

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

Wednesday, 19 February 2020

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 Jamie Ingham Clark
Simon Duckworth (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Deputy Keith Bottomley	Deputy Edward Lord
Tijs Broeke	Andrew Mayer
Anne Fairweather	Jeremy Mayhew
Alderman Prem Goyal	Deputy Tom Sleigh
Sheriff Christopher Hayward	

Officers:

Paul Double	- Remembrancer
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Sam Hutchings	- Sport Engagement Manager
Tom Regan	- Corporate Affairs
Colin BATTERY	- Director of Open Spaces
Giles French	- Innovation and Growth
Bruce McVean	- Built Environment
Abhi Thakor	- Remembrancers
Jaysen Sharpe	- Remembrancers
Jeremy Blackburn	- Mansion House
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dominic Christian, Karina Dostalova, Simon Duckworth, James Tumbridge and Alderman Sir David Wootton.

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 3 December 2019 be approved as a correct record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Town Clerk outlining outstanding actions. Relating to the first action concerning reports on cross-cutting issues, Members wished for the action to be updated so that it reflected the desire for Members' interests to be fully recorded in CRM and for Members to have sight of the information that was held on them in this way. The Policy Chair also reported that she was keen to engage Members in their areas of interest as much as possible.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

5. **EPPING FOREST EVENTS TENDER REPUTATIONAL RISK**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Open Spaces outlining potential reputational risks associated with a public tender to invite large scale event proposals for venues in Epping Forest and on the Buffer Land.

There was some discussion as to whether the report gave Members a robust risk assessment of the decision, but it was felt that Open Spaces Committee would be able to take forward the arrangements for this.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The Open Spaces Committee take forward the arrangements of the public tender to invite large scale event proposals for venues in Epping Forest and on the Buffer Land.

6. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

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

The Policy Chair gave details of the planned correspondence with incoming and outgoing ministers and committed to sharing the substantive letter to the Chancellor to this Sub-Committee. Members then discussed what the political priorities of the City Corporation could be over the next few years. One Member made the point that many Members of the Court had relationships with senior politicians, and these could be utilised more effectively.

Members also discussed the Prime Minister's commitment that his government would lead a 'levelling up' of prosperity across the UK, and what that could mean for London. A Member requested more analysis on London's reaction to the recent General Election result. Another Member also requested that longer lead-in times were given ahead of the London Government Dinner, in future, to ensure that the seating plan was strategic and thematic.

The Policy Chair also informed the Sub-Committee that the City Corporation was engaging with all the candidates for the London Mayoral elections from mainstream parties. It was discussed that some Members have a mandate to have existing relationships with key political figures. It was also stated that,

particularly during election periods, it was important that Members made clear that if they were meeting with political figures, it was in a personal capacity. Equally, if Members were using City Corporation premises to host external stakeholders privately, it was made clear that this was not endorsed by the City Corporation.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted.

7. **PARTY CONFERENCES**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications concerning the City Corporation's programme of engagement at the annual Liberal Democrat, Labour, Conservative, Scottish National Party (SNP) and Green party conferences.

The Sub-Committee heard that a further report setting out a more detailed plan and options on Member attendance would be considered at a future meeting. It was also felt that it would be useful for Members to have time to debrief during the conference season.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The suggested format of events for this year's Party Conference season be noted.

8. **SPORT ENGAGEMENT**

8.1 **Sport Engagement - Progress Update**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications concerning an update on sport engagement. It was received very positively by Members who were very appreciative of the work undertaken by the Sport Engagement Manager.

Members heard that approximate spend on sport engagement since Summer 2019 stood at £160,000, and that for 2020/21, spending on sport events was likely to increase with Euro 2020 and Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic engagement.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

8.2 **Tokyo 2020 Games**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications setting out the City Corporation's plans to engage and celebrate the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo this Summer.

Members were supportive of the plans although it was recognised that contingency plans were needed should the COVID-19 outbreak affect the Olympic and Paralympic Games generally. Officers confirmed that discussions were ongoing about senior representation at the Games and a further update

would be provided to Members in the next sport engagement report due in June.

RESOLVED, that:-

- It be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee to agree that £40,000 be allocated from the 2020/21 Policy Initiatives Fund to cover costs of the City Corporation's engagement around the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

9. **SIX-MONTH MEDIA UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications summarising the City Corporation's media output over the past six months. Members heard that the figure in paragraph 11 of the report was erroneous and should read, '*Commercial filming has brought £311,571 into the City Corporation over the last six months.*'

Members discussed in detail their concerns regarding recent negative coverage, particularly concerning the Aldermanic appraisal system, and feared that Members of the Court were openly briefing the press on private matters. The Director of Communications opined that if the City Corporation is portrayed as an organisation which did not value diversity and inclusion, this would be reinforced by not attracting those who wish to push forward the diversity and inclusion agenda. He advised that change could happen best through persuasion, leadership and rationale rather than through briefing the media.

It was also discussed how it could be useful to have a report looking at the qualitative data of media output with a strategic look at key messaging with trend analysis and comparators to last year. However, Members heard that there would be a significant cost to this work and so the suggestion was not supported.

Finally, a Member asked the Director of Communications to look into consolidating the City Corporation and City of London Police weekly press cutting emails.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

10. **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.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

11. **EUROPEAN UNION (WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT) ACT 2020**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Remembrancer updating Members on the EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Act 2020, which received Royal Assent on 23rd January 2020.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

12. INNOVATION & GROWTH UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth providing Members with highlights of the key activity undertaken by the Innovation & Growth Directorate (IG) since its last meeting.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

13. WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM, DAVOS, 21-24 JANUARY

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth concerning the Lord Mayor and Chair of Policy and Resources' attendance at the World Economic Forum's annual meeting in Davos from 21 – 24 January.

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

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 3 December 2019 were approved.

18. NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX: EPPING FOREST EVENTS TENDER

The Sub-Committee received an appendix to be read in conjunction with Item 5: Epping Forest Events Tender.

19. BEECH STREET

The Sub-Committee received an oral update of the Director of the Built Environment.

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

There were no questions.

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 4.30 pm

Chairman

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