

MARKETS BOARD

Tuesday, 21 May 2024

Minutes of the meeting held at Guildhall at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Henry Pollard (Chairman)	
Philiip Woodhouse (Deputy Chairman)	Wendy Mead OBE
Alderman Alison Gowman	Suzanne Ornsby KC
Chris Hutchinson	Hugh Selka
Gregory Lawrence	Oliver Sells KC
Deputy Charles Edward Lord	
Deputy Paul Martinelli	
Catherine McGuinness	

Officers:

Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Andrew Fothergill	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
John James	- Chamberlain's Department
Genine Whitehorn	- Chamberlain's Department
Ben Milligan	- Markets Director, City Surveyor's Department
Daniel Ritchie	- City Surveyors
Stephen Dolamore	- City Surveyors
Emma Beard	- City Surveyors
Damien Coffey	- City Surveyors
Julie Mayer	- Town Clerks
Rhys Campbell	- Town Clerks

At the start of the meeting it was moved by Gregory Lawrence, Seconded by Charles Edward Lord and agreed that Alderman Alison Gowman should take the Chair until agenda item 4.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Wendy Mead, Brian Mooney and James Tumbridge.

Madush Gupta Joined the Meeting remotely.

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

Mr Gregory Lawrence had been granted a dispensation to speak on all matters concerning the London Central Markets (Smithfield) other than: (i) those in which he has a disclosable pecuniary interest as a shareholder or director of any company which holds a tenancy in the market; and (ii) those which would

affect only him personally or his business interests as opposed to the generality of tenants within the market.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT**

RESOLVED, that - the Order of the Court dated 25th April 2024 be received.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Board proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29 and the Town Clerk advised that the position was uncontested.

The Chair thanked retiring Member, Ian Seaton and noted that the Board was carrying a vacancy. The Chair further advised that Tony Lyons had stood down as Chairman of the Billingsgate Market Tenants Association, who would be electing a new Chairman and possibly a Deputy Chair in due course.

The Board noted that the Chairman and Deputy Brian Mooney would remain on the Capital Buildings Board for 2024-25.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, Henry Pollard be elected as Chairman of the Markets Board for 2024/25.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Board proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30 and the Town Clerk advised that the position was uncontested.

RESOLVED, that – being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, Philip Woodhouse be elected as Deputy Chairman of the Markets Board for 2024/25.

6. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 be approved.

7. **UPDATES FROM THE GENERAL MANAGERS**

The Board received the regular updates from the from the General Managers of the three wholesale markets.

The Board noted that officers at Smithfield were working with facilities management colleagues in terms of escalations and penalties were issued to the contractor in the event of non-compliance.

In response to a question about falling electricity charges, the Director advised that he received regular updates from the Energy Manager and would provide a report to the next meeting of the Markets Board.

8. **MARKETS BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE PERIOD 3 2023/24 (DECEMBER-MARCH)**

The Board received a report of the Markets Director which provided an update on progress made during Period 3 (December-March) of 2023/24 and key improvement objectives outlined in the Markets' Business Plan 2023/24.

The Director advised that the Town Clerk and Chief Executive had declared the Markets Division as exemplar for staff wellbeing across the City of London Corporation. The Chair asked for his congratulations to staff to go on record.

In response to a question about staff absence, the Director asked Members to be mindful of confidentiality but updates on policy areas and absence data could be shared with the Board at a strategic level. However, the Markets Board is not the appropriate forum for policy challenge, as this falls within the remit of the Corporate Services Committee.

The Chair was concerned about the low response rate to the survey and encouraged the tenants associations to respond, as this would enable Board to consider their views and act accordingly. The Director confirmed that surveys are the best way for the Division to gather data.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

9. WHOLESALE MARKET RISK UPDATE REPORT

The Board received a report of the Markets Director, which sought to provide the Board with assurance that risk management procedures in place within the Markets Division are satisfactory and meet the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework.

Members noted that the risk of delay to the Markets Co-location Programme had been adjusted in the Risk Register, which is also reflected in the City Corporation's Corporate Risk Report. The Comptroller and City Solicitor, also the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the project would be providing a further update in the confidential section of this agenda.

RESOLVED, that – the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

**Item
13 - 21**

**Paragraph
3**

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
RESOLVED, That – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 be approved as a correct record.
14. **NEW SPITALFIELDS & BILLINGSGATE MARKETS WASTE MANAGEMENT & MARKET CLEANSING - PROCUREMENT STRATEGY REPORT AND EXTENSION OF CURRENT CONTRACT**
The Board received a report of the City Surveyor.
15. **GENERAL MANAGERS' UPDATES**
The Board received non-public updates from the General Managers.
16. **TENANCIES AT WILL AND ASSIGNMENTS**
The Board received a report of the Markets Director.
17. **DEBT ARREARS**
The Board received a report of the Markets Director.
18. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were no urgent items.
20. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**
RESOLVED, that – the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2024 be approved.
21. **MARKETS CO-LOCATION PROGRAMME UPDATE**
The Comptroller and City Solicitor (Senior Responsible Officer) was heard.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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