

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 July 2019

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

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)	Deputy Wendy Hyde
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Caroline Addy	Shravan Joshi
John Chapman	Vivienne Littlechild
Peter Dunphy	Andrien Meyers
Mary Durcan	Henrika Priest
Anne Fairweather	Alderman Sir Roger Gifford
Christopher Hill	Alderman Gregory Jones QC
	Deputy Joyce Nash

Officers:

Rofikul Islam	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Carolyn Dwyer	- Department of the Built Environment
Leah Coburn	- Department of the Built Environment
Tom Noble	- Department of the Built Environment
Jaysen Sharpe	- Office of the Remembrancer
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Dorian Price	- City Surveyor's Department
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Rachel Pye	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protections
Gavin Stedman	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protections
Jon Averbs	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protections
Ruth Calderwood	- Department Markets & Consumer Protections
Gary Burks	- Open Spaces Department
Paul Double	- Office of the Remembrancer
Jim Graham	- Department of the Built Environment
Joe Kingston	- Department of the Built Environment
Mike Simmonds	- Department of the Built Environment
Anne Pietsch	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
David Farnsworth	- City Bridge Trust

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy John Bennett, Rehana Ameer, Mark Wheatley, Deputy Tom Hoffman, Deputy John Absalom, Elizabeth Rogula, Peter Bennett, Jason Pritchard and Tijs Broeke.

The Chairman informed the Committee that Graeme Harrower had resigned from the Committee and thanked him for his contribution to work of the Committee.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED - that the Public Minutes and summary of the meeting held on 21 May 2019 be approved with the following correction to be noted;

On item 4 of the Minutes, that Deputy Joyce Nash moved that Sir Roger Gifford takes the Chair.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk setting out the current list of outstanding actions. Updates were provided as follows:

Electric Vehicle Charging

The installation of the charging point in Noble Street has now been implemented. It was suggested that this item can now be removed from the list. Additionally, a paper setting out the future Electric Vehicle Charging strategy will be presented to the Committee in September or December 2019.

A Member asked how long it took to charge a vehicle. Officers informed the Committee that there are two options. The first being the Fast Charger which is around 7kW. Fast Chargers are generally used overnight. The second option is the Rapid Charger which is around 47kW. Rapid Chargers can take up to a few hours to fully charge a car.

The City of London has a Rapid Charging Point in Noble Street and is seeking to install up to 10 Rapid Charging Points in Baynard House. The technology around Electric Cars is changing fast. The City of London is monitoring advances to the technology and is keen to be at the forefront of developments.

Water Refill Points

The Bow Churchyard drinking water refill point had been temporarily turned off due to technical issues. Cardboard covers have been placed over several of the refill points to highlight their function.

Garden Waste Recycling

The Assistant Director (Cleaving) advised that his team are working with all interested parties to begin a garden waste trial in the spring of 2020. Members will be updated on progress regularly.

Measurement and mitigation options for operational rail noise from London Underground affecting the Barbican Estate

A detailed discussion on this will take place on item 9.

5. **DEPARTMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - BREXIT UPDATE**

The Committee received the report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Brexit.

Members were advised that there are no risks to the Department of the Built Environment at present, and that there is a Corporate Working Group looking at the risks involved around Brexit.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes this report and that further update reports will be made to subsequent meetings of the Committee.

6. **UPDATE IN THE IMPACT OF THE UK LEAVING THE EU (BREXIT) ON PORT HEALTH AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

The Committee received an oral update from the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection. The Director of Markets and Consumer Protection informed the Committee that the department had been working to ensure it can continue to operate business as usual in the event of a ‘no deal’ Brexit. The Department is lobbying various stakeholders including the Chairman of the International Trade Select Committee and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to promote the principles previously agreed by Members.

The Markets and Consumer Protection Department has also secured £400,000 of funding from the Food Standard Agency to help with the preparation for Brexit.

There was a discussion around Port Health service provision post 31 October 2019 and what will happen to the goods coming in from Europe as well as third countries. Additional staff have been recruited and trained to maintain service continuity.

Members were further informed that all high-risk products have to enter the country through an approved port. Border Force will assist in detecting non-compliant goods at the ports. Moreover, the Committee were informed that EU legislation has been transposed into UK Law. In the event of any infectious disease outbreaks, the Food Standards Agency or Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will intervene.

Access to the rapid alert system which enables information to be shared between EU Members states is still under negotiation.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the oral report and that further update reports will be made to subsequent meetings of the Committee.

7. **AIR QUALITY STRATEGY 2019 - 2024**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Air Quality Strategy 2019 – 2024.

Members were informed that City of London is delivering a strong programme and is on track with its statutory responsibilities.

RESOLVED – that the Committee approves the content of the Air Quality Strategy 2019 – 2024 for publication.

8. **CLEANSING CONTRACT KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND CONTRACT MANAGEMENT**

The Committee received the report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Cleansing Contract Key Performance Indicators and Contract Management. The Committee were informed that the City of London had taken on learning from its previous experience in setting the new Key Performance Indicators.

A Member asked as to why the Committee was receiving the Key Performance Indicators now when the contract was awarded in November 2018. The Committee was informed that all the bidders were provided with the Key Performance Indicators. The City of London then worked with the winning bidder to develop and agree the final Key Performance Indicators. Members were also informed that behind the scenes there will be a considerable amount of data collection and analysis to ensure both parties can work together to achieve the required results.

A Member further queried about the contractors having electrical vehicles. Officers assured the Committee that the electric fleets are currently being manufactured, with vehicles to be delivered from September 2019.

The Assistant Director of the Built Environment (Cleansing) assured the Committee that a further report on electrical vehicle deployment will be provided to the Committee in autumn of 2019.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes this report.

9. **UPDATE ON THE ISSUE OF OPERATIONAL RAIL NOISE FROM LONDON UNDERGROUND AFFECTING THE BARBICAN ESTATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection providing an update on the issue of operational rail noise from London Underground affecting the Barbican Estate.

The Chairman informed the Committee that along with the Assistant Director (Public Protection) he had attended TfL's City of London Stakeholder Transport Forum on 22 July 2019. This had provided an opportunity for the community to put their questions to Duncan Weir, Head of Track for TfL.

Members were informed that some mitigation of the noise levels had already been achieved. A target date for the signalling upgrade was 2021, this would remove the need for insulated block joints on the track.

The Chairman of the Committee said he would be writing to Duncan Weir to confirm the six actions that TfL had agreed at the Stakeholder Forum.

At this point a Member took the opportunity to thank the Chairman and officers for their assistance in mitigating the operational rail noise from the London Underground which has been affecting the Barbican Estate for so long.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the contents of this report be noted and that the further actions in paragraphs 16 to 19 be endorsed.

10. **ELECTION OF EPPING FOREST VERDERERS 2020**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Town Clerk and the Director of Open Spaces on the Election of Epping Forest Verderers 2020.

In line with its previous decision, the Committee decided to refrain from using its proxy vote in the Southern Parishes.

RESOLVED – that the Committee;

Agreed that its proxy vote in Election of Epping Forest Verderers 2020 should not be used.

11. **AIR POLLUTION AT ST BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Air Pollution at St Bartholomew's Hospital – Update.

The Committee was informed that the City of London Corporation has been measuring nitrogen dioxide levels at St Bartholomew's Hospital for over 20 years. Nitrogen dioxide is a colourless gas that is the product of fuel combustion which has an impact on health at high concentrations. Officers assured the Committee that it will continue to work with St Bartholomew's Hospital to reduce air pollution.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the content of this report.

12. **CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM PERFORMANCE 2018/19**

The Committee received the report of the Director of the Open Spaces on the Cemetery & Crematorium Performance 2018/19.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note the performance of the Cemetery and Crematorium during 2018/19.

13. **EMISSIONS REDUCTION BILL UPDATE**

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

The City Remembrancer informed the Committee that the country will have a new Prime Minister soon and, on the assumption, that the current session of the Parliament continues, the City of London will present the Emissions Reduction Bill to Parliament as soon as possible. Furthermore, there will be ongoing discussions with the House of Lords during the recess.

RESOLVED – that the Committee note this report.

14. **BEECH STREET: TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Committee received the report of the Director of the Built Environment Beech Street: Transport and Public Realm Improvements.

The Committee was informed that the Projects Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee had approved option two. Members were further advised that a detailed report will be presented to the Committee in September 2019.

RESOLVED – that the Committee notes the contents of the report.

15. **CEMETERY & CREMATORIUM MECHANISED DIGGER REPLACEMENT**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of the Open Spaces on the Cemetery & Crematorium Mechanised Digger Replacement.

RESOLVED – that the Committee approves;

1. That budget of £500 is approved for staff costs to reach next Gateway 5;

2. Note the project budget of £500 (excluding risk);

3. Note the total estimated cost of the project at £55,000 (excluding risk).

16. **MIDDLESEX STREET AREA ENHANCEMENT PHASE 2: PETTICOAT LANE MARKET IMPROVEMENTS AND PUBLIC REALM**

The Committee considered the joint report of the Director of the Built Environment and the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Middlesex Street Area Enhancement Phase 2: Petticoat Lane Market Improvements and Public Realm.

The report outlined three options to the Committee. There was a discussion around looking after the welfare of the local businesses within the vicinity. A Member mentioned witnessing how some of the shopfronts were affected with lorries being parked in the front of the businesses, alongside big installation.

Senior Officers assured the Committee that Licensing Officers can look into the matter further and ensure that the relevant Officers are engaging with the affected businesses.

RESOLVED – that the committee notes this report.

17. **SIGNOR FAVALE'S MARRIAGE PORTION CHARITY - RISK REGISTER 2019**

The Committee received the joint report of the Town Clerk and the Chamberlain on the Signor Favale's Marriage Portion Charity – Risk Register 2019. A Member asked as to why the City of London had advertised the Signor Favale's Marriage Portion Charity through some of the local churches but not others.

The Town Clerk's Department agreed to look into the matter and provide a written response.

RESOLVED – the Committee confirmed that it had reviewed the risk register and that;

- it satisfactorily sets out the risks faced by the charity; and
- appropriate measures are in place to mitigate those risks

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

There were no questions.

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

Under any business that the Chairman considers urgent, the following items were discussed;

The Committee received the report of the Director of the Built Environment on the City of London Transport Strategy Delivery Plan 2019/20 to 2021/22.

RESOLVED – that the Committee;

Note the draft Transport Strategy Delivery 2019/20- 2021/22 (Appendix 1)

Local Plans (Planning and Transportation) Sub Committee:

The City of London has a Local Plans Sub Committee. At the invitation of the Chairman of Planning and Transportation, the Committee proceeded to appoint a representative on the Local Plans (Planning and Transportation) Sub Committee. Christopher Hill expressed his willingness to serve and was appointed to the Sub Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Rofikul Islam

Tel. no: 020 7332 1174

Rofikul.islam@cityoflondon.gov.uk