

MARKETS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 July 2021

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Markets Committee held at on
Wednesday, 7 July 2021 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

John Chapman (Chairman)	Deputy Robert Merrett
Deputy Henry Pollard (Deputy Chairman)	Deputy Brian Mooney (Chief Commoner)
Matthew Bell	Hugh Morris
Peter Bennett	Deputy Barbara Newman
Mark Bostock	Stephen Quilter
Deputy David Bradshaw	Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
John Edwards	Deputy John Scott
Alderman Prem Goyal	Ian Seaton
Deputy Tom Hoffman	Deputy Dr Giles Shilson
Michael Hudson	James Tumbridge
Deputy Henry Jones	Dawn Wright

In Attendance

Officers:

Jon Averbs	- Director of Markets & Consumer Protection
Donald Perry	- Markets and Consumer Protection Department
Daniel Ritchie	- Markets and Consumer Protection Department
Mark Sherlock	- Markets and Consumer Protection Department
Debbie Howard	- Markets and Consumer Protection Department
Anna Dunne	- City Surveyor's Department
Steven Chandler	- City Surveyor's Department
Andrew Fothergill	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department
Antoinette Duhaney	- Town Clerk's Department
Julie Gibbs	- Markets and Consumer Protection Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Emma Moore	- Chief Operating Officer
Jonathan Cooper	- City Surveyor's Department
Clem Harcourt	- Chamberlain's Department
Paul wright	- Rememberancer's
Lisa Moore	- Chamberlain's Department
Shani Annand-Baron	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Nick Bensted-Smith, Gregory Lawrence, Wendy Mead and John Petrie.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to the following correction to the last sentence of resolution 5:

Delete “was working towards” and insert “had”.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LOG**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk tracking progress on actions outstanding from previous meetings.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted and completed actions removed.

5. **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

The Committee heard oral updates from the Markets Superintendents on the matters set out below.

Billingsgate

1. Coronavirus and Brexit impact – there had been little change since restrictions were eased with steady trade and tenants geared towards supplying local customers/businesses doing better than those geared towards supplying hotels/conference/banqueting/catering.
2. Since the last Markets Committee, the three Market Superintendents had met with the Energy Team to gain an understanding of how energy was sourced and further updates would be provided following a planned tenants liaison meeting.
3. The Lord Mayor visited the Market in June where the peppercorn rent of one salmon that the CoL pays to Tower Hamlets, was presented to the Speaker of the Council.
4. There was close liaison with the Metropolitan Police who had visited the Market and delivered site specific training package called SCan (See Check and Notify) geared towards all front facing roles focussing on how to recognise suspicious behaviour.
5. Committee Members were invited to attend the annual committee visit to Billingsgate Market to be held on 9th September 2021. Invites would be sent in due course and Members were requested to RSVP to the Town Clerk's Office.

New Spitalfields

Trade

Vehicle numbers have remained steady from April to June 2021 but there had been a 15% drop in vehicle numbers compared to the same period last year. It was hoped that vehicle number would increase once all Covid restrictions were lifted on 19 July. Hospitality/event businesses re-opening would benefit catering supply businesses, some of whom were operating at about 30% of pre pandemic levels.

Climate action policy

From May 2020 to May 2021, more than 500 tonnes of food was donated to City Harvest. This equates to 1.2m meals and has offset 1,900 tonnes of Co2 emissions. From January 2020 to Jan 2021, 11.5 tonnes of waste were generated at the market, none of which went to landfill. Waste was repurposed as follows:

- Cardboard and plastic sold for reuse in other industries
- Wood shredded for the energy industry
- Organic matter sent anaerobic digestion facility to create energy
- Fly tipped tyres shredded to make matting for play areas in parks
- Soil from road sweeping is cleaned and reused, oils/slurry is cleaned – water is returned to the water system and oils made into pellets for the energy industry
- Polystyrene treated and used in the clothing and plastic industry.

LED lighting had been installed in all communal areas of the site reducing energy consumption by 10%, resulting in reduced energy costs. Officers were also working with businesses to replace lighting on their premises to further reduce energy consumption.

Rental of empty catering units

Officers were working jointly with the City Surveyors Department to advertise and rent vacant units and there were a number of prospective tenants.

Brexit

There was no significant impact to date but the shortage of HGV drivers could impact on supply chains and this would be kept under review.

Air Quality

The SpMTA had not confirmed their Councils concrete agreement to conversion to electric vehicles but discussions were ongoing with a view to converting to electric vehicles over the next 3 years. A battery bank/ancillary business was also being explored to reduce the number of electric charging points on site as this was a fire safety concern.

Markets Committee visit

Committee Members were invited to the annual visit to New Spitalfields Market to take place on 22 September 2021. Invites would be sent in due course and Members were requested to RSVP to the Town Clerk's Office.

Smithfield

- The Lord Mayor visited Smithfield on 10th June 2021 and met with traders to hear first-hand about the challenges created by the pandemic and the gradual recovery.
- The Committee Chairman and the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection visited the market on 25th June 2021 to observe the challenges for the market and the impact of major projects in the immediate area of West Smithfield. These projects had resulted in road closures, one-way systems, reduced road widths and loading bay suspensions which have had a significant effect on trade and lead to a rise in resident complaints as deliveries and collections have been displaced towards the east area of the Market.
- Members were invited to the annual Committee visit to Smithfield Market planned for 22nd July 2021. Invitations were to be sent out imminently and Members were requested to RSVP to the Town Clerks Office by 17th July 2021.
- Trade was now at 70 - 80% of pre pandemic levels and it was expected that further easement of restrictions on 19th July 2021 would increase trade further. Some hospitality businesses may not experience a full 100% table cover service, thereby potentially suppressing a full recovery to pre-pandemic levels and the full impact of restrictions on trade would not be known for many months to come.
- Car Park income had seen a positive recovery and income was up by £67k (42%) compared to April to June 2020. Income collection would be included in these oral updates going forward.

RESOLVED – That the updates be noted.

6. MARKETS COMMITTEE RISK UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection outlining management procedures in place to meet the requirements of the Corporate Risk Management Framework.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7. MARKETS REVENUE OUTTURN 2020/21

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Markets & Consumer Protection providing an update on the Markets Revenue Outturn for 2020/21.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. **MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT UPDATE FOR 2020/21**

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain providing an update on the Modern Slavery Statement for 2020/21.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

10a Markets Conditions Surveys

Officers reported that the survey reports had now been received and whilst there were no immediate dangers identified, there were several matter across Billingsgate and New Spitalfields Markets requiring attention including and a bid list would be created in order of priority works and a report on the strategy for delivering works would be presented to the Committee over the coming months.

In response to questions from Members, Officers stated that realistic timelines for releasing the draft surveys and preparing the strategy would be agreed in consultation with the Chairman, Director of Markets & Consumer protection and tenants

10b Retirement of Director of Markets & Consumer Protection

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to Jon Averbs given that this was the last Markets Committee meeting he was attending in his capacity as the Director of Markets and Consumer Protection. Members echoed the sentiments of the Chairman and were very appreciate of Jon's dedication and the support that he had provided to the Committee.

11. **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 of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

Item	Paragraph
12-18	3

12. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2021 were approved as a correct record.

13. **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

The Committee considered an oral report from the Superintendents on non-public matters.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items.

The meeting ended at 12.57 pm

Chairman

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