

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES) COMMITTEE
Thursday, 29 April 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Public Relations and Economic Development Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at Virtual Public Meeting (Accessible Remotely) on Thursday, 29 April 2021 at 3.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Catherine McGuinness (Chair)
Sheriff Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Karina Dostalova
Anne Fairweather
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Deputy Edward Lord
Jeremy Mayhew
Deputy Tom Sleigh
Sir Michael Snyder
Alderman Sir David Wootton

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Angela Roach	- Assistant Town Clerk/ Director of Members Services
Chloe Rew	- Town Clerk's Department
Richard Messingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Eugenie de Naurois	- Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Bridgman	- Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Phillips	- Town Clerk's Department
Bob Roberts	- Director of Communications
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Giles French	- Innovation & Growth
Jeremy Blackburn	- Mansion House & CCC
Bukola Soyombo	- Chamberlain's Department

Also in attendance:

Sophie Fernandes	- Chair, Licensing Committee
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1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Tijs Broeke.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 4 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

4. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Director of Communications in respect of the Corporate Affairs Update.

In response to concerns regarding the electoral registration process, Members were informed that this matter was a high priority issue and that the Elections Engagement Manager would be giving an update to the Court of Aldermen the following week.

RESOLVED – that the report be received and its contents noted.

5. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Remembrancer in respect of the Parliamentary Team Update. With regards to the regulations for local authority meetings, the government's position to date was that there was insufficient parliamentary time to go through primary legislation.

RESOLVED – that the report be received and its contents noted.

6. **RECOVERY WORK**

Chief Officers were heard in respect of Recovery Work. Members expressed concern regarding recent media coverage regarding recovery and the City's plans for office space moving forward. A primary area of concern was the media coverage in relation to plans to increase residences in the City and what spaces these residences will occupy (including current office space and other spaces suitable for conversion). Members were advised that communications plans were in place, and that further engagement was underway with key stakeholders to ensure that the City retained its reputation as a thriving, internationally competitive centre, paying due consideration to both the residential and business communities. In particular opportunities would be found to clarify the predominantly business nature of the City. The Director of Communications emphasised that recovery work was focused on maintaining strong, sustainable recovery for the City and bringing workers and visitors back to the City whilst taking steps to protect public health. This work was being undertaken by the Recovery Taskforce, Business Recovery Fund, promotion of City reopening events, COVID-19 Business Accreditation Scheme and the City of London Recovery advertising and publicity campaign.

7. **FUTURE REMIT OF PRED**

Members and Chief Officers discussed the future remit and form of the sub-committee. It was noted that as a competitiveness advisory board had been established, it would be beneficial for the new committee to focus on public affairs, communications and sports engagement. Members also considered whether the new committee should be a sub-committee or advisory board. Proposed terms of reference would be presented to members ahead of being confirmed.

8. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

There were no urgent items.

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

11. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2021 were approved, subject to one amendment.

12. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

Questions were raised in respect of recovery.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB-COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting ended at 4.30 pm

Chair

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