

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES) COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 July 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman)	Andrew Mayer
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Jeremy Mayhew
Tijs Broeke	Alderman William Russell
Karina Dostalova	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Anne Fairweather	James Tumbridge
Alderman Prem Goyal	Alderman Sir David Wootton
Christopher Hayward	

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's
Colin Buttery	- Director of Open Spaces
Nigel Lefton	- Director of Remembrancer's Office
Emma Wade	- Remembrancer's
Vic Annells	- Executive Director of Mansion House & CCC
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Jan Gokcen	- Communications
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4. OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Town Clerk outlining outstanding actions of the Sub-Committee. The Chair clarified that the first action was oddly

worded, and the report should cover all the work of the Professional and Business Services Council.

The Town Clerk also clarified that the information on staff costs for Common Hall had been circulated to the Sub Committee that morning and was to note.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

5. **INNOVATION & GROWTH (IG) UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth updating Members of the key activity undertaken by the Innovation and Growth Directorate (IG) in June.

A Member asked for more information around the LawTech Sounding Board to be advertised to the wider legal community and the Chair asked for the relevant officer in IG to follow up with the Member to give more detail outside of the meeting. The Chair also asked for TheCityUK to be involved in the LawTech Sounding Board.

It was also pointed out that the UK Singapore Summit had been a useful opportunity but that it had not gone unnoticed that there were some empty seats at the event. The Director of Innovation and Growth informed Members of the Memorandum of Understanding with Singapore that had been signed at the event, and that, in contrast, the Green Finance Summit had a high turnout of guests.

The Senior Alderman Below The Aldermanic Chair (SABTAC) took the opportunity to update Members on his recent visit to the Lujiazui Forum in Shanghai and the contacts he made there, as well as an update on recent strategic guests that had been invited to Aldermanic lunches, such as David Schwimmer from the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG).

The Chair updated Members on her recent visit to New York for the British American Business Transatlantic Forum and advised Members that in due course she would like to discuss with the Policy & Resources Committee, how the red lines around the Lord Mayor's and Policy Chair's overseas visits could be slightly relaxed.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

6. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications providing Members with a monthly update of the Corporate Affairs team's activities in supporting the City Corporation's strategic political engagement.

Members commented on the City Corporation's engagement and communications with residents and City workers and how to improve this in light of the recent opposition to the City of London Primary Academy Islington

expansion from Barbican residents. Additionally, a Member suggested that there could be further engagement with local authorities outside the M25 to replicate the London boroughs engagement.

Following a question, the Director of Communications clarified that the City Corporation had attended the Brexit Party Conference in June but had felt that it was not the right forum to engage with the Party. Further consideration would be given to identify the best way to engage with the Brexit Party as well as the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party.

The Chair commented that the current format of the update reports of the Director of IG, Director of Communications and Remembrancer were not quite right and would discuss outside the meeting to improve this.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

7. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Remembrancer updating Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's activity in support of the City Corporation's political and parliamentary engagement.

Following a request, the Remembrancer gave some further information on the submission of evidence to the Treasury Select Committee's inquiry into green finance. Members also noted that work was being undertaken to monitor the Liberal Democrats Party leadership election, as well as the Conservative Party.

Another Member took the opportunity to thank the Remembrancer for an excellent reception on the occasion of the Pride flag-raising in Guildhall Yard and asked that more thought goes into ensuring there is a balance in choice of speakers for next year.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

8. 2019/20 MAYORAL PROGRAMME - ALDERMAN WILLIAM RUSSELL (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)

The Sub-Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director of Mansion House & Central Criminal Court, Director of Innovation & Growth, Assistant Town Clerk & Director of Major Projects and Director of Community & Children's Services.

The Senior Alderman Below the Aldermanic Chair gave a few words to introduce his mayoral theme (subject to election). The Policy Chair congratulated him on a very positive programme and looked forward to continuing the "One Team" approach, especially with a potential future joint visit to engage with the London Symphony Orchestra's programme in New York next year. Members were also pleased to see that the Programme reflected the Corporate Plan.

RESOLVED, that:

- The 2019/20 Mayoral theme as set out in the report be noted.

9. **THE UK COALITION FOR DIGITAL INTELLIGENCE - PROPOSAL**

The Sub-Committee received a joint report of the Director of Community & Children's Services and the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning the development of a UK Coalition for Digital Intelligence (UK CDI) which had been formed as part of the Lord Mayor's theme: 'Shaping Tomorrow's City Today'.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

10. **THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STRATEGY FOR 2019-23**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Head of Corporate Strategy and Performance outlining the draft version of the City Corporation's Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for 2019-23.

The Policy Chair underlined to Members that this was a draft strategy that had already been discussed at large number of various Committees and Sub-Committees. Members also heard how there a Member Briefing Breakfast had taken place the previous Friday that had looked at the comments from Committees in more detail.

Members discussed and made the following points:

- The Sports Strategy must be linked with the London strategy;
- Member input should be better organised;
- It might be useful for Policy & Resources Committee to set up an informal working party to assist officers, as was the case in the development of the Education Strategy;
- Invitations to hospitality around sporting events could be deployed more strategically, i.e. not just to Members but also to key external stakeholders, and Members who went to the recent Major Baseball League match commented on the usefulness of the engagement;
- Consideration should be given to use the Freedom of the City as a way to thank volunteers who support grassroots sport across London boroughs

A Member sought clarification regarding the Sports Engagement work and this Sports Strategy. It was discussed that the intention was that the Sports Engagement work fit in under the umbrella Sports Strategy, and that the particular work on Sports Engagement, which sits in the Corporate Affairs team, is governed by the Policy and Resources Committee, which had delegated the oversight to this Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED, that:

- The draft Sports Strategy be noted, and the comments above be incorporated into the revised version.

11. **EMISSIONS REDUCTION BILL UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a joint report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection and the City Remembrancer updating Members on the Emissions Reduction Bill.

Following a question, the Remembrancer advised that due to the changes in the parliamentary timetable, there had been some uncertainty on the timing of the Parliamentary session where this Bill would be introduced, but it was hoped that it would take place before the Summer recess.

The Chair advised that the City Corporation was working very closely with London Councils on this area, and that the communications around the air quality work was very strong.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

12. **APPLICATION FOR USE OF EPPING FOREST LAND AT WANSTEAD FLATS FOR A MUSIC CONCERT. SEF 29/19**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces setting out some background to an application for use of Epping Forest Land at Wanstead Flats for a music concert.

The Director of Open Spaces gave the Sub-Committee some background on the concerns raised by the Epping Forest Consultative Committee and the events policy that has allowed for events to take place on City Corporation-owned open spaces.

Members urged the Director of Open Spaces to consider including in the contract with the event organisers, that the concert should be plastic free, which would be possible in a controlled environment such as this. There was also some discussion at length about the reputational risks and how to compensate the local population. A Member also expressed concern about the amount of football pitches that would be used up by the concert at Wanstead Flats, however the Director of Open Spaces clarified that only up to 11 pitches out of 45 would be affected. Members also commented that a reputational risk assessment should have been carried out by officers and this Sub-Committee should have commented on that rather than the whole application report.

The Director of Open Spaces clarified with Members that sports groups, as well as local authorities (including London Boroughs of Newham, Waltham Forest and Redbridge), had been consulted; that the ground at Wanstead Flats is very dry and unlikely to struggle with waterlogging; and that, although there had been a waste and sustainability plan in place, this would be worked on to ensure the event would be plastic free.

Members had a number of other points to make, which was taken into a non-public discussion under Section 12A, Paragraph 4 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted;
- It be recommended to the Epping Forest and Commons Committee that the Open Spaces Director liaise with the event organisers to include provisions for a plastic-free event.

13. SIX MONTHLY MEDIA UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications summarising the media output over the past six months from the City Corporation's Media Team.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

14. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

16. 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.

Item	Paragraph
17, 18	3
19	4

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 11 June 2019 were approved.

18. CPR UPDATE

Due to time, the Chair decided she would update Members on her recent activity at a future meeting.

19. NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX RELATING TO WANSTEAD FLATS

The Sub-Committee considered the non-public appendix in relation to item 12.

20. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

Questions were raised in respect of the following –

Sub-Committee name

A Member raised that now the Economic Development Office's name had changed to Innovation & Growth, whether it would be prudent to change this Sub-Committee's name to the Public Relations and Innovation and Growth

(PRIG) Sub-Committee or even the Communications and Innovation and Growth (CIG) Sub-Committee. Members agreed that the question could be posed to the Policy & Resources Committee at a future meeting and would be included in the impending governance review.

City of London Corporation Website

A Member raised that it was important that the Digital Services Sub-Committee and this Sub-Committee work more closely together in the delivery of the new website and understand the different focuses each Sub-Committee will have (i.e. Digital Services Sub-Committee to be responsible for the technical delivery and Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee to be responsible for the content).

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 4.44 pm

Chairman

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