

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 29 January 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held at Committee Room 3 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 29 January 2024 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Munsur Ali (Chairman)	Andrew Mayer
John Griffiths (Deputy Chairman)	Wendy Mead
John Foley	Eamonn Mullally
James St John Davis	Deputy Alpa Raja
Jaspreet Hodgson	David Sales
Wendy Hyde	Ian Seaton
Antony Manchester	Mark Wheatley
Alderman and Sheriff Bronek Masojada	Irem Yerdelen

In Attendance

Officers:

Steven Chandler	- City Surveyor's Department
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Rob Shakespeare	- Keats House, Open Spaces Department
Emma Markiewicz	- London Metropolitan Archives
Luciana Magliocco	- Innovation and Growth

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deborah Oliver, Anett Rideg, and Dawn Wright.

The following Members did not attend the meeting in person but observed the proceedings online: Judith Pleasance, Alderman Jeanette Newman, Jason Groves, Caroline Haines, and Alethea Silk.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

On item 8 (The Monument), a Member asked for an update on the transition to the City of London Corporation (CoLC). The meeting heard that officers are continue to progress positive discussions regarding the future governance and day-to-day operational management of the Monument, with a recommendation on the permanent governance and operational arrangements to be finalised

following the conclusion of the Paul Martin review of Destination City and this Committee's decision in relation to those findings. In the meantime, the Monument will continue to welcome visitors as normal (see action point 10).

RESOLVED, That the public minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings, subject to the insertion of the phrase "be involved with" in lieu of "would be signalled" in reference to the appointment of Publica Associates and TJ Culture Ltd (item 12).

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received a cultural calendar that would henceforth be updated 3-4 times a year.

Addressing action points 1,3 and 9, Members heard the following update on the Destination City (DC) review being undertaken by Paul Martin:

- Any and every Member wishing to input to the review is to have the opportunity to do so;
- Significant consultation among Members and non-Members has taken place across the past few months (over 140 consultation meetings have taken place), with strong interest both within and beyond this Committee and the Corporation's Policy & Resources Committee, alongside a wide range of resident engagement initiatives and online surveys (230 responses from City workers, residents and businesses);
- Given the significant interest in the DC review the timetable has been extended so that consultation can continue through February 2024, those findings to be integrated into the review;
- Consultation is to continue, and an Industry engagement breakfast event is scheduled for 20 Feb. Invites have been sent to large City businesses and SMEs, including property & construction, retail, financial & professional service sectors;
- Details of the extended timetable will be communicated as soon as possible, noting that the agreement together with the Town Clerk & Chief Executive to extend the timetable was reached at the end of the previous week.

A Member sought confirmation on how industry participants, particularly SMEs, had been involved in the process. The meeting heard that a range of sources had been taken into account, and that a list of stakeholders, including SMEs, would be circulated.

Members expressed disappointment at the timetable extension, and asked for an update on the timetable and whether there was merit in exploring the potential for a hybrid approach of consulting alongside the sharing of emerging findings, and whether the meeting scheduled to take place on 09 February 2024 would still be taking place. The meeting heard that an assessment would be made shortly on whether the 09 February meeting would take place, and that plans are evolving.

The Committee viewed a presentation on the Cultural Planning Framework (CPF) that presented a high-level overview of the cultural infrastructure of the City of London and how culture can support the City's civic life, the 9 identified cultural character areas, cultural contributions from developers, impact assessments, and an outline of the opportunities in the cultural arena.

A Member commented on the risk of 'culture-washing', noting that a cultural offering might not materialise after the planning approval stage. Members noted that developers could not be obliged to enter into a contract with an identified cultural occupant within a s106 agreement, though requirements around cultural implementation plans could be toughened.

A Member asked to what extent any CPF would shape the City of London Corporation in its decision-making process, noting the importance of retaining existing assets (including places of worship).

The meeting heard that heritage was the starting point of the CPF outline, noting its role as guidance rather than strategy.

Members commented on an apparent absence of any cultural vision and strategy as set by the City of London, noting that BIDs are advancing BID cultural strategies and visions.

A Member asked for clarification on the relationship between the CPF and Destination City (DC). The meeting heard that (particularly given the current review of DC) there was merit in the various entities, including DC, focussing on integrating the City's culture into an overarching vision.

5. **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee noted the report of the Clerk.

The meeting noted that the City of London Police Museum governance was under discussion at Corporation level, and noted that the Small Business Research and Enterprise Centre falls within the auspices of the Policy & Resources Committee.

Members noted that cultural strategy could be more clearly articulated in the Terms of Reference, as well as the relationship with the Barbican Centre and the Museum of London. (see Action Point 11)

6. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee noted the report of the Clerk.

7. **DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2024-25 - CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

The Committee noted the annual submission of the revenue budgets in relation to the operational services directly overseen by the Committee.

Members noted that decisions in the wake of the Paul Martin review would need to be incorporated in future iterations of the budgeting process.

On the assumptions set out in the report (paragraphs 4 to 6), a Member noted that the £2.3M growth bid for DC is approaching its third and final year and asked for clarification of future plans and funding – noting the pending review of DC. The meeting noted that future funding for DC beyond 2024/25 is not included in the current budget.

Members reviewed the proposed allocation of the 2024/25 revenue budget to ensure that it reflects the Committee's objectives. The Committee noted that the proposed budget for 2024/25 totals a net expenditure of £21.481m - an increase of £0.570m (2.73%) compared with the 2023/24 original budget of £20.911m, which is principally due to:

- The full year effect of the July 2023 pay award (inc winter payment) (£0.806m),

- Net 3% inflation (£0.231m),
- Increase in repairs and maintenance costs (£0.017m),
- An increase in the Cyclical Works Programme (£0.050m),
- 3% inflationary uplift applied to the Museum of London grant (£0.159m),
- These increases are partially offset by the Small Business, Research & Enterprise Centre transferred to P&R committee (£0.569m),
- Implementation of fundamental review savings (£0.020m), and
- A decrease in capital and support services recharges (£0.099m).

RESOLVED, That Members

1. Approve the budget for submission to the CoL's Finance Committee;
2. Authorise the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Deputy Town Clerk, Executive Directors of Community and Children's Services, Environment, Innovation & Growth and the City Surveyor to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, the Target Operating Model other reviews and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme; and
3. Authorise the Chamberlain to agree minor amendments for 2024/25 budgets arising during budget setting.

8. DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24 - LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES

Members considered the high-level Business Plan for London Metropolitan Archives for 2024/25, noting the factors taken into consideration in compiling the London Metropolitan Archives Business Plan.

A Member commented that KPIs might merit from being more ambitious to encompass target audience penetration and enhanced availability to people across the world.

Members heard that a new website is in the process of being developed, as well as a refreshed catalogue whose development is to begin by late 2024.

RESOLVED, That Members approve the departmental Business Plan 2024/25.

9. FLEET STREET HERITAGE INITIATIVE

Members noted the report of the Clerk.

The Chairman acknowledged receipt of a petition titled: "We urge the City of London to do everything in its power to establish a permanent openly accessible exhibition of ceramic tiles incorporating as many as possible of the Heritage of Fleet Street information panels as displayed at the Open House in 2023", noting that 168 signatures had been received.

Members noted that the proposal would be submitted to the City Arts Initiative.

10. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN - PURPLE HIBISCUS PROJECT**

The Committee noted the report of the Clerk.

Some Members commented unfavourably on the lateness of the proposal and reports, and expressed concern that the Committee had been unable to scrutinise the proposals. Members asked for a more comprehensive explanation to be provided as to why the decision had had to be made via the Urgency procedures given the lead time and prior knowledge of the project (see Action Point 12).

Members noted that there is no liability to the City of London Corporation and noted, in response to a question, that the project is fully funded externally (see Action Point 13).

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

Members noted that clarification on the precise role of the Committee would be welcome, noting in particular the apparent subservient role of the Committee in relation to the Policy & Resources Committee, and that a key issue in the review being undertaken by Paul Martin should centre around governance of the City's cultural assets, and how DC is to be governed.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other business.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED, that – under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for subsequent 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.

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the non-Public minutes of the meeting of 20 November 2023 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

15. **TEN KEATS GROVE, HAMPSTEAD - OPTIONS FOR USE BY KEATS COMMUNITY LIBRARY**

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Executive Director Environment, noting that the City of London Corporation is the sole corporate trustee of Keats House (charity registration no 1053381) and that since 2012 Keats Community Library have operated a library from premises at Ten Keats Grove under a licence agreement, the terms for which were most recently approved for the period to 31 March 2024 at the Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee November 2022. At that time, it was reported that the City Corporation's Charities Review identified, amongst other things, that the arrangements for the use of Ten Keats Grove could be improved as the options for use of the building were quite limited and it was therefore recommended that entering into a longer-term agreement with KCL was not in the interests of Keats House charity, pending the outcome

of their review and any recommendations arising, as it might compromise the charity's position.

Members noted that the Committee has subsequently approved proposed amendments to the Keats House governance to include the provision of the ability to lease or licence Ten Keats Grove for use as a public library for such a term as the trustee considers appropriate at a peppercorn rent or such other amount the trustee considers appropriate, and that it was now possible to consider longer-term proposals for Ten Keats Grove.

A Member asked whether the £35.6K pa sum cited in the recommendations was affordable to the library. The meeting heard that the published accounts suggested the amount is affordable and fair.

The meeting heard that the sums set out in the recommendations was based on the hours set out in the current licence, and that a leasehold situation would involve taking on significant running costs of the building (approximately £50K pa).

RESOLVED, That Members, collectively acting for the City of London Corporation as trustee of Keats House (registered charity number 1053381) and being satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries,

- I. Approve the grant of a new licence to KCL for a period of five years from 1 April 2024 at an initial minimum fee of £35,600 p.a. to be increased in line with the Consumer Price Index;
- II. Delegate authority to the Head of Heritage & Museums to agree additional use of both the Nightingale Room and main library at Ten Keats Grove in return for additional licence fee calculated at a rate of £14.15 per hour for the main library space and £5.06 per hour for the Nightingale Room these rates with effect from 1 April 2024 to rise annually in line with the Consumer Price Index; and
- III. Instruct the Comptroller and City Solicitor accordingly.

16. **COMPLETED CORPORATE CHARITIES REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS - KEATS HOUSE**

Members considered the report of the Managing Director of City Bridge Foundation, noting that in January 2023 the Committee agreed in principle, and in the best interests of the Keats House (1053381) charity and its beneficiaries, that the charity's governing document should be updated to achieve improved arrangements for the use of the Ten Keats Grove library building and to generally update the administrative provisions. The Committee also noted that, in July 2023, a report provided an update and set out further recommendations to implement that decision in principle.

RESOLVED, That Members, collectively acting for the City of London Corporation as trustee of Keats House (1053381) and being satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity and its beneficiaries, note that work to update the charity's governing document to support effective charity management and administration has now been completed.

17. **GUILDHALL LIBRARY CENTENARY FUND**

The Committee considered the report of the Managing Director of the City Bridge Foundation, noting that at the Committee's July 2021 and January 2022 meetings, Members had resolved to close the Guildhall Library Centenary Fund ('GLCF') (charity registration number 206950) and take related decisions on the release of endowment restrictions and application of the charity's funds and assets.

The Committee noted that (consistent with those decisions) officers had been working to transfer the Harbinger Portraits, which are assets of the GLCF, to the Museum of London as previously agreed, in furtherance of the charitable purposes of the GLCF. Members noted that informal negotiations with the Museum of London had indicated that such a transfer would not be possible, and a decision and delegated authority was now sought to progress an alternative option for the sale of the Harbinger portraits and application of the proceeds of sale for the charitable purposes of the GCLF.

Some Members expressed disappointment at the proposals to sell paintings to wind up the charity, and asked whether those paintings could be transferred rather than sold.

The meeting heard that storage and transfer options had already been explored, and heard that further options would be explored ahead of any final decision, to include further consultation with the Friends of Guildhall Art Gallery. A Member asked for clarification on the likely market value, and noted that valuations were problematic to arrange unless a sale was expected.

The Committee agreed to re-consider the matter at a later meeting.

18. **PROJECT CLOSURE**

Members considered the report of the Clerk and the 'Pre-Gateway 5' closure appendix, which falls under Section 33 of the City Corporation's Projects Procedure. Members noted that decision-making has now transferred from the former Projects Sub Committee to the relevant Grand Committee or Board.

RESOLVED, That the project in respect of LMA Accommodation be formally closed.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

21. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Jayne Moore
jayne.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk