of charters and the policy of good faith regarding them whenever the rights claimed and asserted by Common Council are threatened by Government schemes.*”
9. In 1880, the Court of Common Council agreed to new duties being assigned to the Bridgemasters, although accounting was to remain with the Chamberlain. A report of the Bridge House Estates Committee to the Court of Common Council

stated: *“The office of Wardens or Keepers of London Bridge was in ancient times one of great importance, but it has long ceased to be so, and for many years it was looked upon as a provision for aged and respectable citizens who have been unsuccessful in business, and the office consequently became reduced almost to a sinecure.”*

10. In 1916, the Bridge House Estates Committee, the City Surveyor, and the Comptroller submitted reports on the office, the Comptroller stating that the licences to assign and demise BHE property were prepared in his department and “the Bridge Masters’ duty of signing the same might well be performed by a member of my Staff who is a Liveryman, and appointed by the Common Hall.”
11. Following some differences of opinion on this issue, the Court of Common Council ultimately resolved that the positions should, in future, be of an honorary character, with the following duties:
 - to attend, when summoned, meetings of the Bridge House Estates Committee (*now City Bridge Foundation Board*);
 - to attend the Comptroller’s Office to sign licences to assign and demise Bridge House property, when required (*NB - this role is undertaken by Officers and so no longer extant*);
 - generally, to perform such duties as the Bridge House Estates Committee may reasonably require of them in connection with the Bridges and Estates under the control of the said Committee.
12. The salary was settled at £25 per annum.
13. In 1957, when there was a possibility that one of the Bridgemasters might not seek re-election, there was a suggestion that the job could be attached to some person in the Corporation’s employment, but the Town Clerk of the day did not wish to take any steps to interfere with the ancient privilege of the Livery to appoint a Bridgemaster.
14. Accordingly, the sole remaining function of the Bridgemasters is to attend one meeting of the City Bridge Foundation Board each year, when summoned. They are no longer required to sign leases of Bridge House Estates property, which are executed under the City of London seal. Other documents, such as licences to assign, are signed by members of the Comptroller & City Solicitor’s staff. There have, to-date, been no additional requests from the City Bridge Foundation Board respect of such duties as may generally be required, although it remains open to the Board to do so.
15. Any Freeman of the City of London may stand for the office, with there being no special qualifications required. Nominations must be submitted in writing to the Town Clerk between 14 February and 1 May each year, in accordance with the provisions most recently fixed by the Court of Common Council through the Act of 16 January 2014.

The Role of the Court of Aldermen

16. As has been set out above, the Charter provisions place responsibility for the regulation of the role upon the Court of Common Council, with the resolutions of that body (as later confirmed by primary legislation) conferring the right to elect to the office upon the Livery at Common Hall.
17. Nevertheless, each year the Bridgemasters, following their election, attend the Court of Aldermen, where a short ceremony occurs with the two elected officers undertaking an oath of office and signing the Oath Book in front of the Court.
18. This is because the Bridgemasters, as with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Common Councilmen, and certain other post holders, including some senior salaried officers, are required make a declaration in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Promissory Oaths Act 1868 (“the Act”).
19. Section 12(2) of the Act states that, “Where before the passing of this Act an oath was required to be taken by any person on or as a condition of accepting any office in or under a municipal corporation...there shall be substituted for such oath, in the case of an office, a declaration that the declarant will faithfully perform the duties of his office...”
20. The declaration is accordingly in the form: *“I, [Name], do solemnly sincerely and truly declare that I will faithfully perform the duties of the office of [Bridgemaster] of the City of London.”*

Conclusion

21. This report summarises the history of the role of Bridgemaster and the remit of the Corporation’s various executive bodies in relation to the office.

Greg Moore

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Committee(s)	Dated:
Communications and Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Committee	1 st July
General Purposes Committee of Alderman	16 th July
Subject: Mayoral Priorities 2024-25 Alderman Alastair King (Subject to Election)	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Dynamic Economic Growth, Diverse Engaged Communities, Vibrant Thriving Destination
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of: Caroline Jack, Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor Damian Nussbaum, Director of Innovation & Growth Greg Moore, Deputy Town Clerk Dionne Corradine, Chief Strategy Officer	For Information
Report author: Catherine Rooney, Senior Programme Manager (Projects and Planning), Office of Lord Mayor & Mansion House	

Summary

This report outlines the proposed mayoral theme to be championed, subject to election, by the Lord Mayor of London 2024-25, Alderman Alastair King. The Mayoral Theme – **Growth Unleashed** - will empower the City and its communities to seize opportunities, maximise growth and succeed.

This report sets out the final version of the theme and key activities that will be undertaken during the Mayoral year, following the preliminary ‘high-level’ theme that was agreed at previous C&CA and GPA committees.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to note the 2024-2025 Mayoral Priorities as set out in this Report.

Main Report

Background

1. The Mayoral Priorities identify the key areas of focus to be championed, convened and/or communicated by the Lord Mayor during their term in office.
2. The Mayoral Priorities highlight the specific areas of the City of London Corporation’s Corporate Plan 2024-29 and Corporate Strategies that the Lord Mayor will amplify during their year in office.
3. The Mayoral Priorities provide an overview of the key deliverables, outcomes and primary workstreams to be undertaken during the Mayoralty. It identifies

the specific areas of focus that consider the business, social and economic priorities of the City of London, the City Corporation, and the causes to be championed by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alastair King (subject to election).

Mayoral Theme Proposal

4. *Growth Unleashed* will focus on driving growth through challenging industry to maximise opportunities through responsible risk taking, driving the adoption of technologies that give us the competitive advantage and celebrating the successes and diverse communities within our square mile.
5. The City and UK Financial and Professional Services sector is globally recognised and celebrated. As demonstrated in the recent competitiveness benchmarking report published by the COLC, the City ranks as the number one financial market in the world.
6. This leadership is not without competitive threats. Maintaining the world leading position is dependent on the City's people, infrastructure, and culture. Successes must be celebrated to ensure the perception of the City matches its ranking, and we must support our stakeholders in continuing to drive economic growth and the City's competitive advantage.
7. The Mayoral Theme will be split in to three pillars of activity:
 - Risk optimisation
 - White heat of technology
 - Communities

All activity will have the high-level objective of driving growth.

8. Central activities for the Mayoral Theme are outlined in Annex A.

Corporate, Strategic & Financial Implications

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The Mayoral Framework is being developed in partnership with departments across the corporation to minimise duplication and maximise amplification of key activity. These include, Innovation and Growth, Corporate Strategy, Communications and Corporate Affairs, Remembrancers and the Office of the Policy Chairman. Other areas across the corporation may be engaged as the theme develops.
10. The Mayoral Framework will align with the outcomes of the Corporate Plan 2024-2029, effective 1 April 2024. This will ensure that the mayoralty continues to support and reflect the City Corporation's strategic objectives, as outlined in Annex B. This includes links to the Equality Objectives and a commitment to take a community-centred approach in planning and delivering activities.

11. The Mayoral Framework supports the recommendations in the corporation's Vision for Economic Growth Report and is aligned to the Competitiveness Strategy 2021-25. This will ensure that the mayoralty will amplify and strengthen the Corporation's overall ambitions and strategy (Annex B).
12. Noting the scheduled general election and its implications, the mayoral programme will be agile and able to adapt to align with broader national strategies for economic growth and the FPS sector.
13. Ensuring mayoral continuity, the year will build on the work of the *Financing our Future (2022-23)* mayoralty, unlocking funds for investment in high growth opportunities, and the *Connect to Prosper (2023-24)* mayoralty, demonstrating the City's leadership in science and technology.

Financial and Resourcing Implications

14. Existing departmental/project budgets will be used to deliver the activities outlined in this paper. In the unlikely event that supplementary budget were required, this would be requested through Resource Allocation Sub (Policy and Resources) or other relevant Committees to amplify existing City Corporation activities and/or deliver additional activity under *Growth Unleashed*.

Conclusion

15. The 2024-25 Proposed Mayoral Programme *Growth Unleashed* will amplify the established narrative that the City of London is the World's number one financial centre, empowering the FPS sector to be confident in maximising opportunities and driving competitive growth.

Catherine Rooney

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Annex A – *Growth Unleashed* core activities

Activity	Objective	Lead delivery	Supported by
Series of engagements to advocate appropriate risk appetite	Engage regulators, CEOs and CROs to challenge unnecessary risk aversion.	IG	MH, C&CA
Hackathon series	Bring diverse expertise together to incubate and accelerate emerging tech potential in the City, to discover tangible benefits for UK FPS.	IG	External partners
Launch City Belonging square mile community networks	Amplify and support ongoing work of community groups in City to maximise contribution to UK FPS. Provide the City of London Corporation with a direct route to new audiences and individuals from these distinct groups, to inform the planning and development of relevant City hosted events.	C&CA	MH
Two-year review of secondary competitive objective (SCO)	Share best practice and areas for improvement to facilitate growth.	IG	
Mansion House Compact progress review	Measure progress of compact against objectives and agree next steps as necessary.	IG	MH
Mayoral visit programme with tilt to growth economies and winning mandates	Create tangible opportunities for UK FPS internationally.	IG, MH	
Scale-up showcase	Connect scale up businesses to investors.	External Partner	MH, IG
Lord Mayor's Awards	Agile tool to recognise and celebrate City and UK businesses and the positive contribution they make.	<i>TBC</i>	<i>TBC</i>

Annex B – *Growth Unleashed* link to Corporate Plan 2024-29 and COL Strategies

Mayoral Pillar	Corporate Plan 2024-29	Strategic alignment
Risk Optimisation	Dynamic Economic Growth, Vibrant Thriving Destination.	Vision for Economic Growth, Competitiveness Strategy, Competitiveness benchmarking, Mansion House Compact, Risk Strategy 2024-29.
White heat of new technologies	Dynamic Economic Growth, Vibrant Thriving Destination.	Vision for Economic Growth, Competitiveness Strategy,

		competitiveness benchmarking, Mansion House Compact.
Communities	Diverse Communities, Engaged Dynamic Economic Growth.	City Belonging, Destination City.

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