

Summary of the Governance Changes Implemented in April 2011

Set out below are the changes agreed by the Court on 3 March 2011 which have been in operation since 1st April 2011.

A. The Court of Common Council

A1. Not less nine Court meetings are now held each year (reduced from eleven) and a short spring recess now takes place on an annual basis.

A2. At least two informal or private Member meetings (at which no decisions could be taken) are arranged each year. This is on the basis that they do not proceed if there is insufficient business;

A3. Any Member, provided that he or she has the support of twenty other Members, can requisition a report and/or a decision of any of the City Corporation's Committees for consideration and final decision by the Court of Common Council, provided that such action does not preclude a decision being taken and/or implemented that was necessary for legal reasons or for the efficient conduct of the City Corporation's business;

A4. Standing Order No.11 governing the conduct of debate in the Court of Common Council has been amended as follows:

- in addition to the current arrangements governing debate, a further provision be made enabling all Members to speak on a second occasion for no longer than two minutes; and
- should the mover of an amendment to a motion choose to speak for a second time (on the amendment), he or she shall be the penultimate speaker on the amendment (the mover of the original motion being the final speaker on the amendment).

A5. Standing Orders governing the number of supplementary questions that may be asked has been amended so as to increase from two to three the number of other Members (ie not the Member asking the question) allowed to ask two supplementary questions provided that the supplementary questions arise naturally out of the original question and the answer to it;

A6. Standing Orders have been amended so as to increase the time limit for putting and answering questions, including supplementary questions, from 30 minutes to 40 minutes;

A7. To avoid the period allocated for asking and responding to questions being taken up with issues concerned with awards, prizes and memorials, a regular item is now placed on the summons for meetings of the Court to enable such matters to be reported upon in writing.

B. Ward Committees

B1. The Planning & Transportation, Port Health & Environmental Services, Markets, Finance and Community & Children's Services Committees remain as Ward Committees.

B2. All Wards are now able to choose whether or not to nominate a Member (or Members) to serve on Ward Committees rather than being obliged to nominate a Member (or Members) or 'pair' with another Ward;

B3. Where there are vacant or unfilled places on a Ward Committee by virtue of a Ward not making a nomination(s), the vacant or unfilled place can be advertised to all Members and filled by the Court;

B4. Any Ward having six or more Members can nominate up to two Members to a Ward Committee irrespective of whether a Ward has sides;

B5. In addition to the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, the Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee is now an ex-officio Member of the Finance Committee. This complements the current arrangement whereby the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee are ex-officio Members of the Policy & Resources Committee;

B6. The remit of the Finance Committee has been widened to include performance monitoring and its terms of reference adjusted to reflect this. The performance monitoring was to be undertaken by the Estimates Working Party (EWP) or such body determined by the Finance Committee. (NB: Finance Committee subsequently agreed to dispense with EWP and created an Efficiency and Performance Sub-Committee to deal with this area of activity).

B6a. In addition to the above, the constitution of the Finance Committee was amended by the Court on 8 September 2011 to include the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Investment Committee, creating a reciprocal arrangement between the Policy and Resources, Finance and Investment Committees (see F2 and J4 below).

B7. All Wards that have 200 or more residents (based on the ward list) are able to nominate a maximum of two Members to the Community & Children's Services Committee; under this arrangement, the current provision for four Members to be elected by the Court, at least two of whom shall represent the main four residential wards, was discontinued; and

B8. The Community & Children's Services Committee was asked to consider giving oversight of its housing management activities (excluding the Barbican Estate) to a sub-committee (with power to act) to enable greater focus in that area. (NB: The Community & Children's Services Committee subsequently created the Housing Management Sub-Committee to oversee the City Corporation's housing activities).

C. Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee

C1. A new Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee was established with responsibility for matters relating to culture, heritage, tourism and visitors

including overseeing the development of policies and strategies in those areas. It also took on:

- the responsibilities of the Libraries, Archives & Guildhall Art Gallery Committee which ceased to exist;
- the various tourism, heritage and Benefices activities and responsibilities currently undertaken by the City Lands & Bridge House Estates Committee which also ceased to exist;
- oversight of the City Corporation's Visitor Strategy, the City of London Festival and the management of the City Information Centre from the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- the management of Keats House from the Keats House Management Committee. A Consultative Committee should continue to operate although the detailed arrangements would be a matter for the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee to determine.

D. City Lands and Bridge House Estates Committee

D1. The City Lands and Bridge House Estates (CLBHE) Committee ceased to exist and its work merged with the work of other Committees, such as the new Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee and the new Investment Committee. Other elements of CLBHE Committee's work was transferred to the Policy & Resources Committee and is managed by dedicated Sub-Committees. For example, the management of operational property is now undertaken by the Corporate Asset Sub-Committee and hospitality and Members' privileges activities are undertaken by the Hospitality Working Party and the Members' Privileges Sub-Committee both of which are chaired by the Chief Commoner.

D2. Where previously the CLBHE Committee would have hosted an event of City Corporation hospitality, the Chief Commoner now oversees the detail for that event in line with parameters set by the Hospitality Working Party. The number of Members to comprise the host element is also determined by the Hospitality Working Party on the basis of a rota maintained by the Town Clerk, together with other Members with a special connection with or interest in the guest organisation.

E. The office of Chief Commoner

E1. Candidates for the office of Chief Commoner are nominated by not less than 10 other Members and he or she is elected by the whole Court of Common Council from amongst the Common Councilmen (the expectation is that Aldermen will not vote in the election for Chief Commoner);

E2. For 2011, the election of Chief Commoner was held in April and thereafter, the election is held in September of each year, prior to the successful candidate taking office in April, to enable a period of 'lead-in';

E3. The 'job description' for the office of Chief Commoner was approved;

E4. The Chief Commoner remains an ex-officio Member of the Policy and Resources Committee and is also Chairman of any sub-committees

responsible for City of London Corporation hospitality and Members' privileges;

E5. Provision has been made in Standing Orders to enable the Chief Commoner to report on and speak to activities and responsibilities of the sub-committees referred to in E4 above in the Court of Common Council; and

E6. The Chief Commoner is not able to be Chairman of any City of London Corporation committee with the exception of the sub-committees referred to above. However, as with other chairmanships, the Chief Commoner is able to continue an existing chairmanship until the next meeting of the relevant committee when a new chairman shall be elected.

F. Investment Committee

F1. This new non-ward committee was established. The Investment Committee has responsibility for managing and overseeing the City Corporation's property and non-property investments in accordance with approved strategies and policies;

F2. The Investment Committee comprises 14 Members elected by the Court of Common Council, 8 Members appointed by the Policy and Resources Committee from amongst all Members of the Court, together with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Policy and Resources and the Finance Committees in an ex-officio capacity but with voting rights;

F3. The Investment Committee appoints and maintains two Boards, one for each investment area (property and non-property) for the purposes of detailed scrutiny and decision taking, with the Chairman of the Investment Committee is also able to be Chairman of one of the Boards;

F4. The Boards are empowered to co-opt people with relevant expertise or experience, including non-Members of the Court, to assist in their deliberations; and

F5. Provision has been made in Standing Orders to enable the Chairmen of both Boards to report on and speak to their respective activities and responsibilities in the Court of Common Council and to ensure that any decisions, especially those relating to property, are taken without undue delay.

G. Audit and Risk Management Committee

G1. A new non-ward committee, Audit and Risk Management was with responsibility for the City Corporation's activities and responsibilities in these areas (with the Finance Committee relinquishing its current responsibilities for audit and risk); and

G2. The Audit and Risk Management Committee shall comprise 9 Members elected by the Court of Common Council (the Chairman of the Policy and Resources, Finance and Investment Committees not being eligible for election to the Committee), 3 external Members (ie non-Members of the Court of Common Council), the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee (ex-officio with no voting rights) and a representative of the Policy and Resources Committee also in an ex-officio capacity with no voting rights.

G3. The Deputy Chairman of Audit and Risk is not able to be Chairman of another committee.

I. Open Spaces Committees

I1. The management of the City Corporation's open spaces is now maintained by three Non-Ward Committees, as follows:-

(i) Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee comprising 8 Members elected by the Court of Common Council together with the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park and the Epping Forest and Commons Committees (see below) in an ex-officio capacity. The Committee is responsible for setting overall strategy for the operation of the City Corporation's open spaces and for the management of City Gardens. It is also responsible for the management of West Ham Park. This area of work is undertaken separately from the Committee's other business and the Committee's composition includes 4 representatives nominated by the Heirs-at-Law of the late John Gurney, 1 representative nominated by the Parish of West Ham and 2 representatives nominated by the London Borough of Newham;

(ii) Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee comprising at least 12 Members elected by the Court of Common Council together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee (see above) in an ex-officio capacity. The Committee is responsible for the management of Highgate Wood and Queen's Park. It is also responsible for the management of Hampstead Heath with this area of work being undertaken separately from the Committee's other business. The composition of the Committee includes at least 6 external representatives which must include 1 representative of the London Borough of Barnet, 1 representative of the London Borough of Camden, 1 representative of the owners of Kenwood lands and 3 persons representing local, ecological, environmental or sporting interests; and

(iii) Epping Forest and Commons Committee comprising 12 Members of the Court of Common Council including 10 Members elected by the Court of Common Council together with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee (see above) in an ex-officio capacity, to be responsible for the management of Burnham Beeches and the City Commons. The Committee also manages Epping Forest and this area of work is undertaken separately from the Committee's other business. The composition of the Committee includes 4 Verderers elected or appointed pursuant to the Epping Forest Act 1878. If the Chairman and/or Deputy Chairman of the Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park Committee are already Members of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee in their own right, the vacancy(s) are filled by the Court of Common Council.

J. Policy and Resources and Police Committees and the Boards of the Governors of the City Schools

Policy and Resources Committee

J1. Of the five vacancies that becomes available on the Policy Committee each year, one place is now reserved for a Member with less than 10 years' service on the Court, resulting in at least four places on the Committee for Members with less than 10 years' service at the time of their appointment;

J2. In view of the synergies between the work of the Energy Working Party (previously of the City Lands and Bridge House Estates Committee) and the Sustainability Working Party (of the Policy and Resources Committee), the work has been merged and transferred to the Policy Committee and is operated through a dedicated Sub-Committee (the Energy and Sustainability Sub-Committee) whose membership can be drawn from the whole Court;

J3. The Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for providing additional scrutiny, oversight and challenge for the management of major projects and programmes of work, including, amongst other things, considering all proposals for capital and supplementary revenue projects (including those which may be funded from external sources), and determining, at detailed options appraisal stage, whether projects should be included in the capital and supplementary revenue programme as well as the phasing of any expenditure. This work is undertaken by a dedicated sub-committee, the Projects Sub-Committee, which comprises 3 Members appointed by the Policy and Resources Committee, 2 Members appointed by the Finance Committee. The Projects Sub-Committee is also able to co-opt 2 further Members from the Court of Common Council with relevant experience.

J4. The Policy & Resources Committee was asked to review its various ex-officio appointments. A review was subsequently undertaken and the outcome reported to the Court on 8 September 2011. Whilst it was felt that the current ex-officio places were still relevant, the Court acknowledged that culture was an area which over the years had become more prominent and which also had substantial resource implications. It was therefore agreed that the Chairman of the new Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee should become an ex-officio Member of the Policy Committee. Similarly, the development and management of the City Corporation's investment portfolio (property and non-property) was considered to be of great significance and the Court also agreed that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Investment Committee should also serve as ex-officio members, creating a reciprocal arrangement between the Policy and Resources, Finance and Investment Committees.

Police Committee

J5. For the purposes of continuity the length of service of the Chairman of the Police Committee was extended to a term not exceeding four years;

J6. The current restriction whereby no Member of the Court of Common Council is eligible to serve on the Police Committee until such time as they have served a minimum of two years on the Court, should be removed (NB:

The constitution of the Police Committee has been reviewed since the governance review).

Boards of Governors of the City of London School, the City of London School for Girls and the City of London Freeman's School

J7. The three City School Boards were recommended to consider establishing a Working Party comprising key Members from each Board such as the Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen, to discuss important issues that may be of common interest, for example pay awards.

J8. The restriction whereby no Member can serve on more than one Board of Governors was removed.

K. Service on City Corporation Committees and Outside Bodies

Reserving places on Non-Ward Committees for 'newer' Members

K1. With the exception the Policy and Resources Committee which has separate arrangements, 10% of places (where 10% results in a fraction it should be rounded down, subject to at least one place being reserved on every non-Ward Committee for a Member falling in to this category) on all elected committees are reserved for Members with less than 5 years' service at the time of their appointment.

Limiting the number of Grand Committees on which a Common Councilman can serve at any one time

K2. The number of grand committees on which a Common Councilman can serve at any one time (excluding appointments or nominations to committees in an ex-officio capacity) is limited to no more than eight.

Limiting the number of Outside Bodies that a Member can serve on

K3. The number of outside bodies that a Member can serve on at any one time (excluding appointments that are by virtue of Office or in an ex-officio capacity) is limited to no more than six. If a vacancy cannot be filled from the Common Council, then such vacancy can be filled by non-Members, including officers on the basis that there are no issues of major concern to the work of the City Corporation likely to arise;

K4. Appointments to outside bodies are made by the Court of Common Council at meetings other than the meeting at which the appointment of Committees is undertaken.

L. Other Committee Issues

Publishing data of attendance by Members at Committee Meetings

L1. Data relating to the attendance of Members at committee, sub-committee and Court meetings was to be more accessible and placed on-line on the City Corporation's website provided that the figures are put in context (ie attendances should be shown together with the actual number of opportunities to attend).

Submission of supporting statements

L2. Members seeking election as Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of committees are now able voluntarily to submit a statement of no more than 300 words in support of their candidature in advance of the meeting at which the election is to be held.

Frequency of Committee meetings

L3. The frequency of Committee meetings be reviewed and determined by individual Committees, as was presently the case.

Sub-Committees, Working Parties and 'Workshop' style meetings

L4. The constitutional position of sub-committees and working parties and informal 'workshop' style meetings or Member and officer working groups was noted and the Court requested that all Committees review their current arrangements to ensure that they conform to the principles outlined; and

L5. The concept of informal 'workshop' style meetings in appropriate circumstances was accepted in order to improve communication and increase interaction, particularly between Members and officers, at an early stage in major complex, costly or contentious proposals.

Committee Papers and Minutes

L6. Committee reports, minutes and papers are to be concise and to the point and that no late papers should be dispatched without the relevant Committee Chairman's consent having first been obtained;

L7. Agendas, reports and other papers shall continue to be dispatched in hard-copy, but greater use of electronically circulated papers be made; and

L8. A standard of seven working days after the Court of Common Council or Committee meetings should be set within which officers will seek to circulate the draft minutes to all Members (or Members of the relevant Committee).

Outgoing Chairmen

L9. In addition to the above it was subsequently agreed that in order to assist with arrangements for the election of a deputy chairman, outgoing Chairmen should be required to give notice of their intention to stand down.

M. Terms of Reference, Delegations and Standing Orders

M1. A scheme for the Appointment of Members on Committees and Terms of Reference for the City of London Corporation Committees was approved;

M2. The Framework for Accountability and Delegation approved by the Court in January 2005 was endorsed and individual Committees asked to review delegations to officers to ensure that they are appropriate and relevant.

M3. Revised Standing Orders were agreed and the Town Clerk authorised, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, to make any necessary consequential changes to

Standing Orders to take account of the decisions relating to the new governance arrangements.

N. Post Implementation Review

N1. Subject to the Court approving these new arrangements, a post-implementation review be undertaken after 12 months of their operation, with the membership of the working party being agreed by the Court, in order to take stock of the new governance arrangements and how they are working. This would include the operation of the Policy and Resources Committee. The Court subsequently approved the membership of the Post-implementation Review of the Governance Working Party on 8 September 2011.