

Committee: Policy & Resources Committee – for information	Date: 06 May 2021
Subject: Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	See Background Reports
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	See Background Reports
If so, how much?	See Background Reports
What is the source of Funding?	See Background Reports
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	See Background Reports
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Greg Moore, Town Clerks	

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

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

- 1. Amendments to Terms of Reference: Barbican Centre Board and Markets Committee**
- At the March 2021 meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, delegated authority was granted to consider two proposed changes to committee terms of reference, prior to submission to the Court of Common Council on 15 April 2021.
- The first of these related to the Barbican Centre Board, which had indicated it was likely to seek permission to be able to appoint a second Deputy Chairman from amongst its external Members (in a manner akin to the practice adopted by the Audit & Risk Management Committee). This request was subsequently submitted and, in view of the indicative support provided by the Committee, was approved under delegated authority to facilitate its submission to the Court, where it was also approved.

4. The second of these requests related to the Markets Committee, which was seeking a new entry to its Terms of Reference to articulate its role in terms of input to the Markets Consolidation Programme. A form of wording was agreed following discussion between the respective Chairs of the two Committees and submitted to the Court, where it was also approved.

Address of Condolence to The Sovereign from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons

5. Following the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, in keeping with precedent a special meeting of the Court of Common Council had been called. This meeting was to facilitate the consideration of an Address of Condolence to The Sovereign, as is customary in such circumstances.
6. The Policy & Resources Committee's approval to submit the Address to the Court was required pursuant to Standing Order 6(4) and urgent consideration was granted to allow for the Address to be submitted to the Court at a special meeting on 15 April, such that it might be presented to the Sovereign within an appropriate timeframe.

Mental health and wellbeing funding

7. The COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdowns since March 2020 had resulted in increases in levels of anxiety, stress, and mental health concerns in City of London Academies Trust (CoLAT) schools. Available budgets did not have contingency funding to provide the additional support required and it was considered critical to deliver the level and scope of specialised support required to those in need. The areas where the CoLAT schools are located had experienced some of the highest rates of Covid-19 infections, hospitalisations, and loss of life, and in one school, for example, over half of the pupils had lost a direct family or community member.
8. Additional funding to support mental wellbeing activities in CoLAT schools was, therefore, sought as a matter of priority and a decision was needed urgently to enable CoLAT and schools to put in place the necessary plans and resources for the return of students after the Easter break. Funding of £320,000 was consequently approved, to be drawn down from the Covid Contingency Fund, conditional on the understanding that there would be additional specified contributions from CoLAT reserves and from the schools themselves.

City Corporation contribution to London Tourism Recovery Marketing

9. Approval was sought to a request from the London Tourism Recovery Board for £50,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund towards a marketing campaign that sought to drive visitor footfall to central London this summer and, in so doing, retain and support jobs across its leisure sector.
10. The focus of the work was on domestic tourism and complemented work already being undertaken by the City Corporation's Cultural and Visitor Development team with City BIDs and Business Partnerships, to win visitors back to the Square Mile.

11. A decision was required ahead of the next meeting on 6 May to enable activity to begin with immediate effect, noting that London was significantly behind other major cities in tapping UK visitor markets and that data showed that domestic holidaymakers seeking overnight summer breaks in London traditionally started booking from March.

[Background documents available on request]

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