

MARKETS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 4 September 2013

Minutes of the meeting of the Markets Committee held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 4 September 2013 at 11.30am

Present

Members:

Hugh Morris (Chairman)	Professor John Lumley
Michael Hudson (Deputy Chairman)	Wendy Mead
Alex Bain-Stewart	Robert Merrett
Alderman Charles Bowman	Deputy Joyce Nash
Deputy John Chapman	Elizabeth Rogula
Deputy Stanley Ginsburg	Adam Richardson
Alderman Timothy Hailes	Ian Seaton
Brian Harris	Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Christopher Hayward	Angela Starling
Tom Hoffman	Patrick Streeter
Ann Holmes	Deputy Michael Welbank
Deputy Keith Knowles	Mark Wheatley
Edward Lord	

In Attendance

George Gillon (Chief Commoner)

Officers:

Simon Murrells	- Town Clerk's Department
Rakesh Hira	- Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Buckingham	- Public Relations Office
Paul Hickson	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Simon Owen	- Chamberlain's Department
Julie Smith	- Chamberlain's Department
Andrew Crafter	- City Surveyor's Department
Chris Hartwell	- City Surveyor's Department
Andrew Wild	- City Surveyor's Department
David Smith	- Director of Markets & Consumer Protection
Malcolm Macleod	- Markets & Consumer Protection
Nigel Shepherd	- Markets & Consumer Protection
Robert Wilson	- Markets & Consumer Protection
Donald Perry	- Markets & Consumer Protection
Debbie Howard	- Markets & Consumer Protection
Julie Gibbs	- Markets & Consumer Protection

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Karina Dostalova, Deputy Robin Eve, Ibthayhaj Gani, Graham Packham, Chris Punter and James Tumbridge.

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

There were no declarations.

The Chairman welcomed the Chief Commoner to the meeting.

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

The public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 10 July 2013 were approved as a correct record.

4. **FUTURE OF THE MARKETS COMMITTEE**

A report of the Town Clerk, which Members had requested, on the options which could be explored with regard to the future of the Markets Committee was considered. The report outlined that the options Members could recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee included:

- (a) Retaining the Markets Committee in its current form with the possibility of it becoming a Non – Ward Committee; or
- (b) Exploring the possibility of disbanding the Markets Committee and for the relevant functions to be transferred to other Committees, such as the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee and the Property Investment Board.

A lengthy debate took place and reference was made to the following points:

The Markets Committee had created good working relationships with the relevant authorities, traders and other stakeholders and any change to the status of the Committee could have reputational risks.

Members discussed the possibility of a Non-Ward Markets Committee, with a smaller membership, meeting four times per annum with the possibility of taking back responsibility for Leadenhall Market. A Member pointed out that if Leadenhall Market came under the remit of this Committee the relationship between the tenants and the City Corporation could be improved.

Some Members highlighted that Leadenhall Market is an investment property, as a retail emporium, similar to One New Change, and was therefore not in the same category as the three Wholesale Markets.

A number of City Corporation Committees which had previously been amalgamated had resulted in an increased workload for other Committees. For example, the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee and the Community & Children's Services Committee had a wide remit and if elements of the Markets Committee were transferred to such Committees the workload for those Committees would substantially increase.

If the Markets Committee changed its status from a Ward Committee to a Non-Ward Committee there may be instances whereby some Members in bigger wards would not be able to serve on a City Corporation Committee.

A discussion took place on the Reference Sub Committee which had not met to date, and it was highlighted that the Sub Committee had been created in the event that if required it could be called upon, in between meetings, as a contingency measure to look at specific issues.

Members discussed the possibility of a composite, combined Market which could be explored in the future.

A further option such as retaining the Committee as a Ward Committee but to reduce the number of meetings from six to four was suggested. It was noted that meetings could be cancelled if there was insufficient business.

It was noted that there were issues which still needed to be managed at each of the Markets which included the implementation of the leases at Smithfield Market, the impact on businesses of the porters issue at Billingsgate Market and the lease renewals at New Spitalfields Market. There was therefore sufficient business for the Markets Committee to look at in the future.

In response to a question on the delegated powers which the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection had, it was noted that these included Delegations from other Committees, such as Finance, PHES, Licensing, and Establishment.

The Deputy Chairman read out an email on behalf of a Member who could not be present which suggested that a further option which could be explored included reverting to the model of three separate Market Committees for each of the Markets with the abolition of the Markets Department and restoration of a small dedicated management unit for each of the Markets.

The Deputy Chairman highlighted that there would be no cost savings in reducing the number of meetings from six to four per annum or in becoming a Non-Ward Committee.

Members were generally in support of retaining the Markets Committee and not for its functions to be transferred to other Committees. A vote took place on whether to retain the Committee as either a Ward or Non-Ward Committee. The result of the vote was as follows:-

In favour of a Ward Committee: 17

In favour of a Non-Ward Committee: 6

RESOLVED – That:-

a) the Markets Committee be retained as a Ward Committee and;

b) The number of meetings per annum be arranged in consultation with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection, in order for them to be aligned with the anticipated work programme for the year.

5. **MARKETS BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE PERIOD 1 2013/14 (APRIL - JULY)**

A report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection provided an update on the progress against the Business Plan of the Markets Department for Period 1 (April – July) of 2013-14 against key performance indicators (KPSs) and the objectives outlined in the Business Plan.

In response to a question by a Member, the Superintendent of Billingsgate Market explained that the figure in Appendix A should read 62.5% and not 57.1% in relation to 'all reports being completed within 3 days following the notification of an incident'.

A discussion took place on the accuracy of the throughput figures for tonnage which were an estimated figure provided by tenants. A vote took place on whether the figures should feature in future reports, the result of the vote was as follows:-

In favour of including tonnage throughput figures in future reports: 4

In favour of *not* including throughput figures in future reports: 15

RESOLVED – That future reports do not contain tonnage throughput figures.

6. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

A report of the Town Clerk setting out an Outstanding Reference schedule was received.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

Item	Paragraph
10 - 11	3

12	3,5 & 7
13 - 14	3
15 - 16	-

10. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013 were approved as a correct record subject to an additional paragraph under item 13.

11. **SMITHFIELD MARKET - CONDENSER WATER COOLING SYSTEM - UPDATE**

A report of the City Surveyor was received.

12. **DEBT ARREARS MARKETS - PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2013**

A report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection was received.

13. **SMITHFIELD MARKET - PROPOSED NEW LETTING**

A report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection was considered and agreed.

14. **TENANCIES AT WILL GRANTED**

A report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection was received.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 1.05pm

Chairman

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