

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 November 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Jeremy Simons (Chairman)	Shravan Joshi
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)	Vivienne Littlechild
Deputy John Absalom	Andrien Meyers
Alexander Barr	Deputy Joyce Nash
Adrian Bastow	Jason Pritchard
Peter Bennett	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
John Chapman	Mark Wheatley
Mary Durcan	Rehana Ameer
Anne Fairweather	Alderman Sir Roger Gifford
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark	John Edwards

Officers:

Rofikul Islam	- Town Clerk's Department
Carl Locsin	- Town Clerk's Department
Carolyn Dwyer	- Department of the Built Environment
Zahur Khan	- Department of the Built Environment
Tom Noble	- Department of the Built Environment
Giles Radford	- Department of the Built Environment
Samantha Tharme	- Department of the Built Environment
Paul Chadha	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Rachel Pye	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protection
Xenia Koumi	- Community and Children's Services
Gavin Stedman	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protection
Ruth Calderwood	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protection
Jon Averbs	- Department of Markets & Consumer Protection
Richard Steele	- Department of the Built Environment
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy John Bennett, Tijs Broeke, Deputy Wendy Hyde, Deputy Elizabeth Rogula, Sophie Anne Fernandes and Alderman Gregory Jones QC.

The Committee observed a moment of silence in respect of Mr. William John Brewster OBE, Past Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services 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 of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

Beech Street (page 3/4)

It was reported that the Moor Lane Ultra Low Emission Vehicle only pilot (Low Emission Neighbourhood project) had been closed and the remaining funds reallocated to Beech Street. A Gateway 4/5 report for the Beech Street zero-emission street will be tabled to the Committee in 2020.

Flush washing (Page 7)

In the last meeting the Committee were informed that the new contract does not include power washes in its terms and conditions, but flush washing does take place. Officers agreed to address the concerns raised. There will be more flushing from 2020 onwards.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Electrical Vehicle Charging

The Transportation and Public Realm Director informed the Committee that his team are working closely with Transport for London to install 10 charging points in Baynard House. It was also noted that following advice from the London Fire Brigade, the completion date may need to be reviewed to ensure that the City of London is following health and safety regulations. It is anticipated that the work can start in June 2020. The Committee will be kept updated with the progress.

Water Refill Points

The City of London has written to the CEO of Thames Water. There is now positive engagement with Thames Water now agreeing to progress the work.

Officers from the City of London held a meeting with St Botolph without Bishopsgate Church with reference to their request for water refill points. Further to the meeting, the City of London awaits a decision from church officials.

Garden Waste

The trial will now begin in March 2020. Garden Waste can now be removed from the Outstanding Actions list.

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

The Temporary Speed Restriction (TSR) trial was carried out under Brandon Mews on 8 November 2019. The Committee was informed that outer rail trains, which during normal operation hours, are the loudest had shown a 7dB noise reduction on average during the speed restriction. This was a noticeable reduction, but a significant noise impact remains.

The current advice from LUL's operational department is that a TSR at this location would be extremely difficult to put in place, especially for set times only as it requires a manual application and removal each day for the pm off-peaks. In addition, even when the new signalling system is in place, there would be a reluctance from London Underground Operations to consider a permanent TSR on the basis that there has been a huge amount of investment into increasing the number of trains per hour on this part of the track.

LUL have tasked their engineering team to consider any other short-term measures that could alleviate some of the current noise levels residents are experiencing. They will continue to make the case to LUL operational teams to see if anything can be done in the off-peak when the new signalling system is in place.

The full report on the TSR will be shared as soon as it's available.

Historic drinking fountains and pumps

An update to be provided to the Committee in March 2020.

5. UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE UK LEAVING THE EU (BREXIT) ON PORT HEALTH & PUBLIC PROTECTION

The Committee received a report of the Director Markets & Consumer Protection on the update on the impact of the UK leaving the EU (Brexit) on Port Health & Public Protection.

The Committee was advised that this is the 6th report to the Committee. the Department continues to function as business as usual and is making adequate preparation in the eventuality of a Brexit. Members were informed that the Food Standards Agency has provided the Department with a funding of £116,000 to cover additional preparations.

Due to the Purdah Period, the level of communications with the Government is kept to a minimum, but the Department hopes to re-engage fully once the elections are over.

RESOLVED – Members to note the report.

6. DEPARTMENT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT - BREXIT UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Department of the Built Environment: 'Brexit' Update. It was noted that due to a decision taken at the Brexit Group, that unless there is a significant shift in position, this will no longer be a standing item on the agenda.

RESOLVED – Members to note the report.

6A. ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW – LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON SUGAR REDUCTION AND HEALTHIER FOOD

Item 11 was moved to 6A.

The Committee received a report of the Director of Community & Children's Services providing an annual progress review of the City Corporation's Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food.

The Committee was informed on the progress of the implementation of pledges made by the City Corporation under the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Food, which draws together and recognises work being done across the Corporation. Members were further informed that specific actions of interest to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee were those relating to the installation and promotion of additional public water fountains throughout the City and supporting more local employers to achieve the London Healthy Workplace Award.

RESOLVED – Members asked to;

- Note the report, and
- Support ongoing efforts to ensure the Square Mile is an environment that is conducive to healthier choices.

7. **49TH CITY OF LONDON THAMES FISHERY RESEARCH EXPERIMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the 49th City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment.

The Committee was informed of the outcome of the 49th City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment which took place on Saturday 12 October 2019 along the foreshore of the River Thames, downstream from the Port Health River Divisional Lower Thames Office in Denton, Gravesend.

The purpose of the Fishery Research Experiment is to understand the environmental conditions of the river. The report also sought a grant of £5,460 from City's Cash to partially fund the Fishery Research Experiment for 2020.

A Member asked if the grant is being sought from the Local Risk Budget. The Committee was assured that the budget would be coming from the City's Cash.

The Committee was further informed that 375 fish of 7 species were caught this year. This is 320 more than the previous year's total catch of 55 fish. The number of species represented in the catch was also higher than last year's 6 species. A Member asked the reasons behind the high number of catches. Officers informed the Committee that the weather being on the positive side has had helped immensely. There was a discussion amongst Members on the positive impact of the Fishery Research Experiment to the City of London. Members noted that improved fishing conditions on the River can also help to promote tourism within London.

Following on, another Member noted that City of London Schools were invited and asked if the academies were also invited. Members were informed that a range of schools were invited, but there is not always a positive uptake. The

Department encourages schools to take part and where possible also works to provide free equipment and tuition for the school from the Angling Society.

The Chairman asked if the Communications Team can highlight the work of the Department and the success of the Fishery Research Experiment. The Committee took the opportunity to thank the Officers involved for their hard work.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to;

- Note the content of this report;
- Review and approve the grant of £5,460 from City's Cash to partially fund the 2020 event;
- Approve the 48th City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment to take place in 2020 (date to be confirmed).

8. **THE WALBROOK WHARF OFFICES 78 - 83 UPPER THAMES STREET - 4TH & 5TH FLOORS TO BE DECLARED SURPLUS**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection on the Walbrook Wharf offices 78 – 83 Upper Thames Street – 4th & 5th floors to be declared surplus.

Members were informed that as part of the Asset Management Plan, the Port Heath and the Public Protection Department have been working with the City Surveyor to move staff to Guildhall North Wing to allow the proposed letting arrangements for the 4th and 5th floors of Walbrook Wharf to be completed.

Members were further advised that Coroner's Office for the City of London has now moved to the Old Bailey.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to;

- Declare that the 4th & 5th floor offices at Walbrook Wharf, Upper Thames Street will be surplus to operational requirements when M&CP staff have vacated these floors to take effect from the date of vacation. This is subject to all the necessary alternative facilities being provided and refurbishment and associated works being completed at Guildhall and the Central Criminal Courts.

9. **UPDATE ON CLEANSING AND WASTE ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the update on Cleansing and Waste Electric Vehicles.

The Committee was informed that that the mobilisation of the contract has been a success. The Department is now working with the contractor to get the approval and ensure the fitness of the new electric vehicles. Previously Members were advised on the delay with the contract. They were further assured that there will no financial implication to the City of London as a result of the delay. Furthermore, Members were told that the new Electric Vehicles are being financed by the contractor as part of the Service Level Agreement

with the City of London. Interim vehicles are being hired until the Electric Vehicles become available at no additional charge to the City of London.

Members were advised that the first of the Electric Vehicles would arrive on the 12 December 2019, with the rest following in January 2020. The Committee asked the Communications Team to ensure that once the Electric Vehicles arrive there is both internal and external publicity.

A Member asked if the City of London has charging infrastructure in place. Members were told that charging infrastructure was installed and signed off by City Surveyors in September 2019 and additional charging points will be commissioned once the vehicles are delivered.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the report.

10. **AIR QUALITY UPDATE**

The Committee received a verbal update from the Air Quality Manager on the initial impact on air pollution of the London Ultra-Low Emission Zone. The Committee were told that currently 77% of vehicles are compliant. Additionally, Transport for London has reported a 29% reduction in roadside levels of NO₂ in July and August 2019 compared to the same months during 2018. The City of London monitor at Walbrook Wharf has recorded an 18% reduction from 2018 to 2019 and at Beech Street there has been a 13% reduction over the same time period. There has been no change at the monitor at Sir John Cass Foundation Primary. There are now 2,500 LEVC electric taxis in London. The new all electric taxi by Nissan was launched in October.

Members were told that a senior representative from Barts Health NHS Trust attended the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee to confirm their commitment to reducing pollution generated by their energy centre. City of London officers have installed a continuous nitrogen dioxide analyser in the hospital courtyard.

The Emission Reduction (Local Authorities in London) Bill was introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Tope, Co-President of London Councils, on Tuesday 22 October 2019. Following the dissolution of Parliament, the Bill, along with all other legislation which failed to gain Royal Assent, has fallen. Lord Tope has agreed to re-introduce the Bill in the House of Lords Private Members' Bill Ballot, which will take place following the Queen's Speech.

The Air Quality Manager further reported that air quality monitoring at City schools had revealed positive results with nitrogen dioxide levels meeting the health-based standards apart from adjacent to New Change at St Paul's Cathedral Choir School.

Members were informed that the City of London is leading a pan London anti idling vehicle engine project along with the London Borough of Camden, with funding from the Mayor of London. Additional resources have been put in place to ensure that the programme is delivered over the next two years.

A Member asked if the City of London can promote anti-idling and if the City can look into the New York model of anti-idling, whereby the work of community policing plays an important role, with reward systems put in place to remunerate those who report idling vehicles to the authorities. Officers agreed to look into this and provide a report for the Committee in the future.

The Communication Team advised the Committee that there will be an article in City Matters, focusing on the City's air quality improvement and the success of the City in tackling air pollution.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the verbal update.

11. **ANNUAL PROGRESS REVIEW - LOCAL GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON SUGAR REDUCTION AND HEALTHIER FOOD**

Item seen at 6A.

12. **CLIMATE ACTION BRIEFING IMPLEMENTATION**

The Committee received a joint report of the Director of Innovation & Growth and the Director of the Built Environment on the Climate Action Briefing Implementation.

The Committee noted that the report had already passed through a number of Committees. A Member commented that the objectives mentioned in the report are also part of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, which address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The Work of the City of London covers 4 out of the 17 goals which are all interconnected. Officers agreed to explore the possibility of the adopting United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

There was a discussion amongst the Members in terms of declaring a climate emergency, as had been done by many local authorities. It was agreed that the City of London, should not declare a climate emergency without having a policy in place. The Committee felt that a climate emergency should not be declared at this time, rather the City of London should show the way forward through its initiatives and achievements, taking an evidence-based approach.

The Committee noted the joint venture between the City of London Corporation and the Government, which funds the Green Finance Institute to champion sustainable finance in the United Kingdom and abroad. A Member of the Port Health and Environmental Committee, Alderman Sir Roger Gifford is Chairman of the Green Finance Institute. Alderman Gifford spoke of the important work that the Green Finance Institute does and the need for the City to collaborate to work together and ensure that work is not being duplicated. Alderman Gifford suggested the prospect of inviting the Green Finance Institute to the Committees meeting for a presentation to hear more about their work. Officers have agreed to extend an invite and explore the possibilities of inviting officials from the Green Finance Institute to make a presentation to the Committee about their work.

Members were informed that the United Kingdom will host the 26th Conference of the Parties, known as COP26, in 2020 designed to produce an international response to the climate emergency. The City of London will have a physical presence at COP26, highlighting the work of the City. Additionally, it was stressed that the City of London needs to look at its own supply chain and come up with additional ways to reduce its carbon footprint.

A Member raised a question, in terms of exploring the possibility of doing some of the City's roads at night, as in Tokyo where all the road works are carried out at night-time. The Committee was informed that the City needs to strike a fine balance given the presence of residential areas; the noise impact would need to be factored in. The City does some road works at night-time, which is guided by the City of London's Transport Strategy.

The Members considered which committee might lead on climate change and agreed on the need for a wider discussion of this issue.

The discussion ended with a request for the report to be taken to the Investment Committee too.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to;

- Note the approach taken and current position of developing a Climate Action Strategy for both the Square Mile and the City of London Corporation.
- Note the use of 2018-19 Open Spaces, Built Environment and Innovation and Growth departmental budgets to cover the costs of the consultancy support required to deliver the Climate Action Briefing.

13. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PLAN - INTERIM UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the Electric Vehicle Charging Plan – Interim update.

The Committee was informed that that the Department for the Built Environment had made a commitment to investigate EV charging requirements as part of the Transport Strategy so that City of London can start to plan ahead, both for the City of London's provision and the private sector. The current pace of introducing new charging points is to an extent hampered by the amount of work that needs to go on in the background, with the power network – in two locations the City is having to install new electricity substations to facilitate EV chargers.

The plan is now looking to 2025 to tie in with TfL's wider London forecast requirements. The City of London has commissioned the Energy Savings Trust to get to some detailed numbers and propose locations to be published in the final report in March 2020.

In the meantime, the Department is making progress, with its own fleet sites, taxi rapids and have started working on resident requirements.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the report.

14. SEEKING A PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER - LONDON MARATHON RELATED DISORDER

The Committee received a report of the Head of Community Safety on seeking a Public Space Protection Order – London Marathon Related Disorder.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the report.

15. UPDATE ON THE STREET TRADING AND ENFORCEMENT

The Committee received a verbal update from the Assistant Director Public Protection and Environmental on the street trading and enforcement.

Members were informed that Section 101 agreements enable City officers to tackle illegal street traders on the City of London's Bridges and environs have been put in place with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the London Borough of Southwark whereby Enforcement Officers have been actively engaged in enforcement

The Committee was told that one of the offenders who's hearing was held on 9 October 2019 at the Hendon Magistrates Court concerning three illegal street trading offences on and around Tower Bridge.

After finally sending through a guilty plea letter to the courts, his sentence was as follows:

- 1st Offence - £400
- 2nd offence - £600
- 3rd offence - £800

The full costs were £3765.50 with a surcharge of £80. This totals at £5,645.50. The Court has now issued a collection order with the offender required to pay £250 monthly to cover his fines.

The Committee was further informed of the following activities from the Department:

- Two verbal warnings given to ice cream vans. Not seen in the City before hence the warnings only.
- Two ice cream vans were seized.
- Tower Hamlets Council was assisted in the seizure of an ice cream van and stored the vehicle for a few days.
- Assisted Better Bankside/Southwark with the seizure of a receptacle and are currently storing item.
- One receptacle seized (pancakes) on St Katherines Way/Tower Bridge.
- Two Hot dog receptacles seized on Bishopsgate.
- Two peanut receptacles seized on the Millennium Bridge.
- Eight offences listed for 27 November 2019 in relation to four traders for offences in both Tower Hamlets and Southwark at City Magistrates.
- Further six offences (pancakes, ice cream, hot dogs and peanuts) are being processed.

A Member asked if there was any scope to legalise the traders through a system to ensure that they are in compliance with and have the adequate

checks and balances in place. Officers advised that the illegal trading subject to the 101 agreements is in Tower Hamlets and Southwark and beyond the City of London's powers to licence. The officer advised that the City can and does licence reputable traders in accordance with the City of London (Various Powers) Act 2013. The City would not be able to licence trading on the bridges as they are high footfall and an obstruction in these locations would not be acceptable.

A Member noted that in terms of legalising the illegal traders the City of London needs to be very cautious and exercise restraint as the illegal trading is funding organised crime.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the verbal update.

16. **CLEANSING CONTACTORS PERFORMANCE AT THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW**

The Committee received a report of the Director of the Built Environment on the cleansing contactors performance at the Lord Mayor's Show.

The Committee was informed that the event was a success, with 5 out of the 18 cleaning vehicles being electric vehicles.

RESOLVED – Members are asked to note the report.

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

A Member mentioned that they had witnessed the rats and infestation problems behind the Blackfriar Public House. The Member stated that he was informed that the management of the Blackfriar had been in touch with the City of London but was not able to come to a solution on the matter. The Member wanted to know what the City of London is doing to tackle the rats and infestation issues.

The Committee was told as this was occurring on private property, officers will engage with the landlord and offer appropriate advice in terms of how to tackle the issue. It was noted that that it is up to the cleaning contractors of the Blackfriar Pub to ensure that they pick up the rubbish bags within a timeframe, in order to prevent further issues.

Officers will activate a conversation with the landlord.

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

The Chairman took the opportunity to remind the Committee of the visit to Veolia's Integrated Waste Management Facility in Southwark. Members were asked to register their interest.

The Committee was further informed of two recent awards:

- **International Pet Animal Transport Association – Partner Industry Award** On 5 November 2019, the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC) was awarded the partner industry award at the International Pet

Animal Transport Association (IPATA) Annual Conference, held in Chicago, USA.

- **John Connell Local Authority Award**

On 23 October 2019, the City Corporation's Pollution Control Team was the proud winner of the 2019 John Connell Local Authority Award. The award recognises services, campaigns and programmes that are shining examples of community cooperation, education and creative solutions to solving noise pollution problems.

19. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

MOTION – 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.

20. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED, that the Non-Public Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday, 24 September 2019 be approved as a correct record.

21. **PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEBTORS - PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 13.06

Chairman

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