



## Policy and Resources Committee

**Date:** THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2024  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** COMMITTEE ROOMS, 2ND FLOOR, WEST WING, GUILDHALL

**Members:**

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)	Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)	Jaspreet Hodgson
Tijs Broeke (Vice-Chair)	Deputy Ann Holmes
Caroline Haines (Vice Chair)	Deputy Shравan Joshi MBE
Munsur Ali	Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Deputy Randall Anderson (Ex- Officio Member)	Alderman Alastair King DL
Deputy Henry Colthurst (Ex- Officio Member)	The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Ald. Michael Mainelli (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Peter Dunphy (Ex-Officio Member)	Deputy Paul Martinelli
Mary Durcan (Ex-Officio Member)	Deputy Andrien Meyers
Helen Fentimen OBE JP	Deputy Brian Mooney BEM
Steve Goodman OBE	Deputy Alastair Moss
Jason Groves	Benjamin Murphy
	Alderman Sir William Russell
	Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
	Deputy James Thomson
	James Tumbridge
	Philip Woodhouse

**Enquiries:** Polly Dunn  
 polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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

A recording of the public meeting will be available via the above link following the end of the public meeting for up to one civic year. Please note: Online meeting recordings do not constitute the formal minutes of the meeting; minutes are written and are available on the City of London Corporation's website. Recordings may be edited, at the discretion of the proper officer, to remove any inappropriate material.

Whilst we endeavour to livestream all of our public meetings, this is not always possible due to technical difficulties. In these instances, if possible, a recording will be uploaded following the end of the meeting

**Ian Thomas CBE**  
 Town Clerk and Chief Executive

# AGENDA

NB: Certain items presented for information have been marked \* and will be taken without discussion, unless the Committee Clerk has been informed that a Member has questions or comments prior to the start of the meeting. These for information items have been collated into a supplementary agenda pack and circulated separately.

## Part 1 - Public Agenda

### 1. APOLOGIES

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

### 3. MINUTES

To consider minutes as follows:-

- a) **To agree the public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 October 2024**

**For Decision**  
(Pages 7 - 16)

- b) **\* To note the public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting 23 July 2024**

**For Information**

- c) **\* To note the draft public minutes of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 4 September 2024**

**For Information**

### 4. TERMS OF REFERENCE: ANNUAL REVIEW

Report of the Town Clerk.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 17 - 22)

5. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**  
Report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 23 - 40)
6. **UN GLOBAL COMPACT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) - COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2024**  
Report of the Chief Strategy Officer.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 41 - 74)
7. **PAN-LONDON SEXUAL HEALTH E-SERVICES PROGRAMME - CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION ROLE**  
Joint report of the Director of Community & Children's Services and Chamberlain.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 75 - 82)
8. **SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CULTURE STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION**  
Report of Town Clerk.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 83 - 90)
9. **RESEARCH INTO THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S LINKS TO THE HISTORICAL TRADE IN ENSLAVED AFRICAN PEOPLE**  
Report of Deputy Town Clerk.
- For Decision**  
(Pages 91 - 100)
10. **\* INNOVATION AND GROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT**  
Report of the Executive Director for Innovation and Growth.
- For Information**
11. **\* POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**  
Report of the Chamberlain.
- For Information**
12. **\* DELIVERING THE SQUARE MILE SPORT STRATEGY (2023-30) – UPDATE REPORT**  
Report of the City Remembrancer.
- For Information**

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

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

**15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION - 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, or are otherwise exempt from publication on the grounds that they relate to functions of the Court of Common Council which are not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda**

**16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

To consider non-public minutes of meetings as follows:-

- a) **To agree the non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 October 2024**

**For Decision**  
(Pages 101 - 104)

- b) **\* To note the non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting 23 July 2024**

**For Information**

- c) **\* To note the draft non-public minutes of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 4 September 2024**

**For Information**

**17. BARBICAN CENTRE RENEWAL**

A joint report of the Interim Chief Executive of the Barbican Centre, City Surveyor and Chamberlain.

**For Decision**  
(To Follow)

18. **FUTURE SKILLS AND TALENT - STRENGTHENING INNOVATION AND GROWTH SUPPORT FOR CITY COMPETITIVENESS, AND SUPPORTING PROGRESS TOGETHER AND FINANCIAL SERVICES SKILLS COMMISSION**  
Report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 105 - 152)

19. **STRATEGIC PROPERTY ESTATE STRATEGY**  
Report of the City Surveyor.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 153 - 158)

20. **APPOINTMENTS TO DESTINATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
Report of the Deputy Town Clerk.

**For Decision**  
(To Follow)

21. **NEW LONDON MUSEUM CLAIMS**  
Joint report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive and City Surveyor.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 159 - 168)

22. **ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB) IN LONDON**  
Report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth.

**For Decision**  
(Pages 169 - 174)

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

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

**Part 3 - Confidential Agenda – Circulated Separately**

25. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**  
To consider confidential minutes of meetings as follows:-

- a) **To note the public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting 23 July 2024**

- b) **To note the draft confidential minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting on 17 September 2024**

**For Information**

**26. MARKETS CO-LOCATION PROGRAMME**

Report the Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive.

**For Decision  
(To Follow)**

## POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 October 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 17 October 2024 at 1.45 pm

### Present

#### Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)  
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)  
Tijs Broeke (Vice-Chair)  
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  
Jaspreet Hodgson  
Deputy Ann Holmes  
Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE  
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE  
Deputy Paul Martinelli  
Alderman Sir William Russell  
James Tumbridge  
Philip Woodhouse

#### In attendance (Observing online)

Deputy Marianne Fredericks  
John Griffiths  
Deputy Madush Gupta  
Deputy Brian Mooney  
Benjamin Murphy

#### Officers:

Ian Thomas CBE	- Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk
Polly Dunn	- Assistant Town Clerk and Executive Director, Governance and Member Services
Jennifer Beckerman	- Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee
Peter Barlow	- Town Clerk's Department
Mathew Baird	- Town Clerk's Department
Benjamin Dixon	- Town Clerk's Department

Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Emily Slatter	- Town Clerk's Department
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Daniel Peattie	- Chamberlain's Department
Dionne Corradine	- Chief Strategy Officer
Judith Finlay	- Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Damian Nussbaum	- Executive Director of Innovation and Growth
Daniel O'Byrne	- Innovation and Growth
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director, Environment Department
Ruby Raw	- Environment Department
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Peter Young	- City Surveyor's Department
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Department

The Chairman took the opportunity welcome Katie Stewart, Executive Director Environment, to her first Policy and Resources Committee since joining the City Corporation.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli, Deputy Henry Colthurst, Deputy Brian Mooney, Deputy James Thomson, Deputy Andrien Meyers and Benjamin Murphy.

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

There were no declarations.

**3. MINUTES**

The Committee considered minutes as follows:

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 26 September 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The draft public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting on 18 September 2024 were noted.
- c) The draft public minutes of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 24 July 2024 were noted.



4. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

The Committee considered the appointment to a Policy and Resources Sub-Committee as follows:

a) **Civic Affairs Sub-Committee**

The Town Clerk confirmed that there was one vacancy on Civic Affairs Sub-Committee that required appointing to for the remainder of the civic year.

Two expressions of interest were received from James Tumbridge and Steve Goodman to serve on the Sub-Committee. As such, a ballot was conducted for the one vacancy.

RESOLVED: That James Tumbridge was duly appointed to Civic Affairs Sub-Committee for the remainder of the civic year.

5. **ACT OF COMMON COUNCIL - ANNUAL ELECTION OF WARD BEADLES**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Comptroller and City Solicitor and Remembrancer regarding proposed changes to the mechanism relating to the appointment to the role of Ward Beadles and seeking approval of a recommendation to Court of Common Council the passing of an Act of Common Council to achieve this.

A Member welcomed the proposal and suggested that moving forwards Ward Beadle vacancies could be advertised to achieve greater transparency when looking to fill the post, with the Chairman responding confirming the Member's point had been noted.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed that Policy and Resources Committee recommend to the Court of Common Council the passing of an Act of Common Council.

6. **CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION - BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (BIDS) PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Director, Environment seeking approval for the Aldgate Connect and Cheapside Business Alliance to ballot businesses on a renewal of their BIDs.

During the discussion that followed a number of points were raised. A concern was raised that the City Corporation was acting as BID proposer and also BID body for all BIDs in the Square Mile. It was suggested that BID governance would benefit from a review; a letter could be sent to all BID Boards clarifying their responsibilities and the governance structure. An opportunity should be taken to rethink the BID model with the Riverside partnership coming through. It was questioned whether 75 BIDs in London was the right approach; the City Corporation could look to engage with London Councils to review BID structures across London. The expansion of BID boundaries was highlighted as an area that would benefit from Member consultation. Staffing resources within departments working in support of BIDs was highlighted as an area that needed addressing.

A point was raised regarding BIDs needing to deliver value for money and with there being a need for radical reform where they were not delivering. Tangible benefits and added value of a BID was not always understood and there was a need for measurable targets to understand what was being delivered. The effectiveness of the Member observer role was raised and of there being a need for longer terms to achieve consistency in these roles. It was stressed that good governance should include diversity as a key consideration and the importance of this being addressed by the BIDs. The City Corporation should look to support and influence BID Boards to help them improve their diversity, whilst accepting that any final decision on Board membership rested with the Boards themselves. Micro businesses and residents were highlighted as key areas with which to engage and in looking to ensure these areas were adequately represented and supported.

In response, there was an acknowledgement of the City's unique position as BID Body and BID promoter, with there being agreement over a need for better governance and scrutiny of service delivery companies. There was a recognition of the benefit that additional resources and more officers working in support of BIDs would offer. There was agreement to write to BID boards clarifying their responsibilities. A commitment was given to improving engagement and communications with Members relating to the Riverside Partnership. It was clarified that the process of extending BID boundaries was primarily managed by the BID Boards themselves, with formal Member consultation occurring closer to the BID ballot.

The Chairman confirmed that he would engage with London Councils to look at how BIDs were working across London, exploring options to improve their co-ordination and structure. The Chairman further committed to writing to BID Chairs to clarify BID Boards' responsibilities and governance structures whilst also taking the opportunity to address these issues in upcoming meetings with BID Chairs.

The Deputy Chairman, as Chair of the Strategic BID Board, stressed the importance of approving the business plans today to provide a platform. Approval should be granted today whilst asking officers in approving these to progress a range of work in other areas.

The Chairman accepted that more work was needed. It was agreed that an interim report would come back to Policy and Resources Committee later in the civic year providing an update before the current Court was dissolved. This would allow for existing Members familiar with the discussions being able to review progress.

RESOLVED: That Members

- Agreed for a renewal ballot to commence in the Cheapside Business Alliance BID area, on the basis of the draft Business Plan at Appendix 1.

- Agreed for a ballot to commence in the Aldgate Connect BID area, on the basis of the draft Business Plan at Appendix 2 (including an alteration to extend BID Boundary as set out in Appendix 3).
- Agreed proposals to support the City Corporation's evolving relationship with the City BIDs, based on external advice (Summary included as Appendix 4).

**7. ANNUAL PROGRESS UPDATE ON YEAR 3 OF CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY, AND UPDATE ON YEAR 4 QUARTERS 1 AND 2**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing an update on progress on Climate Action Strategy targets to the end of Year 3 (2023/24).

During the discussion that followed, reference was made to the recommendations not being clearly structured and with it being difficult to understand what Members were being asked to approve; the report format should be aligned to other departments and offer clarity. The importance of not working in silos was stressed and with there being a need to integrate the Climate Action Strategy to the Social Housing Strategy, thereby ensuring that the City Corporation would not be chasing targets that might overlook the opportunity to align to housing needs, particularly in terms of financing and political considerations. It was stressed that the City Corporation should be ambitious with its climate actions, exploring further opportunities such as solar panels and other renewable energy sources, especially in social housing estates and the Barbican.

In response the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth acknowledged the need for clearer recommendations moving forward. It was confirmed that the Climate Action Strategy pathway to net zero was being revised to reflect realistic interim targets. It was further clarified that a fundamental approach to the Climate Action Strategy involved all areas across the City Corporation working collaboratively in support of the targets, with this including working in support of key areas focussed on social housing.

The Chairman concluded the discussion, noting the recommendations were asking Members to endorse, with only one recommendation seeking approval. The Chairman asked that future papers offered clarity so Members could understand exactly what they were approving.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Noted the paper.
- Endorsed continued authority to the CAS Senior Responsible Officer for approval of capital expenditure up to £1m outside of the usual Project Procedure (i.e. gateway reporting), and revenue expenditure from the approved Climate Action budget (paragraph 7).
- Endorsed mitigating actions to help bring the Corporation back on track to achieve net zero in our own operations by 2027 (paragraphs 23 and 24).

- iv. Approved updated interim targets for 2024/25 and 2025/26, setting out a revised pathway to net zero in March 2027 (paragraph 30).
- v. Endorsed the need to collaborate in finding solutions to barriers and challenges in delivery of the Climate Action Strategy.

## 8. **LONDON GROWTH PLAN SUBMISSION**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain providing an update on a London Growth Plan being developed by the Greater London Authority and London Councils and seeking approval of the City Corporation's submission.

During the discussion that followed, a number of points were raised. These included:

- Concern over some of the language included in the paper, particularly reference to a 'super CAS' (Central Activity Zone) to include the West End, the City and Canary Wharf; this could potentially dilute the unique policies and successes of the Square Mile.
- Given the Government's Industrial Strategy policies were now clear, the submission could include more detail on how the City would support SMEs, startups and fintech; including areas within the submission where the City Corporation has a focus.
- The impact of Artificial Intelligence on the Square Mile should be recognised and brought out.
- There was an opportunity to say more on contributing to the housing crisis across London. The City could follow other major cities around the world through providing housing for key workers.
- Buffer land and opportunities it presents for house building should be considered.
- Growing skills and getting people into the right job; giving individuals the skills they need when they come from an economically deprived family was an important area of consideration.

In response, there was agreement on the points raised and for reference to these to be included within the City Corporation's final submission. Use of buffer land for housing was not considered appropriate for inclusion in the City Corporation's response to the London Growth Plan submission, with this point being noted.

The Town Clerk referred to changes that may be required to the document following the meeting today and in advance of its final submission. The Town Clerk put forward a proposal that Members agreed to authorise the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to make any final relevant changes, with Members agreeing to this approach.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved the submission to the London Growth Plan;
- Authorised the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to make any relevant final changes that may be required in advance of the City Corporation submitting its response to the Mayor of London and London Councils.

9. **TRANSFORMATION FUND 2024-25**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain providing an update on funding from the Transformation Fund and seeking approval of a framework for bids and future oversight of the Fund being through Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

- Approved the delegation approval framework for bids as outlined in paragraph 5.
- Agreed to delegate future oversight of the Fund to the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee.

10. **MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT 2024-2029**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk seeking approval of a refreshed Modern Slavery statement made pursuant to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

A Member highlighted the GIG economy as an area that had the potential to present modern slavery issues. It was suggested including the GIG economy within paragraph 62 as an area of highest risk of modern slavery. A Member referred to the statue of John Cass in Guildhall and suggested this should have a plaque giving more information on his background, similar to information provided on the Beckford statue.

The Town Clerk responded and noted the concern raised regarding the GIG economy. With this being more of an operational matter, it would be taken forward to relevant officers to provide a formal response and reflected in the statement if Members were in agreement with this. A Member concern was raised regarding the Cass statue labelling, and was assured this would be directed to the appropriate officer but with it being hoped that the statement goes some way to show that the City Corporation was taking the issue very seriously.

The Chairman concluded the discussion, thanking Members for their comments and asking them for their approval of the statement based on the responses that had been given.

RESOLVED: That Members:

- Approved the draft Modern Slavery Statement 2024-2029.
- Approved the publication of the draft statement both on the City Corporation website and the HM Government's Modern Slavery Statement registry.

11. **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 (PIF) and the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

12. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**  
There were no questions.

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

14. **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.

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**  
The Committee considered minutes as follows:

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 26 September 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The draft non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting on 18 September 2024 were noted.
- c) The draft non-public minutes of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 24 July 2024 were noted.

16. **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR REVISED DESTINATION CITY PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE FOR NEW DESTINATION CITY HUB**  
The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding implementation for a revised Destination City Programme and organisational structure for a new Destination City Hub.

17. **VAT ON SCHOOL FEES**  
The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain, Remembrancer and Comptroller and City Solicitor providing an update on VAT on school fees.

18. **UK INSURANCE EVENT MAY 2025**  
The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing an update on a UK Insurance Event 2025.

19. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**  
There were no questions.

20. **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.

**The meeting ended 3.42pm**

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Chairman

**Contact Officer: Polly Dunn**  
**[polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:polly.dunn@cityoflondon.gov.uk)**

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# Agenda Item 4

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy and Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 07 November 2024
<b>Subject:</b> Terms of Reference: Annual Review	<b>Public</b>
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· provides statutory duties</li><li>· provides business enabling functions</li></ul>	Providing Excellent Services
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	N/A
<b>If so, how much?</b>	
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	
<b>Report author:</b> Chris Rumbles, Town Clerk's Department	<b>For Decision</b>

## Summary

In accordance with agreed governance arrangements, this report is presenting Policy and Resources Committee with its terms of reference as part of an annual review. No changes are proposed at this time; however, Members may wish to make suggestions and provide feedback to be incorporated into the terms of reference.

The Annual Review of the Committee's Terms of Reference allows for any proposed changes to be considered in time for the annual reappointment of Committees by Court of Common Council. Terms of Reference for the Policy and Resources Committee are attached at Appendix 1.

## Recommendations:

1. The terms of reference of the Committee (**set out at Appendix 1**) be approved, subject to any changes proposed being incorporated, for onward submission to Court of Common Council in April 2025; and,
2. Should any amendments be required, agree that Delegated Authority be granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to consider the final wording of the revised terms of reference, for onward recommendation to Court of Common Council

## Main Report

## Background

1. The Court of Common Council considers and re-appoints committees to discharge its various responsibilities on an annual basis each April.
2. In anticipation of this, each Grand Committee (i.e. a committee directly appointed by the Court of Common Council) is, invited to consider whether its own terms of reference sufficiently capture and reflect the work of their relevant work areas.
3. Typically, this annual review provides an opportunity for officers and Members to suggest any administrative amendments (such as the updates of names of any Departments, or Committees) alongside any more substantial revisions that are considered necessary to facilitate strategic change.

### **Current Position**

4. The Committee's existing Terms of Reference document is set out at Appendix 1. Given work that has been undertaken in recent years in reviewing and changing the terms of reference as part of this, no further changes are being proposed at this time. It is, however for the Committee to consider and decide whether or not any amendments are required.

### **Proposals**

5. No changes are known to be required at this time. If this is agreed, no further action will be taken and the terms of reference will go forward to Court of Common Council for the annual re-appointment of Committees in April 2025. Should Members consider that changes and updates are necessary, caution should be exercised in attempting to draft and agree wording in the meeting; it is therefore recommended that officers be instructed to draft any proposed amendments and seek the necessary approval of these under delegated authority procedure in advance of submission to Court of Common Council.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

- **Strategic implications** – Any changes should facilitate efficiencies in the delivery of the City of London Corporation Strategy.
- **Financial and Resource implications** – None, providing no changes are required. Financial and Resource Implications will need to be considered should the Committee seek to make amendments.
- **Legal implications** – any changes proposed will change internal organisational administrative procedures at the City of London Corporation.
- **Risk implications** – None, providing no changes are required. Risk Implications will need to be considered should the Committee seek to make amendments.
- **Equalities implications** – Under the Equality Act 2010, all public bodies have a duty to ensure that when exercising their functions they have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and to take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people and encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where

their participation is disproportionately low. The proposals contained in this report do not have any potential negative impact on a particular group of people based on their protected characteristics.

- **Climate implications** - The proposals included in this paper do not carry any significant implications for the Climate Action programme.
- **Security implications** – None

## **Conclusion**

6. It is recommended that Policy and Resources Committee consider its terms of reference and decides whether the document accurately reflects the nature of its work and that the document suitably reflects its various functions and duties working in support of the overall aims of the City Corporation.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – 2024/25 Policy and Resources Committee (Terms of Reference as agreed by Court of Common Council in April 2024)

Chris Rumbles

E: [christopher.rumbles@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.rumbles@cityoflondon.gov.uk)



## Policy and Resources Committee

### Terms of Reference

To be responsible for:-

- General**
- (a) considering matters of policy and strategic importance to the City of London Corporation including matters referred to it by other Committees and/or Chief Officers;
  - (b) the review and co-ordination of the governance of the City of London Corporation including its Committees, Standing Orders and Outside Bodies Scheme, reporting as necessary to the Court of Common Council, together with the City Corporation's overall organisation and administration;
  - (c) overseeing, generally, the security of the City and the City of London Corporation's security and emergency planning;
  - (d) the support and promotion of the City of London as the world leader in international financial and business services and to oversee, generally, the City of London Corporation's economic development activities, communications strategy and public relations activities locally and globally;
  - (e) the use of the City's Armorial bearings;
  - (f) general matters not otherwise expressly provided for within the terms of reference of any other Committee;
  - (g) the functions of the Court of Common Council as walkway authority and under Part II of the City of London (Various Powers) Act 1967 (excluding the declaration, alteration and discontinuance of City Walkway) for the purposes of promoting works to the Barbican Podium;
  - (h) approving the City Corporation's annual contribution to the London Councils' Grants Scheme and agreeing, alongside other constituent councils, the proposed overall budget;
  - (i) making recommendations to the Court of Common Council in respect of:
    - (i) the appointment of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive, Comptroller & City Solicitor and Remembrancer;
    - (ii) the Corporate Plan, Community Strategy, and other corporate strategies, statements or resolutions;
    - (iii) the issuing of levies to all the constituent councils for their contributions to the London Councils' Grants Scheme, for which the Court of Common Council is a levying body; and
    - (iv) the promotion of legislation and, where appropriate, byelaws;
- Resource Allocation**
- (j) determining resource allocation in accordance with the City of London Corporation's strategic policies;
- Corporate Assets**
- (k) (i) determining the overall use of the Guildhall Complex; and  
(ii) approving overall strategy and policy in respect of the City Corporation's assets;
- Projects (Capital and Supplementary Revenue)**
- (l) considering all proposals for capital and supplementary revenue projects, and determining whether projects should be included in the capital and supplementary revenue programme as well as the phasing of any expenditure;
- Hospitality**
- (m) arrangements for the provision of hospitality on behalf of the City of London Corporation;
- Privileges**
- (n) Members' privileges, facilities and development;
- Sustainability**
- (o) strategies and initiatives in relation to sustainability;
- Business Improvement Districts**
- (p) responsibility for the functions of the BID Proposer and BID Body (as approved by the Court of Common Council in October 2014);
- Sub-Committees**
- (q) appointing such Sub-Committees as are considered necessary for the better performance of its duties including the following areas:-
    - \* Resource Allocation (including Operational Property)
    - Outside Bodies
    - Communications and Corporate Affairs
    - Freedom Applications
    - Capital Buildings
    - Competitiveness
    - †Civic Affairs
    - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

### Member Development and Standards

\* The constitution of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee is set by the Court of Common Council and comprises the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of the Grand Committee, past Chairmen of the Grand Committee providing that they are Members of the Committee at that time, the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, the Senior Alderman below the Chair and seven Members appointed by the Grand Committee.

† the Working Parties or Sub Committees responsible for hospitality and Members' privileges shall be able to report directly to the Court of Common Council and the Chair able to address reports and respond to matters in the Court associated with these activities.

(r) **Standards and Code of Conduct**

Following the decision of the Court of Common Council on 14 January 2021, the Committee shall have responsibility for the following matters, previously under the purview of the Standards Committee, until such time as the Court determines otherwise:-

- (i) promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by Members and Co-opted Members of the City of London Corporation and to assist Members and Co-opted Members to observe the City of London Corporation's Code of Conduct;
- (ii) preparing, keeping under review and monitoring the City of London Corporation's Member Code of Conduct and making recommendations to the Court of Common Council in respect of the adoption or revision, as appropriate, of such Code of Conduct;
- (iii) keeping under review, monitoring and revising as appropriate the City of London Corporation's Guidance to Members on the Code of Conduct;
- (iv) keeping under review by way of an annual update by the Chief People Officer and Executive Director of HR, the City of London Corporation's Employee Code of Conduct and, in relation to any revisions, making recommendations to the Corporate Services Committee;
- (v) keeping under review and monitoring the Member/Officer Charter and, in relation to any revisions, making recommendations to the Corporate Services Committee;
- (vi) advising and training Members and Co-opted Members on matters relating to the City of London Corporation's Code of Conduct.

(s) **Freedom Applications**

Responsibility for all matters relating to Freedom Applications;

(t) **Capital Buildings**

Responsibility for all projects with an estimated budget of £100 million or more, or which have been otherwise referred to the Committee, which have been approved in principle by the Court of Common Council and are being directly delivered by the City of London Corporation;

(u) **Operational Property**

Responsibility for the effective and sustainable management and strategic plans for the City of London Corporation's operational property portfolio; this includes the monitoring of capital projects, acquisitions and disposals, and the upkeep, maintenance and, where appropriate, furnishing for operational properties (including the Guildhall Complex), together with responsibility for strategies, performance, and monitoring initiatives in relation to energy usage, and for monitoring and advising on bids for Heritage Lottery funding.

(v) **Benefices**

All matters relating to the City's obligations for its various benefices.

(w) **Equality Diversity and Inclusion**

To have oversight of the City of London Corporation's policies and practices in respect of equality and inclusion, including the implementation of the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation through the establishment of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion joint Sub Committee with the Policy & Resources Committee.

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy and Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 7 November 2024
<b>Subject:</b> Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	3 & 4
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Comptrollers & City Solicitor	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Alice Loynes - Comptrollers & city Solicitors Dept	

## Summary

As required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006) the City of London Corporation is undertaking a statutory review of the Corporation's polling districts and polling places. The Corporation must undertake and complete a review of all polling districts and polling places in its area within a 16 month period commencing from 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025. The last review was completed in 2019.

Having followed the statutory process, this report make recommends no changes for the future arrangements for polling stations and polling places in the City to be used in National and London-wide elections.

The existing City of London Ward boundaries and the polling places used for City Ward elections are not included in the scope of this review.

## Recommendation(s)

The Committee are asked to:

- Agree the recommendations in the (Acting) Returning Officer's Report (set out in Appendix 1), that no change should be made to the boundaries of the polling districts, and that no change should be made to the location of the polling places within the polling districts.
- Approve any changes to Polling Places to be made under Delegated Authority by the Comptroller and City Solicitor, in consultation with the chair and deputy chairman, where a venue is unavailable and an election is called at short notice.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. As required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006), all local authority Returning Officers must undertake a statutory review of polling districts and polling places.
2. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling district and polling places. Returning Officers must undertake and complete a review of all polling districts and polling places in its area within a 16 month period commencing from 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025. The last review undertaken by the City of London Corporation was completed in 2019.
3. The City of London electoral area is currently geographically divided into four polling districts. Polling district AL is situated in the Western part of the City and covers the Bread Street, Castle Baynard, Cordwainer, Farringdon Within, Farringdon Without, Queenhithe and Vintry Ward areas. Polling district BL is situated the North of the City and covers the Aldersgate, Bassishaw, Coleman Street and part of the Cripplegate Ward areas. Polling district CL is located in the Eastern side of the City and covers Aldgate, Billingsgate, Bishopsgate, Bridge and Bridge Without, Broad Street, Candlewick, Cornhill, Dowgate, Langbourn, Lime Street, Portsoken, Tower and Walbrook Ward areas. Polling district DL in the North of the City and consists of the Golden Lane Estate in the Cripplegate Ward.
4. Electors in the AL polling district currently vote at St. Bride Foundation, 14 Bride Lane, London, EC4Y 8EQ. Electors of the BL polling district currently vote at St. Giles Cripplegate Church, Fore Street, Barbican, EC2Y 8DA. Electors in the CL polling district currently vote at the Portsoken Community Centre, 20 Little Somerset Street, London, E1 8AH. Electors in the DL polling district currently vote at the Sir Ralph Parring Centre, Golden Lane Estate, London, EC1Y 0SH. Appendix 3 shows a map of the current polling districts and polling places.

### **Current Position**

5. The Chief Executive of Westminster City Council, is the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Cities of London and Westminster Parliamentary constituency and has asked that Ian Thomas CBE, Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the City of London, act on his behalf to submit a report on the review relating to the City of London Corporation.
6. The (Acting) Returning Officer's report recommended that the arrangements in terms of the boundaries of the four polling districts remain unchanged, and that the locations of the polling places across the City of London remain unchanged.



7. Upon publication of the report, In accordance with the statutory requirements contained in Schedule A1 for the Representation of the People Act 1983, the City of London Corporation took the following steps:
- Consulted with the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Cities of London and Westminster, Stuart Love, on the existing arrangements and proposals for the report. He asked the Town Clerk to act on his behalf and produce a report on the arrangements in the City of London. The report of the (Acting) Returning Officer (Appendix 1) was published and considered issues including polling place access, facilities and location of polling places. It also considered current elector numbers, and residential developments in the City that had received planning permission.
  - Published a Notice of Review on 22 August 2024 (Appendix 2). This was published on the City of London website and hard copies posted on all Ward Notice Boards. The notice advised that the (Acting) Returning Officer's report had been published and that registered electors in the Parliamentary Constituency could make representations regarding the existing and proposed arrangements by no later than Friday 4 October 2024.
  - Contacted all Members, the constituency MP Rachel Blake, the GLA constituency representative Unmesh Desai, and local constituency political parties via email regarding publication of the Notice and the (Acting) Returning Officer's report, advising that they could make representations regarding the existing and proposed arrangements by no later than Friday 4 October 2024.
  - Contacted the Equity Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EEDI) Team and City of London Access Group (COLAG), to review the report and consider any access issues that could cause difficulties for electors.
8. As part of the Review, an audit of all the existing polling places was conducted. The audit examined the suitability of the polling places in terms of facilities and access for all voters including disabled voters. The polling places in polling districts CL and DL have good disabled access with flat entrance from the street to the polling station. Access to the polling place in polling district BL, St Giles Cripplegate Church, is via either steps or a ramp leading to the entrance to the polling station, providing good disabled access to the building. Access to the polling place in AL, St Bride Foundation, is accessible from the entrance on Salisbury Court. Directions are provided on poll cards and signage is displayed directing voters to this entrance.
9. The current polling places were most recently used at the UK Parliamentary election on 4 July 2024. No issues were reported regarding accessibility at any of the polling places for this election.
10. In response to the various consultation notices (i.e. website, Ward Notice Boards, emails to Members etc.) the City of London Corporation can confirm it received nil return.

11. A further consideration is that the Electoral Commission recommends that the number of electors allocated to each polling station should not exceed 2,500. Currently, the electorate allocated to each polling station falls well within that limit at each polling station. As part of the review the level of residential development that had been granted planning permission was looked at. While there is due to be some residential development in all four polling districts, this development will not increase the electorate at each polling station to a level higher than the Electoral Commission's recommendation.
12. Finally, in addition, since the last review in 2019, there have been two snap Parliamentary elections held. The Electoral Services Team must hold an election in a 5 week timetable. This can make it impossible to guarantee all Polling Stations will be available to able to accommodate a polling station. For example, in 2019 St Giles Cripplegate was unable to accommodate a polling station, and the City of London School for Girls were available so were used instead. In these circumstances, it is proposed that decisions can be made under delegated authority by the Comptroller & City Solicitor where appropriate, in consultation with the chair and deputy chairman. This is to ensure that the most suitable venue to can be booked and electors can be given the maximum amount of notice possible. Delays to decisions on polling stations can stop poll cards being sent on the earliest possible date.
13. If approved today, the review of Polling Districts and Polling Places will conclude. Certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission to appeal the decisions made. Details of the appeals process can be found on the Electoral Commission website:  
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/reviews-polling-districts-polling-places-and-polling-stations/polling-place-review-appeals-process>.

## Options

14. Approve the suggested schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places (as set out in the (Acting) Returning Officer's Report at Appendix 1) to remain until the next review in 5 years. Allow for any one off changes to Polling Places to be made under Delegated Authority where a venue is unavailable and an election is called at short notice. Members could approve the schedule, but reject the request for delegated authority, however, in doing so – in the event that a one-off change is required, it is likely that a request would be required under urgency in any event.
15. Reject the suggested schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places (as set out in t (Acting) Returning Officers report, however as there are no recommended changes, the schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places would remain the same as enacted in 2019.

## Proposals

16. The report of the (Acting) Returning Officer recommended that no changes be made to the boundaries of the four polling districts. No responses were

received during the consultation period advising that any of the boundaries should be altered.

17. The report of the (Acting) Returning Officer considered the polling places that are currently used in Parliamentary Elections in the City of London. The locations of the polling places in the polling districts is shown on the map in Appendix 3. One of the principles of the City of London Corporation's approach to review was to retain, as far as possible, the current location of polling places to minimise disruption to the voters. No responses were received during the consultation period to advise that the current polling places were not suitable for use as polling places, or to suggest alternative venues.
18. It is therefore proposed that there are no changes to the four polling places used in the City of London, and they continue to be St. Bride Foundation, St. Giles Cripplegate Church, Portsoken Community Centre and the Sir Ralph Perring Centre.
19. Since the last review in 2019, there have been two snap Parliamentary elections held. The Electoral Services Team must hold an election in a 5 week timetable. This can make it impossible to guarantee all polling places will be available to able to accommodate a polling station. In these circumstances, it is proposed that decisions can be made under delegated authority where appropriate.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Financial implications – None.

Resource implications – None.

Legal implications – In relation to the proposals surrounding the Schedule of Polling Districts, the legal position is set out in the main report. In relation to the specific request for delegated authority, if approved, it will mitigate the risk associated with failing to secure suitable polling station in good time. If we are unable to secure a suitable polling station, this will happen...

Risk implications – Reputational risks associated with the issues set out within the legal implications.

Equalities implications – Due consideration to the Equalities Act 2010 was exercised throughout the necessary consultation and is considered at all times when undertaking work to deliver statutory elections. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required as there are no changes proposed to service provision.

Climate implications – None.

Security implications – None.

## **Conclusion**

20. A review into the polling districts and polling places of the City of London has been carried out in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006).

21. During the review, an audit of the current polling places was carried out, which identified no issues that would prevent the Corporation from continuing to use the current polling places for future elections.
22. Members are therefore asked to agree the recommendations in the (Acting) Returning Officer's Report, which recommends that no change is required to the boundaries of the polling districts, and that no change is required to the location of the polling places within the polling districts.
23. Members are also asked to approve changes to polling places be made under Delegated Authority by the Comptroller and City Solicitor, in consultation with the chair and deputy chairman, in cases where an election is called at short notice and a current polling place is unavailable.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – (Acting) Returning Officer's Report
- Appendix 2 – Polling District Review Notice
- Appendix 3 – Map of Polling Districts and Polling places

### **Alice Loynes**

Acting Electoral Services Manager

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## **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS 2024**

### **(ACTING) RETURNING OFFICER'S REPORT**

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 As required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006) the City of London Corporation is undertaking a statutory review of the Corporation's polling districts and polling places.
- 1.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling district and polling places. The Corporation must undertake and complete a review of all polling districts and polling places in its area within a 16 month period commencing from 1 October 2023 to 31 January 2025. The last review was completed in 2019.
- 1.3 Stuart Love, the Chief Executive of Westminster City Council, is the (Acting) Returning Officer for the Cities of London and Westminster Parliamentary constituency. He has asked that Ian Thomas CBE, Town Clerk of the City of London, act on his behalf and submit a report on the review relating to the City of London.

#### **2. SCOPE OF THE REVIEW**

- 2.1 The City of London electoral area is currently geographically divided into four polling districts that are part of the Cities of London & Westminster Parliamentary constituency. The polling districts are also currently part of the City and East constituency for Greater London Authority elections.
- 2.2 The existing City of London Ward boundaries and the polling places used for City Ward elections are not included in the scope of this review.
- 2.3 Through the review the Corporation must:
  - Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
  - Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including

those with disabilities, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled people.

- 2.3 Each polling district must be allocated a polling place, which is a building in which the polling station is located. A polling station is the room within the polling place where ballot papers are issued and where voting takes place.
- 2.4 In order to comply with Electoral Commission guidance the number of electors allocated to a polling station should not exceed 2,500. The Corporation may designate multiple polling stations to a polling place so that each polling station does not exceed 2,500 electors.
- 2.5 The current arrangements for each ward are set out below. All electorate figures are as of 12 August 2024. The recommendations are set out at the end of the report.

### 3. REVIEW TIMETABLE

3.1 The timetable for the review is as follows:

22 August 2024	Publication of the Notice of Review
22 August 2024	Publication of the (Acting) Returning Officer's Report on the existing arrangements and proposals for future arrangements
22 August 2024	Start of the consultation period
4 October 2024	End of the consultation period
7 November 2024	Final report on the review for approval by the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London Corporation
1 December 2024	Publication of electoral register including any amendments.

- 3.2 As part of this review, the (Acting) Returning Officer must submit comments on existing arrangements and proposals for the future. This report constitutes the City of London's initial proposals for future arrangements.
- 3.3 Electors may make representations to the City of London regarding the review and the content of this report. The City of London would also welcome any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability to make a representation or comment on the content of this report. Persons or bodies making representations should, if possible, propose alternative locations that may be used as polling places.
- 3.4 Information and documents regarding the review can be obtained from:

Electoral Services  
 City of London  
 Town Clerk's Department

PO Box 270  
Guildhall  
London  
EC2P 2EJ

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-us/voting-elections/review-of-polling-places>

- 3.5 Representations should be made in writing to the above postal address or emailed to: [electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk)
- 3.6 The (Acting) Returning Officer's comments and representations made during the consultation period will be considered and included in a report to the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 October 2024. The Policy and Resources Committee will be asked to consider and approve the recommendations of the report.
- 3.7 Any changes to the existing polling district boundaries agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee will be incorporated into the Electoral Register published on 1 December 2024.

#### **4. METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The principles underlying the City's approach to polling district and polling places are:
  - To retain, as far as possible, the current location of polling places and polling district to minimise disruption to voters
  - To ensure that, in line with Electoral Commission's guidelines, no more than 2,500 electors are allocated to each polling station
  - To ensure that, as far as practicable, polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.
  - To consider what impact planned and approved residential development may have on the number of electors in each polling district.
- 4.2 A map showing the existing polling district boundaries and locations of the polling places within those polling districts is available on the City Council's website: <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-us/voting-elections/review-of-polling-places>
- 4.3 The existing arrangements were used most recently in the UK Parliamentary election on 4 July 2024.
- 4.4 As part of the Review, an audit of all the existing polling places was conducted. The audit examined the suitability of the polling places in terms of facilities and access for all voters including disabled voters

## 5. CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 The City of London currently has four polling districts; AL, BL, CL, and DL

### 5.2 **AL polling district:**

This polling district is situated in the western part of the City and covers the Bread Street, Castle Baynard, Cordwainer, Cheap, Farringdon Within, Farringdon Without, Queenhithe and Vintry Ward areas.

The main residential areas within the polling district are situated around Smithfield Market, the Temples, City West, Carter Lane and Queenhithe.

As of August 2024, there were 2102 electors in the polling district, of which 475 had a postal vote and would therefore not attend the polling station to cast their vote.

Planning Permission has been granted for the following residential developments in the polling district:

- 4-7 Lombard Lane (2 Units)
- 68 Long Lane (1 Unit)
- 10 Little Trinity Lane (9 Units)
- 3-4 Bartholomew Place (9 Units)
- Site Bounded By 34-38, 39-41, 45-47 & 57B Little Britain & 20, 25, 47, 48-50, 51-53, 59, 60, 61, 61A & 62 Bartholomew Close, London EC1 - last phase with previous phases completed (91 Units)

### 5.3 **AL polling place:**

Electors in the AL polling district currently vote at St. Bride's Foundation, St. Bride's Place, off Fleet Street, London, EC4Y 8EQ. This is located centrally within the polling district. As this polling district has the greatest geographical spread of electors of the three polling districts, a centrally located polling place is beneficial to the electors and ensures that electors in the different parts of the polling district are not disadvantaged.

There is a small stone threshold at the entrance to the building. This is accessible for most wheelchair users. No comments or complaints were made by electors about accessibility at the polling station at the UK Parliamentary Election in 2024.

The polling station electorate of 1627 is well below the Electoral Commission's guidelines of a maximum of 2500 electors, and this will not be impacted by the planned development in the polling district.

### 5.4 **BL polling district:**

This polling district is situated towards the North of the City and has the largest number of electors. It covers the Aldersgate, Bassishaw, Coleman Street and part of the Cripplegate Ward areas. The polling district contains the Barbican estate.

As of August 2024, there were 3422 electors in the polling district, of which



979 had a postal vote.

Planning Permission has been granted for the following residential developments in the polling district:

- The Turret, John Wesley Highwalk, Barbican (1 unit)
- Bernard Morgan House, 43 Golden Lane London (99 units)

#### 5.5 **BL polling place:**

The electors of the BL polling district currently vote at St Giles Cripplegate Church, Barbican, EC2Y 8DA. This is situated centrally within the Barbican Estate. Access to the polling place is either via steps or a ramp with which is suitable for wheelchair users. Additional outside lighting is provided by the polling place staff to ensure adequate lighting.

The polling station electorate of 2443, and there are therefore two polling stations located within the polling place to accommodate this volume of electors. This means that the Electoral Commission's guideline of a not more than 2500 electors allocated to each polling station is not exceeded.

There would also be sufficient space in the polling place for a third polling station if it were required. The planned residential developments in the polling district are not expected to cause an increase in the electorate to require this, however.

#### 5.6 **CL polling district:**

This polling district is located on the Eastern side of the City and covers Aldgate, Billingsgate, Bishopsgate, Bridge and Bridge Without, Broad Street, Candlewick, Cornhill, Dowgate, Langbourn, Lime Street, Portsoken, Tower and Walbrook Ward areas.

The main residential areas are the Middlesex Street Estate and the Mansell Street Estate which are located on the Eastern Boundary of the polling district. As of August 2024, there were 1565 electors in the polling district, of which 342 had a postal vote.

Planning Permission has been granted for the following residential developments in the polling district:

- 75, 79, 85, 89, 95 & 97 Middlesex Street & 2 & 14 Gravel Lane, London, E1 7DA (9 units)
- Staff Mess Room Sixth Floor, Petticoat Square, London, E1 7EA (1 unit)
- Site Bounded by Stone House And Staple Hall, Bishopsgate, Devonshire Row, London, EC2 (160 units)
- 133 Middlesex Street, London, E1 7JF (3 units)
- 15 - 16 Minories & 62 Aldgate High Street, London, EC3N 1AX (87 units)
- 17 - 18 Widegate Street, London, E1 7HP (3 units)
- 53-54 Aldgate High Street, London, EC3N 1AL (1 unit)
- 206 - 210 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4NR (5 units)

### 5.7 **CL polling place:**

Electors in the CL polling district currently vote at the Artizan Street Library and Community Centre, 1 Artizan Street, London, E1 7AE, and as a result of an urgency to Policy & Resources Committee on 18 March 2021 Portsoken Community Centre, 20 Little Somerset Street, London E1 8AH, was designated as a reserve polling station for all future elections in the event that Artizan Street Library is not available. Both are in the East of the polling district, which is also where the most populous areas in the polling district are located. They are therefore in a convenient position for the majority of electors in the polling district.

Artizan Street Library polling station itself is located in a large ground floor room that is sectioned off from the rest of the Centre. There is good, level access from the street to the polling station, and good heating and lighting. Portsoken Community Centre is fully accessible with good heating, lighting and facilities.

The polling station electorate of 1223 as of August 2024, which is well below the Electoral Commission's guidelines of not more than 2500 electors per polling station. The planned development in the area is unlikely to increase the number of electors attending the polling station close to that level.

### 5.8 **DL polling district:**

This polling district is located in the North of the City and contains the Golden Lane Estate in the Cripplegate Ward. This polling district was created in the 2014 polling district review and is smallest polling district in terms of both geography and electorate.

As of August 2024, there were 716 electors in the polling district, of which 175 had a postal vote.

Planning Permission has been granted for the following residential developments in the polling district:

- Great Arthur House, Golden Lane Estate, London, EC1Y 0RE (3 units)
- Cromwell Tower, Cromwell Place, Barbican, London, EC2Y 8DD (1 unit)

### 5.9 **DL polling place:**

The electors of the DL polling district currently vote at the Sir Ralph Perring Centre, Golden Lane Estate, London, EC1Y 0SH. It is in a good location for the electors in the polling district.

There is level access from the street to the polling station and is suitable for wheelchair users. No comments or complaints were received about the polling station during the European Parliamentary Election in 2019.

The polling station electorate of 541 as of August 2024, which is well within the Electoral Commission's guidance of not more than 2500 electors being

allocated to a polling station.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 The electorate at each polling station is currently within the Electoral Commission's recommendation of not more than 2500 electors allocated to a polling station. There are developments expected within all of the polling districts during the next few years, however the size of the electorate will not increase to the extent that this will be exceeded.
- 6.2 All four of the polling places have good disabled access. The polling place in polling district AL has a small stone ledge that is accessible for wheelchair users, the polling place in the BL polling district has a ramp to the building, and the polling places in polling districts CL and DL provide good flat access from the street to the polling station. No comments or complaints were received regarding the polling stations, or accessibility at the polling stations, at the UK Parliamentary election on 4 July 2024.
- 6.3 However, given that we have an urgency in place that allows for us to change the polling station in CL, and we have used urgencies in the recent past (2019 UK Parliamentary General Election) to change the use of the polling place that we amend the Scheme of Delegations to ensure that the Comptroller & City Solicitor can approve the change of a usual polling station for a suitable alternative should the approved polling stations become unavailable. During an election timetable or if a snap election is called the requirement to arrange a polling place is paramount. The process of amending polling places under urgency does not lend itself to speed at which officers must act to ensure a suitable polling place is secured.

**Recommendation 1: That no change be required to the boundaries of the polling districts.**

**Recommendation 2: That no change be required to the location of the polling places within the polling districts.**

**Recommendation 3: An amendment to the Scheme of Delegations to allow the Comptroller & City Solicitor to approve the change of a polling station location in AL, BL, CL or DL.**

Ian Thomas CBE  
Town Clerk  
City of London Corporation

On behalf of

Stuart Love  
(Acting) Returning Officer  
Cities of London and Westminster Parliamentary constituency.

22 August 2024

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## **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024 City of London**

In accordance with the requirements of Section 18C(1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) and Section 17 of the Electoral Administration Act 2013 notice is hereby given that the City of London is carrying out a review of polling districts and polling places within the City of London that are used at Parliamentary elections.

Any elector in the City of London or within the Cities of London and Westminster Parliamentary constituency may make a representation to the Corporation on the layout of polling districts and the location of polling places. The City Corporation welcomes the views of all residents on these proposals. The Corporation also invites any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability to comment.

Any person or bodies making comments should, wherever possible, make alternative proposals or suggest locations that may be used as polling places or polling stations. Comments may be made by email to [electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk) or by post to Electoral Services, City of London, PO Box 270, Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ.

As part of the review, the (Acting) Returning Officer for the City of London must comment on proposed polling stations. Their views, and all other documents relating to this review, may be inspected at <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/about-us/voting-elections/review-of-polling-places> or at the Electoral Services Office at the City of London Corporation.

The deadline for submissions is 5pm on Friday 4 October 2024. All representations will be published and included in the final report presented to the City Corporation's Policy and Resources Committee on Thursday 17 October 2024.

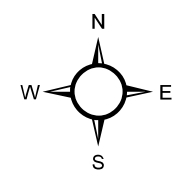
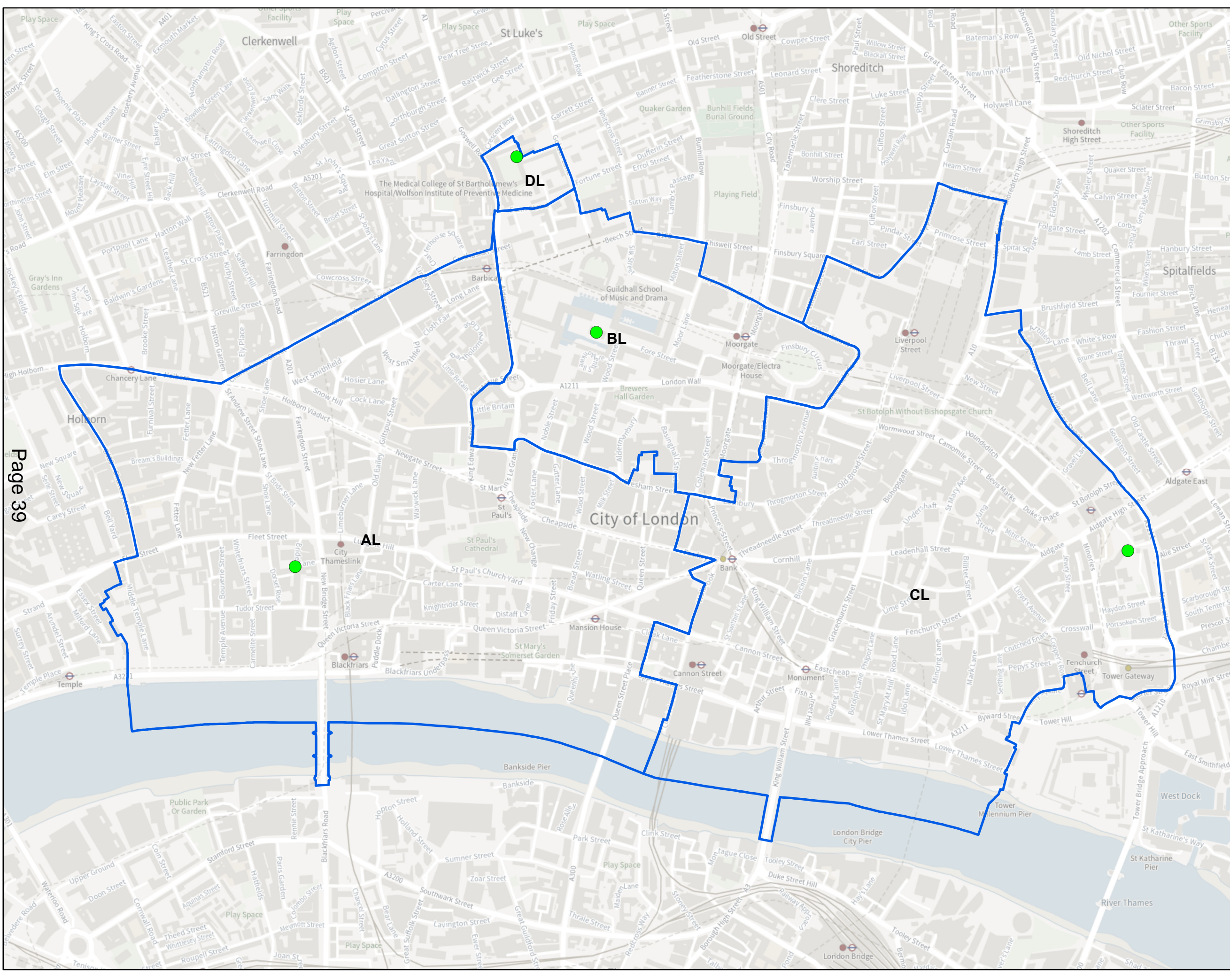
Ian Thomas CBE  
Town Clerk, City of London Corporation

On behalf of

Stuart Love  
(Acting) Returning Officer  
Cities of London and Westminster Parliamentary Constituency  
22 August 2024

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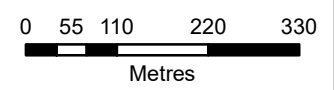


# Polling District Review

- Polling Places
- Polling Districts

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# Agenda Item 6

<b>Committee(s):</b> Policy & Resources Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 07/11/2024
<b>Subject:</b> UN Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - Communication on Engagement 2024	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	All
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	Y/N
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b> Dionne Corradine, Chief Strategy Officer	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Alice Reeves, Assistant Director of Corporate Performance & Analysis, Town Clerk's Department.	

## Summary

As a participant in the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the City of London Corporation is required to produce a Communication on Engagement every two years, reaffirming its support and outlining the actions taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles. The next Communication on Engagement is due on 19 December 2024.

The Communication on Engagement provides a retrospective summary for 2023 and 2024, demonstrating our ongoing policy commitment to the UNGC in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

Members previously agreed three themes of action for the City Corporation in relation to its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to

- Embed relevant SDGs into strategy development, implementation and reporting processes
- Demonstrate the actions the City Corporation is taking to achieve the SDGs, by reporting actions on SDG partnership platforms – both UK and Global
- Take part in business initiatives focused on the SDGs and use our influence to encourage other businesses to take part.

## Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve the UN Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals Communication on Engagement 2024 at **Appendix 1**.
- Authorise the Chief Strategy Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve any final changes which may be required following Committee and, once approved, authorise the Chief Strategy Officer to submit the Communication on Engagement 2024 for publication on the UNGC website, in accordance with the deadline of 19 December 2024.
- Note the annual £550 + VAT membership fee to the UNGC, and that Officers will review our membership and the requirement for future reports, prioritising the value added to the City of London Corporation in doing our business.
- Note that commitment to the UN SDGs is sustained through our policy and ongoing activities in the three themes previously agreed by members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

## Main Report

### Background

1. In September 2020, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the City of London Corporation should be a signatory to the UN Global Compact (UNGC). This commitment, agreed by a previous administration of the Court, is a legacy of the Responsible Business Strategy which commenced in 2018 and integrated into business as usual in 2021.
2. There are over 25,000 participants in the UNGC, the majority of which are businesses. As a non-business signatory to the UNGC, the City of London Corporation is registered as one of 46 city participants<sup>1</sup>. In the UK, Derby City Council is also a signatory, and some other UK local authorities reference the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their corporate strategies and reports but are not signatories to the UN Global Compact.
3. The City of London Corporation is committed to working towards achieving the SDGs and supporting the UN Global Compact, and its ten principles, in its ambition to drive business awareness and action to achieve the SDGs. The relationship between specific SDGs is sustained through City Corporation strategies, policies, and initiatives; for example, the Responsible Procurement Supply Chain Commitments.

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<sup>1</sup> The UN Global Compact was originally set up as an initiative for businesses. It is now open to other types of organisations, collectively referred to as “non-business participants”. Types of organisations under the “non-business participant” banner include academic institutions, public sector organisations, and cities/municipalities. The City of London Corporation is registered as a city/municipality.

## **Current Position**

4. As a non-business participant, the City of London Corporation is required to demonstrate its continued engagement with the UN Global Compact by submitting a Communication on Engagement (COE) every two years. The COE discloses to stakeholders the specific activities that a non-business participant takes in support of the UN Global Compact.
5. The UNGC stipulate the following minimum requirements for a COE:
  - A statement by the chief executive or equivalent expressing continued support for the UN Global Compact and renewing the participant's ongoing commitment to the initiative.
  - A description of the practical actions that the organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact principles and to engage with the initiative.
  - Measurement of outcomes.
6. Information from across the City Corporation has been gathered to form a retrospective summary for 2023 and 2024, demonstrating our activity, outcomes, and ongoing policy commitment to the UNGC in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

## **Options**

7. Recommended: Members authorise the Chief Strategy Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve any final changes which may be required following Committee and, once approved, authorise the Chief Strategy Officer to submit the Communication on Engagement 2024 for publication on the UNGC website, in accordance with the deadline of 19 December 2024.
8. Not recommended: Members decide that the Communication on Engagement should be redrafted and returned to them for later approval. This would require making a formal request to the UNGC, published on their website, for a ninety-day extension in which to submit the report, for a new deadline of 19 March 2025.
9. Not recommended: Members decide that City Corporation should not submit a Communication on Engagement for 2024. The City Corporation would be publicly recorded as "non-communicating" for 2024 on the UNGC website and would subsequently be expelled from the UNGC if no Communication on Engagement is submitted by 19 December 2025.
10. Not recommended: Members decide that the City of London Corporation should withdraw from participation in the UN Global Compact. This would require communicating the decision and reasoning to the UNGC and would result in the City of London Corporation being publicly recorded as a delisted participant.

## Proposals

11. That members of Policy & Resources Committee authorise the Chief Strategy Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve any final changes which may be required following Committee and, once approved, authorise the Chief Strategy Officer to submit the Communication on Engagement 2024 for publication on the UNGC website, in accordance with the deadline of 19 December 2024.
12. Note the annual £550 + VAT membership fee to the UNGC, and that Officers will review our membership and the requirement for future reports, prioritising the value added to the City of London Corporation in doing our business.
13. Note that commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals is delivered through our policies and ongoing activities in the three themes previously agreed to:
  - Embed relevant SDGs into strategy development, implementation and reporting processes.
  - Demonstrate the actions the City Corporation is taking to achieve the SDGs, by reporting actions on SDG partnership platforms – both UK and Global.
  - Take part in business initiatives focused on the SDGs and use our influence to encourage other businesses to take part.

## Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – Relevant SDGs into are embedded into corporate strategy development, implementation and reporting processes. This report provides an aggregated summary of activity.

Financial implications – There is an ongoing annual cost of £550 + VAT to support the City of London Corporation's continued membership of the UN Global Compact. This was funded by the Policy Initiative Fund for 2020-22, and from the Corporate Strategy and Performance Team budget in 2023 and 2024. It is unfunded for FY2024-25.

Resource implications – The Responsible Business Strategy 2018-2023 has been embedded into City of London Corporation Business as Usual activity. However, there is considerable staff resource time invested in compiling the Communication on Engagement every two years.

Legal implications – None.

Risk implications – There is a reputational risk if the City of London Corporation were to be recorded as non-communicative or delisted from the UN Global Compact.

Equalities implications – None.

Climate implications – None.

Security implications – None.

## Conclusion

14. Commitment to the UN SDGs is a public demonstration of our ongoing, positive and effective efforts in the four action areas in our operations, our supply chain and our partnerships with responsible businesses in the City. Our participation encourages and influences businesses located in the City and beyond to demonstrate their own commitment to the principles of the UN Global Compact.

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City of London Corporation UN Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals Communication on Engagement 2024

## Background Papers

Previous report to Committee on this subject:

[Commitment to UN Sustainable Development Goals \(24 September 2020\)](#)

[UN Sustainable Development Goals Communication of Progress Report \(17 November 2022 - Committee Report\)](#)

[City of London Corporation Communication of Progress Report 2022 \(17 November 2022 - Appendix 1\)](#)

Link to listing on UN Global Compact website:

[City of London Corporation | UN Global Compact](#)

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**City of London Corporation**

**UN Global Compact and Sustainable Development  
Goals Communication on Engagement**

**December 2024**

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles

**Town Clerk & Chief Executive**  
Ian Thomas CBE



**Telephone** 020 7332 1400

**Email**

[Ian.Thomas@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Ian.Thomas@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

22 October 2024

### **Statement of continued support for the UN Global Compact and its Ten Principles**

22 October 2024

To our stakeholders:

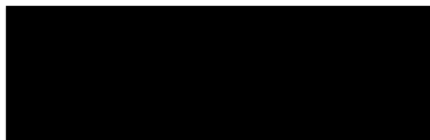
I am pleased to confirm that the City of London Corporation reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption.

This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organisation has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organisation like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Ian Thomas CBE



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@Ian\_C\_Thomas

## 1.2. Our mission and who we are

The City of London Corporation (CoLC) is the governing body of the City of London ('the City' or 'Square Mile'), and is dedicated to a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London within a globally-successful UK. We look after the City on behalf of all who live, study, work, and visit; providing modern, efficient, and high-quality local services and policing for all.

We have a long history, a unique constitution, our own Lord Mayor, and a dedicated police service keeping the City safe and leading the national police response on economic crime. Our independent and non-partisan political voice and convening power enables us to promote the interests of people and organisations across London and the UK and play a valued role on the world-stage.

We aim to support London's communities through responsible business, charitable giving, improving the capital's air quality, providing education and skills for young people, and delivering affordable housing across London.

We protect and conserve 19 major green spaces in London and Southeast England – including Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest – and approximately 180 smaller ones in the Square Mile. They include important wildlife habitats, sites of scientific interest and national nature reserves. They are protected from being built on by special legislation.

We are the port health authority for London, the largest port health authority in the UK. We protect public health by preventing infectious disease, ensuring water quality, making vessel inspections, and enforcing environmental controls.

We are the sole trustee of City Bridge Foundation, which is a world-class bridge owner and responsible for five Thames crossings at no cost to the taxpayer. City Bridge Foundation is also London's biggest independent charity funder, providing charitable funding and broader resources to help all individuals and communities to thrive, especially those experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation.

The City Corporation provides local government services for our 8,600 residents (Census 2021) and 614,500 City workers (Office for National Statistics 2022) based in the Square Mile. To be truly representative of its population, businesses and other organisations registered in the Square Mile are entitled to nominate voters to City elections so that, alongside registered residents, they can have a say on the way the City Corporation is run.

## 2. Cross-Cutting Policies and Initiatives

### 2.1. Approach to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive framework for organisations to assess, understand and make a positive impact on the major issues impacting society, the environment, and the economy. As an organisation with reach locally, nationally, and internationally, the City of London Corporation is committed to working towards achieving the SDGs and supporting the UN Global Compact, and its ten principles, in its ambition to drive business awareness and action to achieve the SDGs.

We are committed to creating positive and reducing negative impacts across all our activities and operations, to ensure a sustainable future where individuals and communities can flourish, and the planet is healthier.

Our commitment to the SDGs is delivered through our policies and ongoing activities, through three themes of action:

- Embed relevant SDGs into strategy development, implementation, and reporting processes.
- Demonstrate the actions the City Corporation is taking to achieve the SDGs, by reporting actions on SDG partnership platforms – both UK and Global.
- Engage in business initiatives focused on the SDGs and use our influence to encourage other businesses to take part.

The City Corporation reaffirmed its commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals in its Statement of Ethical Policy, approved by the Court of Common Council in May 2023<sup>1</sup>. The statement sets out the City Corporation's commitment to treating people fairly, being transparent and honest, respecting human rights and the environment, complying with the law and regulation, and how these ethical and responsible principles and aims are encapsulated in the City Corporation's plans, activities and strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> [City of London Corporation Statement of Ethical Policy - April 2023](#)

## 2.2. Corporate Plan 2024 to 2029

Our Corporate Plan informs effective use of resources and guides planning and decision-making for the City of London Corporation from 2024 to 2029 through six strategic outcomes, ultimately ensuring everything we do aligns to our mission to be world-class.



Our full Corporate Plan can be found on the City Corporation website:

[Our Corporate Plan 2024-29](#)

## 2.3. Responsible Procurement Supply Chain Commitments

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined how the City Corporation's Responsible Business Strategy provided the initial focus for action around the UN SDGs. Since the culmination of this strategy in 2023, the principles of responsible business have been embedded across the City Corporation into business-as-usual activity, as will be outlined throughout this Communication on Engagement.

A vehicle for the continued delivery of our responsible business activity is the Responsible Procurement Policy. Throughout 2023/24, the Responsible Procurement team has developed the following six supply chain commitments. All procurements (new tenders, extensions, and frameworks) must have a minimum 15% Responsible Procurement weighting, which can be split across the six commitments.

1. Take climate action and minimise environmental impacts of procurement on our operations and throughout our supply chain.
2. Encourage and facilitate supplier diversity (Diverse-Owned Enterprises and SMEs) through direct contracts, partnerships, and active monitoring.
3. Embed equity, diversity, and inclusion throughout the contract process and work with suppliers who have proven to take active steps within their own organisations, supply chain, and industry.
4. Protect human rights in our supply chain by working with suppliers who undertake due diligence to guard against modern slavery and other human rights abuses.
5. Facilitate meaningful work-related opportunities, which are actively targeted to enable social mobility and inclusion.
6. Achieve meaningful social value outcomes according to organisational and stakeholder priorities through internal collaboration, community input, and supplier engagement.

These six supply chain commitments hold the Responsible Procurement team, and the wider City Corporation, accountable to the environment, people near and far, and the betterment of our society through the engagement of our partners, by aligning with the following UN SDGs.



These commitments, and the impact of the work of the Responsible Procurement team, cut across all four parts of this report (Human Rights, Labour, Environment, and Anti-Corruption), and help drive the City Corporation’s responsible business activity across the Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact.

Since 2022, we have made a commitment to producing an annual report on the impact of our responsible procurement commitments. The first report summarising impact over 2023-24 was published in June 2024 alongside our Responsible Procurement Policy. The impact report also includes a brief road map on areas where we seek to improve.

The full policy and impact report for 2023-24 can be found on the City Corporation website:

[Responsible Procurement Policy - City of London](#)

## 2.4. Responsible Investment Policy

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined our Responsible Investment Policy<sup>2</sup>, through which we support the Principles of Responsible Investment (PRI) – a UN supported network of investors working to promote sustainable investment through the incorporation of environmental, social and governance factors. We have continued to complete the PRI reporting framework throughout 2023 and 2024.

## 2.5. Lord Mayor's Coffee Colloquies

Lord Mayor's Coffee Colloquies are a series of in-person events held at Mansion House promoting connections that help address the leading issues of the day. During his year as Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Mainelli championed Connect to Prosper, a celebration of our multiple Knowledge Miles, showing that the City of London is a place where problems come to be solved. Lord Mayor's Coffee Colloquies brought together varied voices from around the world to talk about how their work supports the achievement of one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals or other pressing global issue. Through fast-paced transfer of knowledge, with a focus on building connections, the Coffee Colloquies aim to invigorate our Knowledge Miles in the World's Coffee House.

Twenty-four events were hosted by the Lord Mayor, in collaboration with a variety of partner organisation, between December 2023 and November 2024. Surveys conducted in events up to October 2024 concluded that 100% of attendees came away with an increased familiarity with the SDG discussed<sup>3</sup>.

The full list of events can be found on the City Corporation website:

[Lord Mayor's Coffee Colloquies - City of London](#)

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<sup>2</sup> [City of London Responsible Investment Policy](#)

<sup>3</sup> 87 responses were received to events up to October 2024. Attendees were asked 'On a scale of 1 to 5, how familiar were you with this SDG before / after attending the event', and the scores were compared. 100% of attendees came away with an increased familiarity with the SDG discussed. 61% of attendees came to the event ranking their familiarity with the SDG at a 3 or 4 out of 5 (1 being no familiarity). 83% left the event ranking their familiarity with the SDG at 4 or 5 out of 5.



## 3. Human Rights

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) applies directly to the City Corporation, as far as its functions of a public nature are concerned, by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998. The City Corporation notes and supports the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and related texts in UK law and the United Nations Paris Agreement, and related texts in UK law. Governance Arrangements for the City Corporation, such as the Annual Governance Statement<sup>4</sup> and the City Fund Statement of Accounts<sup>5</sup>, are designed to ensure compliance with our legal obligations.

### 3.1. Modern Slavery Statement

The City of London Corporation recognises its responsibility to help identify and eliminate Modern Slavery, safeguarding against any form taking place within our business, our jurisdiction, or our supply chain.

Our Modern Slavery Statement stands as a clear and transparent demonstration of the City Corporation's commitment to tackling modern slavery, both internally and externally. It brings current and future actions into one place, allowing all departments and other relevant entities an oversight and a point of reference to ensure effective collaboration.

The City Corporation's Modern Slavery Statement brings together the roles, remits, commitments and all work undertaken to tackle modern slavery and human trafficking by the City of London Police, Department for Children and Community Services, Port Health and Public Protection Division, People and Human Resources, Corporate Strategy and Performance, Town Clerk's Department, Commercial, Change, and Portfolio Management team in the Chamberlain's Department and officers from the City Bridge Foundation.

At time of writing, a renewed statement is progressing through our governance processes. Once published, it will be available alongside our previous statements, which can be found in full on the City Corporation's website:

[Modern Slavery Statement - City of London.](#)

This renewed statement reflects continuous improvement and progress to tackle modern slavery, including but not limited to:

- The appointment of a dedicated Senior Responsible Officer to give corporate oversight to the delivery of a regular Modern Slavery Statement.
- The implementation of recommended actions to improve our efforts to combat modern slavery across our organisation.

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<sup>4</sup> Annual Governance Statements for the period covered by this Communication on Engagement can be found here: [Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 \(City Fund\)](#) / [Annual Governance Statement \(City Fund\) 2023/24](#)

<sup>5</sup> Statement of Accounts are published on the City Corporation website: [Statements of accounts - City of London](#)

## 4. Labour

A period of extensive communication and dialogue across City Corporation resulted in the launch of our first ever People Strategy in conjunction with our new Corporate Plan in spring 2024. We also circulated a staff engagement survey to hear the voices from staff at an even greater level of detail about what they care about and what they value. The survey resulted in its highest levels of participation ever and has helped to set a firm foundation for work that is now unfolding.

The actions taken across the organisation resulting from the feedback provided by staff in response to the survey will also continue to inform an ambitious programme of inclusive culture change work over the next five years. This will include the creation a new set of values and behaviours at an organisation-wide level. All programmes of work within our People Strategy will support and enable our evolving vision to develop and role model across our network of partners and stakeholders an inclusive and sustainable organisational culture.

### 4.1. People Strategy 2024 to 2029

To achieve our ambitions for a fantastic five years as set out in our Corporate Plan 2024 to 2029, we must first create an inclusive, supportive City Corporation where every colleague thrives. Our People Strategy 2024 to 2029 will help us achieve this by establishing a framework for people-centred success.

This framework demonstrates how we can support all of them as one corporation, while leaving space for leaders to tailor the strategy's outputs to their people's needs. We will use this framework to guide us in how we set our employees up for success; how we support, challenge, and motivate our people; how we maintain and deliver our mission; and how we create an inclusive and equitable environment where employees can thrive.

Our full People Strategy can be found on the City Corporation website:

[Our People Strategy 2024-29](#)

### 4.2. Equality Objectives 2024 to 2029

As set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011, the City of London Corporation is required to publish one or more specific and measurable Equality Objectives at least every four years.

The City Corporation's Equality Objectives 2024 to 2029 are a dynamic framework advancing our commitment to Equity Equality Diversity & Inclusion (EEDI) as a leader, employer and service provider. They are integral to the effective delivery of the Corporate Plan, People Strategy 2024 to 2029 and other elements that shape and drive the organisation over the next five years and beyond. They have been developed through internal and external consultation and will be supported by work to improve our data on equalities. They provide a direction of travel, not a destination, with progress regularly reviewed.



**Inclusive and Trustworthy Leadership:** We are committed to making systemic change through championing and advancing EEDI in everything we do.

**Inclusive and Diverse Community:** Representation and experience ensure the City Corporation is an employer of choice where people thrive.

**Accessible and Excellent Services:** EEDI is integral in the design, development, implantation and evaluation of our services.

**Socio-Economic Diversity:** This focus is external and internal including social mobility and social inclusion.

The full detail of our Equality Objectives can be found on the City Corporation website:

[Equality and Inclusion - City of London](#)

In late 2024 we are launching a review of Equity Equality Diversity & Inclusion (EEDI) within the organisation to improve our current position and provide recommendations to realise our ambitions to become world class in this space. The review will:

- Deliver a system review of EEDI through internal and external lenses, assessing and evaluating policies, practices, services, and culture, cognisant of the existing corporate model.
- Consider and reflect the multiple roles undertaken by City Corporation (including discharging Local Authority Functions) and compliance with relevant legislation.
- Make recommendations to drive positive change and set out approaches to ensure the Corporation achieves its goals related to EEDI including public commitments, accreditation and delivery of the Equality Objectives 2024 to 2029.

#### 4.3. City of London Corporation as a Responsible Employer

The City Corporation is committed to being a good and responsible employer, in line with our approach to responsible business, and our new Equality Objectives and People Strategy.

On pay and conditions, the City Corporation is an accredited Living Wage employer. We are currently committed to paying the London Living Wage to directly employed staff as a minimum, uprated as soon as increases are announced. We require all suppliers to pay staff working on our contracts the London Living Wage or UK Living Wage (where appropriate) as per our Living Wage Procurement Policy.

In accordance with the Gender Pay Gap Regulations, we publish our Gender Pay Gap (GPG) annually. We also have voluntarily elected to publish both our Ethnicity Pay Gap (EPG) and Disability Pay Gap (DPG) annually to the same requirements.

The table below displays our most recently published pay gap figures, compared to those reported in our Communication on Engagement 2022.

Pay Gap Category	Snapshot Date	
	31 March 2021	31 March 2023
Mean Hourly Rate GPG	7.1%	4.5%
Median Hourly Rate GPG	2.2%	0.0%
Mean Hourly Rate EPG	16.8%	16.7%
Median Hourly Rate EPG	15.7%	13.2%
Mean Hourly Rate DPG	8.9%	6.9%
Median Hourly Rate DPG	7.1%	7.1%

The City Corporation has a limited gender pay gap across its workforce and the long-term direction of travel in other pay gaps is somewhat positive. Overall, figures remain broadly consistent with those reported in previous years, with small positive shifts in some measures that seem to be indicative of a longer-term positive trend in most pay gap figures.

The City Corporation has a smaller GPG than national benchmarks; the median hourly rate GPG for all reporting companies in for the snapshot date of 31 March 2023 was 9.0%. The City Corporation was also one of five London local authorities reporting no median GPG for the snapshot date of 31 March 2023<sup>6</sup>.

The City Corporation and our Institutions<sup>7</sup> underlines its commitment to being a responsible employer by being a signatory of several charters and schemes:

- Armed Forces Covenant<sup>8</sup>
- Business in the Community (BITC) Race at Work Charter<sup>9</sup>
- Disability Confident Employer Scheme<sup>10</sup>
- Employer with Heart Charter<sup>11</sup>
- White Ribbon UK<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> There are no equivalent national benchmarks for ethnicity or disability pay gaps. Further analysis can be found in the full Pay Gap Report for 2024: [City of London Corporation Pay Gap Report 2024](#)

<sup>7</sup> The Institutions of the City of London Corporation consist of the Barbican Centre, City Bridge Foundation, City of London Police, City of London Freeman’s School, City of London School, City of London School for Girls, and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

<sup>8</sup> [Armed Forces Covenant - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Race at Work Charter - Business in the Community \(bitc.org.uk\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Disability Confident employer scheme - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Employer With Heart Charter — The Smallest Things Premature Baby Charity](#)

<sup>12</sup> [White Ribbon UK](#). The City of London Police received White Ribbon Accreditation in October 2023. The City Corporation supports the campaign and its annual White Ribbon Day.

Furthermore, we submit data to the following external bodies for benchmarking against other employers:

### **Social Mobility Employer Index**

In 2023, the City Corporation's rank in the Social Mobility Employer Index fell from 67<sup>th</sup> to 87<sup>th</sup> place. In response, major efforts were made to engage across the organisation to gather evidence documenting our social mobility activities in 2024. As a result of this work, the City Corporation rose to 58<sup>th</sup> place in the 2024 Social Mobility Employer Index<sup>13</sup>. This significant leap is a testament to our collective and collaborative efforts to enhance opportunities for all and promote a culture of inclusivity, including the launch of a new Social Mobility Staff Diversity Network<sup>14</sup>.

### **Women in Finance Charter**

In 2023, the percentage of female senior level (grade G and above) staff was 54%, up from 43% in 2022. This exceeded our original target of 45%.

As part of our People Strategy, the City Corporation is going through a major multi-year transformation programme to reprofile its organisational structures across roles and grades. This programme of work includes the creation of new role profiles and job families, a new job evaluation process, and a new pay and grading framework. As a result, for the 2024 reporting period, we decided to change our definition of senior management, to consist of the Executive Leadership Board (ELB)<sup>15</sup> and individuals in the most senior roles by grade / band or reporting directly to this group and / or leading large teams (this may also include high level specialist roles). This represents a reduction in the group assessed for the Women in Finance Charter from 511 to 228.

Under this new definition, the percentage of female senior management staff in 2024 was 42%, with female staff making up 53% of ELB. Once our multiyear transformation programme of work to review and improve consistency across our organisational structure is complete, we will review our target for 2025 onwards.

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<sup>13</sup> Further information can be found on the Social Mobility Foundation website: [The Social Mobility Employer Index](#)

<sup>14</sup> To work alongside our existing staff diversity networks: Carers and Parents' Network / City of London Ethnicity and Race Network / City Pride LGBTQ+ Network / Disability, Ability and Wellbeing Network / Multi-Faith Network / Women's Inclusive Network / Young Employees Network. The aim of the networks is to provide employees an inclusive, safe and confidential forum to network and support each other; share ideas and best practice, and to help the City Corporation to better understand the people who work for it and consequently for the business to perform better. We are committed to having networks that are inclusive to build organisational knowledge and understanding.

<sup>15</sup> The membership of ELB consists of the Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Chief Officers, Heads of Institutions, Police Authority and Private Secretaries to the Lord Mayor and Policy Chairman.

## 4.4. External Advocacy on Labour and Responsible Employment

The City Corporation works collaboratively with a range of partners to inspire, develop, and promote action on labour and responsible employment.

### Heart of the City

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined the City Corporation's role in supporting Heart of the City, a charity working with companies across London to encourage them to do business responsibly, to have a genuine positive impact on their community, workforce and environment. Heart of the City delivers this through a variety of programmes, including on climate action<sup>16</sup>, responsible business, and supply chain sustainability.

In 2023, Heart of the City, in partnership with MSDUK, launched the Minority Business Matters programme. This programme provides free support to ethnic minority owned small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) across London, to encourage them to do business responsibly, and to have a genuine positive impact on their community, workforce and environment<sup>17</sup>.

### Progress Together

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined the City Corporation's work leading the Socio-Economic Diversity Taskforce, which ran until 2022. Progress Together continues this work.

The City Corporation is one of 12 founding partners of Progress Together, a membership body that aims to drive socio-economic diversity at senior level across UK financial services. The City Corporation provides essential funding and in-kind support to Progress Together and sits on their advisory board. The City Corporation continues to champion the need for greater socio-economic diversity at all levels across UK FPS and creates opportunities to profile and support Progress Together to deliver this.

Since its inception in 2022, Progress Together has delivered several initiatives, including the publication of "Shaping Our Economy: Senior roles in financial services and socio-economic diversity", the largest study into socio-economic diversity and progression in financial services in the world<sup>18</sup>, and holding their inaugural Progress Pioneers Summit, recognising the efforts, successes and impact of Progress Together members in working towards socio-economic diversity at senior levels.

This activity has resulted in companies representing a third of the UK's financial services workforce – 364,000 employees – collecting and analysing data on the socio-economic backgrounds of employees<sup>19</sup>. Additionally, on assessing the impact of Progress Together, 77% of Progress Together member companies found that focussing on socio-economic background positively impacted their work on improving gender and ethnicity diversity and inclusion and 82% of survey respondents said that awareness of socio-economic diversity had been boosted since joining Progress Together.

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<sup>16</sup> See 4.2. Climate Action Strategy for further details

<sup>17</sup> More information can be found on the Minority Business Matters website: [Minority Business Matters | Home](#)

<sup>18</sup> The full report can be viewed here: [Shaping Our Economy: Senior roles in financial services and socio-economic diversity](#)

<sup>19</sup> The Progress Together Impact Report for 2022 to 2024 can be found on their website: [Impact Report - Progress Pioneers Summit](#)

As a founding partner, the City of London Corporation has enabled Progress Together to support its members to develop socio-economic diversity related skills and knowledge. Through peer-to-peer connections, over 20 workshops and webinars, and an online toolkit, Progress Together has seen an increase in the proportion of senior leaders from working-class backgrounds (from an average of 26% in 2023 to 28% in 2024).

### **Skills for a Sustainable Skyline Taskforce**

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined the City Corporation's role in leading the Skills for a Sustainable Skyline Taskforce. Running from 2022 to 2025, it aims to identify and bridge skills gaps to ensure that Central London has a globally competitive sustainable commercial built environment, by boosting the supply of skilled workers.

In 2023, the Skyline Taskforce published its "Skyline Skills Recommendations Report"<sup>20</sup>, which included evidence on the skills gaps and opportunities, and recommended industry to:

- Create better access to training and qualifications for the built environment workforce.
- Foster a workforce culture that is committed to driving sustainability, lifelong learning and diversity.
- Work with senior leaders and government to set ambitious green skills targets and legislation to meet the skills shortages in the industry.

In response to the Skyline Skills Recommendations Report, and to drive immediate impact on the green skills agenda, the Skyline Taskforce is preparing to launch its main output, the Skyline Skills Hub, on 11 December 2024.

The Skyline Skills Hub will be a live and interactive online guide to showcase existing green skills and diversity best practice across London's commercial built environment. It will also articulate a compelling business case for green upskilling and reskilling, and for the recruitment of a diverse workforce. The Skyline Taskforce will use the new Skyline Skills Hub to drive behaviour change across the built environment sector, in line with the findings from its Skyline Skills Recommendations Report 2023.

The Skyline Taskforce has already engaged with over 150 stakeholders via workshops and consultations to help inform the Hub's design and content. The ambition for 2025 – during which the new Skyline Skills Hub will be actively promoted to its target audiences of employers, workers and new talent – will be to engage with the following stakeholders and encourage them to prioritise green upskilling and reskilling, and recruitment of diverse talent:

- 1,000 business leaders, including building clients, developers and contractors.
- 5,000 workers, including SMEs and sole traders.
- 10,000 potential new entrants, including young people and their influencers (their parents, carers and teachers), and career changers from other sectors.

The Hub will include over 50 key messages and recommendations for action from the Skyline Skills Recommendations Report, over 100 key messages from other quality industry resources, and will signpost to over 100 examples of industry green skills best practice.

It is anticipated that the Hub will have over 50 users a day and will be monitored and regularly refreshed to maintain a strong flow of traffic and engagement.

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<sup>20</sup> The full report can be found on the City Corporation website: [Skyline Skills Recommendations Report 2023 - City of London](#)

## 5. Environment

The City Corporation has a multifaceted approach to protecting the environment. Activity covers our impact on the Square Mile, which includes activity around net zero, transport, and air quality, and responsible investments and financing. We promote environmental stewardship to our partners and stakeholders, by running and supporting events and driving environmental activity with our partners. We also support a system championing green finance initiatives promoting a more environmentally conscious future, sustainable finance, and leadership in green finance.

### 5.1. City Plan 2040

The City Plan 2040 sets out the City Corporation's vision for how the Square Mile will develop up to 2040. The plan has been in production since 2016 and, following extensive public engagement and approval by the City Corporation's Court of Common Council, was published for Regulation 19 consultation and submitted to the Secretary of State in 2024. The Plan is currently undergoing public examination and - subject to an Inspector's report - will be formally adopted in 2025.

The plan provides a suite of policies to guide development in the City, ensuring growth is economically, environmentally, and socially responsible. These include:

- A new retrofit first approach, exploring the potential to retain and retrofit existing buildings as a starting point for appraising site options. This is a significant shift, making the City Corporation one of the first local authorities in the UK to articulate an approach along these lines.
- A new biodiversity net gain policy, reflecting the imminent requirement set out in legislation for development to provide net gains in biodiversity. Because of the existing low levels of biodiversity in the City, a more relevant approach seeking absolute increases (rather than a percentage uplift) has been set out in policy, supported by recent evidence.
- A requirement for whole-lifecycle carbon assessments for major applications, and a focus on circular economy approaches to design and building materials.
- An emphasis on an equitable, inclusive, and accessible public realm for the Square Mile, securing developments that encourage health, improve air quality, and support a safer City, including the requirement for health and equality impact assessments.

The full City Plan 2040 is available online:

[City Plan 2040 - City of London](#)

## 5.2. Climate Action Strategy

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy<sup>21</sup>, which commits us to:

- Achieving net zero carbon emissions from our own operations by 2027.
- Achieving net zero carbon emissions across our investments and supply chain by 2040.
- Supporting the achievement of net zero for the Square Mile by 2040.
- Build climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure.

Our latest progress report<sup>22</sup> highlights key achievements and challenges faced in implementing the strategy. Our current progress against the strategic targets are as follows:

- A 65% reduction in net emissions across our operations (Scopes 1 and 2), from 20.2 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018/19 to 7.0 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023/24. This was spearheaded by 45% decrease in emissions from our purchased electricity (Scope 2), and a 30% decrease in fuel combustion within our buildings (Scope 1).
- A 23% reduction in net emissions across our value chain (Scopes 1, 2, and 3) from 542 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2018/19 to 419 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023/24. Our first interim target is a 26% reduction by 2024/25.
- A 35% reduction in net emissions in the Square Mile from 1,010 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2017 to 652 ktCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2021 (latest available data).

The strategy is being delivered through a transformative programme consisting of the following climate projects<sup>23</sup>:

- Decarbonising our operational properties and housing estates, by improving energy efficiency, installing renewable energy generation and decarbonising heat.
- Protecting the 16.23ktCO<sub>2</sub>e currently sequestered in our open spaces from the impacts of climate change, and adding more sequestration through rewilding, tree planting and diverse habitat creation.
- Decarbonising our leased properties and supporting our occupiers and tenants to do the same.
- Implementing Net Zero Design Standards, encompassing whole life carbon analysis and circular economy principles, to ensure everything we build integrates best practice net zero and climate resilience measures.
- Collaborating with our suppliers and partners to improve data quality of the carbon impact of our purchased goods and services and choose low-carbon solutions<sup>24</sup>.
- Working in partnership with our fund managers to better measure the emissions from our financial investments and manage their climate risk<sup>25</sup>.

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<sup>21</sup> The full strategy can be found on the City Corporation website: [Climate Action Strategy - City of London](#)

<sup>22</sup> The full report can be viewed on the City Corporation's website: [Taking Climate Action: Our Progress 2024](#). Please note that, due to a time lag in availability, this report includes the most recently available data for the Square Mile.

<sup>23</sup> The full list of projects can be found on the City Corporation website: [Climate action projects - City of London](#)

<sup>24</sup> See more in section 2.3, Responsible Procurement

<sup>25</sup> See more in 2.4, Responsible Investment



- Supporting the Square Mile to achieve net zero through a range of approaches, including setting a long-term plan to net zero energy systems with the Local Area Energy Plan, providing planning advice on sustainable development and reducing embodied carbon<sup>26</sup>, and providing guidance on building decarbonisation with the Heritage Building Retrofit Toolkit<sup>27</sup>.
- Supporting the transition to active travel and reduction of emissions from vehicles across the City, through the Pedestrian Priority Streets project.
- Partnering with Heart of the City to deliver its free climate course to small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the City. Since 2021, over 1000 SMEs have accessed Heart of the City's free climate action toolkit and 65 have been supported in evaluating their carbon footprints and setting science-based net zero targets - collectively committing to saving over 80,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e per year by 2040.
- Embedding climate resilience in all the City of London Corporation's operations and responsibilities.
- Delivering a Resilient Buildings Action Plan, to better prepare our buildings for a changing climate.
- Investing in greening streets and public spaces in the City to improve flood resilience, reduce local temperatures and improve air quality.
- Mobilising and supporting community-led climate initiatives and educational programmes to improve climate literacy in the City.

### 5.3. Transport Strategy

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined our Transport Strategy, a 25-year framework for the design and management of streets and transport in the Square Mile. An annual report outlines the progress of projects and activities and refreshes the delivery plan for the subsequent five years<sup>28</sup>.

Key progress updates for 2022/23 included:

- Construction work on the All Change at Bank walking and public realm improvements started in September 2022.
- Design work, feasibility and traffic modelling for the St Paul's Gyratory project, along with engagement with stakeholders and public consultation.
- Experimental schemes were started as part of the Pedestrian Priority programme around King Street, Cheapside, King William Street, Chancery Lane, and Old Broad Street/Threadneedle Street.

<sup>26</sup> For more information, see 4.1. City Plan 2040.

<sup>27</sup> The City Corporation launched the toolkit in 2024 to empower owners of heritage buildings to initiate the adaptations necessary to reduce carbon emissions and build climate resilience: [City of London Corporation launches 'Retrofit Toolkit' to protect heritage buildings](#)

<sup>28</sup> The full Transport Strategy Annual Reports from 2023 and 2024 can be found online: [Transport Strategy: 2022/23 Annual Report and Delivery Plan 2023/24 - 2028/29 5-Year Plan - Agenda Item for City of London Corporation Planning and Transportation Committee, Tuesday, 18th July 2023](#) [Transport Strategy: 2023/24 Annual Report and Delivery Plan 2024/25 - 2029/30 5-year period- Agenda Item for City of London Corporation Planning and Transportation Committee, Tuesday, 23rd July 2024](#)



- A Healthy Streets Plan was developed for the Fleet Street area, following data collection, concept design and engagement with stakeholders. In January 2023, the draft Plan was approved, and wider public engagement commenced.
- Consultation on a potential permanent Zero Emission Street scheme for Beech Street. This plan was developed in partnership with the London Borough of Islington and considered changes to traffic movement and opportunities to enhance the public realm and improve the experience of walking and cycling.
- Various minor public realm programmes, including the Charterhouse Square School Street scheme, the opening of the Globe View section of the Thames Path, and the Healthy Streets Minor Schemes (HSMS), to deliver targeted improvements to reduce road danger, improve accessibility and give more priority to people walking and cycling.
- Improvements to the City's cycle infrastructure, including new cycle routes and cycles spaces, for both private bicycles and dockless cycles/e-scooters.
- New electric vehicle charging points, for the public and taxis.
- Collaborative work with the City of London Police to deliver road danger reduction events and campaigns, including workshops and training to promote and improve cycle safety and security (including specific cargo bike training).

Key progress updates for 2023/24 included:

- In July 2023, permanent traffic orders were implemented for King Street, Cheapside, King William Street and Old Broad Street/Threadneedle Street. The traffic restriction on Chancery Lane was an experimental traffic order and a decision to make this permanent was made in May 2024.
- Construction was completed on the scheme on King Street, with wider pavements and improved crossing facilities, with traffic one way northbound.
- The Bevis Marks Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) scheme was completed in June 2023. Other completed schemes include the installation of the terracotta seating in partnership with the Eastern City Business Improvement District (EC BID) and further tree planting, with Jubilee Gardens relandscaping having started on site.
- Healthy Streets minor schemes were delivered at 9 locations.
- Public realm and walking improvements in the Mark Lane area were substantially completed in September 2023.
- An experimental cycle lane was introduced along the Bevis Marks corridor.
- 140 cycle parking spaces (for private bicycles) have been installed across the City.

The Transport Strategy measures its outcomes against several key targets. The latest data in the 2023/24 annual report is presented in the table below.

Transport Strategy key targets	Units	2017 Baseline	2030 Target	2044 Target	2022 Update	2023 Update*
Reduction in motor vehicle traffic* (24 hr)	Motor vehicles	185k	139k (-25%)	93k (-50%)	137k (-26%)	-
Number of people killed and seriously injured on our streets (annually)	Persons	54	<16	0	59	42
Reduction in motorised freight vehicle volumes* (24hr)	Freight vehicles	39k	33k (-15%)	27k (-30%)	34k (-14%)	-
Reduction in motorised freight vehicles volumes* (peak periods)	Freight vehicles	18k	9k (-50%)	2k (-90%)	16k (-11%)	-
Number of km of pedestrian priority streets	Kilometres/percent of all streets	25km/25%	35km/35%	55km/55%	26.3km/ 26%	27.8km/ 28%
Increase the number of people cycling* (24 hr)	Cycles	44k	66k (+50%)	88k (+100%)	47k (+7%)	-
Proportion of zero emission capable vehicles entering the City	Zero emission capable vehicles	n/a	90%	100%	Baseline: 30%	-
People rating experience of walking in the City as pleasant	n/a	10%	35%	75%	75%	-
People rating experience of cycling in the City as pleasant	n/a	4%	35%	75%	36%	-

\*Traffic KPIs measured across 15 locations.

\*KPIs are measured using Autumn traffic counts which took place in 2022 and percentage ratings of how people experience walking and cycling in the City undertaken in 2022 and not repeated in 2023, hence no update.

A scheduled review of the Transport Strategy took place from November 2022 to July 2024, to adjust following the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and to allow it to better align with the review of the City Plan. This involved a large amount of data collection, looking at patterns of travel, work, and tourism in the Square Mile, workshops with stakeholders, and a public consultation<sup>29</sup>.

The main positive feedback focused on our ambitions to reduce motor traffic, accompanied by endorsement enabling active and sustainable travel and movement, with an anticipated reduction in air pollution. The majority thought that a strong focus on the prioritisation of people, rather than vehicles was also important, together with public realm and safety improvements for people who walk/wheel and cycle.

The largely positive response to consultation on the changes in the draft Transport Strategy means that the overall direction of the strategy has not been significantly change, bar some amendments, including:

- A greater focus on our approach to inclusion in delivering streets and public spaces with all ages and abilities in mind. This includes the language used, our processes through to design stages, and delivery on the street.
- Reflecting improvements to air quality that have been delivered by London’s Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).
- Higher targets and standards under our Climate Action Strategy, including more space for greening and on the use of permeable materials in street space designs.
- Adjusted our approach to accept e-scooters as a part of transport mix alongside cycles.

<sup>29</sup> The full set of documentation on the Transport Strategy review can be found online: [Transport Strategy Revised Draft and Consultation Report- Agenda Item for City of London Corporation Planning and Transportation Committee, Tuesday, 23rd July 2024](#)

## 5.4. Air Quality Strategy

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined our Air Quality Strategy 2019 to 2024, an action plan that commits the City Corporation to reducing nitrogen dioxide levels to meet health-based Limit Values in over 90% of the Square Mile by 2025. This target was met in 2020.

In accordance with statutory London Local Air Quality Management (LLAQM) requirements, the City Corporation completes an Annual Status Report (ASR)<sup>30</sup>. This details progress with actions to improve air quality and long-term air pollution trends as part of our Air Quality Strategy.

Our ASR for 2023<sup>31</sup> shows we have made good progress against our Air Quality Strategy. Over the past 5 years there has been a significant drop in annual average concentrations of NO<sub>2</sub>. In 2023, 95% of the locations<sup>32</sup> measured met the national standard of 40µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Particulate matter is presented in the report as PM<sub>10</sub> or PM<sub>2.5</sub> and is made up of many sources. All PM<sub>10</sub> monitoring sites have complied with the annual mean standard for the past seven years. In 2023, PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations at Farringdon Street and the Aldgate School met the new national standard of 10µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2023, ahead of the 2040 deadline.

The improvements in air quality measured in the Square Mile are set to continue as further measures in the City Corporation's Air Quality Strategy are implemented. As the existing Air Quality Strategy runs to the end of 2024, a draft Air Quality Strategy for 2025 to 2030 was published for consultation in 2024<sup>33</sup>. The proposed aims of the new strategy are to go beyond our statutory obligation and continue to take action to improve air quality in pursuit of the 2021 World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines. This will deliver better health outcomes for our communities as the WHO guidelines are tighter than the national standards.

## 5.5. Biodiversity Action Plan

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined our Biodiversity Action Plan for 2021 to 2026 (BAP)<sup>34</sup>. The BAP contains a set of objectives and actions to support the wider City community in delivering strategically planned biodiversity networks for both the City and Greater London, taking into consideration both local and national priorities.

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<sup>30</sup>This report also covers reporting requirements for the Square Mile as a declared Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), for annual mean and 1-hour concentrations of Nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and 24-hour concentrations of Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>).

<sup>31</sup> The ASR for 2023, and previous years, can be found on the City Corporation's website: [Air Quality reports - City of London](#)

<sup>32</sup> The City Corporation runs a dense and comprehensive air quality monitoring network. In 2023, data was collected using three nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) continuous monitors, three particulate PM<sub>10</sub> monitors, two particulate PM<sub>2.5</sub> monitors and one ozone monitor. Nitrogen dioxide data was also collected at 86 sites in the Square Mile using low-cost diffusion tubes.

<sup>33</sup> The draft Air Quality Strategy for 2025 to 2030 can be viewed on the City Corporation's website: [Air Quality Strategy - City of London](#)

<sup>34</sup> The full plan can be viewed on the City Corporation's website: [Biodiversity in the Square Mile - City of London](#)

At this stage we are half-way through the BAP and have made good progress across the four key priority areas of:

- Open Spaces and Habitat Management
- The Built Environment
- Education and Community Engagement
- Data Collection, Surveys and Monitoring

The Action Plan is currently at 47% completion with two actions fully closed out. The main focuses moving forward, whilst completing remaining actions, will also to be to consider how the BAP will move towards becoming a Local Nature Recovery Plan for the City.

Additional actions have been taken to progress biodiversity in the City which includes setting up the BAP Partnership Group. This group is made up of a range of people who have influence on biodiversity within the Square Mile including species experts, landowners, resident and volunteer groups and businesses. The group supports the progress of the BAP and help to contribute to specific actions with regards to Communication, Education and Engagement, Pollinators and Biological Recording.

## 5.6. Wider Biodiversity Objectives

The City Corporation is responsible for the management of 4400 hectares of open space outside of the Square Mile, some of which is nationally and internationally significant to biodiversity. Through the nine charitable trusts that manage these sites, the City Corporation is developing Local Management Plans, which encompass the Natural Environment division's four strategies, building on the findings of the Natural Capital Assessment and the legacy of 150 years of stewardship:

- Nature Conservation Resilience
- Community Engagement
- Access Recreation
- Culture Heritage Learning

As mentioned in section 5.1, the City Corporation, as a Local Planning Authority, is responsible for the implementation of the statutory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) through the planning system. The City Corporation's emerging City Plan 2040 includes a policy for a biodiversity unit/hectare approach to apply to major developments within the Square Mile, to ensure that these can deliver the best possible outcomes for biodiversity within the City.

A working group for Biodiversity and Nature Recovery has been established across the organisation, to support collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst officers. A key focus will be on emerging responsibilities and changes to legislation under then Environment Act 2021, and the group aims to be formally recognised by senior leaders. The biodiversity objectives for public authorities under the Act include consultation with responsible authorities on Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). With the several strategically significant sites across London and the Southeast the Natural Environment division is being engaged as a third party to the relevant LNRS, which includes Greater London, Essex, Surrey, and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes strategy areas. The group aims to coordinate communications, data processes and support officers with consultations.

## 5.7. External Advocacy for Green and Sustainable Business and Finance

The City Corporation engages on the global stage to promote the UK financial and professional services sectors, champion global regulatory coherence and build the UK's profile as the global destination for green and sustainable business and finance. This includes supporting working collaboratively with partners on a programme of external events and wider advocacy.

Our sustainable finance policy work is driven by the Corporate Plan, the Competitiveness Strategy and Vision for Economic Growth<sup>35</sup>. It supports several outcomes within each of these strategies, all cumulating in our overarching objective to position the UK as a one-stop-shop; the go-to partner for countries and companies, looking for capital and expertise, to help them meet their sustainability goals.

### How are we measuring our impact?

Topic	Macro KPI	KPIs to measure progress
Transition finance	Maintain London's no.1 position and increase rating in Z/Yen Green Finance Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK government publicly endorses the use of transition finance and the parameters for best practice.</li> <li>Issuance of transition finance bonds.</li> <li>Number of UK financial institutions publishing a transition finance framework/strategy.</li> </ul>
UK COP Leadership		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of opportunities for UK firms to influence sustainable finance element of COP29 agenda.</li> <li>Notable UK presence in green zone and fringe activity – i.e. taking space in green zone and high number of firms actively convening events.</li> </ul>
Impact Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The size of the UK impact investing market.</li> <li>Raising the profile of impact investing through advocacy and events – KPIs would be scale of events; result of advocacy effort over the year etc.</li> </ul>
Carbon markets		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market uptake of initiatives to bolster integrity in Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM): The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market Core Carbon Principles and the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative Claims Code.</li> <li>Growth in size of UK voluntary carbon market.</li> <li>More balanced reporting of carbon markets to help business leaders understand nuance.</li> </ul>
Skills		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved world MBA ranking.</li> </ul>
Nature		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of UK early adopters of Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.</li> </ul>

<sup>35</sup> Further information can be found on The Global City website: [Vision for Economic Growth - a roadmap to Prosperity](#)



Topic	Macro KPI	KPIs to measure progress
High Growth Markets	Maintain London's no.1 position and increase rating in Z/Yen Green Finance Index	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flow of sustainable investment to emerging markets.</li> </ul>
UK ESG Regulation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His Majesty's Government (HMG) to fulfil existing commitments set out in the 2023 Green Finance Strategy on financial regulation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HMG to swiftly and fully adopt the International Financial Reporting Standard for Sustainability Disclosure (IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 standards).</li> <li>Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) to set up clear, comprehensive &amp; proportionate rules for ESG ratings provider.</li> <li>HMG to continue to show leadership on Transition Planning &amp; consider future regulation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>80% of ESG ratings/data providers to sign up to the ESG Ratings and Data Code of Conduct by end of 2024.</li> </ul>

## Spotlight on key activities

### A) UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB)

The UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB) was announced during the UK India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) in September 2023 between the City of London Corporation and the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog. Due to the changing political landscape in both countries, it was not until September 2024 that both the City Corporation and NITI Aayog formally officiated 'The Bridge'. The Bridge members include UK PLC who have presence in Indian infrastructure or are looking at Indian infrastructure as their long-term strategy. The main aim is not only to accelerate India's economic ascent via sustainable infrastructure finance but also for the UK PLC to enjoy a first-mover advantage with this initiative.

Since its inception The Bridge has produced a Macro report on the "Opportunities and Barriers to Infrastructure Investment in India" which was discussed in detail at the second Bridge meeting in London. The report was well received and the CEO of NITI Aayog commented, he read the report thrice because he found it very informative. The report narrowed down the top barriers of the investor community – the discussion at the meeting focused on solutions to address the barriers. These will be further built so that they can be presented to the ministerial departments in India and the UK.

As part of the initial work scope, NITI Aayog has also recommended six projects under highway, regional rapid transport station and Green Hydrogen to be investigated in detail and make recommendations on making these projects investible for an international investor. The UK side has completed the delivery on Project 1 on highways. Now the recommendations are with NITI Aayog to build into the Project 1. The Bridge members will revisit Project 1 at a later date to stock take the progress of recommendations.

The next meeting is in November 2024 during the visit of the City Corporation's Policy Chairman to India, where The Bridge aims to complete the recommendation on Project 2, regional rapid transport system.

## **B) Net Zero Delivery Summit and COP leadership**

As outlined in our Communication on Engagement 2022, the City of London Corporation hosted the first Net Zero Delivery Summit in May 2022, in association with the COP26 UK Presidency 2022 and the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero.

Since then, the City Corporation has hosted two more Net Zero Delivery Summits, in 2023<sup>36</sup> and 2024<sup>37</sup>. The Summit is positioned as mid-point between each COP, around which the wider business community can rally to take stock of progress since the last COP and drive forward more delivery focused action in the run up to the next. They focus on the role of private finance in supporting the transition to net zero.

The Summits help to deliver impact by providing a platform to showcase best practice and host discussions on key issues and barriers to making progress towards our objectives in each workstreams. It additionally serves to support positioning the UK as a global leader for sustainable finance by shining a spotlight on activity in London.

In 2024, these discussions included: examining approaches, challenges and proposed solutions in transition finance; exploring innovative strategies, investment opportunities and the imperative of aligning finance with nature and biodiversity goals; raising the ambition of carbon markets; and the opportunities for private capital to support adaptation and resilience.

## **C) Impact Finance**

Impact investing is generating a positive, measurable social or environmental impact alongside a financial return, and is therefore aligned with achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The City of London Corporation has been working to scale impact finance and highlight UK leadership in the sector over the last few years, beginning with the co-establishment of the Impact Investing Institute along with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in 2019.

As outlined in our Communication on Engagement 2022, the City Corporation then delivered the Finance for Impact Summit in 2022 and has championed the financial and professional services sector to deliver on a Just Transition since. In 2024, the City Corporation is working with the Impact Investing Institute to position London and the UK as the leading global impact investment hub for private equity and venture capital, supporting the high-growth business models of the coming decade. This initiative is being delivered in collaboration with BVCA<sup>38</sup> and Better Society Capital<sup>39</sup> and supported by Herbert Smith Freehills<sup>40</sup>. This programme includes workshops with investors, market builders, local governments and other stakeholders on:

- Just Transition – particularly in investing in emerging and developing economies.
- Place based impact investing – economic growth in UK regions.
- Preventative Health – the role of private equity and venture capital in preventative health innovation and interactions with the NHS.

These workshops aim to address barriers to encourage more impact finance in the venture capital and private equity sector.

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<sup>36</sup> [Net Zero Delivery Summit 2023 \(theglobalcity.uk\)](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Net Zero Delivery Summit 2024 \(theglobalcity.uk\)](#)

<sup>38</sup> [BVCA | British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Better Society Capital](#)

<sup>40</sup> [Herbert Smith Freehills | Global law firm](#)

## **D) Advocacy and thought leadership**

The City of London Corporation also aims to embed social considerations into a range of existing initiatives and forums to influence more impact finance. These include but are not limited to the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S) initiative, UN Global Compact, relationships with finance and professional services trade associations, COP, Net Zero Delivery Summit and the Bank of England's Climate Financial Resilience Forum (CFRF) - Adaptation Working Group. For instance, the City of London is pleased to support the UN Global Compact UK Summit in Guildhall in October 2024. During the summit, the City Corporation organised and delivered a roundtable advocating for corporate financing strategies to align with the UN SDGs, to unlock more capital for people and planet, and curated and participated in a fireside chat on the main stage focused on aligning finance with the SDGs and building resilience.

The City Corporation also develops thought leadership on impact finance, including a recent report co-written with the British Private Equity & Venture Capital Association (BVCA) on how the UK is a Centre of Excellence in Impact Investing. Highlighting best practice in the sector and encouraging further growth through articles and reports is a key influencing tool the Corporation uses to engage private firms, policymakers and other market builders to channel more capital towards the SDGs.

## **E) Transition Finance Market Review**

The City of London Corporation hosts and co-heads the secretariat of the Transition Finance Market Review (TFMR)<sup>41</sup>. The TFMR launched in January 2024 to explore how the UK can establish itself as a global hub for transition finance. It is an independent Review led by Vanessa Havard-Williams, supported by a panel of advisors and a secretariat. The Review was commissioned by Government, following the 2023 Green Finance Strategy.

TFMR's focus is on how the UK can leverage its existing strengths to become the best place in the world to raise credibly transition capital, invest and obtain financial and professional services to support a net zero future. It will set out a roadmap to the market and policymakers on the domestic actions required to embed a high-integrity framework for transition finance and unlock additional capital flows, and the international actions the UK should take to contribute to a harmonised global approach to transition finance and ensure all markets can access the necessary capital and support services.

## **F) Code of Conduct of ESG Ratings and Data Providers**

In 2022, the FCA commissioned the City of London Corporation's International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG) to convene an industry-led working group and act as the Secretariat for the development of a Code of Conduct for ESG Ratings and Data products providers. The final Code was published in December 2023. By the end of January 2024, all key ESG Ratings and Data providers had signed up to the Code.

The Code of Conduct puts forward six best practice principles, promoting global consistency in policy frameworks for ESG ratings and data. It aims to enhance consistency, transparency, and accountability in the financial services industry and supports investor confidence in ESG ratings and data to unlock capital for the urgent net zero transition.

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<sup>41</sup> [Transition Finance Market Review \(theglobalcity.uk\)](https://theglobalcity.uk)



## 6. Anti-Corruption

### 6.1. Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy

In our Communication on Engagement 2022, we outlined the City Corporation's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. This strategy affirms our commitment to minimising the risk of loss to the organisation resulting from fraud and corruption.

The City Corporation has invested in the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) London Fraud Hub, along with 25 London Boroughs, giving it the ability to use 'Big Data' to tackle new and emerging fraud risks. By combining data sets on a cross-boundary basis, Officers take an active and leading role in a pan-London Fraud Hub working group to develop projects to tackle fraud and corruption on a risk-based approach.

The City Corporation has also commenced work on a programme of fraud risk assessments, to identify areas of exposure to fraud and corruption and put in place mitigation measures to help prevent losses where these do not currently exist.

With the full support of the Senior Leadership team, a project team is engaged on reviewing and refreshing the City's approach to whistleblowing, with a refreshed Policy & Procedure, new and enhanced mechanisms to report concerns and an electronic reporting, recording and case management system, that will enable the organisation to better respond to whistleblowing allegations, and provide further assurance in our measures to tackle fraud and corruption.

Further information on our Corporate Anti-Fraud and Corruption activity can be found in the Counter Fraud reports provided to the City Corporation's Audit and Risk Management Committee. The relevant reports for the period covered by this Communication on Engagement are linked below:

[Anti-Fraud & Investigations - 2022/23 Annual Report](#)

[Anti-Fraud & Investigations - 2023/24 Mid-Year Update Report](#)

[Anti-Fraud & Investigations - 2023/24 Annual Report](#)

## 7. Conclusion

The City of London Corporation is committed to working towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting the UN Global Compact, and its ten principles, in its ambition to drive business awareness and support for sustainability.

Our Corporate Plan sets out our over-arching strategic direction and, together with our People Strategy, help us to unlock our future as an organisation for the next five years. The values that underpin these, and the wider activities deliver by the City Corporation, are aligned to achieving positive outcomes locally, nationally, and internationally. We are committed to continuing our efforts as part of our strategies, within our governance, and in line with our role in promoting positive outcomes in these areas to our stakeholders.

As a participant in the UN Global Compact, we will continue to report on our actions and progress on human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption to our stakeholders on a biannual basis.

<b>Committee(s) for Stage 1A</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Policy & Resource Committee – For Decision Health & Wellbeing Board - For Decision	<b>7<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b> <b>15<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Pan -London Sexual Health E-Services Programme – City of London Corporation Role	Public
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b> Diverse engaged communities, providing excellent services	<b>Outcome 2</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>Externally Funded</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Report of the Director of Community & Children’s Services and Chamberlain	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Mona Hayat, Director of Sexual Health, DCCS	

## Summary

30 of London’s local authorities, including the City of London Corporation (CoLC), collaboratively commission “open access” sexual health services, with the City Corporation acting as the Lead Authority for the participating authorities.

A small Programme team, the London Sexual Health Programme (LSHP) hosted by City Corporation as the Lead Authority and accountable body, manages the Pan-London Sexual Health E-Services contract on behalf of the 30 participating Authorities which has transformed sexual health for residents through digitally enabled solutions for self-care which are both convenient and cost effective. This contract is fully funded by the 30 participating authorities, inclusive of the London Sexual Health Programme (LSHP) team costs. The programme is also governed through the participating authority’s individual authorisation processes.

The Pan-London Sexual Health E-Services contract, valued at just over £200m, was initially awarded for 5 years in 2017 with the option to extend it by up to a further 4 years. The authorities have requested that the LSHP continues to act as a single point of leadership and management for the (re)procurement of a new service, and the City Corporation as Lead Authority and accountable body.

This report seeks approval for the City Corporation to continue to act as the Lead Authority, and the accountable body and host of the LSHP for the next phase of the LSHP with a view to re-procuring the service. This would be subject to each participating authority, including the City Corporation acting by its Health and Wellbeing Board, taking their local decisions to renew the arrangements and to meet

the joint costs of the service (both the hosting costs and the service contract) with the City Corporation acting as the accountable body. Due to the potential risks the City Corporation also needs to be satisfied that the arrangements agreed adequately protect the City Corporation acting as the Lead Authority and this report sets out the case for those arrangements continuing. Future decisions on the re-procurement will be brought back to Members for consideration and decision in accordance with the City Corporation's usual procurement procedures.

## **Recommendations**

Members are asked to approve that:

- a. the City Corporation continues to act as the Lead Authority and accountable body for the procurement of a new Pan-London Sexual Health E-services contract and the host of the programme management service under an inter-authority agreement subject to:
  - i. those terms being satisfactorily agreed by all the participating authorities (including the City Corporation in the discharge of those functions acting through the Health and Wellbeing Board), and
  - ii. the City Corporation being satisfied that the arrangements adequately protect the City Corporation acting as the Lead Authority; and
- b. the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services in consultation with the Chamberlain and Comptroller and City Solicitor be authorised to settle the terms of a new inter-authority agreement for the City Corporation as Lead Authority.
- c. Once agreed in principle and terms are agreed including sign off of the new IAA, the procurement will proceed with adherence to the procurement code, via CoLC authorisation process.

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. London's Sexual Health E-Service is part of the Pan London Sexual Health Program (LSHP) which aims "to manage and deliver an efficient virtual service as part of a wider healthcare system that responds effectively to the sexual and reproductive health needs of London's residents."
2. In 2017 the 30 London local health authorities, including the City Corporation acting in that capacity, agreed to collaborate to deliver these sexual health services under an Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) dated 16 May 2017, with the City Corporation also agreeing to be appointed as the Lead Authority, being the accountable body responsible for hosting the programme management service and procuring the E-service.
3. The contract for the provision of the E-Service, valued at over £200m, was awarded by the City Corporation on 15 August 2017, for a minimum 5-year term with options to extend it by a maximum of 4 years. The contract was extended

for a further 3-year extension in 2022, allowing for a further 1-year extension up to 14 August, 2025.

4. The E-Service is provided by Preventx Ltd who sub-contract with Chelsea and Westminster NHS Trust and Lloyds Online Doctor for clinical leadership, patient care and the supply of medical treatments.
5. It provides online assessment for sexual health testing services by post with remote treatment for chlamydia. The E-Service is partnered with London's NHS Trusts who provide ongoing care to E-Service users as required. It provides contraception to residents of 16 authorities, who have called off this optional service line.
6. The E-Service has performed well against the key performance indicators, the supplier has been responsive to our evolving needs and service user feedback is consistently positive. When compared with providing similar care pathways in a traditional clinic setting, the E-Service provides value for money to the participating Authorities and convenience for their residents.
7. A small Programme team, the London Sexual Health Programme Team (LSHPT), hosted by the Department of Community and Children's Services within the City Corporation, manages the E-Service contract on behalf of 30 participating authorities under the IAA. The arrangements provide for the costs of the hosting to be met by the participating authorities as well as for recharging each of the local authorities for their residents' usage in a timely manner so that liquidity risk is managed for the City Corporation as the accountable body.
8. An E-Service Management Board (ESMB), comprising of representatives from each participating authority, provides strategic oversight for the contract and makes recommendations to the City Corporation when variations, including extensions, to the contract are needed.

### **Current context**

9. The 30 participating authorities have recommended to the City Corporation, via the E-Services Management Board (ESMB) meeting held on the 31 August 2024, that the current E-Services contract is extended by 1 further year from 15 August 2025 to 14 August 2026.
10. This extension will ensure there is adequate time for all participating authorities to obtain their own authorisations to extend the arrangements, including hosting and procurement by the City Corporation as the Lead Authority and accountable body, and to participate in any subsequent service contract awarded by the City Corporation; and for the delivery of a comprehensive competitive procurement process by the City Corporation as Lead Authority. Shared legal advice continues to be procured for the benefit of all those participating to advise on the revised IAA and proposed competitive procurement, which advice will be funded by all the authorities.
11. With the City Corporation as Lead Authority, the competitive procurement of the new service will be guided by the expertise of City Corporation's Finance, Governance & Commercial Services, and as the City Corporation will be entering into the legal agreements as Lead Authority, the Comptroller & City (CCS) Solicitor's. The CCS Department will oversee the execution of the legally binding

service contract and would advise the City Corporation in relation to matters arising on the joint advice for the City Corporation, and as lead authority on the procurement unless this substantive commercial legal advice was within the brief of the external legal advisers where the CCS would be limited to the drafting of the provisions for insurance and indemnities (alongside the Chamberlain under the Corporate governance framework of the CoLC) and execution formalities for the CoLC.

### **Consideration and evaluation of options**

12. The request to act as the Lead Authority and accountable body to host the Programme support, and (re)procure the Pan-London Sexual Health E-Services contract, is indicative of the esteem in which London's authorities hold the LSHP as hosted by the City Corporation and their confidence in our ability to continue to deliver this important work.
13. The COVID19 pandemic negatively impacted clinical service delivery and the programme has shown itself to be an effective vehicle for leadership and collaboration between authorities and the NHS. The programme coordinated the introduction of routinely commissioned Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), to prevent human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV), and it continues to support the authorities in taking a consistent approach to cross-charging arrangements relating to the use of clinics by residents from other authorities.
14. The Pan-London Sexual Health E-Service is the world's largest remote sexual health service, its work has been published in peer-reviewed medical journals and its highly visible success is greatly enhancing London's reputation for excellence and innovation in sexual health and MedTech. This has raised the profile of the City Corporation on the international stage and the City Corporation LSHP have hosted a number of international delegates during the current contract to showcase the good practice and leadership associated in delivering this high-profile regional programme. The LSHP is multi-award winning.
15. Authorities who participate in the LSHP have indicated their in-principle support, by an overwhelming majority, to continue to receive the benefits of an efficient virtual service after the current contract ends; one that continues to operate as part of a wider healthcare system that responds effectively to the sexual and reproductive health needs of London's residents.
16. Whilst each authority will need to take local decisions to authorise their on-going participation and financial commitment, preliminary work has been undertaken. The constituent authorities participating in the programme have taken and considered joint legal advice on the new Provider Selection Regime (PSR) from the external legal advisers instructed to advise the LSHP and a consensus has emerged that the potential award of a new contract is within the scope of the new regulatory framework and a procurement strategy should be implemented accordingly.
17. A full evaluation of the existing hosting and delivery arrangements by the City Corporation as the Lead Authority and accountable body has been undertaken by the Community and Children's Services Department, as the responsible Department. No substantive issues have arisen in delivery which attributed to any unmitigable risks to the City Corporation. The arrangements have operated

well under the current IAA and associated working arrangements, well supported by the LSHPT. (See also Financial, Legal and Risk Implications below.)] The Hosting the programme and letting the contract as the accountable body for the participating London authorities has been demonstrated to enhance the reputation of the City Corporation in dealing with other local authorities and related public services providers in London, national stakeholders and around the world.

### **Recommended options**

18. So that the local authorities of London can continue to enjoy the benefits of collaboratively commissioning Pan-London Sexual Health E-Services for the benefit of their residents, it is recommended that the City Corporation agrees to continue to act as the Lead Authority and accountable body for the procurement of a new Pan-London Sexual Health E-services contract and the host of the programme management service under an inter-authority agreement subject to those terms being satisfactorily agreed by all the participating authorities, and the City Corporation being satisfied that the arrangements agreed adequately protect the City Corporation acting as the Lead Authority and accountable body.

### **Results Savings, efficiencies and benefits**

19. The current contract for E-services provides value for money to the participating authorities when compared with providing similar care pathways in a traditional clinic setting. Currently the participating authorities are spending £11 million less on STI interventions than in 2019/20. The greater the proportion of activity that happens online, the greater the efficiencies for the authorities individually and collectively. Public Health England predict that the next 10 years will see a return on investment based on £9.00 saving for every £1 invested in publicly provided contraception.
20. The E-Service is addressing accessibility challenges for residents from deprived areas. 69% of STI Kits were ordered from the top 5 most deprived areas in London with 74% for routine contraception and 81% for Emergency contraception.
21. Providing the same care at lower prices enable the participating authorities to meet the challenge of rising demand for sexual health testing that accompanies expanded uptake of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and fulfil the capital's commitment to becoming the first nation in the world to achieve zero new HIV transmissions by 2030.
22. The LSHP Team have a new dedicated senior Health Business Analyst joining the team in September 2024 to undertake all the data and financial modelling to detail the efficiency, effectiveness, value and behaviour of the Pan-London residents accessing the Sexual Health E-Service and how it is critically improving health outcomes across all participating authorities. This information will underpin the impending Business Case for the new procurement to be approved across all Related Authorities to proceed to market via a Provider Services Regime route.

## **Financial Implications**

23. City Corporation acting as a trusted broker on behalf of the LSHP is of no cost to the Corporation. The value of the monthly invoices from the existing supplier under the current contract requires enhanced approval processes involving the Chamberlain, Chamberlain's Department, and the Executive Director of Community & Children's Services. The programme team includes a dedicated resource for recharging the participating authorities each month according to their residents' usage. The level of liquidity in the funds under the arrangements is regularly reviewed with the Chamberlain and any new measures to manage risk for the City Corporation as accountable body are then implemented.

## **Legal Implications**

24. The existing IAA permits the arrangements, and associated service contract to be extended by one year, should the participating authorities each agree, with City Corporation procurement procedures being followed to affect this extension.
25. A continuation of the joint arrangements requires the participating authorities to each formally agree the terms governing the arrangements, including financial commitments; this will include the City Corporation as local authority which decisions are for the Health and Wellbeing Board and will be considered separately by that Board should this reports recommendations be supported. A new IAA will be required. Once those arrangements are agreed the City Corporation, as the Lead Authority, can take the relevant steps to (re)procure the Sexual Health E-Service in accordance with the City Corporation's standard procurement procedures.
26. Legal advice will be taken on the drafting of the IAA for the City Corporation as a participating authority and as Lead Authority, and on the terms of the new E-services contract.

## **Risk Implications**

27. There is significant risk for London's sexual health system if the City Corporation does not continue to host the programme on behalf of the Related Authorities.
28. If the mandate is not approved as recommended by the Related Authorities, this would create significant risk of major reputational damage for all participating authorities, including the City Corporation, as well as a significant rise in sexual health costs. This is because the activity currently managed through the sexual health E-Service will be transferred back to in-person clinics across London.
29. An alternative for the Programme would be for another London local authority to take over as Lead Authority. If the City Corporation decides this would be the appropriate outcome, all 30 Related Authorities (including the City Corporation as a participating authority) will be asked for a consensus in identifying a new Lead Authority. This will require consideration of the transfer of the management of the programme (the LSHP), inclusive of TUPE and related employee considerations. as well as the process for separate procurement of the new E-service in a timely way. We are engaging in the City Corporation decision-making processes at this early stage to allow ample time put in place revised



arrangements should the City Corporation not be supportive of continuing as Lead Authority and accountable body.

30. Under the leadership of the LSHP, the impact of the Mpox outbreak was managed pan-London in 2022. This was shortly after the impact of Covid-19. A transfer of the Lead Authority functions to another authority may result in less experience of managing these widespread public health challenges that directly affect sexual and reproductive health could create a significant risk to the success of the programme.
31. Furthermore, there are risks in all **procurement processes** and in undertaking the role of host and contract management of the programme by City Corporation on behalf of the participating Authorities. The following cites the key risks and mitigations:
  - (a) **Inaccurate forecasting** mitigated by the comprehensive pan London Needs Assessment and comprehensive qualitative and quantitative research methods.
  - (b) **Compliance management** mitigated by subject matter expertise support from the commercial, legal and finance teams within City Corporation with external support from the Equalities & Human Rights Commission to ensure Public Sector Equalities Duty compliance.
  - (c) **Recourse for City Corporation hosting the funds on behalf of pan London Authorities.** There is to be a robust disclaimer within our Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) that CoLC will not be held responsible.
  - (d) **Diverse Participating Authority timelines** mitigated by clear LSHP Programme Management Office and governance oversight.
  - (e) **Cybersecurity threats** mitigated with the support of the City Corporation DITS to ensure the protection of sensitive data and procurement software security.
  - (f) **Data privacy issues** mitigated through compliance with City Corporation data protection regulations to avoid legal penalties and significant financial risks.
  - (g) **Legal Challenge** in the event that the City Corporation receive a legal challenge as a consequence of the contract award, the LSHP have the support of their external legal advisers instructed to advise all the participating authority, alongside the City Corporation commercial and legal teams (Contracts, Litigation and Governance) which are involved from inception of the procurement timelines.
  - (h) **Adverse Publicity** mitigated with advice and support from the CoLC communications team.

### **Equalities implications**

32. The Programme has sought external support from the Equalities & Human Rights Commission to ensure Public Sector Equalities Duty compliance. To ensure the Programme remains fully compliant throughout the duration of the Programme an Equalities Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Board (EDIAB) has been established as part of the existing governance structure to provide advice to the Statutory Board and Clinical Advisory Board on all matters related to the delivery of the Programme. The EDIAG consists of diverse service user representation to ensure service users' voices are heard and represented on all matters related to

the Programme. This Group will be consulted on the Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) completed by the Programme.

**Climate implications**

N/A

**Security implications**

N/A

**Conclusion**

33. The City Corporation as a Lead Authority (and through its own participation as a local authority) has successfully hosted the commissioning arrangements of digitally enabled solutions for self-care on transforming sexual health care for residents and hosting the management of the programme for the past 7 years to date.

By extending these arrangements, the City Corporation is provided with the opportunity to continue to enhance outcomes for its own residents and those in Greater London, as well as enhancing the City Corporation's reputation for delivering excellent public services, technological innovation and cost effectiveness.

**Report author:**

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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Committee(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Information</li> <li>• Policy and Resources – For Decision</li> </ul>	<b>Dated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 04/11/2024</li> <li>• 07/11/2024</li> </ul>
<b>Subject:</b> Support of the development of a new Culture Strategy for the City of London Corporation	<b>Public</b>
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b></li> </ul>	<b>Vibrant Thriving Destination</b>
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£45,000</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>PIF</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Emma Markiewicz, Director of The London Archive and Head of Profession (Culture), Town Clerk’s Department	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Omkar Chana, Interim Director (Culture), Town Clerk’s Department	

## Summary

This report highlights the need to support the development of a new Culture Strategy for the City of London Corporation. The City Corporation has appointed a new Head of Profession for Culture, who will lead the creation of a strategy that reinforces the City Corporation’s leadership in culture and supports the Destination City programme. The Martin Review emphasised the importance of an independent Culture Strategy to maximise the City’s unique cultural assets.

To begin this work immediately, the report proposes a bid of £45,000 from the Policy and Resources Committee’s Policy Initiative Fund, enabling key research, stakeholder consultation, analysis and the creation of a new Culture Strategy. The new Culture Strategy would align with the City Corporation’s corporate priorities and ensure the Square Mile remains a vibrant cultural destination for residents, workers and visitors. Delivering a Culture Strategy is inextricably linked and a key enabler for the Destination City programme which aligns with the Policy and Resources committee.

## Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Approve an application to the Policy and Resources Committee’s 2024/25 Policy Initiatives Fund for £45,000 to support the development of a Culture Strategy for the City of London Corporation (detailed further as option 2 in this report).

## Main Report

### Background

1. In April 2024, Members of the Policy and Resources (P&R) Committee and the Culture, Heritage and Libraries (CHL) Committee endorsed the 14 recommendations from the Destination City – Independent Review 2024, led by Paul Martin.
2. In May 2024, the Court of Common Council confirmed a recommendation from the Independent Review in terms of governance, that is:
  - *[To] align accountability for the refreshed Destination City Programme to the Policy & Resources Committee while noting that accountability for the Culture Strategy remains with the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee.*
3. Also agreed as part of the Destination City – Independent Review 2024, two recommendations in terms of culture, that are:
  - *[To] request the Town Clerk/Chief Executive to consider options for the future Head of Profession for Culture as described and make an appropriate appointment to progress the cultural strategy.*
  - *[To] align the new culture strategy with the Destination City vision in an approach that is collaborative, develops new partnerships and sets its sights on the City of London as an international cultural and heritage destination.*
4. The Martin Review referred to a Culture Strategy, but the terms of reference of that review did not include the development of the Culture Strategy. To recap, the review was asked to “*consider how an Arts and Culture Strategy is both aligned, and distinct from, the leisure offer*”.
5. The previous Culture Strategy ran from 2018-2022 and has now ceased.

### Current Position

6. In August 2024, Emma Markiewicz, Director of The London Archives was appointed as the Senior Responsible Officer to lead as the Head of Profession for Culture. The role is to lead the delivery of the Culture Strategy for the City Corporation, encompassing our institutions as well as other cultural and partner attractions in and around the Square Mile. This is a pivotal role, reporting to our Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and linking with the Destination City programme.
7. Following the appointment, the Head of Profession for Culture took over operational duties (from October 2024) for the team that was previously under Innovation & Growth – Destination City (referred to in this report as the Culture team).

8. The Destination City – Independent Review 2024 recommended the reframing of Destination City as an opportunity for the City Corporation to create and deliver a world class cultural strategy. The review states “*if any local authority area needs a culture strategy, it is surely the City of London*” with its unique depth and range of cultural and heritage attractions.
9. The Head of Profession for Culture has a principal task of creating the new Culture Strategy for the City of London Corporation. This piece of work needs to be undertaken at pace in order to support Destination City and to fill a significant gap which has grown. It is intended that the implementation of the Culture Strategy will reposition the City Corporation as a leader of culture in the Square Mile.
10. The investment the City Corporation makes in its culture and heritage is of national and international significance, and with the potential to be exemplary. At the heart of the investment is to enable priceless cultural assets within the Square Mile to be used and enjoyed by as many people as possible – Londoners, the wider British public and international visitors throughout the world. However, individual attractions need to be set within a wider context of an area that values, appreciates and cherishes its heritage and culture.
11. The Culture team reports to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and received a budget of approximately £1.617m in 2024/25. The majority of this budget is used for staffing, leaving only a small proportion for operational and project-related expenditure. The delivery of projects and activities for 2024/25 has already been planned and budgeted for.
12. This work would enable the development of a key principle of the Martin review – that Culture should have a standalone strategy that is independent of Destination City with an intentional overlap in recognition that there will be both shared objectives and outcomes.
13. This work will also enable a much-needed comprehensive understanding of the City’s existing audiences, identify potential growth markets (regionally, nationally and internationally), and uncover opportunities within current audience segments.

#### **PIF application – Rationale**

14. This application cannot be funded through existing departmental local risk budgets because the need has arisen mid-year, as a direct recommendation from the implementation of the Martin Review.
15. Additionally, the remaining budget from the Growth Bid (£2.6m) remains with the Destination City programme (under P&R) and is no longer directly accessible by the Culture team.

#### **PIF application – Strategic Link**

- a. **Policy lead area for the Policy and Resources Committee** – Destination City is the key policy link for the new Culture Strategy. The Martin review identifies: “*the cultural attractions of the City of London are a principal driver*

*of the Destination City programme. Individual attractions need to be set within a wider context of an area that values, appreciates and cherishes its heritage and culture”, thus contributing to the idea of the City of London as a destination for visitors, workers and residents.*

- b. **Priority area for the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee** – The development of a new Cultural Strategy is key for the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, for whom it is a critical priority over the coming years.
- c. **Corporate Plan outcomes** – A new Culture Strategy would link with all areas of the Corporate Plan, most specifically ‘*Diverse, Engaged Communities; Flourishing Public Spaces and Vibrant Thriving Destination*’. Delivering the latter in a co-ordinated way is dependent on the implementation of a Culture Strategy.
- d. **Promotion of the City or City’s role in London or nationally** – A new Culture Strategy would significantly communicate to London, to the nation and to an international audience that the City Corporation’s continued sponsorship of culture – seen through its significant investments in the Barbican, Museum of London and elsewhere – is more than commendable. It is exemplary.

#### **PIF application – Outcomes**

16. This PIF application will enable the following outcomes.

- a. **Internal insights:** A review of existing audience data from City Corporation departments, current cultural partners, and assets, providing a clearer picture of the current landscape and identifying gaps or opportunities.
- b. **Audience profile and market opportunities:** An understanding of the Square Mile’s existing external audiences and potential growth areas, highlighting untapped segments and providing strategic recommendations to target them effectively.
- c. **Engaged and informed stakeholder network:** A collective vision and input from key stakeholders, including staff, institutions, partners, and Members, ensuring the strategy reflects a wide array of perspectives, both leveraging existing, and creating new, partnerships.
- d. **Collaboratively developed Cultural Strategy:** A Cultural Strategy that is co-created through consultation, ensuring it is both inclusive and reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of the City Corporation’s cultural ecosystem.

#### **PIF application – Economy**

17. Where the relevant skills are available, we would utilise existing resources in the Culture team to support the research and development involved in the delivery of this work. This would need to be augmented with external support where

necessary. We would also set aside some local budget from next year (2025/26) to support any further implementation activities or if the scope of work expands after the initial work has been completed.

### **PIF application – Delivery**

18. The next step would be to agree the scope of work/terms of reference by Members of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee. On approval of this, the work to identify and procure consultancy and research services would commence. Approving this PIF in November 2024 would enable CHL to approve the scope in December 2024.

19. The ambitious target date for delivering the outputs including the datasets from the research and the consultation would be by the end of March 2025. In line with the previous Culture Strategy and our Corporate Plan, we envisage the new Culture Strategy to have a term of at least five years.

### **PIF application – Reporting**

20. In the first instance, progress will be reported to the CHL Committee. Additionally, we would complete the standardised progress update form biannually and at the end of the initiative.

### **PIF application – Repeat Expenditure**

21. Supporting the development of a Culture Strategy has not been funded via the PIF in previous years.

### **PIF application – Benefit Sustainment**

22. Once the Culture Strategy has been approved, the proposal is to continue implementation by aligning existing programmes and projects funded through local budget from CHL. Where there is an overlap of objectives/outcomes with the Culture Strategy and the Destination City programme, there would also be opportunities to bid for additional funding from the newly created Destination City Partnership Fund.

### **Options**

23. **Option 1 – PIF support is not agreed.** This would delay starting the development of the Culture Strategy until 2025/26.

24. In order to find the budget, the 2024/25 programme could be deprioritised but we are past midway in the delivery year (at month 7) so, on top of the reputational challenges of pulling out from programmes very late in the year, this would result in low staff utilisation. Alternatively, the 2025/26 programme could be scaled-back. As some of the plans are part of the annual programme, any cutbacks could create subsequent challenges (with a potential impact reducing the investment on projects like Open House or exhibitions). Cultural planning has a long lead time so this would need to be planned now.

25. **Option 2 – PIF support is agreed for £45,000** to commence with the development of the Culture Strategy without any delay.

## Proposals

26. If the Policy and Resources Committee's 2024/25 Policy Initiatives Fund supports Option 2, the proposal to develop the Culture Strategy would comprise the following.

- a. **Internal review** – a review of existing audience data, including that held by City Corporation departments, our existing cultural partners and assets.
- b. **External audience analysis** – a piece of research to gain a comprehensive understanding of the City's existing audiences, identify potential growth markets, and uncover opportunities within current audience segments.
- c. **Stakeholder engagement** – a set of stakeholder and partner workshops and interviews to ensure that our staff, institutions, partners and Members can input to this work.
- d. **Co-creation** – a process of consultation in the development of the Cultural Strategy.

27. The scope of work/terms of reference would be agreed by Members of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee. The approach to developing the Culture Strategy would be planned in the following stages.

- a. **Scoping** – understand what should be included (and excluded) in the development of the Culture Strategy. For example, to align with the Martin review, it is likely that this work would be limited to the footprint of the Square Mile and include children and young people from a broader catchment area. The proposal is for the scope of work to include options to utilise the budget allocated from CHL to the Culture team, as well as considerations for the total revenue budget managed by CHL. The proposal is for the scope of work to also include ways to leverage the budget with partners.
- b. **Delivery** – identify and procure consultancy and research services to commence immediately. The target date for delivery for the outputs, including the datasets from the research and the consultation, would be 31 March 2025.
- c. **Transition to Implementation** – depending on the outcome of the Culture Strategy, there may need to be a phased approach to get ready for full implementation (this is consistent with the approach post the Martin Review).



## Corporate & Strategic Implications

28. Strategic implications – the Culture Strategy spans three areas of the Corporate Plan, ‘Diverse, Engaged Communities; Flourishing Public Spaces and Vibrant Thriving Destination’. For the latter, culture is at its core and our Corporate Plan Outcome states that: ‘*Attracting businesses and people to a safe, secure, and dynamic location is vital to our future. **A world-leading culture and leisure offer is integral to creating a vibrant, thriving destination where everyone prospers.***’
29. Financial implications – It is requested that an allocation of £45,000 be drawn from your 2024/25 Policy Initiative Fund, categorised as ‘Supporting the development of a Culture Strategy’ and charged to City’s Estate. The current uncommitted balance in the 2024/25 PIF is £1,048,846 prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals on this agenda.
30. Resource implications – Based on skills and availability of resource, the intent is to utilise a combination of working with the existing Culture team, augmented with external support where necessary.
31. Legal implications – None identified.
32. Risk implications – If funding is not agreed then there is a risk that implementing the recommendations from the Martin Review will be delayed, or only partially delivered.
33. Equalities implications – None identified. Any emerging work with equalities implications would be handled through the City Corporation’s existing equalities-related groups.
34. Climate implications – None identified.
35. Security implications – None identified.

## Conclusion

36. The development of a new Culture Strategy for the City Corporation represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm our position as a leader in culture and heritage. With the appointment of Emma Markiewicz (Director, The London Archives) as the Head of Profession for Culture, we are well positioned to drive forward this policy initiative. The strategy would build upon the recommendations of the Martin Review, ensuring that our cultural assets and objectives, including those linked to Destination City, continue to thrive and attract a diverse and engaged audience.
37. We must seize this moment to ensure the Square Mile remains a vibrant cultural destination, not only for Londoners but also for visitors from around the world. By approving the requested allocation from the Policy Initiative Fund, there will be timely progress on the Culture Strategy’s development, leveraging expert consultancy and collaboration with key stakeholders. The alternative—delaying the strategy—would not only hinder our progress but also risk our cultural leadership in the Square Mile.

38. Our continued commitment to culture is paramount, and with the necessary resources in place, we can ensure that our cultural investments remain of national and international significance, enriching the Square Mile and the broader community. This is a unique moment to shape a strategy that secures our cultural future for generations to come.

### **Appendices**

- None

### **Background Papers**

- Destination City – Independent Review 2024 - Summary of Recommendations, CHL & P&R, 11 April 2024 ([public](#))
- Destination City – Independent Review 2024 – Recommendations, CHL & P&R, 11 April 2023 (available on request)
- Destination City Governance, Court of Common Council, 23 May 2024 ([public](#))
- Departmental Budget Estimates 2024-25, CHL, 29 January 2024 ([public](#))
- Implementation Plan for revised Destination City Programme and Organisational Structure for new Destination City Hub, P&R 17 October 2024 (non-public)

### **Omkar Chana**

Project Director (Culture)

Town Clerk's Department

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# Agenda Item 9

<b>Committee(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Culture, Heritage and Libraries – For Information</li> <li>• Policy and Resources – For Decision</li> <li>• EDI Sub-Committee – For Information</li> <li>• Corporate Services Committee – For information</li> <li>• Education Committee – For information</li> </ul>	<b>Dated:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 04/11/2024</li> <li>• 07/11/2024</li> <li>• 22/11/2024</li> <li>• 27/11/2024</li> <li>• 02/12/2024</li> </ul>
<b>Subject:</b> Commission research into the City of London Corporation’s links to the historical trade in enslaved African people	<b>Public</b>
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes</b></li> </ul>	Diverse, Engaged Communities
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>£34,400</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>PIF</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Greg Moore, Deputy Town Clerk	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Emma Markiewicz, Director of The London Archives, Town Clerk’s Department	

## Summary

The City Corporation’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to delivering our Corporate Plan and is fundamental to everything we do. As part of this, it is vital that we better understand and make transparent the history of the City Corporation, and this would include its historic connections to the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved African People.

## Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to approve an application to the Policy and Resources Committee’s 2024/25 Policy Initiatives Fund for £34,400 to commission a piece of independent research into the City of London Corporation’s links to the historical trade in enslaved African people (detailed further as option 2).

## Main Report

### Background

1. The University of Lancaster has recently completed a long-term research programme funded by UK Research and Innovation called The Register of British Slave Traders. They aim to publish their research in 2026, a key output of which will be a name-searchable database showing legacies, donations and any direct financial connections of individuals and institutions to the trade in enslaved African people.

2. This is a groundbreaking research project, which will open new avenues of historical research and enable new discourses about how our society is structured, and the foundations on which it was built.
3. The research will highlight a great many connections with the City of London, its institutions and individuals. It will also highlight how far the financial connections of individuals across the social spectrum benefitted from the trade, and how much of their investments in our key foundational systems and institutions (such as schools) came from financial rewards gained from the trade.
4. Other institutions which have been shown to have significantly benefitted from the trade in African enslaved people, such as the Bank of England and the Church of England have been proactively [explaining their connections to the historic trade in enslaved African people](#).
5. We have the opportunity to delve deeper into the University of Lancaster's research through conducting a bespoke and detailed piece of research specifically into the Corporation's own connections to the historic trade in enslaved African people. The institutional and individual links between the trade and the City Corporation will be significant. Proactively commissioning research to uncover and be open about the extent of this will enable the City Corporation to develop its own approach to communicating and owning its past.
6. This project will use the University of Lancaster's existing research and publicly available materials in The London Archives to identify all Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen and Common Councillors of the Corporation of London who had direct financial connection between 1640 and 1807.
7. **Rationale:** Better understanding the connections of the City Corporation with the trade in enslaved African people will enable us to understand and own our past. It will enable us to develop our narrative to address our history and to devise a communication plan for our staff, members and the wider public. We can, if we wish, promote the work through various positive promotional activities and ensure that a narrative of transparency and understanding can be woven through our corporate story.
8. The project to 'retain and explain' the statues of Beckford and Cass in the Great Hall is ongoing. Whilst this project is a first for the City Corporation, we do not consider it to be in isolation and are seeking to build out from this starting point.
9. **Outcomes:** The research will provide a summary and report into the background history on the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people as well as the established connections between philanthropy and investment in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people with a focus on the City of London. On approval, there would also be a set of promotional and engagement activities on completion of the research such as a meeting with affected Livery Companies, briefings to staff and Members, headteachers and governors at the relevant City schools; and a walking tour to place findings into their spatial contexts. For a more detailed set of outputs please see the attached report.

- 10. Strategic/Priority Link:** This work cuts across the Corporate Plan and the work of all Committees but particularly Policy and Resources, Culture, Heritage and Libraries, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub Committee, Education Committee and the Corporate Services Committee in defining the story of our organisation and addressing its difficult past. This research will be the first milestone in developing our understanding and setting out a roadmap for how that history can be addressed, as has been done successfully in cities such as Amsterdam.
- 11. Economy:** None identified.
- 12. Delivery:** The report will be delivered to the project manager, the Director of The London Archives, who will work with colleagues in the Town Clerk's Department including the Communications team to develop a set of options for the next steps.
- 13. Evaluation:** The Director of The London Archives will work closely with the University of Lancaster during the research to evaluate and monitor progress.
- 14. Reporting:** The report will be shared with Policy and Resources Committee, Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, Corporate Services Committee, Education Committee, and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion sub-committee.
- 15. Expenditure:** A fee of £34,400 for the University of Lancaster to undertake the research and delivery of engagement outputs (see Appendix 1). Further expenditure may be required to develop the next steps, such as a programme of events and activities to share the story.
- 16. Benefits:** The Corporation will have early understanding of a piece of research which will heavily associate it with the Trade in African enslaved people.

## **17. Options**

There are two options which have been considered to date:

### **a. Option 1:**

18. Do nothing. There is a considerable risk to the reputation of the City Corporation if we are unable to show engagement with this topic, and to show transparency and understanding of our past. There is considerable press interest in the topic of the trade in enslaved African people, particularly in its connection with the key government, financial and church institutions which have played a big role in shaping the history of our country.

### **b. Option 2:**

19. Engage the University of Lancaster to undertake a piece of research using the data they have already collected, and the archives held by the City Corporation at The London Archives.
20. The outcome will be a greater understanding of the depth and breadth of the City Corporation's connections. This piece of research can be used in conjunction with

a report into the origin of the funds of the City Bridge Trust which is nearing completion.

21. The proposed research brief is attached at Appendix 1.

22. Option 2 is the recommended option. Once the report is completed it will be taken to Policy and Resources Committee to be agreed, and to approve next steps.

### **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

23. Strategic implications – The City Corporation’s commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is integral to delivering our Corporate Plan and is fundamental to everything we do.

24. Financial implications – It is requested that an allocation of up to £34,400 be drawn from your 2024/25 Policy Initiative Fund, categorised as ‘Research into the City of London Corporation’s links to the historical trade in enslaved people’ and charged to City’s Estate. The current uncommitted balance in the 2024/25 PIF is £1,048,846 prior to any allowances being made for any other proposals on this agenda.

25. Resource implications – The research project will be managed by the Director of The London Archives.

26. Legal implications – Not identified for this project. All contractors to be subject to the Corporation’s standard terms and conditions.

27. Risk implications

a. Doing nothing will put the Corporation at reputational risk if it is not seen to openly and positively engage with this topic. There will be national and international press interest when the University of Lancaster publishes its findings in 2026.

b. Engaging the University of Lancaster to undertake a piece of research may present some divergent views, which could affect the proposed promotional activity on this project. The mitigation is to use the delivery of a presentation to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) as a project checkpoint when moving from the factfinding phase to the promotion/engagement phase. This would enable SLT to make an informed decision (based on the facts presented) to shape the promotion/engagement piece (i.e. the last four bullet points in the Course of Work, Appendix 1) within the available budget.

28. Equalities implications – none identified

29. Climate implications – none identified.

30. Security implications – none identified.

## **Conclusion**

31. Option 2 is the recommended option. Once the research report is completed it will be taken to Policy and Resources Committee, Culture, Heritage and Libraries and Corporate Services Committees to be agreed, and to approve the next steps.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Proposal for research project investigating historic connections between the Corporation of London and the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved African People

## **Background Papers**

- None

**Emma Markiewicz**  
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Town Clerk's Department  
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**Proposal for Research Project Investigating the Historic Connections between the Corporation of London and the Transatlantic Trade in Enslaved African People (TTEAP)**

The Project will:

1. Identify all Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, Common Councillors of the Corporation of London who had a direct financial connection to the TTEAP across 1640 to 1807 (the period in which Britain was active in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people) by crosschecking names of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors against the list of confirmed traders in enslaved African people collated as part of the *Register of British Slave Traders* project.
2. Identify all Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, Common Councillors of the Corporation of London who promoted the TTEAP across 1640 to 1807
3. Identify legacies and donations from those in [1] and [2] to the City's Cash across 1640 to 1807
4. Track any institutional investments by funds managed by the Corporation of London into joint-stock trading companies active in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people
5. Provide evidence of the connections between donations and legacies from those in [1] and [2] to the funds that later facilitated the purchase of open spaces now managed by the Corporation of London
6. Document connections between those in [1] and [2] to material culture (paintings, sculpture, silver etc.) in Corporation of London collections.

The work could commence in January 2025 and draft conclusions will be offered to the Board by the end of July 2025. It will be completed in dialogue with a related study commissioned by the City Bridge Foundation.

**Leadership and competence**

This work will be completed solely by Professor William Pettigrew who will act as a consultant to the Corporation of London and will work part time on this project alongside his other commitments. As Principal Investigator for and Editor of the *Register of British Slave Traders* project, is a leading historian of British slave traders, slave trading corporations, investment, and merchant philanthropy in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. He has led similar research projects for several other foundations (including Oxbridge colleges, City of London livery companies, *Trust for London*, hospital foundations, and the *City Bridge Foundation* as well as private sector and arts organisations). This work has focussed on writing reports summarising each organisation's connection to the history of the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people for non-experts and framing this research in an accessible, credible, and sensitive fashion for diverse audiences and according to each organisation's requirements. In every case, this work has helped each organisation deepen its commitment to Equity,

Diversity, and Inclusion through expert and transparent engagement with history. Professor Pettigrew has broad expertise and experience in/of completing research projects of this kind, writing reports, and communicating the results to stakeholders from all backgrounds.

### Course of Work and Budget

- Identification of relevant materials at the London Archives to finalise lists of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors and establish relevant financial and administrative records [2 days]
- Generating and crosschecking these lists of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors against lists of names from the *Register of British Slave Traders* database, which establishes direct financial links between individuals and the TTEAP [9 days]
- Establishing which Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Aldermen, and Common Councillors promoted the TTEAP through cross-checking of names against administrative records of the Corporation of London, parliamentary records, petitions, and Board of Trade minutes [various archives, 5 days]
- Checking financial records for evidence of institutional investment by the Corporation of London in joint-stock trading companies active in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people (note: these may have been held in the personal name/s of corporation officials) [3 days]
- Recording any benefactions and donations from the list of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Alderman, and Common Councillors to the City's Cash who were either/and financially connected to or promoted the TTEAP [4 days]
- Provide evidence of the connections between donations and legacies from confirmed traders in enslaved African people to the funds that facilitated the purchase of open spaces now managed by the Corporation of London (based on research completed for Trust for London). [2 days]
- Document connections between confirmed traders in enslaved African people who were also members of the Corporation of London to material culture (paintings, sculpture, silver, and other material culture in Corporation of London collections. [3 days]
- Writing project report [7 days]

This report will contain:

- An executive summary of the research findings
- A summary of relevant background history on the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people and the established connections between philanthropy and investment in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people, with a focus on the City of London
- A tabulated list of Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Alderman, and Common Councillors who had a direct financial connection with the TTEAP and/or promoted TTEAP listing also any donations and legacies to the City's Cash, listing donor, year, and amount.

- A list of any institutional investments by the Corporation of London in the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people.
  - A directory Lord Mayors, Sheriffs, Alderman, and Common Councillors with especially significant financial connections to or promotions of the TTEAP explaining their connection to and role in the history of the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people.
  - A section on connections between the research and schools and open spaces managed by the Corporation of London
  - An inventory of material culture owned by the Corporation of London and connected to the transatlantic trade in enslaved African people
  - A bibliography
- 
- Submission of draft report to the Emma Markiewicz for initial feedback and preparation and delivery of a presentation of research findings to the Senior Leadership Team at the Corporation of London [1 day]
  - Promotion of work and findings within the Corporation of London through briefings to staff/members [2 days]
  - Promotion of work and findings through briefings with headteachers/governors/students at schools managed by the Corporation of London [3 days]
  - Promotion of work and findings within the Corporation through preparation and delivery of walking tour of the City of London to place research findings into their spatial contexts [1 day]
  - Responding to queries and suggestions from the Corporation of London and making any alterations to final report [1 day]

### **Budget**

Forty-three days at £800 per day.

Total projected cost: £34,400

**Professor William A. Pettigrew, FRHS, 27 September 2024**

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