

Policy and Resources Committee
Thursday, 11 July 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 11 July 2024 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Vice-Chair)
Munsur Ali
Deputy Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Peter Dunphy (Ex-Officio Member)
Mary Durcan (Ex-Officio Member)
Helen Fentimen OBE JP
Steve Goodman OBE
Jason Groves
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Deputy Ann Holmes
Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Deputy Brian Mooney BEM
Alderman Sir William Russell
Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson
James Tumbridge

In attendance (Observing Online)

Deputy Andrien Meyers
Deputy Madush Gupta

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk
Jennifer Beckermann	- Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee
Polly Dunn	- Assistant Town Clerk and Executive Director, Governance and Member Services
Benjamin Dixon	- Town Clerk's Department
Barbara Hook	- Town Clerk's Department
Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristy Sandino	- Town Clerk's Department
Emily Slatter	- Town Clerk's Department
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain

Zakki Ghauri	- Chamberlain's Department
Daniel Peattie	- Chamberlain's Department
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive
Dionne Corradine	- Chief Strategy Officer
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation and Growth
Omkar Chana	- Innovation and Growth
Daniel O'Byrne	- Innovation and Growth
Emily Tofield	- Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
David Abbott	- City Surveyor's Department
Huw Evans	- City Surveyor's Department
Theresa Grant	- City Surveyor's Department
Ben Milligan	- City Surveyor's Department
Robert Murphy	- City Surveyor's Department
Paul Wright	- Remembrancer
Deborah Bell	- Community and Children's Services Department
Simon Cribbens	- Community and Children's Services Department
Rob McNicol	- Environment Department

The Chairman referred to the substantial agenda before Members today and there being significant items due for consideration during the confidential and non-public parts of the agenda. The Chairman proposed a re-ordering of the agenda to allow for consideration of the confidential and non-public items during the first part of the meeting and then moving to the public agenda for consideration during the final part of the meeting, with Members offering their agreement to this approach.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Tijs Broeke, Jaspreet Hodgson, Philip Woodhouse, Deputy Henry Colthurst, Deputy James Thomson, Deputy Paul Martinelli and Deputy Andrien Meyers.

2. **Members Declarations Under the Code of Conduct in Respect of Items on the Agenda**

There were none.

The Town Clerk referred to the agreement of Members to take confidential and non-public agenda items during the first part of the meeting.

19. **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.

32. Minutes

- a) The confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 6 June 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The confidential minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting on 5 June 2024 were noted.

33. City's Wholesale Markets Co-location Programme - Delivery Review Update

The Committee considered a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive providing an update on a delivery review of the Markets Co-Location Programme.

34. Trade & Investment Update

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing a Trade & Investment update.

35. Central Criminal Court Cleaning Services

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor providing an update relating to Central Criminal Court Cleaning Services.

36. Recruitment of the Commissioner for the City of London Police

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director & Chief People Officer relating to recruitment of a Commissioner for the City of London Police.

20. Minutes

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 6 June 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The draft non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee Meeting on 2 May 2024 were noted.
- c) The non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 29 May 2024 were noted.

21. Puddle Dock - Development Options Review

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor relating to Puddle Dock development options review.

22. General Election Update

The Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs and Remembrancer providing a general election update.

23. **Destination Advisory Board - Establishment Process**
The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing an update on a Destination Advisory Board Establishment Process.
24. **Revised Sponsorship Agreement between the City of London Academy Trust (CoLAT) and City of London Corporation**
The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Services relating to a revised sponsorship agreement between the City of London Academy Trust and City of London Corporation.
25. **Appointment of External Member to Competitiveness Advisory Board (CAB)**
The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth relating to appointment of an external Member to the Competitiveness Advisory Board.
26. **UK Insurance Event**
The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing an update relating to a UK Insurance Event.
27. **Innovation and Growth Quarterly Report**
The Committee received a non-public appendix to be read in conjunction with item 16).
28. **Barking Reach Power Station Companies - Business Plan Update**
The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor providing a Business Plan Update relating to Barking Power Reach Station Companies.
29. **Livery Committee Website**
The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk providing an update on the Livery Committee website.
30. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
31. **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.

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At this point in the meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed the conclusion of the confidential and non-public sections of the agenda and sought Members' agreement to move to the public agenda and to re-admit Members of the public for its consideration, with Members agreeing to this.

For the benefit of the public viewing the meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed that the committee had already considered item 1 where apologies were received; item 2 there had been no declarations.

3. **Minutes**

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 6 June 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The draft public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee Meeting on 2 May 2024 were noted.
- c) The draft public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 29 May 2024 were noted.

4. **Court of Common Council and Easter Recess 2025**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive presenting options for a variation to the 2025 Easter Recess and seeking approval of a date to host the first Court of Common Council meeting of the 2025/2026 civic year.

The Chairman proposed Members supported option F, with a Court of Common Council meeting taking place on Friday 25th April 2025.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to the first Court of Common Council meeting of the 2025/2026 civic year being held on Friday 25th April 2025.

5. **Standing Order Review 2024**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive seeking Members' approval of the scope of a regular review of Standing Orders, following feedback from Members and Officers and a commitment made by the Policy Chairman at the April 2024 Court of Common Council meeting.

The Committee were generally supportive of the scope of the Standing Order review as detailed within the report. An area of consideration was raised regarding question time at Court of Common Council meetings and how this was currently being used; the review should consider how Standing Orders could be applied to manage the question time process. Questions to Committee Chairs were considered important to maintain but with there being a need to manage the process. Reference was made to the moving of amendments and a need to make the process clear for Members. It was suggested that 'Standing Order 2 Suspension' and 'Standing Order 3 Amendment' should require a two thirds agreement rather than an overall majority, with this being an area for consideration. A Member referred to Standing Orders '50 Projects' and '51 Procurement and Contract Letting' as being important, with them needing to be high on the agenda and reviewed in parallel.

In conclusion, the Chairman agreed on the importance of retaining questions at Court of Common Council meetings, with the approach and behaviours of certain Members needing addressing whilst also maintaining their democratic right to ask questions. The Chairman sought Members agreement to the Standing Order review proceeding on the basis as set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- i) Approved the scope of the Standing Order Review, set out within the report;
- ii) authorised the Town Clerk to make any additions to the scope that may be necessitated during the course of the consultation exercises; and
- iii) noted the proposed timeline for consultation and delivery.

6. Barbican Area Advisory Group

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services presenting for approval revised Terms of Reference for the Barbican Area Advisory Group in looking to achieve a joined-up approach to the Barbican Complex.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Noted the report;
- Approved the proposals and Terms of Reference to strengthen the Barbican Area Advisory Group.

7. Productivity Plan

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Chief Strategy Officer seeking approval of the City of London Corporation's productivity plan, due for submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities on 19th July 2024.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Reviewed and approved the report as a submission to DLUHC.

8. Digital, Data & Technology Strategy

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain summarising activities undertaken to bring together the wider City Corporation including its institutions under a single strategy, and presenting a Digital, Data and Technology strategy for approval.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved the Shared Digital, Data and Technology Strategy.

9. Capital Funding Update

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain seeking Members agreement to release of funding to allow schemes to progress to the next Gateway.

A Member, also Chair of Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee referred to there being confusion in his committee over where the budget sits for the future of the London Metropolitan Archives project, with the Chairman suggesting the Member take this offline for discussion with the Chamberlain.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- (i) Reviewed the schemes summarised in Table 1 and, particularly in the context of the current financial climate, to confirm their continued essential priority for release of funding at this time and accordingly:
- (ii) Agreed the release of up to £3.970m for the schemes progressing to the next Gateway in Table 1 from City Fund £3.490m (including £0.893m for OSPR and £0.150m from City Fund Contingency), City Estate £0.459m and £0.021m from City Bridge Fund (CBF).
- (iii) Noted the CBF element of £0.021m having been approved by delegated authority assigned to the CBF finance director.
- (iv) Agreed release of £0.150m of City Fund contingency

10. **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocation process and potential CIL rates review**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director Environment Department and Chamberlain providing an update on the process for Community Infrastructure Levy Allocation and potential rates review and proposing a series of actions that would reduce allocation of CIL in the short term.

A Member raised a concern over a delay with the CIL review and an associated cost of £1.4m, with this having first been raised by the Member a year ago and it now likely to take another 18 months. The Member further highlighted potential impact on the market through any increase of CIL rates and a concern that it could discourage companies from moving to London. The Westminster City Council model was highlighted as a model the City could follow.

In response, the Executive Director, Environment confirmed the intention to begin a review of the CIL charging schedule, to understand the potential for increasing CIL rates and to consider any implications for the City's competitiveness and viability, with this review being undertaken in consultation with the market. It was further clarified that Westminster City Council had seen a reduction in planning applications. A Member added how the City was different to Westminster, as a major financial business centre and its importance to the City of London finance sector must not be overlooked.

The Executive Director Environment explained that timing of the review was partly down to a change in Government, with there having previously been potential changes to how CIL operated under the Levelling Up Act. A change in Government had seen this threat move away so it was now considered a good time to review rates. Members noted that the review would need to follow a process with public consultation included, but with it being done as quickly as possible.

The Chairman stressed that the review would need to look globally given the City was competing with the rest of the world.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to temporarily limit the quarterly allocation of CIL to those projects that are 'critical' for supporting the City's development needs
- Agreed to refresh the City Corporation's Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Agreed to bring in more specific assessments to inform prioritising infrastructure projects funded by CIL
- Agreed to more widely publicise how CIL and other developer contributions are being used for public benefit
- Agreed to undertake a review of CIL rates and the Planning Obligations SPD
- Agreed to put in place robust mechanisms for collecting and spending developer contributions related to biodiversity net gain and cultural infrastructure

11. **Community Infrastructure Levy and On Street Parking Reserves Capital Bids Quarter 1 2024/25**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director Environment Department and Chamberlain presenting bids for allocation from the City's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and On-Street Parking Reserves (OSPR).

A Member raised an issue relating to the cost of street parking and taking into account options for residents, with the Chairman responding and confirming this would need taking up with the relevant committee to consider e.g. Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to allocate £14.41m of CIL to transforming Fleet Street, Golden Lane Leisure Centre podium damage repairs and Museum of London Highways Strengthening works on Charterhouse Street projects and £2.58m of OSPR to Vision Zero Safer Streets and Riverside Lighting Upgrade projects.
- Noted that a CIL bid for the City of London School was received, which does not meet the criteria for allocating CIL.
- Noted that the Museum bid of £2.4m has approval by Policy and Resources (22 Feb 2024); Finance Committee (under urgency) and Court of Common Council (7 March 2024).

12. **Transitioning from 1-Year to 5-Year Business Planning.**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Strategy Officer summarising the current single-year High Level Business Plan process and signalling the intention to transition towards all Departments and Institutions producing five-year business plans to be reviewed annually.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

13. **policy and Resources Contingency/Discretionary Funds**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain providing a schedule of projects and activities which have received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund and the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund for 2024/25 and future years with details of expenditure in 2024/25.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

14. **London Careers Festival 2024 Evaluation**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services providing an update on outcomes from the London Careers Festival 2024.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

15. **MIPIIM Property Conference 2024**

The Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director, Environment and City Surveyor providing an update on the City of London Corporation's activities at the MIPIIM property exhibition in March 2024.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

16. **Innovation and Growth Quarterly Report**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth presenting the impact of the City of London Corporation's work in support of UK Financial and Professional Services between April and June 2024.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

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

There were no questions.

18. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no additional items of business.

The meeting ended at 3.20pm

Chairman

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