

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

Tuesday, 17 November 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held virtually at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman) - *in the Chair*
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Dominic Christian
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Timothy Hailes

Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Deputy Edward Lord
Andy Mayer
Deputy Tom Sleigh
Sir Michael Snyder
Alderman Sir David Wootton

In attendance:

James Tumbridge

Officers:

Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Sarah Bridgman	- Communications
Ellen Wentworth	- IT
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerks
Sian Bird	- Culture Mile
Paul Double	- Remembrancers
Giles French	- Innovation & Growth
Sam Hutchings	- Communications
Tim Jones	- Culture Mile
Kiki Hausdorff	- Culture Mile
Nigel Lefton	- Remembrancers
Emma Lloyd	- Communications
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk
Richard Messingham	- Communications
Thomas Regan	- Communications
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk
Paul Wright	- Remembrancers
Chloe Rew	- Town Clerks

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Catherine McGuinness (the Chair). The Deputy Chairman, Sheriff Christopher Hayward, chaired the meeting.

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 16 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

A question was asked about who makes determinations on engaging with activist groups, following on from the discussion at the meeting last time, where the Director of Communications had explained the three tests as a guide for the City Corporation. The Director of Communications confirmed that the tests were used as a guide, and that there would be a number of logistical and tactical issues to consider when deciding whether a media comment from the City Corporation would come from a particular Chairman or from a spokesperson. Various Chairmen on the call confirmed that they and officers had always worked collaboratively on these issues.

4. **ELECTION OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

The Sub-Committee proceeded to elect four co-opted Members to the Sub Committee in accordance with its terms of reference.

An indicative vote, ahead of the meeting, had already been taken across eight candidates who had expressed an interest in the vacancies. The results of the indicative vote was read out to the Sub-Committee, as follows:

Dominic Christian	12*
Simon Duckworth	1
Alderman Prem Goyal	6*
Oliver Lodge	2
Deputy Edward Lord	8*
Andy Mayer	6*
James Tumbridge	4
Mark Wheatley	3

The Sub-Committee confirmed that Dominic Christian, Deputy Edward Lord, Alderman Prem Goyal and Andy Mayer be duly elected for the ensuing year.

5. **CULTURE MILE PRESENTATION**

The Sub-Committee heard a presentation concerning the Culture Mile work by the Culture Mile Manager and the Head of Partnerships and Strategic Projects. The presentation focused on the evolution of the Culture Mile as well as the steps being taken to contribute to a Cultural Recovery, post-Covid. In particular,

Members heard how the team were keen to strengthen its engagement with other London boroughs as it looked to rebuild the cultural and creative industries sector. It was also noted that a paper to Policy & Resources Committee with recommendations for further investment for the Culture Mile would be forthcoming on 21 January.

Members then expressed their broad support for the Culture Mile work, insisting that culture should play a key part in the recovery and what the City can offer. Members also felt there should be further consideration on the funding and governance model around any BID.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The presentation on Culture Mile be noted.

6. PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Remembrancer concerning an update on the Parliamentary Team's activity.

The Remembrancer gave a further oral update on the Internal Market Bill and the Environmental Bill.

The Policy Chair, who joined for this item in between other engagements, updated the Sub-Committee on her engagement earlier that day to appear in front of the Public Bill Committee with TheCityUK. She also mentioned that the MP for the Cities of London & Westminster had been promoting the City of London Corporation's message on the Government's Additional Restrictions Grant.

A Member requested further details on the City Corporation's response to the establishment of a new UK investment office under the Minister of State for Investment, as well as the Chancellor's recent announcement on equivalence. The Policy Chair and the Director of Innovation and Growth underlined that the City Corporation would be working closely with the new Office for Investment, and confirmed that the Chancellor's announcement on publishing a set of equivalence decisions alongside a new framework for taking such decisions in future. Members heard how the City Corporation would urge the EU to issue its equivalence determinations without further delay.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

7. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Communications concerning recent activity of the Corporate Affairs Team.

A Member asked a further question around the budget for next year's party conferences, and there was a short discussion on drawing on the success of the Green Horizons Summit for future virtual or hybrid events. Officers were

asked to bring a paper to a future meeting of this Sub-Committee on the success of this particular event.

RESOLVED, that:

- The report be noted;
- A report outlining the success of the Green Horizons Summit to be submitted to a future meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub Committee.

8. IG MONTHLY PRED UPDATE - NOVEMBER

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning an update on the activity of his department.

Members heard an oral update from the Head of External Affairs concerning the new Taskforce to promote socio-economic diversity in UK Financial and Professional Services. The launch of this work would take place later in the month and would focus particularly on career progression for people from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

9. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION AND IMMIGRATION/VISAS ACTIVITIES

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth detailing information on a new paper, launched in collaboration with EY, which indicates how the immigration and visa system be strengthened.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

10. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION AND TAX POLICY ACTIVITIES

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning information on a private paper that the City Corporation had submitted to Government on tax policy for the recovery.

A Member asked a question about where the City Corporation were positioned around encouraging enterprise, recovery and growth through tax incentives on investment and equity. The Director of Innovation & Growth explained that the City Corporation had encouraged HM Treasury and HM Revenues & Customs to look at the longer-term economic growth, leveraging on what tax incentives were appropriate to do this.

RESOLVED, that:-

- The report be noted.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

13. 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
14

Paragraph
3

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 16 September 2020 were approved.

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

There were no questions.

16. 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 4.27 pm

Chairman

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