

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 8 July 2021

Minutes of the informal meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held via
Microsoft Teams and livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6dGEIqhSIE>
on Thursday, 8 July 2021 at 1.45 pm

N.B. This meeting was held as an informal one, with the views reached by the approved formally by the Town Clerk after the meeting, in accordance with the Court of Common Council's Covid Approval Procedure. This process reflects the current position in respect of the holding of formal Local Authority meetings and the Court's decision of 15 April 2021 to continue with virtual meetings, with formal confirmation of decisions provided through a delegation to the Town Clerk after the informal meeting has taken place and the will of the Committee is known.

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair)
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Vice-Chairman)
Deputy Tom Sleigh (Vice-Chair)
Rehana Ameer
Tijds Broeke
Marianne Fredericks
Tracey Graham (Ex-Officio Member)
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)
Ruby Sayed (Ex-Officio Member)
Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson (Ex-Officio Member)
Mark Wheatley
Alderman Sir David Wootton

In attendance:

John Chapman
Helen Fentimen
Graeme Harrower
Ann Holmes
Graham Packham

Oliver Sells

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Douglas Trainer	- Deputy Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- The Chamberlain
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Emma Moore	- Chief Operating Officer
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Peter Lisley	- Assistant Town Clerk
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk
Nicholas Gill	- Investment Property Director
Nick Bodger	- Innovation & Growth
Simi Shah	- Innovation & Growth
Lisa Moore	- Chamberlain's Department
James Rooke	- City Surveyor's Department
Mick Bagnall	- Communications
Eugenie de Naurois	- Communications
Sam Hutchings	- Communications
Sanja Odedra	- Communications
Jeremy Blackburn	- Mansion House
Adam Rout	- Mansion House
Emma Cunnington	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Gettleson	- Town Clerk's Department
Simon Latham	- Town Clerk's Department
Greg Moore	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Nicholas Bensted-Smith, Anne Fairweather, Deputy Philip Woodhouse, and the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell

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

Prior to consideration of Item 24, Shravan Joshi declared a potential pecuniary interest and abstained from participation.

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 3 June 2021 were approved.
- b) The public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 May 2021 were noted.

- c) The public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-committee meeting held on 26 May 2021 were noted.

4. **PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and Remembrancer outlining the effect of proposed changes to parliamentary constituencies published by the Boundary Commission.

In considering the report, the following observations were made:-

- Members expressed robust support for the continued link with the City of Westminster, agreeing that this should be advocated for as comprehensively as possible.
- It was cautioned that, in responding to the proposals, the City would need to be mindful of the parameters within which the Review was being undertaken and not respond too simplistically; rather, it would need to articulate alternatives that complied with the requirements to reduce the total number of central London constituencies.
- Several Members commented on the need to advance the strong links between the City and many other boroughs across London, whether through education, charitable, employment or many other routes.
- Members observed the many synergies between the City and Westminster, whether in terms of the nature of the businesses and economic outputs in the areas, the residential make-up, night-time economy, or cultural and historical setting, observing that there was significantly less in common with Islington across all these areas.
- The clear desire of residents to remain paired with Westminster, rather than Islington, was emphasised.
- The economic case for keeping the two Cities together was highlighted as a particularly strong one given the need to recover quickly from the effects of COVID, with Members observing the significant contribution of both Cities in terms of the percentage of the national business rates pool.

RESOLVED: That support be expressed for the continued advocacy for the link between the City of London and the City of Westminster and that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, to finalise the City Corporation's response to the proposals.

5. **CLIMATE ACTION QUARTER 1 UPDATE 2021 & REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Innovation & Growth and Deputy Town Clerk & Chief Executive providing an update on the Climate Action Strategy for the first quarter of year one and seeking delegated authority to act in respect of a number of project approvals.

The Chair advised the Committee of the recent establishment of the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission, to address investment opportunities in net zero. Deputy Keith Bottomley served on the Commission, which was seeking to

leverage City networks to mobilise finance and drive investment into low and net-zero carbon projects across all of the UK's largest cities.

A Member took the opportunity to highlight that the report presented did not cover the totality of work in relation to Climate Action, observing that there was no reference to the significant grant for Public Sector Decarbonisation activities which were detailed more in a non-public report later on today's agenda. Whilst this was perhaps adjacent to, rather than a component part of, the Corporation's own Climate Action Strategy (CAS), it had nevertheless relieved pressures on the Climate Action budget and allowed for other important measures within the CAS to be delivered.

In response to a specific question around capability and the Centre of Excellence referred to in paragraph 20 of the report, the City Surveyor confirmed that this was being treated as a key priority.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The progress made across the programme during the first quarter of year 1 be noted.
2. Authority be granted to the Senior Responsible Officer to mitigate the risk of delays impacting the Net Zero 2027 target.

6. **ADOPTION OF COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGY**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth setting out a proposed Competitiveness Strategy for adoption and confirming the external Membership of the Innovation and Growth Advisory Board (IGAB) and its proposed terms of reference.

Members reflected on the high calibre of individuals willing to serve on the Board and endorsed their appointment as set out within the report. Members also noted and endorsed the proposals at paragraph 15 of the report concerning representation on Innovate Finance and Bloomberg's Climate Finance Leadership Initiative.

With reference to a specific query concerning two further individuals to be recommended for appointment, it was clarified that the names were not yet in a position to be made public due to ongoing processes with relevant employers as to prospective participation.

During discussion, Members commented on the need to ensure that competitiveness was understood globally within the context of the strategy, so as to help define what differentiated the City and how success would be defined and measured as a result. The importance of developing rigorous key performance indicators was stressed in particular, together with the need to integrate the strategy more closely with other top-level Corporation strategies. Members also highlighted the evolving nature of the asset management market and the potential opportunities for engagement with developing markets.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The adoption of the Competitiveness Strategy proposed within the report, to guide activity on the agenda for the Corporation between 2021-2025, be approved.
2. The various external appointments to IGAB set out within the report be approved, together with its terms of reference.
3. The appointments set out at paragraph 15 of the report be endorsed.
4. The development of an Assets Under Management Campaign be noted, with an allocation of £120,000 from Policy Initiatives Funding to support its activities also approved.

7. **CULTURE AND COMMERCE TASKFORCE: FUELLING CREATIVE RENEWAL - CITY CORPORATION ACTION PLAN AND PROGRAMME OUTLINE**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth presenting the City Corporation's action plan for its Culture and Commerce Taskforce's *Fuelling Creative Renewal programme* and seeking £20,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF) in support of the delivering five City-Corporation-led projects.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

1. Approve the City Corporation's *Fuelling Creative Renewal* action plan as detailed within the report, noting that five projects identified as appropriate for the City Corporation to lead will have significant involvement and/or leadership from across the City Corporation departments and teams, and the five projects that will not be pursued by the City Corporation.
2. Approve £20,000 in support of incubator funding to initiate the deliver and evaluation of the five City-Corporation-led projects, to be taken from your PIF in the 2021/22 financial year categorised as 'Promoting the City' and charged to City's Cash.

8. **GOVERNANCE REVIEW: PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee considered a resolution of the Planning and Transportation Committee which outlined proposal relating to Panel arrangements for the consideration of future planning applications.

Noting the request made by the Planning & Transportation Committee, which was opposed to the notion of geographic panels and had asked for the reconsideration of alternative Panel arrangements, the Committee agreed that it would be prudent to explore alternatives, particularly given the strength of feeling expressed in some quarters.

During discussion, there was a suggestion that panels with some sort of fixed membership could be explored, as this would ensure those serving could develop greater knowledge of the areas in which they were making decisions. Another Member urged caution in relation to any geographic basis for panels, given the views expressed by Planning & Transportation, whilst another suggested that the adoption of panels in any form would be perceived, in some

areas, to constitute a diminution of accountability and representation and would be damaging to the Corporation's engagement with residents.

RESOLVED: That Officers be asked to revisit proposals relating to Planning Panels, noting the opposition to them being drawn on a geographical basis, and that a paper be brought forward presenting alternative options to consider for the creation of Planning Panels and how these might work.

9. TARGET OPERATING MODEL (TOM) CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL PILOT: PROCUREMENT EMPOWERMENT AND CHOICE

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain seeking approval of a pilot proposal offering increased procurement empowerment for City of London School and looking at devolving the right to choose the method and provider of core school services.

RESOLVED: That the proposals set out within the report be noted and that approval be granted for City Corporation procurement policies (such as Responsible Procurement, London Living Wage, Diversity, Climate Action) to continue to be applied to the School's procurement processes despite its empowerment to choose the service and supplier.

10. MODERN SLAVERY STATEMENT UPDATE FOR 2020/21

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain seeking approval of an update to the City Corporation's Modern Slavery Statement for onward approval by Court of Common Council.

RESOLVED: That the proposed policy update to the City Corporation's Modern Slavery Statement be endorsed for onward approval by the Court of Common Council.

11. CAPITAL FUNDING

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning bids for capital funding.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The reallocation of £1.433m be approved, to provide top-up funding for the Guildhall chiller plant replacement project by applying the 'one-in, one-out' approach (as summarised in Table 1 of the report).
2. The schemes summarised in Table 2 of the report be confirmed as being of continued essential priority for release of funding at this time.
3. The release of up to £2.245m be approved for the schemes set out in Table 2 of the report, from the reserves of City Fund, City's Cash, and Bridge House Estates as appropriate, subject to the required gateway approvals.
4. It be noted that, in order to maintain sound financial discipline, a review of unallocated central project funding provisions would be presented in due course.

12. SPORTS ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications providing an update on the City Corporation's sports engagement programme and seeking approval to reallocation of £40,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund to other sport engagement events and initiatives taking place this financial year.

The Chair took the opportunity to inform the Committee that early consideration was being given to potential opportunities around the upcoming Test Series with India later in the Summer. It was also noted that opportunities might arise associated with the England football team, depending on the outcomes of the ongoing European Championships.

RESOLVED: That Members note the progress being made on the City's Sport Engagement programme and agree to the reallocation of £40,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund (previously allocated to Tokyo 2020 engagement) to other sport engagement events and initiatives taking place this financial year.

13. FILM TEAM LIBRARY LOCATION

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Communications concerning proposals for the promotion of filming at City Corporation assets, and in the City more generally.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted in respect of the City Corporation joining the pan-London Location Library for the purposes of marketing its assets for filming purposes.

14. ELECTION ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Communications providing a brief update on the progress made in election engagement since the approval of an election engagement plan for the City Corporation's March 2022 elections.

During discussion the following points arose:

- Assurances were obtained that this activity constituted a corporate priority, with the full engagement of all chief officers and departments where required.
- In response to a specific query concerning electronic voting, it was clarified that to introduce this would require primary legislation and so this was not within the immediate power of the City Corporation.
- The potential for confusion as to registration eligibility caused by hybrid or partial home working was highlighted, with it suggested that clear guidance needed to be issued so that voters and candidates were fully informed.
- Members highlighted concerns around the accuracy of the existing Wardmote Book, noting that this had not been updated for some time. It was suggested that a thorough review was necessary to provide clear guidance on all matters. The Comptroller & City Solicitor confirmed that such a review was underway and would be presented to Members for consideration in the autumn.

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

15. **THINK TANK REVIEW AND MEMBERSHIP, 2021-22**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Communications updating on the City Corporation's political engagement programme with Think Tanks in its efforts at ensuring it was engaging with the most influential organisations.

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

16. **RECOVERY TASKFORCE UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth updating Members on implementation of the recommendations of the Recovery Taskforce report, Square Miles: Future City.

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

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

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain detailing those projects and activities which had received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund, Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund, Committee's Project Reserve and COVID19 Contingency Fund for 2021/22 and beyond.

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

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

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

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

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

There were two questions:

Use of Private Email Accounts

Given recent media coverage of the alleged use of private email addresses by several Government Ministers for conducting official business, a Member asked whether there were any lessons for the City Corporation which could usefully be drawn.

Responding, the Chair reminded the Committee of its previous approval of a Corporate Email Policy for Member and Officer communications, which stipulated the use of Corporation email accounts for Corporation business, with an exception for diary invitations. She recognised the difficulties and inconveniences of managing multiple personal and professional devices and accounts but highlighted the importance of doing so, adding that the IT Team had a range of solutions and could support Members experiencing challenges.

Members made a number of comments during discussion of this matter:

- Although official Corporation business should be undertaken via City Corporation email accounts, it was observed that political emails (related to campaigning and so on) should not be, so Members would need to be mindful of using the right devices for the right activities.
- Whilst cognisant of the need to treat information securely and comply with GDPR requirements, a Member observed that there was a fundamental difference on multiple levels between a Minister of the Crown and a Common Councillor and the sorts of exchanges and information in question. A pragmatic approach should be taken to at least permit low-level simple conversations via private email, as the current system felt tyrannical.
- Other Members echoed this comment, remarking on the need for a more user-friendly approach and suggesting that some clear and practical pragmatic guidance would be welcome. Another Member commented on their experiences elsewhere, where requirements around private email usage were more permissive, arguing that this must therefore be possible.
- The Comptroller & City Solicitor reminded Members of the original report establishing the policy and Counsel's advice on this matter, clarifying that it was not the case that all uses under discussion were unlawful, but that the view of Counsel had been that a permissive policy with various exceptions would be so complicated as to be impractical, which was why Members had opted for a one-size fits all approach as an easier alternative. There was the legal ability to have exceptions to the current policy, should Members so wish, but the development of a mechanism for managing them would be needed and this might be a complicated piece.
- Whilst hearing several Members' call for the existing policy to be explored, the Chair observed that the Government was undertaking a review of the relevant legislation currently and so pursuing any change at this time might, therefore, be unnecessary or premature. She suggested that the current policy and guidance be circulated and, if needs be, this could then be revisited at a future meeting.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Properties Maintenance and Repairs

A Member made reference to recent correspondence circulated in relation to the maintenance arrangements of certain HRA properties. It was observed that housing matters generally were not in the direct remit of the Policy & Resources Committee but that, if the Community & Children's Services Committee wished to submit a resolution requesting additional resources, then it was able to do so and this would be considered in the correct way. The Chair added that she would, in any event, also be replying to the email circulated in due course.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was one urgent item:

July meeting of the Court of Common Council

The Chair drew Members' attention to an email circulated to the Court the day prior, which followed the Government's announcement of the end of social distancing restrictions and work from home guidance. This would have the

effect that current restrictions in place were lifted from 19 July which, in turn, provided the possibility of holding a formal Court of Common Council meeting on 22 July. The view of the Policy & Resources Committee as to whether to revert to an in-person meeting was, therefore, required in order to make a recommendation to the Court (under urgency procedures), in advance of the publication of the agenda next week.

During discussion, the following comments were made:-

- Should a physical meeting be pursued, it was urged that Members be reminded of the importance of taking Lateral Flow Tests prior to coming to Guildhall.
- In response to suggestions of a hybrid meeting, it was observed that this would automatically preclude the possibility of the meeting being a formal decision-making one, as there had been no change to the laws around virtual participation. Various practical difficulties associated with hybrid arrangements for Court were also highlighted, particularly in relation to voting and managing contributions.
- Several Members expressed strong support for physical meetings and, in particular, a physical Court meeting in July, reflecting on the need to align with Government guidance around returning to the workplace and, further, to show leadership in encouraging this return. The importance of having a formal, decision-making Court meeting after such a long period was also emphasised.
- Other Members, while supportive of a return to physical meetings in principle, challenged whether now was the right time for physical meetings given the relatively short notice, the fact many would not yet have had their second vaccination, and the current infection rates potentially deterring people from attending. They argued that it would be more prudent to wait until after the summer recess and that requiring physical attendance at this stage could, potentially, run the risk of disenfranchising a large number of Members.
- Reflecting on the importance of flexibility, Members felt that the current arrangements for committees should be retained at the current time, with the Court meeting treated as a separate one-off arrangement. There would then be an opportunity over the recess period to consider and make an informed decision as to arrangements for the Autumn, depending on the situation.
- It was also urged that efforts be continued in respect of lobbying Government to change the legislation around virtual participation and hybrid meetings for local authority business.
- In response to questions, the Town Clerk commented that a physical meeting would send an important signal to staff around the safe return to Guildhall. He also advised that seating arrangements would be altered to allow for greater distance between Members. Public attendance would also be facilitated but reduced, with the meeting streamed over YouTube in the interests of greater transparency.

- It was agreed that the proposal for a physical Court meeting only in July should be communicated to Members to provide an opportunity for feedback, prior to submission under Court urgency procedures for consideration.

On the wider subject of encouraging the return of workers to the City, the Chair highlighted concerns expressed to her by businesses and trade associations, particularly in relation to employees' reservations over the use of public transport. Members debated whether the Corporation should take a stance around the mandatory use of facemasks on transport and elsewhere but, on balance, felt that this was not an issue in which the Corporation should be drawn, particularly without the benefit of a full paper and more considered discussions.

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Court of Common Council that its meeting on 22 July (and that meeting only, for the time being) proceed on a physical basis, as a formal meeting.

FURTHER RESOLVED: That, pursuant to Standing Order No.40, the meeting be extended.

21. 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 of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

22. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 3 June 2021 were agreed.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Projects Sub-Committee meeting held on 17 May 2021 were noted.
- c) The non-public minutes of the Culture Mile Working Party meeting held on 9 June 2021 were noted.
- d) The draft non-public minutes of the Hospitality Working Party meeting held on 18 May 2021 were noted.

23. COP26

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth updating on future plans for COP26.

24. SPONSORING A GLOBAL GOVERNANCE BODY FOR VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKETS

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth relating to sponsorship of a global governance body for voluntary carbon markets.

25. **PUBLIC SECTOR DE-CARBONISATION SCHEME**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor setting out proposals relating to Public Sector De-Carbonisation Scheme project.

26. **SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS/SECURITY CROSS CUTTING - GUILDHALL, BARBICAN CENTRE, CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT & MANSION HOUSE**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor providing a Gateway 6 Outcome report relating to a Security Enhancements / Security Cross Cutting – Guildhall, Barbican Centre, Central Criminal Court & Mansion House project.

27. **NON-PUBLIC DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED OR URGENCY POWERS**

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

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

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

There was one question, concerning security and safety arrangements on the City's bridges.

29. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**

There was one item of urgent business, whereby delegated authority was sought and granted to consider settlement arrangements and project proposals relating to Finsbury Circus Gardens.

Confidential Agenda

30. **INNOVATION & GROWTH**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning staffing matters.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm

Chairman

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