

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 6 May 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held via Microsoft Teams and live-streamed at <https://youtu.be/4FEH68msL98> on Thursday, 6 May 2021 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair)
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Vice-Chairman)
Deputy Tom Sleigh (Vice-Chair)
Rehana Ameer
Nicholas Bensted-Smith (Ex-Officio Member)
Tijs Broeke
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather
Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Caroline Haines
Deputy Wendy Hyde (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Shravan Joshi
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Alderman Ian Luder
Jeremy Mayhew
Andrew McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Deputy Andrien Meyers
Deputy Brian Mooney (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Alastair Moss (Ex-Officio Member)
The Rt Hon. the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell (Ex-Officio Member)
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson (Ex-Officio Member)
Mark Wheatley
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Sir David Wootton
Tracey Graham (Ex-Officio Member)
Ruby Sayed (Ex-Officio Member)

In attendance

Randall Anderson
Helen Fentimen
Graeme Harrower
Alderman Sir Roger Gifford
Ann Holmes
Deputy Barbara Newman

Graham Packham

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Peter Kane	- The Chamberlain
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Deputy Chamberlain & Financial Services Director
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Nigel Lefton	- Remembrancer's Department
Anne Bamford	- Community & Children's Services Department
Deborah Cluett	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Mark Jarvis	- Chamberlain's Department
Lisa Moore	- Chamberlain's Department
Nicholas Gill	- City Surveyor's Department
Eugenie de Naurois	- Communications
Sanja Odedra	- Communications
Lorraine Brook	- Town Clerk's Department
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

2. **MEMBERS DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Committee received the Order of the Court dated 15 April 2021 appointing the Committee and agreeing its Terms of Reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29.

Deputy Catherine McGuinness, being the only Member expressing willingness to serve, was duly elected for the ensuing year.

Thanking colleagues for their support, the Chair took the opportunity to welcome Caroline Haines, Tracey Graham, and Ruby Sayed to their first meeting of the Committee. She also expressed her gratitude, on behalf of the Committee, to departing Members Randall Anderson and Joyce Nash.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY / VICE CHAIRS**

The Committee proceeded to elect its three Deputy/Vice Chairmen in accordance with Standing Order No. 30.

Deputy Keith Bottomley, Sheriff Christopher Hayward, and Deputy Tom Sleigh all expressed a willingness to serve and, being the only three Members expressing such a willingness, were duly elected for the ensuing year.

The Chair reminded the Committee of the provisions of Standing Order No. 30(8), which provided for herself and the appointed individuals to now determine amongst themselves who would take the statutory Deputy Chairman role for the coming year. However, as it was the last year of her term as Chair, it was the Committee's practice at such times for endorsement of the proposed arrangements to be sought, given the likely implications with respect to succession.

Following a clarification around process, the Committee expressed its unanimous support for the appointment of Sheriff Christopher Hayward as the statutory Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

- a) The public minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 8 April 2021 were approved as a correct record.
- b) The public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 March 2021 were noted.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appointment of the Committee's sub-committees, working parties and representatives on other committees.

Members noted and agreed the proposal to hold the Outside Bodies Sub-Committee, Ceremonial Working Party, and Members' Diversity Working Party in abeyance for the coming year and make no appointments, in view of the particular circumstances relating to each. Similarly, it was also agreed that the existing memberships should be retained for the Members' Financial Assistance Working Party, the Tackling Racism Task Force, and the Innovation & Growth Advisory Board, given the current status of each body's activity and the benefits of continuity of membership.

With reference to the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub-Committee, Members noted the requirement to remove the "Economic Development" aspects of that Sub-Committee's remit and endorsed the proposal that fuller consideration of its future was warranted. Accordingly, aside from those changes outlined in Appendix D removing the Economic Development aspects, it was agreed the Sub-Committee should be retained as-is for now pending consideration of alternative options at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the following be approved:-

1. The appointment, composition and terms of reference of the following sub-committees and working parties be approved for the ensuing year, as set out in the report and accompanying appendices:-
 - Resource Allocation Sub-Committee
 - Projects Sub-Committee
 - Members' Privileges Sub-Committee
 - Hospitality Working Party
 - Culture Mile Working Party
 - Members' Financial Assistance Working Party
 - Tackling Racism Task Force
 - Innovation & Growth Advisory Board
2. That the following of the Committee's sub-committees or working parties be held in abeyance for the coming year:-
 - Outside Bodies Sub-Committee
 - Ceremonial Working Party
 - Members' Diversity Working Party
3. That the Public Relations & Economic Development Sub-Committee be held over for the interim as set out in paragraph 14 and Appendix D, with a report on future options requested.
4. Deputy Keith Bottomley and Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark be appointed as Chairman and Deputy Chairman (respectively) of the Projects Sub-Committee.
5. The following Members be appointed as listed to represent the Committee on each of the following bodies:-
 - **Audit and Risk Management Committee:** Marianne Fredericks
 - **Barbican Centre Board:** Anne Fairweather
 - **Capital Buildings Committee:** Deputy Keith Bottomley, Peter Bennett
 - **Education Board:** *Vacancy*
 - **Freedom Applications Committee:** Jeremy Mayhew
 - **Investment Committee:** Anne Fairweather, Alderman Prem Goyal, Michael Hudson, Shravan Joshi, Dhruv Patel, John Petrie, Deputy Robert Merrett, and Deputy Tom Sleigh.
 - **Corporate Asset Sub-Committee:** Marianne Fredericks, Deputy Edward Lord, *Vacancy*
 - **Projects Sub-Committee:** Caroline Haines, Sheriff Christopher Hayward, Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark, Deputy Philip Woodhouse

- **Informal consultation with the Court of Aldermen and the Finance Committee on Mayoralty and Shrievalty Allowances:**
Deputy Edward Lord

6. That the various appointments to the following bodies be balloted on electronically and that authority be delegated to Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve appointments on the basis of said electronic ballot process:

- Resource Allocation Sub-Committee
- Culture Mile Working Party
- Economic & Cyber Crime Committee

8. **OPTIONS TO PROMOTE SUPPLIER DIVERSITY**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain which outlined various options to promote diversity in the City Corporation supply chain and recommended the commissioning of a study to inform next steps.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the funding of £30,000 from the 2021/22 Policy Initiative Fund as set out in the report for research on diversity issues and opportunities broken down by categories of spend.

9. **POLICY INITIATIVES FUND AND COMMITTEE CONTINGENCY**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain which provided an update on those projects and activities which had received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF), the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund, Committee's Project Reserve, COVID19 Contingency Fund, and Brexit Contingency Fund.

It was clarified that, in respect of the recommendation to transfer £500,000 to the COVID Contingency Fund, the Committee's approval was being sought specifically in respect of £200,000 from the uncommitted 2020/21 carry forward of PIF underspend. The remaining £300,000 was the subject of a separate request to the Finance Committee for monies from that Committee's Contingency Funds.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The report be received and its content noted.
2. £200,000 from the uncommitted 2020/21 carry forward of PIF underspend be transferred to the COVID Contingency Fund.

10. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of several actions taken under urgency powers or delegated authority since the last meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its content noted.

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

There was one question:

Letter from the World Uyghur Congress

A Member made reference to copies of an open letter sent by the UK Director of the World Uyghur Congress to the Lord Mayor and Chair of Policy, which had been circulated to all Members of the Committee. The letter concerned the City Corporation's engagement with the government of the Peoples' Republic of China, with particular reference to the recent Parliamentary debate concerning mistreatment of the Uyghur people, with the Member asking if there was any thought as to an initial response.

Responding, the Chair advised that she would discuss a response with the Lord Mayor but noted that the City Corporation engaged with business partners across the world and throughout the year to promote the City and financial and professional services. In doing so, it was guided by the UK Government on how and when to engage with the Chinese Government and the City would continue to seek guidance from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on the current status of relations with China. She added that the Foreign Secretary had recently said the UK was looking to form a constructive and calibrated approach to engage with China, including on climate change and being clear on the values that the UK holds, and the City would continue to take the Government's lead.

Through a supplementary question, reference was made to the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance) agenda, of which climate change was a major part, and the ongoing work with the Chinese government on climate change as part of that. It was ventured that human rights was also a significant part of the ESG agenda and, given the serious allegations regarding humanitarian issues discussed in Parliament, the Corporation should seek to use its position to raise concerns in this regard.

Responding, the Chair advised that the City Corporation condemned all human rights abuses around the world, wherever they were found, adding that its Disaster Relief Fund gave funding to relieve human suffering around the world and help vulnerable people affected by major disasters. She noted that it was for the UK Government to take the lead on many of these issues and the City Corporation should only look to intervene on issues that were relevant to the City and where it was in our interests to do so: the economic links between China and the UK supported well over 100,000 British jobs and UK financial service exports to China were worth £930million in 2019. Given the economic importance of these ties, she reiterated that the City would continue to take the UK Government's lead on engaging with China.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100A(4) 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 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 24 March 2021 were noted.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Hospitality Working Party (HWP) meeting held on 25 March were noted.

In respect of the specific recommendation set out therein for Policy & Resources Committee's consideration, concerning the longer-term plans relating to the Guildhall Yard and the NHS Test and Trace Centre, Members noted that clarification had been provided in the period since the HWP's last meeting.

15. FUNDING OF EDUCATION BY THE CITY OF LONDON

The Committee considered and approved a joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Community & Children's Services concerning the City Corporation's funding of education.

16. GREAT ARTHUR HOUSE - SERVICE CHARGE RECOVERY FOR REPLACEMENT OF CURTAIN WALLING

This item was withdrawn.

17. CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT - EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FABRIC REPAIRS

The Committee considered and approved a report of the City Surveyor concerning a project to repair and refurbish the Central Criminal Court.

18. REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY: CENTRAL LONDON FORWARD

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth which sought delegated authority in relation to a funding bid by Central London Forward.

19. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.

There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 2.40 pm

Chairman

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