



KEAVENY, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

13th January 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)	Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	Ian Luder (Alderman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)	Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Sheriff Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)
John Garbutt (Alderman)	Gregory Jones QC (Alderman)	Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Sheriff Alison Gowman (Alderman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Vincent Thomas Keaveny (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Prem Goyal (Alderman)	Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)	Sir David Hugh Wootton (Alderman)
David Andrew Graves (Alderman)	Susan Langley (Alderwoman)	Sir Alan Colin Drake Yarrow (Alderman)

COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams	Graeme Doshi-Smith	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi	John Petrie
John David Absalom, Deputy	Simon D'Olier Duckworth	Gregory Alfred Lawrence	William Pimlott
Caroline Kordai Addy	Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy	Tim Levene	Judith Pleasance
Munsur Ali	Mary Durcan	Vivienne Littlechild	James Henry George Pollard, Deputy
Rehana Banu Ameer	John Ernest Edwards	Oliver Arthur Wynlayne Lodge	Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest
Randall Keith Anderson	Kevin Malcolm Everett, Deputy	Edward Lord, Deputy	Jason Paul Pritchard
Alexander Robertson Martin Barr	Helen Lesley Fentimen	Paul Nicholas Martinelli	Stephen Douglas Quilter
Douglas Barrow	Sophie Anne Fernandes	Jeremy Mayhew	Elizabeth Rogula, Deputy
Matthew Bell	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks	Catherine McGuinness, Deputy	James de Sausmarez
John Bennett	Tracey Graham	Andrew Stratton McMurtrie	Ruby Sayed
Peter Gordon Bennett	Caroline Wilma Haines	Wendy Mead	John George Stewart Scott, Deputy
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith	Graeme Harrower	Robert Allan Merrett, Deputy	Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Christopher Paul Boden	Christopher Michael Hayward	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy	Oliver Sells QC
Mark Bostock	Tom Hoffman, Deputy	Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, Deputy	Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson, Deputy
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy	Ann Holmes	Hugh Fenton Morris	Jeremy Lewis Simons
Michael John Cassidy, Deputy	Michael Hudson	Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy	James Michael Douglas
Roger Arthur Holden Chadwick, Deputy	Wendy Hyde, Deputy	Benjamin Daniel Murphy	Thomson, Deputy
John Douglas Chapman	Jamie Ingham Clark, Deputy	Barbara Patricia Newman, Deputy	John Tomlinson, Deputy
Thomas Cowley Clementi	Clare James, Deputy	Graham Packham	James Richard Tumbridge
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst	Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones, Deputy	Susan Jane Pearson	Philip Woodhouse, Deputy
			Dawn Linsey Wright

This meeting was held as an informal one, with the views reached by the Court 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 (and subsequently 16th December 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 Court is known.

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.

2. Declarations There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes *Resolved* – That the minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.
4. Mayoral Engagements The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements, including a virtual visit to Edinburgh and inward visits by a delegation of Omani Ministers and a meeting with the Vietnamese Ambassador to the UK.
5. Policy Statement The Policy Chair delivered a statement regarding the ongoing Covid pandemic and the impact of the Omicron variant and latest Government guidance on the Recovery. In particular, she touched on the impact on the hospitality sector, noting that a report would be considered shortly by the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee in relation to what the City Corporation might be able to do to provide further assistance. The Chair also referenced the City Corporation's continued support for Afghan evacuees in the City, as well as the forthcoming City-wide elections, taking the opportunity to place on record her thanks to the Electoral Services team for their hard work to-date.

In response to questions, concerning support for Afghan evacuees, the Chair agreed that she would welcome a contribution being made by the City's International Disaster Fund toward the Disasters Emergency Committee's relevant appeal for aid.

6. Bill for Act of
Common
Council

Bill for an Act of Common Council: Supplementary arrangements for the Presiding Officer at a Wardmote

A Bill for an Act of Common Council, intended to introduce more flexibility into the arrangements for presiding at a Wardmote by allowing a Lord Mayor's Aldermanic Representative to preside where none of the traditional presiding officers are available, was presented to the Court for its first and second reading, together with a report of the Policy and Resources Committee thereon.

Resolved – That the report be agreed to and that the Bill be read a first and second time.

7. **ESTABLISHMENT COMMITTEE**

(Tracey Graham)

3 December 2021

Draft Pay Policy Statement 2022/23

The Court was asked to consider and agree the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 to ensure that the City Corporation meets its requirements under the Localism Act 2011.

Resolved – That the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 be approved, as set out in the appendix to the report.

8. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark)

7 December 2021

Extension to the contract for the provision of E-Services relating to the Pan London Sexual Health Transformation Programme

The Court was asked to approve the recommended procurement strategy to extend the existing contract for the provision of E-Services relating to the Pan London Sexual Health Transformation Programme, with Preventx Ltd, for three years at an additional value of circa £50m. The Court's approval was required as the estimated contract value exceeded £4,000,000, as per Section 16.2 of the Procurement Code Part One.

Resolved – That:-

1. An extension of the contract for the provision of E-Services relating to the Pan London Sexual Health Transformation Programme be approved.
2. A variation to the contract be approved in respect of the duration of the initial extension period, from one year to three years, with a subsequent option of a further extension of one year.

9. BOARDS OF GOVERNORS OF THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL

**(Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith, JP)
(Tim Levene)**

5 January 2022

City Junior School Governance

At the meetings of the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls held on 8 and 10 December 2021 respectively, the Boards agreed formally to the creation of a joint sub-committee to undertake the duties of the Board of Governors of the City Junior School and to make such revisions as required to the Terms of Reference of the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and City of London School for Girls so as to include oversight of the City Junior School.

These recommendations were endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2021, and the Court was now requested to agree minor revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Boards of Governors of the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls to include oversight of the City Junior School.

Resolved – That the proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference of the Board of Governors of the City of London School and Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls, to include oversight of the City Junior School, be approved.

10. Freedoms The Chamberlain, in pursuance of the Order of this Court, presented a list of the under-mentioned, persons who had made applications to be admitted to the Freedom of the City by Redemption: -

Muhammad Arif Anis
Frederick Joseph Trowman
David Robert Boston

an Author
Citizen and Loriner
Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer

Morden, Surrey

Charles Jerome Caminada <i>Martin Henry Charles Russell, TD John Woodruffe Eagle</i>	a Television Company Director <i>Citizen and Farrier Citizen and Shipwright</i>	Chelsea, London
Daniel Stewart Reid Castle <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP Deputy Robert James Ingham Clark</i>	a Financial Services Marketing Director <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Clothworker</i>	Weybridge, Surrey
Dominic Cameron Clark <i>Deputy Philip Woodhouse Michael Hudson, CC</i>	a Student <i>Citizen and Grocer Citizen and Painter Stainer</i>	Leatherhead, Surrey
Julia Anne Cleary <i>Jonathan Martin Averbs Jeremy Lewis Simons, CC</i>	a Local Government Officer <i>Citizen and Fletcher Citizen and Scientific Instrument Maker</i>	Islington, London
Arthur Keith Fitzroy Davis <i>Daryl Newsome David Guyon</i>	a Printer <i>Citizen and Spectacle Maker Citizen and Clothworker</i>	Plymouth, Devon
Thomas James Foxton <i>Timothy Luke Fitzgerald- O'Connor Michael Gunston</i>	a Barrister <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	Southwark, London
Duncan Garrett <i>Donald Henry McGarr Colin David Hellyer</i>	a Computer Technology Engineer <i>Citizen and Basketmaker Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	Islington, London
Ivo Eric Graziani <i>Justin Giles Joseph Morin- Carpentier James Anthony Drabble</i>	a Chivalric Order Officer <i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer Citizen and Art Scholar</i>	Rome, Italy
Flora May Hamilton <i>Deputy Catherine Sidony McGuinness Dominic Gerard Christian, CC</i>	a Business Advocate <i>Citizen and Solicitor Citizen and Insurer</i>	Camberwell, London
Peter James Emory Horton <i>Paul Malcolm Kennerley, RD Peter Ian Dunbar</i>	a Hospitality Director <i>Citizen and Coachmaker & Coach Harness Maker Citizen and Needlemaker</i>	Brixton, London
Bo Jiao <i>Ald. Prof. Michael Raymond Mainelli Elisabeth Mainelli</i>	a Legal Executive and Business Manager <i>Citizen and World Trader Citizen and Mason</i>	Southend On Sea, Essex
Sujan Katuwal <i>Frederick Joseph Trowman David Robert Boston</i>	a Restauranter <i>Citizen and Loriner Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	Charlton, London

Iain Cameron Lochrie <i>Christopher James Caine</i> <i>Alan Robert Brumwell</i>	a Property Developer and Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Maker of Playing Cards</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Crewe, Cheshire
John Derek Lunt <i>Ann-Marie Jeffreys</i> <i>Christopher Michael Hayward, CC</i>	an Event Consultant <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Surbiton, Surrey
Nicola Katherine Lunt <i>Ann-Marie Jeffreys</i> <i>Christopher Michael Hayward, CC</i>	a Teacher <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Surbiton, Surrey
Akaash Alexander Maximilien Maharaj <i>Robert Andrews</i> <i>John A Welch</i>	a Global Organization Ambassador <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Anthony Roland John Martin <i>Deputy Philip Woodhouse</i> <i>Deputy Elizabeth Rogula</i>	a Transport Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Sue Martin <i>Deputy Philip Woodhouse</i> <i>Deputy Elizabeth Rogula</i>	a Secretary, retired <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
Jerry James Nolan <i>Malcolm Alastair Campbell</i> <i>Steven Leslie Batty</i>	a Private Hire Driver <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	St Albans, Hertfordshire
Peter Allen Norton, GC <i>Malcolm Alastair Craig</i> <i>Mark Sutherland Johnson</i>	a Defence & Security Consultant <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	Shrivenham, Oxfordshire
David Charles Pinchin <i>Ald. Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman</i> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	a Charity Chairman <i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	Norwalk, Connecticut, United States of America
Sarah Penelope Sinclair <i>Judy Senta Tayler-Smith</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Livery Company Clerk <i>Citizen and Upholder</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Seaford, East Sussex
Gurdeep Singh <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett</i> <i>William Joseph Browning</i>	an Automotive Technician <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i> <i>Citizen and Glass Seller</i>	Forest Gate, London
Oliver William Theobald <i>Barry John Frederick Theobald-Hicks</i> <i>John James Tunesi of Liongam, The Younger</i>	an Administrative Assistant <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Burgess Hill, West Sussex

Jane Susan Vyse <i>John Anthony Hayton, TD</i> <i>David Laxton</i>	a Primary School Teacher, retired <i>Citizen and Bowyer</i> <i>Citizen and Bowyer</i>	St Albans, Hertfordshire
Carl Jonathan Woodcroft <i>Kenneth William Endres</i> <i>Alan Robert Brumwell</i>	a Musician <i>Citizen and Baker</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Denham, Buckinghamshire

Resolved – That this Court doth hereby assent to the admission of the said persons to the Freedom of this City by Redemption upon the terms and in the manner mentioned in the several Resolutions of this Court, and it is thereby ordered that the Chamberlain do admit them severally to their Freedom accordingly.

11.
Appointments

The Court proceeded to make appointments to various committees and outside bodies:-

- (A) One Member on the **Community & Children's Services Committee**, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2022.

Nominations received:-
Munsur Ali

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Munsur Ali to be appointed to the Community and Children's Services Committee.

- (B) One Member on the **Bridge House Estates Board**, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2025.

Nominations received:-
Jeremy Mayhew

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Jeremy Mayhew to be appointed to the Bridge House Estates Board.

- (C) One Member on the **Hospitality Working Party of the Policy & Resources Committee**, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2023.

Nominations received:-
Michael Hudson

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Michael Hudson to be appointed to the Hospitality Working Party of the Policy & Resources Committee.

- (D) One Member on the **Board of Governors of the Museum of London** for a

one-year term expiring in December 2022.

Nominations received:-

Mark Bostock

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Mark Bostock to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the Museum of London.

12.
Resolutions

*Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy; Ingham
Clark, R.J., Deputy*

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell, on his recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as a Knight Bachelor, in recognition of his services to financial innovation, culture, and wellbeing in the City of London, particularly during Covid-19.

*Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy; Ingham
Clark, R.J., Deputy*

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Jeremy Paul Mayhew, OBE, on his recent appointment by Her Majesty the Queen as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his public and voluntary service.

Jeremy Mayhew was heard in reply.

*Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy; Ingham
Clark, R.J., Deputy*

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Sharon Marie McLaughlin, BEM, on her recent award by Her Majesty the Queen of a British Empire Medal, in recognition of her services to community in the City of London.

*James, C.,
Deputy; Mooney,
B.D.F., Deputy*

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere gratitude of this Court be offered to:-

Karina Dostalova

for her dedication and service to the Ward of Farringdon Within, the City Corporation, and the City of London over the past eight years.

Elected to the Court of Common Council in 2013, Karina will be particularly remembered for her time as Chairman of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, during which time the Committee dealt with a range of contentious issues and strong feelings among the communities who use the public open spaces. Karina's tact, diplomacy and unwavering dedication as Chairman coupled with her good humour and pleasant disposition were crucial in managing these issues and helped to keep Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park among London's top public open spaces.

In particular, as Chairman Karina oversaw the development of the Heath Vision and the Hampstead Heath Management Strategy 2018-2028, which provides the overarching framework for the Heath for the next ten years. Karina also supported the development of crucial capital projects and led a Review to secure the long-term sustainability of the swimming facilities. The recent Covid-19 pandemic has demonstrated the vital importance of our open spaces and their value to Londoners, and we owe Karina a debt of gratitude for her diligent stewardship of

these crucial sites.

In addition to her invaluable work on the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee, Karina has been an active and willing Member of the Court of Common Council who has applied her skills and knowledge across the range of the City Corporation's activities, including tenures on the Policy & Resources, Finance, Planning & Transportation, Establishment, Community & Children's Services, and Markets Committees. We thank her for her valued contributions in all areas of the Corporation's activities.

In taking its leave of her, this Honourable Court therefore extends to Karina its thanks and appreciation for her hard work and achievements over the past eight years, as well as its very best wishes for the future.

*Meyers, A.G.D.,
Deputy; Mooney,
B.D.F., Deputy*

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere gratitude of this Court be offered to:-

Dhruv Patel, O.B.E.

for his dedicated service to the Ward of Aldgate, the City Corporation, and the City of London. Elected to the Court of Common Council in 2013, Dhruv has been an extremely compassionate and proactive Member of the Court, as well as a much-respected community figure.

Having served on a significant number of City Corporation bodies, Dhruv will be doubtless be particularly remembered for his service as Chair of both the Community and Children's Services Committee and the City Bridge Trust Committee.

Under his stewardship, the City Bridge Trust Committee awarded over £55m in grant funding and his innovation and enthusiasm was instrumental in implementing the 'Bridging Divides' Strategy, which included specific major grants of £400,000 to tackle some of the root causes of poverty and disadvantage amongst deaf and disabled Londoners, and a further grant of £400,000 to support digital transformation across the charity sector in London. During his tenure, the Trust also led in establishing the London Community Response Fund, which brought more than sixty funders together to respond to the COVID-19 emergency. Dhruv's many contributions and guidance throughout the pandemic, helping the Trust in its work, helped to change and improve the lives of so many at a time of particular national challenge.

When Dhruv chaired the Community and Children's Services Committee, his commitment to the safety of the City's children was noted in the Ofsted Inspection in 2016, which resulted in a judgement of 'Outstanding' for Leadership and Governance. Dhruv's compassion and diligence and was particularly notable in addressing fire safety issues in housing, following the Grenfell Tower fire. Dhruv's period as Chair established the Social Wellbeing Panel, which he chaired, and secured additional resources to help those who sleep rough on our streets, unaccompanied minors, and to meet growing pressures on the City's adult social care services.

Dhruv's passion for social mobility was a key driver in the City's Apprenticeships Programme, which seeks to maximise opportunities for young people from all backgrounds and abilities. Dhruv always gave his unrelenting support to community development work, particularly in the East of the City. In 2018, his extensive services to social cohesion and equalities was recognised when he was awarded an OBE.

In taking its leave of him, this Honourable Court extends to Dhruv its sincere thanks and appreciation for his all hard work at the City of London Corporation and for his legacy of compassion on the wellbeing of local communities, as well as its very best wishes for the future.

Thomson,
J.M.D., Deputy;
Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That Members of this Court wish to place on record their appreciation for the exemplary service that:-

Ian Dyson, QPM

the 15th Commissioner of the City of London Police, has given after an incredible 38 years in policing. Ian joined at a time when the police wore tunics, there was no body armour, radios were not widely available and there were no mobile phones or CCTV. Furthermore, Members will recognise the historical significance of his career being bookended by the Miners' Strike and the Extinction Rebellion Protests; two totemic social events in the modern history.

Ian joined the City of London Police as Commander in 2010 before becoming Assistant Commissioner 2012 and finally being appointed as Commissioner in 2016. In his time in the City, Ian has done much to make it the safest business district in the world and to ensure that the Force became the specialist for protective security and for fighting economic and cybercrime.

Ian has undertaken to strengthen the City's protective security and counter terrorism capability. In addition to the world-leading Servator programme, Ian oversaw countless counter terrorism operations including the response to the London Bridge terrorist attack in 2017, the other London attacks that year, and more recently the Fishmongers' Hall attack in 2019. Ian's strong personal commitment to the victims of these attacks is unparalleled.

During his tenure as Commissioner, Ian has overseen a significant strengthening of the City's National Lead Force capabilities for economic crime. This included securing increased national and local investment for fighting fraud, expanding the resources available to the Economic Crime Directorate, including creating an Assistant Commissioner for Economic and Cyber Crime for the first time. Ian also worked proactively with his colleagues in the National Police Chiefs' Council to secure the cyber portfolio for the City, which was already an intrinsic part of the City's national role and hugely complementary to the Force's specialisms for protective security and economic crime.

Reflecting on policing when Ian started his career in 1983, Ian has done much to improve diversity, inclusivity and force culture. Recognising that more can be done in this area, crucially he leaves the City with the Force committed to recruiting more

from diverse backgrounds.

Members of this Court, particularly those who have served on the Police Authority Board, City residents, workers and visitors to London, have all gained greatly from Ian's loyalty and dedication to the Force. His unrelenting commitment during a rapidly changing and increasingly challenging climate, has ensured the continued success and improvement to the service provided by our Force. We wish Ian and Fiona a long and happy retirement and good fortunes for the years to come.

McGuinness,
C.S., Deputy;
Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That, following her retirement from the City of London Corporation, this Honourable Court wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation for the work, over nearly thirty-four years, of

Angela Roach

our recently retired Assistant Town Clerk and, indeed, the first female holder of the office.

Throughout her time at the City, Angela proved a model of dedication and discretion, serving as an invaluable resource for the Court both in terms of Governance support and Member Services.

As well as supporting Members in achieving our aims and implementing our decisions, importantly, her role demanded that she challenge us when needed, and manage our expectations when unrealistic. For the betterment of the City, Angela's advice and counsel has been exercised with both great delicacy and an undeniable strength of character.

Given the history and complexities of the City Corporation, Angela's long service at Guildhall and her extraordinary corporate memory proved particularly invaluable. Her experience fed directly into key policies and change programmes, including several Governance Reviews, and as Assistant Town Clerk her expertise also ensured the continued functioning of this Court and its Committees despite the unprecedented situation we found ourselves in as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Amongst many other things, this included the rapid procurement and installation of virtual meeting technology alongside the delivery of relevant training, bringing the Corporation – admittedly in some areas kicking and screaming - into the 21st century, ensuring we were able to continue to provide our democratic oversight in the most trying of circumstances.

We welcome the opportunity to pay tribute to Angela for her significant contributions to the work of this Court over many years and we are united in expressing the hope that she will enjoy a long, happy retirement with Neville and her family – splitting her time between Jamaica and South London - with time to savour many happy memories of her years with the City of London Corporation.

13. Motion

Pearson, S.J.;
Fredericks, M.B.

Motion – “That this Honourable Court resolves that the City Corporation explores the use of City's Cash to fund the acceleration of the renovation of the housing estates which it owns both within and outside the boundaries of the City, so that it

completes this renovation as expeditiously as it carries out non-residential projects like the Fleet Street “Justice Quarter”.

Susan Pearson spoke to introduce the motion, suggesting that the Corporation had, for decades, neglected the maintenance of its own housing estates with renovation works being carried out slowly and with no end date in sight. She argued that, in the meantime, the estates continued to decay, increasing the cost of their renovation and that there was inadequate funding in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) to complete the present five-year programme which was due to finish this year. She recognised that, by law, City Fund could not be used to supplement the housing revenue account, nor could Bridge House Estates. There was, however, no legal bar for City’s Cash being used for this purpose if Members so decided. Whilst she recognised that it was a matter of general policy that the City Corporation did not use the income from the assets of City Cash to fund expenditure which could be met from public funds, the Court had chosen at times to fund or support activities such as the grant funding of academies and the courts element of the Fleet Street project from this source. The Member went on to note that, last year, the Court set another precedent by choosing to use up to £50 million for a pandemic recovery fund for small businesses in the City who she argued had not suffered the same neglect over the decades as City residents. A balance of £37.5 million of this fund was currently unspent and would go a long way to ensuring that the major works programme could be accelerated and effectively managed. The Member underlined that the City Corporation, as a local authority, had a duty to provide decent homes for its social tenants.

Marianne Fredericks seconded the motion, agreeing that the situation with the City’s housing stock was unsatisfactory and that, with costs escalating and projects being delayed, this was a problem that needed to be tackled without further delay. She underlined the need for projects to be better coordinated and combined so as to achieve greater value for money and to expedite their delivery. Alongside already delayed projects, papers for the Housing Management & Almshouses Sub Committee’s meeting later this week suggested that there was a further £30 million of new projects identified by a conditions survey which were currently unfunded. Ms Fredericks suggested that exploring the use of City’s Cash for this purpose appeared to be the only option available to resolve swiftly this growing list of refurbishment projects, bring housing stock up to standard, and give tenants closure.

Members proceeded to debate the motion.

A Member, also the Chairman of the Community and Children’s Services Committee expressed her disappointment at seeing this Motion before the Court prior to any attempt at any form of consultation with herself or her Deputy Chair, or indeed the wider Committee, thereby circumventing appropriate channels. She cautioned against the Court being asked to make decisions on complex matters such as this without any of the relevant material to hand. She suggested that the Motion was being brought based on factually incorrect information or matters being presented out of context and sought to offer so context to the debate, reporting that the City Corporation was investing approximately £95 million in its current housing major works programme to bring homes up to the City standard which was beyond

the decent homes standard applied in other local authorities. She reported that 49 projects had already been completed across the City's 12 social housing estates as part of the programme at a cost of over £26 million. She also underlined that, as the Court was already aware, it was recognised that the originally planned programme would now take longer than the anticipated five years to complete. However, it was expected that the current programme would be completed by the end of March 2025. She reported that there were good reasons for the extension of the current five year programme such as the fact that it had now expanded by over 50% and some £30 million to include additional fire safety improvement works, roofing works, electrical upgrades amongst many other things. It was recognised that some of the works were complex and had taken longer than anticipated to progress which had been coupled with the challenges of recent years and the pandemic and the complexities of carrying out major works on listed buildings such as the grade II listed estate in Golden Lane. It was reported that, wherever possible, works were being co-ordinated to achieve efficiencies in costs and to minimise disruption to residents. At Crescent House for example, roofing works had been incorporated into the replacement curtain walling project which, whilst a sensible and practical way forward, did also come with drawbacks – not least the ability of leaseholders to pay for multiple projects at one time. The Member went on to state that this Motion implied that additional funds from City's Cash would provide a silver bullet and speed up the delivery of the programme however additional funds alone would not resolve all of the complexities highlighted and projects on the works programme were already fully funded from the HRA based on original estimates. It was recognised that funding gaps were always a possibility for reasons beyond the City's control with the Member underlining that this was by no means new and that the City had the normal processes in place to manage these should they arise. The Member went on to conclude that the financial constraints and decision-making challenges faced here were no different to those faced by other local authorities and that Members may wish to ask themselves whether the prospect of deciding whether to utilise private funds not available to other local authorities was the best approach, particularly when there was currently no funding shortfall for this round of maintenance works. She suggested that a better response might be to collectively lobby central Government alongside other authorities to achieve a better settlement for all social housing tenants across London and the nation.

During debate some Members concurred that a lack of resources was as much of an issue as funding, with it suggested that little progress had been made in terms of maintenance of the Golden Lane Estate, for example, since the last election in 2017 despite assurances that the programme was fully funded. It was suggested that the current backlog of works was the result of underfunding and neglect of the City's housing stock which carried not only a reputational risk for the City Corporation but also threatened the mental and physical health of City tenants. Members expressed concern at the fact that the timescale for completing these works could not be set confidently.

A Member spoke on the separate but related issue of fire safety, particularly in relation to the City's five residential tower blocks, and suggested that a strong message ought to be sent back to the Community and Children's Services Committee and its Housing Management Sub Committee to advise that any delay on completing this work beyond March 2023 would not be tolerated for any reason.

He also suggested that consideration should be given, through the appropriate channels, to the £4.2 million cost of these works being met by City's Cash.

The Chairman of Finance spoke to suggest that this Motion was asking the Court to sanction a course of action which he believed would be detrimental to the overall finances of the City Corporation and therefore its ability to support all of its stakeholders. He underlined that budgets were set on the basis of all of the priorities that the Corporation had set for itself. It was also noted that a joint meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Chairs tomorrow would examine budget papers which clearly showed that City's Cash was already overstretched in that the City Corporation was in revenue deficit over each of the five years being forecasted. It was underlined that it was no different in City's Fund, within which the HRA sat. Here, there was a statutory requirement to balance the budget over a five year period which was just possible. City's Fund included general contingencies which deal with financial risks that had not yet crystalised but were the main points highlighted by the mover of the Motion. The Member concluded by stating that he did not believe that these risks needed the immediate action suggested in the Motion. As already highlighted, £95 million has been allocated for these works and the City Corporation was amongst the better half of local authorities in London in terms of housing maintenance. The Member accepted that the HRA could look better and he hoped that this would be the case going forward with additional funds then used to progress the next phase of works. With regard to the COVID Support Fund referenced by the mover of the Motion, the Chairman of Finance underlined that this was a fund of *up to* £50 million. Whilst only £12.5 million of this had been spent, the remainder of the funds that might have been allocated had returned directly to the Capital Projects Reserve Fund from where they had originally been allocated. With regard to other City's Cash support, it was underlined that these had been for general, one-off issues rather than routine support of City Fund – something which he did not believe this Court could sanction and he therefore cautioned against supporting this motion.

The Chair of the Housing Management Sub-Committee spoke to state that she believed that the City Corporation had a programme which should be celebrated and of which Members should be proud. She stated that the two overriding priorities of her Sub-Committee had been to improve the City's housing stock and to provide additional social housing for existing tenants and those on the City's considerably long waiting list. She stressed that the Sub-Committee had been supported in these aims by all of its Members, by its parent Committee (Community and Children's Services) and by excellent Officers who had made every attempt to successfully carry out the much extended plans. She went on to stress that a programme for repairs and improvements costing £95 million for less than 3,000 existing properties demonstrated a considerable commitment to social housing from the City Corporation. Leaseholders would see a considerable increase in the value of their properties and all residents would see an improvement in their living conditions. Whilst recognising that there had been delays, with COVID bringing about its own difficulties in terms of accessing properties and a shortage of materials and labour, she noted that the consultation with residents had been over and above what was required and that the quality of the work undertaken to date had been exceptional. The Member recognised that Golden Lane had presented its own issues as a listed estate but, nonetheless, the Sub-Committee remained determined that its

properties would be improved to a high standard and this was backed by a full, ongoing maintenance programme. She encouraged Members who were not familiar with the City's estates to visit them and reported that new properties were being delivered at York Way and Sydenham Hill with planned improvements and expansions at other estates. Closer to home, she reported that Great Arthur House had been transformed and that the Golden Lane estate now housed a state-of-the-art community centre. She went on to state that the new flats on the COLPAI site would be of the highest quality. The Member reported that, unfortunately, there had not yet been an opportunity to discuss the funding of phase two of the Major Works Programme as this was on the agenda for the Sub-Committee's meeting tomorrow. It was hoped that it may be possible to bring projects forward with external grant funding from sources such as the Corporation's Net Zero Carbon Action Plan, with the Member stressing that talk of these projects was entirely separate to any emergency repairs and maintenance. As already highlighted, the Member concluded that plans were fully funded and stated that she found it unnecessary to decry the City's achievements to make an argument for the use of City's Cash for this purpose.

Lord, C.E., O.B.E.,
J.P., Deputy;
Hayward, C.M.

Motion – That the question be now put.

Upon the Motion being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be carried.

The Mover of the original Motion took the opportunity to respond to points raised during the debate and to sum up. She underlined that she had asked, on several occasions, if this funding could be explored but had seen no progress; hence her decision to bring this Motion to Court today. She went on to state that the reports to be considered by the Housing Management Sub-Committee confirmed the desperate condition of the HRA, adding that, without additional funding, the condition of the housing stock would continue to decay. Despite assurances that the works were funded by the original budget, it was clear to all that costs had escalated since this was set and the Member therefore stressed the need to act now and explore alternative means of additional funding through City's Cash to allow for an accelerated and ambitious programme to complete the renovation of the City's estates and to set the City Corporation up in a position to be able to maintain these with a regular programme of maintenance. She asked Members to support this Motion today and to find a way to be innovative and creative to overcome this challenge facing the HRA or the benefit of the City's social housing tenants, its leaseholders and the Corporation as a whole.

A Division being demanded and granted, there appeared:-

For the Affirmative – 19

ALDERMEN

Graves, D.A.

COMMONERS

Ali, M.	Fredericks, M.B.	Pearson, S.J.
Anderson, R.K.	Harrower, G.G.	Pimlott, W.
Bell, M.L.	Jones, H.	Quilter, S.D.
Bostock, M.	Lawrence, G.A.	Pritchard, J.P.
Chapman, J.D.	Lloyd-Owen, N.M.C.	Scott, J.G.S., Deputy
Fentimen, H.L., O.B.E.	Newman, B.P., C.B.E., Deputy	Tomlinson J., Deputy

Tellers for the affirmative – Helen Fentimen (affirmative) and Deputy Edward Lord (negative).

For the Negative – 75

ALDERMEN

Bowman, Sir Charles	Hailes, T.R.	Luder, I.D.
Edhem, Prof. E.	Howard, R.	Lyons, N.S.L., Sheriff
Estlin, Sir Peter	Hughes-Penney, R.C.	Mainelli, Prof. M.R.
Garbutt, J.	Jones, G., P., Q.C.	Masojada, B.
Gowman, A.J., Sheriff	King, A.J.N.	Parmley, Sir Andrew
Goyal, P.B., O.B.E.	Langley, S., O.B.E.	Wootton, Sir David

COMMONERS

Abrahams, G.	Graham, T.	Merrett, R.A., Deputy
Absalom, J.D., Deputy	Haines, C.W.	Meyers, A.G.D., Deputy
Addy, C.	Hayward, C.M.	Mooney, B.D.F., Deputy
Ameer, R.B.	Hoffman, T. D.D., M.B.E. Deputy	Murphy, B.D.
Barr, A.R.M.	Holmes, A.	Packham, G.D.
Barrow, D.G.F., M.B.E.	Hudson, M.	Petrie, J., O.B.E.
Bennett, J.A., M.B.E.	Hyde, W., Deputy	Pleasance, J.L.
Bennett, P.G.	Ingham Clark, J., Deputy	Pollard, J.H.G., Deputy
Bensted-Smith, N.M., J.P.	James, C., Deputy	Rogula, E., Deputy
Boden, C.P.	Joshi, S.J., M.B.E.	de Sausmarez, H.J.
Bottomley, K.D.F., Deputy	Levene, T.C.	Sayed, R.
Chadwick, R.A.H., O.B.E., Deputy	Littlechild, V., J.P.	Seaton, I.C.N., M.B.E.
Clementi, T.C.	Lodge, O.A.W.	Sells, O.M., Q.C.
Duckworth, S.D., O.B.E., D.L.	Lord, C.E., O.B.E., J.P., Deputy	Shilson, G., Deputy
Dunphy, P.G., Deputy	Martinelli, P.N.	Simons, J.L., O.B.E.
Durcan, J.M.	Mayhew, J.P., O.B.E.	Thomson, J.M.D., Deputy
Edwards, J.E.	McGuinness, C.S., Deputy	Tumbridge, J.R.
Everett, K., Deputy	McMurtrie, A.S., J.P.	Woodhouse, P.J., Deputy
Fernandes, S.A.	Mead, W., O.B.E.	Wright, D.L.

Tellers for the negative – Natasha Lloyd-Owen (affirmative) and Christopher Hayward (negative).

Resolved – The Lord Mayor declared the Motion not to be carried.

14. Questions

*Boden, C.P., to
the Chair of the
Policy &
Resources
Committee*

COVID19 Recovery Fund and support for SMEs

Christopher Boden asked a question of the Chair of Policy and Resources Committee, seeking information concerning the Covid Recovery Fund and the potential re-opening of the scheme.

Responding, the Chair recognised the difficulties experienced by the City's SMEs over the past two years and the noted the support that the City Corporation had been able to provide. She clarified that up to £50m from City's Cash had been authorised to support the Recovery Scheme and noted that approximately £12m had been utilised to date; however, these finds had been reallocated from monies previously earmarked to finance the Corporation's Major Projects and, on the closure of the Scheme, the unspent monies returned to their original purpose.

In response to the questions around the criteria and communication of any new Scheme, the Chair confirmed that the City wished to help as many SMEs as possible and would seek to make as many people aware as possible; however, she also recognised the need to exercise responsibilities around management of the allocation of funds wisely, to ensure maximum effect. Careful consideration needed to be given to ensure the City met its responsibilities. To that end, the Resource Allocation Sub Committee would be considering the matter in detail the following day, with proposals to be considered around the launch of a new Business Recovery Scheme.

Christopher Boden asked a supplementary question, seeking assurance that in any future allocation priority would be given to small and micro enterprises in the City, as they had suffered disproportionately in the pandemic. He also noted the announcement from central government that additional grant monies had been allocated to the City Corporation which must be spent by 31 March, to which he sought confirmation that all such funds would be allocated and spent. Responding, the Chair acknowledged that focus would likely be on small and micro businesses at the discussion scheduled for Resource Allocation Sub Committee but that it would be for the Sub Committee to consider the proposals in detail. She confirmed that efforts would be made to allocate all the funding by the deadline of 31 March 2022 and thanked colleagues across London who had helped petition for a greater allocation for the City, as it the original allocation had been based on residential rather than business population.

Judith Pleasance asked a supplementary question concerning Leadenhall Market, tenants of which required assistance as a matter of urgency. She sought an expeditious decision on the matter and asked that consideration also be given on how the process could be made easier for applicants. She concluded by requesting that any new scheme also be open to previous applicants. In reply, the Chair confirmed that the matter was of great importance and was being dealt with at pace. She agreed that focus would be put on the simplicity of applications and that firms who had applied last year should be encouraged to apply again where eligible.

In closing the Chair cautioned that, with elections approaching, Members needed to

take care in becoming involved too closely with applications, emphasising the importance of the process being entirely impartial given the fact that the scheme involved distributing money to prospective electors.

15. **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Catherine McGuinness)

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Audio-Visual Participation in Meetings and Re-introduction of Covid-19 Protocol

The Court was recommended to note action taken under urgency procedures to allow audio-visual participation in meetings and re-introduction of Covid-19 protocol.

Resolved – That the action taken under urgency procedures be noted.

16. Ballot Results

The Town Clerk reported the result of the ballot taken at the last Court, as follows:-

One Member to the **Policy & Resources Committee**.

	Votes				
	First Round	Second Round	Third Round	Fourth Round	Final Round
Randall Anderson -	9	10	12	17	-
Mary Durcan -	33	34	34	35	43
John Fletcher -	10	10	10	-	-
Paul Martinelli -	15	17	18	22	28
Susan Pearson -	5	5	-	-	-
James Tumbridge -	4	-	-	-	-

With no candidate obtaining 50% of the first preference votes, the candidate with fewest first preference votes was eliminated and next preference votes (as appropriate and where indicated) were transferred. This step was repeated and, following the fourth round of counting, Mary Durcan received a majority of votes cast.

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Mary Durcan to have been appointed to the Policy & Resources Committee.

17. Legislation

The Court received a report on measures introduced by Parliament which might have an effect on the services provided by the City Corporation as follows: -

Statutory Instruments

The Coroners (Inquests) (Amendment) Rules 2021 No. 1379

This statutory instrument amends the standard form for recording an inquest into a death under the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. The amendment reflects a recent decision of the Supreme Court, which confirmed that the civil rather than criminal standard of proof is required for the short form conclusions of “unlawful killing” and “suicide”. This affects the services of the City of London Coroner’s Court and the work of the Senior Coroner and two

Assistant Coroners, who are appointed by the Corporation to investigate reported deaths within the Square Mile.

The National Security and Investment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 2 and Transitional and Saving Provision) Regulations 2021 No. 1465

These Regulations bring into force all provisions of the National Security and Investment Act 2021 that are not already in force. The Act provides for persons to notify the Secretary of State about acquisitions that constitute 'trigger events' (i.e. that might raise national security concerns) and to apply for retrospective validation of a notifiable acquisition. The Regulations also make transitional and saving provision.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (England) Regulations 2021 No. 1340

These Regulations list places where members of the public are required to wear face coverings, other than in certain limited cases. They also require businesses in places where wearing a face covering is required to display notices giving information about that requirement, and prohibit persons carrying on business in specified locations from preventing anyone from wearing a face covering, except in limited circumstances. The effects of these Regulations were due to cease on 20th December 2021 but the application of the provisions has been extended by subsequent Regulations, as detailed below.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Wearing of Face Coverings) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 No. 1400

These Regulations amend the Coronavirus Regulations concerning face coverings. They add to the list of places where face coverings must be worn, provide for gatherings where face coverings need not be worn and clarify which persons are potentially liable to prosecution for an offence in relation to contraventions of the Regulations. They extend the period during which the above Regulations are in force until 26th January 2022.

The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Entry to Venues and Events) (England) Regulations 2021 No. 1416

These Regulations impose obligations on those responsible for organising certain events, or managing venues including indoor music venues, exhibition halls, conference centres and other public halls, on occasions when such venues are attended by at least 500 people. In calculating the number of attendees, no account is taken of people who have assigned seats or who are providing services at the event. Organisers must take reasonable measures to ensure that they do not admit any person to such events unless the person has been fully vaccinated or has tested negative for coronavirus within the last 48 hours. Exceptions exist, for example for those under 18 years of age and those who should not be vaccinated for clinical reasons. Further exceptions apply to certain people attending the venue or event as part of their official duties, including diplomats, officers of an international organisation, and local authority officers. The restrictions are due to expire on 26th January 2022.

(The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office)

Read.

18. Hospital
Seal

There were no docquets to be sealed.

19. Awards &
Prizes

There was no report.

20. Exclusion
of the Public

*Mooney, B.D.F.,
Deputy; Ingham
Clark, R.J., Deputy*

Resolved – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

Summary of items considered whilst the public were excluded:-

21. Non-public
Minutes

Resolved – That the non-public minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

22.

Policy & Resources Committee and Culture Heritage & Libraries Committee

The Court approved the Destination City strategy together with related proposals.

23.

Finance Committee

The Court approved the award of a contract relative to the provision of water, wastewater and ancillary services.

24.

Bridge House Estates Board

The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures relating to the purchase of a property.

25.

Property Investment Board

The Court noted two separate reports of action taken under urgency procedures, both in relation to the disposal of long-term leases.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.59 pm

BARRADELL.