

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, 8 JULY 2021

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

By virtue of paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

22. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 3 June 2021 were approved.

Matters Arising

Aldermanic Eligibility – Noting that the Legal Opinion on this matter had now been produced and circulated, a Member expressed their concerns as to the content thereof and advanced the view that it had been unfair to ask the Corporation's Law Officers to consider this issue, given the potentially invidious position this placed them in. The Member suggested that further Opinions should be sought from experts in constitutional law.

Following discussion, Members felt that revisiting the subject of this particular Opinion was not desirable. However, it was clear that some of the current documentation and guidance around elections was insufficient and a thorough review of the Wardmote Book was needed, together with a further discussion as to what the Aldermanic Eligibility criteria should be moving forwards. As referenced earlier in the meeting, the Comptroller & City Solicitor advised that a report would be submitted concerning a review of the Wardmote Book as soon as possible.

Guildhall Security – With reference to the question asked at the prior meeting, it was suggested that a number of Guildhall Security posts were being held vacant at present, with the rationale for this queried. The City Surveyor undertook to explore the matter and respond to the Member following the meeting.

- 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 plans for COP26 and seeking approval the City Corporation,

together with the Green Finance Institute, to deliver a Green Horizon Summit (GHS@COP26).

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Endorse the overall ambition and structure of GHS@COP26.
2. Note the budget, staffing and commercial partners.
3. Approve the Steering Board arrangements, as set out in the Appendix to the report, for clear governance of the programme.
4. Agree to review the future of the Green Horizon programme through a paper to the October meeting of the Committee.
5. Note the high expectations to deliver, and the need to re-focus resource.

24. **SPONSORING A GLOBAL GOVERNANCE BODY FOR VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKETS**

Shravan Joshi declared a pecuniary interest in this item and did not participate in its consideration.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth setting out proposals for the City Corporation to become a Founding Sponsor of a new global governance body for voluntary carbon markets.

Members expressed strong support for this proposal, observing that it represented a watershed moment for the City in demonstrating support for an important nascent market which would bring significant investment and employment opportunities to London. Parallels were drawn with the steps taken to establish the City as the key hub for Renminbi trading.

In response to a question concerning funding source, it was confirmed that financial contribution would be met via the Policy Initiatives Fund.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

1. Agree to the City Corporation bidding to become a Founding Sponsor of the new global governance body for voluntary carbon markets.
2. Approve a one-off contribution of £15,000 from the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF) for promotional activities following the submission of the bid and to support the work of the UK Voluntary Carbon Markets Forum (UK VCM Forum).
3. Approve in principle the City of London's support for this initiative of strategic importance for the future of UK-based financial and professional services. Based on initial conversations with colleagues in City Surveyors indicate this will amount to roughly £200,000 (per year for three years from 2022). This would either be sourced from PIF or provided as an in-kind donation from our own property portfolio (supplemented by reduced funding from PIF for maintenance cost/potential remodelling, etc.).

4. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources, to sign off the final nature of the support (outlined at recommendation 3) once finalised.

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

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) and arrangements relating to specific large-scale project under the PSDS Programme, the Retrofit Accelerator Project.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. It be recommended to the Court of Common Council that the City Surveyor be authorised, in consultation with the existing PSDS Project Board and the concurrence of Building Chief Officers Group for matters of spend, to enter into contract for the £7.2m Retrofit Accelerator project when the design is complete.
2. The projects included in the Retrofit Accelerator project be noted, as outlined in the *RA-W Projects* (Appendix 1).
3. The detail relating to the wider programme governance arrangements be noted, as approved by the Committee previously (see Appendices 2 and 3).

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

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor presenting a Gateway 6 Outcome report for a programme of security enhancement works and seeking approval for the closure of this project.

RESOLVED: That:-

1. The lessons learnt from the project be noted, as set out in the report.
2. Approval be granted to close the project, subject to the satisfactory verification of the final account by the Chamberlain and noting that the final outturn cost would be reported back in the event of a significant variation over the estimate of £13,877,741.

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

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of non-public decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency 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:

City Bridges and Suicide Prevention

A Member expressed their significant concerns in relation to suicide attempts on the City bridges and inadequate security and safety arrangements to prevent this, adding that the issue should surely feature on the corporate risk register. During discussion it was noted that the corporate risk register was the responsibility of the Audit & Risk Management Committee; however, in terms of addressing the issue, as this matter was a complicated one which fell across several different areas of responsibility, the Town Clerk was asked to consider an appropriate mechanism by which this could be taken forward.

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

Delegated Authority Request: Finsbury Circus – Crossrail Compensation

The Committee was reminded of a previously approved project to reinstate the gardens at Finsbury Circus, where Crossrail's tunnelling works had resulted in damage. A report was due to be submitted to the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee which outlined Crossrail's settlement offer and the proposed use of said funds for reinstatement purposes and, given the summer recess, it was asked that authority be delegated to consider this report over the period.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chairman, to consider proposals relating to the reinstatement of Finsbury Circus gardens and Crossrail's settlement offer.

30. **INNOVATION & GROWTH**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation & Growth concerning the future structure of that department.

RESOLVED: That the proposals outlined in the report be endorsed, for further to approval by the Establishment Committee.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm.

Chairman

Contact Officer: Gregory Moore
tel. no.: 020 7332 1399
gregory.moore@cityoflondon.gov.uk