

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Policy & Resources Committee	22 October 2020
<b>Subject:</b> Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Town Clerk	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report Author:</b> 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:-

#### **Pan-London Commissioning Support**

2. The initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic in London saw an unprecedented effort to accommodate those sleeping rough in the capital. To address the complex needs of this cohort, a pan-London Homeless Drug and Alcohol Service was commissioned to co-ordinate and provide support for substance misuse issues. The City of London Corporation was asked to commission and hold the contract for this service on behalf of the Greater London Authority (GLA).
3. As part of this contract, the City Corporation would lead on the development of the specification, gain approval of the governance and oversight group, engage the market of providers, and procure and contract manage commissioned delivery. The City Corporation was recognised as having a track record in the successful delivery of pan-London services.
4. Approval was, therefore, granted for the City Corporation to be named as the lead commissioner for pan-London drug and alcohol services, as set out in the bids to Public Health England.

#### **UK Legal Services - Prospect Magazine - Bingham Centre**

5. Funding was sought from the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF) to co-sponsor a report to be prepared by Prospect Magazine in conjunction with the Bingham Centre and international law firm Jones Day, on the Rule of Law on how to safeguard the UK's legal excellence.

6. The publication would include an article provided by the City Corporation on London as a centre for dispute resolution. The Centre had asked if the City Corporation would act as a co-sponsor at a cost of £7,500 and it was proposed that this be met from the Policy Initiative Fund (PIF), which had an uncommitted balance of £604,582.
7. The next meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee was not taking place until 22 October 2020. The report was due to be published later this Autumn and work by Prospect needed to start before this date as the report, together with the City's sponsorship of it (if confirmed), were due to be announced at a virtual meeting on 6 October.
8. Approval was subsequently granted for funding of £7,500 from the Committee's 2020/21 Policy Initiatives Fund, categorised under Promoting the City and charged to City's Cash to enable the City to co-sponsor a forthcoming report on UK legal services.

**Appointments to Sub-Committees, etc.**

9. At its meeting on 24 September 2020, the Policy & Resources Committee considered appointments to its various sub-committees and working parties, as well as to other bodies to which it has appointment rights. In order to minimise disruption within the meeting, it was agreed that, where a contest in respect of particular vacancies existed, an electronic ballot process would be conducted after the meeting, with the appointments then confirmed pursuant to the results of the ballot process.
10. Ballot papers were subsequently circulated and Members asked to submit their votes by Monday 28 September. The results of the ballots were circulated by emails and appointments confirmed as follows:
  - **Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee:** Tijs Broeke; Karina Dostalova; Anne Fairweather; Alderman Tim Hailes; Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark.
  - **Resource Allocation Sub-Committee:** Tijs Broeke; Karina Dostalova; Anne Fairweather; Shravan Joshi; Alderman Ian Luder; Deputy James Thomson.
  - **Culture Mile Working Party:** Tijs Broeke; Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark; Judith Pleasance; Jeremy Simons.
  - **Education Board:** Tijs Broeke.
  - **Capital Buildings Committee:** Peter Bennett; Deputy Keith Bottomley.
11. Whilst there was initially a contest for the Projects Sub-Committee, Deputy Keith Bottomley subsequently withdrew his name from nomination, instead taking his place on the sub-committee in the room reserved for one of the Deputy/Vice Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee. The appointed candidates were, therefore, Randall Anderson, Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark, Andrew McMurtrie, and Deputy Philip Woodhouse.

### **COVID 19 Test Site – Guildhall Yard**

12. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the COVID-19 outbreak to be a pandemic. While there is currently no approved vaccine, NHS Test and Trace was launched in England on 28 May to ensure that anyone who developed symptoms or coronavirus could quickly be tested to find out if they had the virus. This would then help trace recent close contact of anyone who tested positive for coronavirus and, if necessary, notified them that they must self-isolate at home to help stop the spread of the virus.
13. Deloitte, who are supporting the Department of Health and Social Care to help accelerate and scale testing capacity for the National COVID-19 Testing Programme, had approached the City of London to provide a suitable location within the Square Mile for a testing site for an initial period of three months.
14. The City Surveyor's team worked with Deloitte on identifying and assessing the suitability of sites for the location of a local testing site within the Square Mile. Following a review of sites against the requirements for a local testing site, only one site – Guildhall Yard – was identified as being immediately suitable.
15. There were no direct costs associated with providing the Guildhall Yard as a testing site. Due to the current lockdown requirements, the impact on hire fees from activities that would have been accommodated in the Guildhall Yard for the three-month period requested, would have been limited.
16. Approval was, therefore, granted for the use of Guildhall Yard and the associated services for a COVID-19 Local Test Site, for an initial three-month period from Thursday 8 October to Saturday 9 January 2021.

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