

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 4 October 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 4 October 2022 at 2.30 pm and available to view at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yqtTV1NLBQ

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)
Tijs Broeke (Vice-Chair)
Mary Durcan (Vice-Chair)
Deputy Rehana Ameer
Deputy Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Henry Colthurst (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Simon Duckworth (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Wendy Hyde (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Shravan Joshi
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Ian Luder
Catherine McGuinness
Wendy Mead
Alderman Sir William Russell
Tom Sleigh
Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson
Deputy Philip Woodhouse

In Attendance (In Guildhall)

Madush Gupta
Oliver Sells K.C.

In Attendance (Observing Online)

John Griffiths
Ben Murphy
Paul Singh
Ruby Sayed

Officers:

Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Jen Beckerman	- Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain
Damian Nussbaum	- Executive Director of Innovation &

	Growth
Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk
Gregory Moore	- Assistant Town Clerk
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Mark Gettleson	- Town Clerk's Department
Saira McKechnie	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Moore	- Chief Operating Officer
Christopher Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Dylan McKay	- Town Clerk's Department
Benjamin Dixon	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Deputy Brian Mooney, Alderman Nicholas Lyons, James Tumbridge, Alderman Tim Hailes and Deputy Andrien Meyers.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 7th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Beckford and Cass Statues Interpretation Project – A Member questioned the time it was taking to consider options and report back on this project. It was suggested the project needed to increase its pace, whilst ensuring the quality of the consultation was not lost. A Member, also Chair of Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, responded and highlighted a need for care and sensitivity in carrying out the consultation, with staffing issues in the team also impacting.

The Deputy Chairman raised an area of concern relating to certain plaques being moved during events and being placed in less prominent positions. A Member, also Chair of Civic Affairs Sub-Committee, confirmed Guildhall Lettings were under their Sub-Committee's remit and that they had sought an assurance from the Remembrancer that the temporary plaques would remain in a prominent position throughout all events.

The Chairman concluded the discussion, noting the comments raised and requesting officers take these away and look at reporting back at the earliest opportunity.

Microphones - A Member requested an update relating to microphones in the Committee Rooms. The Chief Operating Officer responded confirming the

number of microphones in the room had been doubled. A point was then raised regarding the length of the microphones, with Members being asked to stand when speaking there was an issue in being able to hear people clearly when doing so. Following a brief discussion, the Chairman stated that Policy and Resources Committee was a Grand Committee with the custom being to stand when speaking and that he considered it important to retain this, with those Members speaking being clearly seen and heard. The Chairman asked the Chief Operating Officer to review further options for improving the microphones.

- b) The Public Minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting on 21st July 2022 were noted.
- c) The public minutes of the Operational Property and Projects Sub-Committee meeting on 20th July 2022 were noted.
- d) The Public Minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 13th July 2022 were noted.
- e) The public summary of the City Envoy Network meeting held on Tuesday 5th July 2022 were noted.

4. **2022 CITY OF LONDON ELECTIONS**

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk providing a summary of the overall trends in the 2022 City of London Elections, outlining potential changes moving forward, including those requiring legislation, for further discussion and future recommendations.

The report was welcomed by Members, with a number remarking on what they considered to be an excellent report and excellent delivery of the 2022 elections. There was an acknowledgement that the City Corporation was limited through its current franchise and with this unlikely to be ready for review by 2025 there would be a need for further investment in electoral engagement to recruit as many electors as possible. This area of work had received initial funding for one year, with there being a need to ensure funding was in place moving forward.

A Member added how there would be a need to review the City's Franchise at some point moving forward to allow an opportunity to explore options for increasing the City's electorate, whilst noting this would require primary legislation and all this may entail.

There was a recognition that both electoral engagement and the City of London elections process had been successful, with the benefits and improvements being clear. There would be a need for ongoing funding to achieve better engagement throughout the year, even during periods outside of an election cycle.

There was a question raised regarding non-responders remaining on the Ward lists, with businesses coming and going in the City. There was a need for increased flexibility within IT systems moving forward and being able to input

changes immediately during the electoral process. There was a suggestion of rolling registration or automatically allocating people the option for postal voting unless they opt out.

A Member stressed a need to make the necessary changes to the City's Franchise moving forward, seeking changes through primary legislation if this was needed.

It was suggested that when considering the City Corporation's approach to Electoral Engagement, there would be a need to use metrics to demonstrate a return on the investment being made, with it becoming more of an outcome-based exercise.

A Member added how investment in the team had delivered results and there was a need to maintain this, whilst also acknowledging the direct benefit Member engagement offered. It was acknowledged that there was an ongoing need to encourage all businesses to vote.

The Chairman concluded the discussion thanking Members for the helpful points that had come out of it. The Chairman conveyed the Committee's thanks to the Head of Electoral Services and Electoral Engagement Manager, both of whose efforts had ensured the City's 2022 elections were a great success and with the City Corporation being grateful to have them moving forward.

Resolved, that the report be received, and its content noted.

5. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk, Executive Director of Environment and Comptroller and City Solicitor looking at how the functions of the Planning and Transportation Committee could be most effectively discharged and recommending the establishment of a Planning Applications Sub-Committee.

The Chairman reminded Members that the report was dealing with a proposal to establish a Sub-Committee, specifically for the consideration of planning applications, with the same Membership as the current Planning and Transportation Committee. The Chairman referred to areas of concern previously raised by Members around the Grand Committee being able to alter the Membership of the Sub-Committee (as was done under usual sub-committee arrangements; consequently the report before Members today included a recommendation that the Membership of the Sub-Committee should not be amended other than by Court of Common Council, which the Chairman hoped would provide sufficient assurance to Members.

A Member welcomed the report that they considered offered a pragmatic solution that would mean planning applications were considered in a timely manner.

A Member welcomed the inclusion of the recommendation proposing Court of Common Council be responsible for amending the Membership of the Sub-Committee but raised a concern regarding the proposals that updating of the Planning Protocol be delegated to Planning and Transportation Committee.

A Member proposed an amendment to recommendation 4 that any further updating of the Planning Protocol be delegated to Planning and Transportation Committee. The Member proposed that any further updates be subject to approval of Court of Common, with the proposed amendment being seconded.

A Member responded to the proposal and remarked on how they considered Planning and Transportation Committee to be more than capable of reviewing and updating the Planning Protocol, with it being appropriate that consideration of this be made available to the public, but with there not being the need for a full debate of this in Court of Common Council.

A Member, also Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee, added how it was a precautionary step to bring the Planning Protocol to Policy and Resources Committee on the advice of the Comptroller, but with this having always been within the remit of Planning and Transportation Committee.

Following a show of hands, the Chairman acknowledged the proposed amendment was not supported and that it would not go forward to Court of Common Council.

RESOLVED: That Members recommend to Court of Common Council: -

- The establishment of a Planning Applications Sub-Committee to determine all planning and listed building consent applications not delegated to officers under the Scheme of Delegation (with all other functions within the Terms of Reference of the Planning and Transportation Committee not delegated to officers continuing to be exercised by that Committee or any other Sub-committees to which it delegates functions).
- That the membership, Chairmanship and Deputy Chairmanship of and arrangements for the Planning Applications Sub-Committee and the Planning and Transportation Committee be as set out in the "Proposals" section of this report.
- That the proposed membership of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee (to be constituted of all members of Planning and Transportation Committee) should not be amended other than by Court of Common Council.
- That the Town Clerk, Executive Director Environment and Comptroller and City Solicitor be delegated to prepare such amendments to the Planning Protocol as may be necessary to give effect of Recommendations 1 & 2 and to report them to Planning and Transportation Committee (which shall be delegated the function of approving the Planning Protocol prior to implementation of the arrangements)

- That any further updating of the Planning Protocol be delegated to Planning and Transportation Committee

6. **APPOINTMENT OF LEAD MEMBERS (POLICY AREAS)**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk providing an update on the creation of Lead Member portfolios and recommending candidates for appointment following a nominations process as agreed by Policy and Resources Committee in July.

The Chairman introduced the item clarifying that the proposal was not to appoint Members looking to begin making policy, but it was to identify lead Members in key policy areas to work with the Chairman and relevant officers to help lighten the burden and heavy workload in these key areas.

The Chairman added that expressions of interest were sought from the whole Court, with the responses presented to a panel comprised of himself as Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and two Vice Chairs, who considered all nominations with advice from specialist officers.

The Chairman clarified that for the appointment of Sustainability Lead Member, the Deputy Chairman of Policy absented himself from the room and took no part in the appointment, with the Deputy Chairman being judged on merit against the other applications, with each coming forward having been considered against a range of areas including criteria, expertise, gender balance as well as newer and returning Members.

The Chairman confirmed the nominations were now before Members for their approval. A one-year appointment was being proposed to allow an opportunity for review after one year. The initiative aims to engage the whole Court, utilising relevant expertise and lending additional capacity to the Chairman where it was available.

A Member offered their wholehearted support for what had been proposed, whilst also suggesting Policy and Resources Committee would benefit from a quarterly update on what Policy Leads had been doing and had made contact with, which the Chairman agreed would be entirely appropriate.

A Member expressed their surprise at the limited number of appointments from the wider Court, which the Chairman responded to by challenging the comment and adding how he considered the process to have been exceptionally fair. The appointments had had been advertised to the whole Court, with the recommended candidates being put forward based on competitive merit, whilst looking to ensure balance in a number of key areas.

A Member, also Chief Commoner, commended the Chairman on the process that had been followed, which had demonstrated diversity and balance through the appointments being proposed.

A Member, also Chairman of Finance Committee proposed seeking feedback from lead Members on the value and advantage they had gained from the role,

which the Chairman accepted would be helpful as part of the review. A Member added how moving forward there was a need to look at encouraging more applications and to get greater involvement from Members of the wider Court.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed to appoint the recommended candidates to the various Lead Policy roles, as detailed in the report, for a term ending in May 2023

London Chamber of Commerce Council – A Member referred to a City Corporation vacancy on the London Chamber of Commerce Council which had existed since the departure of a former Member from this role. The Member proposed Paul Singh, as the appointed Lead Member for SMEs, would be an appropriate Member to fill the vacancy. Mr Singh indicated that he would be interested in being considered for the role.

The Town Clerk confirmed the right of appointment to London Chamber of Commerce would be reviewed and taken forward as appropriate.

7. **NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE MUSEUM OF LONDON**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk setting out the background to the appointment of external candidates to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London and recommending Charlotte Twynning for appointment as a City of London Corporation Governor.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approve the appointment of Charlotte Twynning as a City of London Corporation Governor of the Museum of London for a four-year term ending 15 September 2026.

8. **CORPORATION REPRESENTATION ON THE GREEN FINANCE INSTITUTE BOARD**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth seeking approval of the City Corporation's two Green Finance Institute Board Members.

A Member referred to the role Alison Gowman had played, not only through her role on the Green Finance Institute Board, but also through her work on the Green Finance initiative, which deserved huge thanks. Members were in full agreement in expressing their gratitude to Alison Gowman and asked that their thanks and appreciation be recorded in the minutes accordingly.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approve the City Corporation's two Green Finance Institute board members: Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and Simon Duckworth until September 2023, then Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resource Committee thereafter.

9. FREEDOM APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND ACCESS

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk seeking clarification on two areas of governance concerning the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee.

Following a brief discussion regarding the two vacancies on Freedom Applications Committee open to the Court, there was agreement that in the interests of working as one court and where there was an interest being shown, places should be made available to the whole Court regardless of whether they were a Commoner or Alderman, with the existing practice in this regard being maintained.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approve the Freedom Application Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference and composition;
- approve any consequent changes to the terms of reference; and
- agree that, as a private function of the City of London Corporation not subject to subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, future meetings of the FASC be held exclusively in private session.

10. FINANCIAL SERVICES SKILLS COMMISSION

The Committee considered a report updating on the work of the Financial Services Skills Commission since its launch in 2020 and seeking approval of the City Corporation's continued support for a further three years.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approve the release of planning obligation funds, ringfenced for skills work, to provide an ongoing membership contribution (£20k pa) for three years (2023/24-2025/26) and delegate authority to the Town Clerk to decide the exact nature of additional support (capped at £75k pa) over the coming three years (2023/24-2025/26) beyond the membership fee.

11. DESTINATION CITY UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing Members with an update on key milestones following the Destination City launch and progress made across the Destination City Programme.

RECEIVED

12. END OF CAMPAIGN EVALUATION: SQUARE MILE

The Committee received a joint report of the Director of Innovation and Growth and Director of Communications offering a reflection on the City Corporation's investment, and lessons learned, in its Square Mile campaign.

RECEIVED

13. DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising Members of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b) since the last meeting.

RECEIVED

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

The Chairman confirmed he had been given notice of one question from Philip Woodhouse as follows:

What was the City of London Corporation's legal requirement regarding the provision of courts? It appears to be either 6 or 8 courts depending on how we interpret the relevant provisions. How has the City Corporation reached a decision to build 18 courts. How was this number approved, and by whom? Do we need to be building ten more courts than we are responsible for?

Please can the original business case for the courts be circulated again to remind Members of the costs and benefits. Was this prudent at a time of significant stress to our finances?

The Chairman responded as follows:

By way of reminder: the agreement for the Courts was made by Common Council in July 2018. As stated within the report presented that day – the “new combined Courts building secures the City's role as a centre of justice and the legal profession in the UK, Europe and across the world. This was further reinforced by the opportunity to retain the International Dispute Resolution Centre (IRDC) on the site.”

This decision was undertaken five years ago and went through Policy, Capital Buildings Committee (as it then was) and the Court of Common Council.

There were signed agreements to lease on the basis of this approval, the site has been fully demolished, and works are underway, with contracts being drawn up.

I do not wish to pre-empt discussions on the Capital Buildings Review due to be considered on 20 October, and feel it may be prudent to ensure we have the right information in front of us before opening up to wider discussion.

The Chairman suggested the Member accept his formal response, allowing an opportunity for a wider discussion on capital review when more information would be available.

The Member accepted the Chairman's response but suggested it would be helpful to send this formal response to all Members on Policy and Resources

Committee given he had circulated his question to all Members.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no additional items of business.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

Part 2 – Non-Public Agenda

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 7th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting held on 21st July 2022 were noted.
- c) The draft non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting held on 13th July 2022 were noted.
- d) The non-public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 20th July 2022 were noted.

18. PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee received a non-public appendix to be read in conjunction with item 5 on the agenda.

RECEIVED

19. ENHANCING THE IMPACT OF COL'S US WORKSTREAMS THROUGH A PERMANENT US PRESENCE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth providing Members with an update on enhancing the impact of the City Corporation's US work streams through a permanent US presence.

20. NON- PUBLIC DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising Members of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Orders Nos. 41(a) and 41(b) since the last meeting.

RECEIVED

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

A Member raised a question regarding the coronation of the King.

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

There were no additional items of business.

Part 3 – Confidential Agenda

23. MINUTES

- a) The confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 7th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The confidential minutes of the reconvened Policy and Resources Committee meeting (7th July 2022) held on 12th July 2022 were approved as an accurate record.
- c) The confidential minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting on 21st July 2022 were noted.
- d) The confidential minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 13th July 2022 were noted.
- e) The confidential minutes of the Operational Property and Projects Sub-Committee meeting on 20th July 2022 were noted.

24. CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX: NOMINATION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The Committee received a confidential appendix to be read in conjunction with agenda item 7.

The meeting ended at Time 4.20pm.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Polly Dunn
polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk