

Committee:	Date:
Policy & Resources Committee	24 September 2020
Subject: Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report Author: Greg Moore	

Summary

This report advises Members of actions taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b) since the last meeting.

Recommendation

That Members note the actions taken since the last meeting of the Committee.

Main Report

1. Since the last meeting of the Committee, approval was given to several matter under urgency procedures or delegated authority arrangements, pursuant to Standing Order No. 41, as follows:-

Appointments to the Investment Committee

2. At its meeting on 9 July 2020 it was proposed that, owing to the timescales arising from the coronavirus pandemic and the Court of Common Council's decision to undertake its Annual Appointment of Committees at its meeting on 16 July 2020, the Policy & Resources Committee should make its eight appointments to Investment Committee in advance of the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 24 September 2020. This would enable the Investment Committee to meet ahead of the summer recess and appoint the Financial, Property and Social Investment Boards for the ensuing year. This proposal was agreed, with authority delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, to make the appointments to Investment Committee following an electronic indicative ballot.
3. Subsequently, the vacancies were advertised to the Court of Common Council on Friday 10 July 2020, with Members invited to express their interest in the appointments and submit any supporting statements by 5pm on Thursday 16 July 2020. Members of the Investment Committee were also advised, with those Members appointed by Policy & Resources Committee invited to express their interest in being reappointed.
4. Following the deadline for expressions of interest on 16 July 2020, an electronic ballot of eleven candidates for the eight appointments was circulated to Members of the Policy & Resources Committee, inviting Members of the Committee to submit their votes by 12noon on Monday 20 July 2020. Following this deadline, the votes were counted by the Town Clerk, scrutinised by Sheriff Christopher

Hayward, Chief Commoner Deputy Brian Mooney, and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.

5. Arising from the results of the electronic indicative ballot, it was recommended that Shravan Joshi, Tijs Broeke, Anne Fairweather, Alderman Prem Goyal, Dhruv Patel, Deputy Tom Sleigh and Michael Hudson be appointed to Investment Committee on behalf of the Policy & Resources Committee.
6. There was a tie for the eighth position between Karina Dostalova, Tom Hoffman and Edward Lord. Edward Lord subsequently withdrew and a re-ballot of the two remaining candidates was undertaken, after which, Deputy Tom Hoffman was appointed.

COVID-19 Fund Bid – Maintenance of the Brakespear Mortuary

7. As part of the City Corporation's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, it was agreed that a COVID-19 Contingency Fund be established to support the business continuity arrangements required to enable the organisation to continue its activities as best as it could during this period.
8. Criteria for eligible bids and a reporting framework were established, with it agreed that bids for monies from the fund of up to £100k be delegated to the Town Clerk or the Head of the COVID-19 Gold Group for approval; spend between £100k and £200k would also require agreement of the Chamberlain or Deputy Chamberlain; and spend over £200k would require approval from the Policy and Resources Committee.
9. In late July, a bid for £44,000 from this Fund was submitted, to cover the City of London Corporation's share of the monthly cost of maintaining the Brakespear Mortuary for a period of up to four months. The overall costs, includes security and supervision at the mortuary, are shared across the 32 London Boroughs and the City at a cost of £11k each per month. Its continued maintenance is integral to ensuring the resilience of mortuary capacity in London, particularly in the event of a second wave of infections.
10. Whilst bids of this level would not normally be subject to Committee approval (noting the approved delegations and thresholds for decision-making set out above), in view of the Town Clerk's involvement in the submission of this bid, it was considered in the interests of good governance to seek Member approval.
11. With the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee not until 24 September, approval was sought and obtained to commit the funds to provide for the next four months of the City's contribution, to ensure provision was maintained as lockdown measures were eased.

COVID-19 Fund Bid for Homelessness Provision Support

12. In addition to the aforementioned bid for Mortuary provision, a further bid for monies from the COVID-19 Fund was also submitted in late July. This was a bid for £261,400 from the Department for Community & Children's Services, to fund the ongoing availability of accommodation for rough sleepers during the recovery phase of the response to COVID-19.

13. As part of the response to COVID-19, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government had issued a directive to all Local Authorities within England to operate on an 'everyone in' principle. This involved ensuring that all individuals found rough sleeping within the Square Mile be offered accommodation.
14. In order to make up the significant shortfall in available accommodation, the City had procured space in hotels on an ad hoc commercial basis, along with procuring the sole use of a youth hostel (YHA) by St Paul's Cathedral. In addition to this, it was necessary to fund an increase in welfare provision, along with ensuring that an increase in safe, accessible, support was enacted by providers.
15. As the nation moved into the recovery phase it was necessary to maintain levels of accommodation to ensure that a return to the streets could be avoided, to help reduce the risk of an re-emergence of COVID-19 within the rough sleeping population during the easing of lockdown measures. There were also a number of associated support needs beyond direct housing costs that required funding, including to prevent antisocial behaviour/other risky behaviours towards self and others, and to fund the costs associated with additional commissioning and project management support.
16. The use of YHA to support the rough sleeping population in emergency accommodation had been in place since April and now needed to be extended under a new lease arrangement. As the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee was not until 24 September and the new lease needed to be agreed prior to that date, urgency approval was sought and an allocation of £261,400 approved.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) – Consultation Response

17. At the June 2020 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, a resolution was received from the Property Investment Board. This resolution noted that HM Treasury were due to consult on the PWLB's future lending terms and asked Policy & Resources to consider that an appropriate submission responding to the consultation be made in due course.
18. London Councils was submitting a response on behalf of London's local authorities which argued comprehensively on a number of key concerns. It is the City Corporation's custom and practice to only submit an individual response if there are particular issues to be raised for the Corporation, or if it is felt appropriate in order to support by strength of feeling the London Councils response.
19. In this instance, following an assessment of the consultation document and the proposed London Councils response, it was felt there were two key points not addressed that could cause the City Corporation significant problems and on which it should comment on, namely:
 - The current proposals, if not clarified, could preclude the City from borrowing from the PWLB if any part of the capital programme includes commercial investment – e.g. commercial office space at Fleet Street development.

- Any reduction in access to low PWLB rates was likely to influence the market rate we could secure for any future City Fund private placement.
20. As these points were not covered by the response from London Councils, a covering letter was drafted, supporting the London Council's response, but also highlighting these two key issues, which it was proposed be submitted to the consultation on behalf of the City Corporation.
 21. Because the submission deadline was Friday 31 July, urgency approval was sought and obtained to facilitate the return of a response by that deadline.

Supplementary City Premium Grant Funding 2020/21

22. At its meeting on 11 June 2020, the Policy & Resources Committee discussed the significant learning loss anticipated across City schools as a consequence of COVID-19 and the potential allocation of additional City Premium Grant funding to mitigate this issue. The Education Board was requested to consider funding options and the Policy & Resources Committee agreed that any funding options proposals should be under urgency procedures if appropriate.
23. In considering this matter at its meeting on 23 July 2020, the Education Board endorsed a proposal for one-off supplementary City Premium Grant funding totalling £330k to be distributed to City Corporation sponsored and co-sponsored academies and that this be apportioned based on the number of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium funding to ensure that support was targeted towards the most disadvantaged pupils.
24. As this supplementary grant would be funded from the Policy Initiative Fund, there was a need for Policy & Resources Committee to approve the proposed funding. This was originally intended to be presented for approval to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 24 September 2020; however, it was identified there was a need for funds to be in place for the start of the 2020/21 academic year and urgency approval was therefore sought and obtained.

Director-General of the World Trade Organisation

25. The City of London Corporation was approached to consider whether it could give support for the UK's candidate for the position of Director-General of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The UK candidate is Dr Liam Fox MP, formerly Secretary of State for International Trade for which there is broad support across the UK for his candidature.
26. The approach for the City Corporation to give support for Dr Liam Fox MP arose in meetings several weeks after the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee (9 July). The next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee (24 September) was to take place several weeks after the next stage in the WTO selection process, which was to begin on 7 September.
27. Supporting Dr Fox's candidacy for next Director-General of the WTO seemed an appropriate action considering that there was broad support across the UK for his candidature and given the extensive work the City Corporation do with government and promoting trade.

28. Approval was, therefore, granted for the City of London Corporation to support the candidacy of Dr Liam Fox MP for Director-General of the World Trade Organisation.

Revised Capital Funding Update for the Transportation Response to COVID19 Phase 3 and COLPAI Temporary Accommodation

29. At its meeting on 9 July, the Resource Allocation Sub Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain setting out three new funding bids which had been submitted outside of the annual process for 'in principal' allocation of £2.752m from City Fund and City's Cash resources.
30. These three bids were:-
- (i) Transportation response to Covid-19 Phase 3 – up to £568.5k (City Fund)
 - (ii) COLPAI Temporary Accommodation additional costs £283.1k (City's Cash)
 - (iii) Wanstead Flats Artificial Grass Pitches £1.9m (City's Cash)
31. During particular discussion in relation to the Artificial Pitches scheme, Members expressed a wish to understand which schemes or projects would need to be re-prioritised to allow for the funding to be made available.
32. Members asked for the Chamberlain to undertake further work to make clear the impact that approving these bids would have, and for the revised report to be considered under delegated authority.
33. This report was updated and circulated to Members of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee on 17 July 2020. However, following circulation, it became clear that further work was needed on the Artificial Pitches proposal.
34. Approval was, therefore, provided for the first two schemes, whilst further discussions took place to finalise proposals to Members for the Wanstead Flats Artificial Grass Pitches bid.

Consultative Exercise on Historic Items connected to Racism & Slavery

35. The Tackling Racism Taskforce (TRT) was set up in June 2020 and tasked to consider what the City of London Corporation currently did to tackle racism in all its forms and to assess whether any further action could be undertaken to promote economic, educational, and social inclusion through our activities, including any historical issues with a view as to how we might respond to them.
36. At the Tackling Racism Taskforce's meeting on 13 July 2020, it was felt that work on its Culture strand should be prioritised and particularly to consider what action to take, if any, on problematic statues, landmarks and street names linked to racism and slavery. Focused consideration on a public consultative exercise on the matter was then discussed at its meeting on 24 July 2020.
37. The Taskforce impressed the importance of carrying this work out at pace considering the current climate, and public opinion, and felt that a three-month

consultative exercise starting in early September allowed for optimal time for stakeholders to respond. As the next meeting of Policy and Resources Committee would not take place until 24 September 2020, approval to start work on a consultative exercise on historic items connected to racism and slavery in the City was sought under urgency procedures to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources.

38. The 'consultative exercise' would launch for 12 weeks beginning on 1 September 2020 to help determine the future suitability for the continued display of items within the City of London and throughout the City of London's holdings that retain connections to racism and slavery. The proposal for the framework of this exercise was shared with members of the TRT on 10 August 2020. The proposal identified the objectives, the methodology, the timeframe and communication requirements of the exercise.
39. This 'consultative exercise' was to be open to members of the public and City of London Corporation staff. The findings of this exercise would help inform the final formal recommendations of the TRT to Policy & Resources Committee and Establishment Committee, due in December 2020.
40. Approval was granted to agree that the City of London Corporation launch a 12 week 'consultative exercise' to examine the future suitability for the continued display of historic items, symbols or names, which are either located in the City of London or within the City of London's holdings, that retain connections to racism and slavery.

Revisions to Standing Orders 29(4) and 30(5), Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council, (Election of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen)

47. Standing Orders 29(4) and 30(5) required the committee clerk to call out the list of members of a committee ahead of the election of each committee's Chairman and Deputy Chairman each year, at the committee's first meeting. Although this had been the practice for many years, the process delayed the elections unnecessarily, especially when uncontested, and there were other ways in which Members could be made aware of who is/is not eligible to stand for either position.
48. On the basis that the existing practice was unnecessary, and some Members had suggested that a more efficient approach to the election procedure be adopted, the a revision to Standing Orders was proposed, removing the explicit requirement to call out the list of names at meetings.
49. Operationally, a mechanism for notifying Members of each Committee regarding their eligibility ahead of the meeting would be introduced and officers would carefully monitor which Members put themselves forward for nomination, to ensure that only those that are eligible can be duly elected.
50. Approval was granted and the revisions to Standing Orders 29(4) and 30(5) were made, following the further approval of the Court (also under urgency procedures).

Bill for Act of Common Council – City Elections

51. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak in the United Kingdom, Her Majesty's Government passed legislation to postpone various elections, including local government elections in England due in May 2020, until May 2021. The provisions of this legislation do not apply to the City of London Common Council elections (referred to in this report as "City elections" due in March 2021).
52. Given the national position, the uncertainty about the length of time current restrictions will need to be maintained, the City Corporation's inability to contact or engage with the electorate and businesses for registration purposes, and the effects this will have on the completion of the Ward List (particularly in terms of accuracy and increased numbers), the Policy and Resources Committee, at its July 2020 meeting, agreed to recommend to the Court the rescheduling of the March 2021 all-out Common Council elections until March 2022.
53. In order to effect the change of date, a Bill for an Act of Common Council is required. In accordance with Standing Order No. 46, the terms of the Bill must be considered by the appropriate Committee and be settled by the Recorder of London before it can be submitted to the Court of Common Council for its first, second and third reading. The terms of the Bill were, therefore, drafted in accordance with the wishes of the Committee and presented for consideration under urgency procedures, to expedite their timely submission to the Court in September.

Pan-London Mortuary Provision

54. As part of planning and mitigation activity for a potential second wave of COVID-19 cases and deaths, arrangements needed to be put in place to secure pan-London mortuary provision.
55. The City of Westminster and the London Borough of Camden had agreed to oversee these arrangements on behalf of all London boroughs; however, as a shared responsibility, they had all asked for all London boroughs and the City of London Corporation to show commitment to this work by signing a legal agreement underpinning the proposed arrangements for future pan-London mortuary provision, along with the breakdown in costs for each authority.
56. Under urgency in July 2020 (see paragraphs 7-11 of this report), the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, had already approved an allocation of £44,000 from the COVID-19 Contingency Fund, to meet the costs of maintaining Brakespear Mortuary for the next four months. Not all of this allocation would be needed if these new arrangements were implemented, so it was recommended that the balance was allocated to pay for this pan-London provision.
57. With the next meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee not until 24 September, approval was sought and obtained for the City of London Corporation to sign the inter-authority legal agreement concerning the arrangements for future pan-London mortuary provision, and that £15,566 be

allocated to the London Borough of Camden by 4 September 2020 from the previously approved sum for mortality management.

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