PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 July 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Peter Dunphy MBE (Chair)
George Abrahams (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Timothy Butcher
Deputy John Edwards
John Foley
Dawn Frampton
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson
Helen Ladele
Deputy Deborah Oliver
Fraser Peck
Deputy Henry Pollard
Alethea Silk
Mandeep Thandi
Stuart Thompson

Officers:

Susie Pritchard	-	
Ruth Calderwood	-	Air Quality Manager
Gavin Stedman	-	Port Health & Public Protection Director
Jenny Pitcairn	-	Chamberlain's Department
Frank Marchione	-	Principal Lawyer
Rachel Pye	-	
Ian Hughes	-	
Katie Stewart	-	Executive Director, Environment Department
Joanne Hill	-	

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Alderman Hughes-Penney, Nicholas Bensted-Smith, Leyla Boulton, Deputy Chris Boden, Deputy Dawn Wright, Simon Duckworth, Jason Pritchard and Sandra Jenner.

These Members observed the meeting online: Deputy Caroline Haines, Mercy Haggerty, Dr Giles Shilson and Vasiliki Manta.

Joanna Leyden

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

There were no declarations.

3. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

A single expression of interest having been received, Deputy Peter Dunphy was elected Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

4. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

A single expression of interest having been received, George Abrahams was elected Deputy Chair of the Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2026 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings.

6. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee considered the report of the Clerk.

RESOLVED, That these Members be appointed:

- Local Plans Sub-Committee: Deputy Marianne Fredericks
- Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee: Mandeep Thandi
- Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee: Deputy Timothy Butcher
- Thames Estuary Partnership: Deputy Marianne Fredericks
- Thames21's Board of Trustees: Deputy Marianne Fredericks
- Health & Wellbeing Board: Dawn Frampton
- Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee: Peter Dunphy and George Abrahams

Simon Duckworth was appointed to the Cross River Partnership, subject to confirmation at the October 2026 meeting.

7. **CITY OF LONDON THAMES FISHERY RESEARCH EXPERIMENT**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director Environment summarising the 53rd City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment that took place on 04 October 2025, with feedback being positive.

Members noted that the 54th Experiment, will take place on 10 October 2026.

RESOLVED, That Members approve the grant of £4,800 from the City's Estate to partially fund the 54th City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment, which will take place on 10 October 2026.

8. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2025/26**

The Committee noted the report of the Chamberlain and the Executive Director Environment comparing the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2025/26 with the budget for the year. Members noted that overall total net expenditure for the year was £20.930m whereas the total agreed budget was £20.238m, representing an overspend of £0.692m as set out below:

The Committee noted that the Executive Director Environment has submitted a request to carry forward local risk underspendings within the Department, none of which relates to the Committee, which will be considered by the Chamberlain

in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

Referencing section 2 of the report, a Member asked for a clarification of the term 'unidentified savings'. The Committee noted that the term refers to a funding gap where savings need to be identified.

Referencing Appendix 1, a Member asked why the biggest overspend was in animal health. The Committee heard that a different border regime was in place at the time of the budget-setting process, and that subsequent governmental and EU changes since that time resulted in some anticipated measures not yet being implemented. In response to a question on whether any central Government funding is available for the unexpected additional cost in delivering the statutory service, the meeting noted that 86% of the costs are covered through commercial service provision while the statutory duties are a cost to the City Corporation, that discussions with the relevant Government department are ongoing, and that the situation remains unresolved.

A Member asked whether the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with India that came into force on 15 July 2026 had made any difference to the situation. The meeting noted that there has been no discernible impact so far.

A Member asked whether steps are being taken to improve the poor street-cleaning performance and asked whether the cost of remedial action is being properly allocated. The Committee noted that no additional costs are incurred by the monitoring of street-cleaning, that the Square Mile has very high street-cleaning standards, and that an appropriate deduction is made where standards are not met but that Veolia UK is very proactive and professional in remedying the situation.

9. **AIR QUALITY SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

The Committee noted the report of the Executive Director Environment setting out the draft Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) approved for consultation by the Planning and Transportation Committee in March 2026 that was also presented to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee in April 2026.

Members noted that the consultation led to relatively minor changes to the draft SPD and noted the final version attached as an appendix.

10. **ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT BUSINESS PLAN 2025/26: PROGRESS REPORT (END OF YEAR: 1 OCTOBER 2025 - 31 MARCH 2026)**

The Committee noted the report of the Executive Director Environment updating Members on progress made towards delivering the Environment Department's high-level Business Plan 2025-30 by the two service areas that fall within the remit of the Committee:

- Port Health and Public Protection
- The Cleansing Service

Members noted the key performance information and noted that performance overall during 2025/26 has been positive with all priority workstreams delivered as planned and the majority of associated performance measures meeting or exceeding their targets.

11. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Committee noted the report of the Executive Director Environment setting out the assurance that risk management procedures in place within the Environment Department are satisfactory and that they meet the requirements of the corporate Risk Management Framework that fall within the remit of the Committee:

- Port Health and Public Protection
- The Cleansing Service

12. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

The Committee noted the report of the Clerk setting out this decision taken under the Urgency Process in line with the Corporation's Standing Order 40A:

- to agree to the use of Cemetery and Crematorium Reserve Funds (£120K) to purchase two catafalques for the City of London Crematorium and associated upgrading to the current lifting mechanisms.

A Member asked why the work was not planned earlier. The meeting noted that the timeline for the overall works has been dynamic and the timeline has been such that the work needed to be done immediately.

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

Four questions were put:

What progress has been made on the reporting of vehicle idling warning and fines?

Data has been collated and will be circulated imminently to Members.

Are there any updates on the monitoring of the nuisance caused by buskers on the South Bank using sound amplification?

Engagement with the London Borough of Southwark is ongoing and positive. The situation can be complicated by the requirement for a verbal warning to be given ahead of any closure, and the high turnover of buskers is such that the enforcement system is impractical.

Given the high number of construction projects and the noise nuisance arising from those projects, can the City's Planning Department do more to educate planners around the issue and support Corporation officers in dealing with resident complaints? Why are environmental health comments that often flag these concerns not always shown on the online planning portal?

The Construction and Deconstruction Code will be reviewed by the Committee in autumn 2026 and will incorporate guidance to address the noise nuisance issues with the potential to adapt noisy construction work hours where appropriate. The issue of noise concern comments will be explored.

The garden waste collection process appears laborious – does the Corporation expect people to continue using it?

The Corporation is legally required to provide it, but only four collections have been requested since April 2026 meaning that it can be difficult to co-ordinate collection, and the process will be reviewed at the end of the six-month trial period (in late 2026).

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was no other business.

15. **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.

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the meeting of 21 April 2026.

17. **PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEBTORS - PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2026**

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

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

The meeting closed at 11.55 am

Chairman

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