

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Monday, 28 February 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 28 February 2022 at 11.00 am and livestreamed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fj87xi_kUU

Present

Members:

Catherine McGuinness (Chair)
Deputy Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)
Tijs Broeke
Mary Durcan
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Wendy Hyde (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Jamie Ingham Clark
Deputy Shravan Joshi
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Ian Luder
Jeremy Mayhew
Wendy Mead
Deputy Brian Mooney (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Alastair Moss (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Alderman Sir David Wootton

In attendance:

Jeremy Simons
Anne Holmes
Greg Lawrence
John Bennett
David Bradshaw
Roger Chadwick
Helen Fentimen
Alison Gowman
Graeme Harrower
Alderman Peter Estlin

Paul Marinelli
Kevin Everett
Randall Anderson
Mark Bostock
John Chapman
Henry Colthurst
George Abrahams
David Graves
Michael Hudson
Judith Pleasance

Officers:

John Barradell
Caroline Al-Beyerty
Michael Cogher
Paul Double
Bob Roberts
Gregory Moore
Polly Dunn
Paul Wilkinson

- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
- Chamberlain
- Comptroller and City Solicitor
- City Remembrancer
- Director of Communications
- Assistant Town Clerk
- Town Clerk's Department
- City Surveyor

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Vincent Keaveny, Ann Fairweather and Rehana Ameer.

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

There were no declarations.

At this point in the meeting, the Chair of Policy provided Members with an update on the City Corporation's response to Russian aggression in Ukraine.

The Chair referred to her previous statement on the morning of the invasion condemning Russia's military aggression that threatened Ukraine's sovereignty and the international rule of law, with this message having been repeated by the Lord Mayor through a newspaper article published that day.

The Chair talked through the action taken by the City Corporation and how it had been supporting the Ukrainian people in a number of ways including the lighting up of Guildhall, the donation of £25k to support UNICEF and their ongoing efforts on the border of Ukraine, and through City Bridge Trust – which had already funded organisations supporting refugees arriving in the UK. There was ongoing engagement with HM Government, regulators and the financial sector on the implementation of sanctions. The City Corporation continued to work with the Foreign Office to support these measures and to bring about a peaceful solution as soon as possible.

The Chair responded to questions centring on whether it was right for the City Corporation to intervene on foreign affairs. The Chair explained how the City Corporation had always looked to engage across the world to promote London. The UK was united in its opposition of the war in Ukraine and the exercising of economic sanctions, which were at the centre of the West's response. The Chair considered it imperative that the City Corporation made its position clear.

The Chair commented on plans that were underway to present the Freedom of the City of London to the Ukrainian Ambassador to the UK.

A Member questioned whether the City Corporation would look to use its influence to achieve the most rigorous sanctions possible in response to the action taken by the Russian Government against the Ukrainian people. It was also questioned whether the City Corporation had reversed its position in relation to international intervention and whether it should now look to condemn the actions of other countries in violation of human rights. The Chair responded and referred to her earlier statement outlining a number of the actions already being taken in support of Ukraine and confirmed the City Corporation continued to engage across the world where there was a locus.

The Chair concluded the item and thanked Members for their support and the many constructive suggestions that had been received over the last few days.

At this point in the meeting the Town Clerk referred to requests that had been received from Members ahead of the meeting seeking to facilitate remote participation in the meeting and allow for their participation during consideration of the item relating to Review of Standing Orders.

The Town Clerk clarified that that in order to facilitate remote participation in today's meeting, the formal meeting would need to be adjourned. Members, including those joining remotely, could then proceed to discuss the item on an informal basis, whilst allowing Members of the public to view the item in the interests of transparency. Once Members had concluded their informal discussion of the item, the formal meeting would be reopened, and formal approval sought from the quorate Committee in session.

Members agreed and RESOLVED to adjourn the formal meeting at this point.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the meeting would proceed on an informal basis. Matters raised in the discussion were captured and are included below.

3. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk presenting a series of changes to Standing Orders arising the comprehensive Governance Review undertaken by Robert Rogers, The Lord Lisvane. There were also changes giving effect to governance changes surrounding the Bridge House Estates Board. There were a number of typographical errors that had been corrected as well as other areas where it was felt that changes would be beneficial.

It was noted that a final decision on all proposed changes to Standing Orders would fall to Court of Common Council.

Following discussion on each amendment, it was agreed that proposals seemed to fall into three categories:

- Those that captured straightforward, consequential changes to Standing Orders which gave effect to recommendations already supported by the Court in response to the Governance Review, and governance changes to the Bridge House Estates Board.
- Suggested changes that still required drafting; these were largely amendments that where the outcome was considered sensible and in the interests of the management of Court, and its Committees.
- Those items where Policy and Resources Committee had noted contention between Members, and where no specific determination or recommendation could be made. These were to be presented as open questions for the Court's consideration.

The Court's determination would then be sought in respect of the various items, together with seeking such authority to the Town Clerk as may be required to allow for the Court's decisions to be reflected in the final Standing Orders document.

At this point in the meeting, the formal meeting was reconvened, and the Committee agreed to the views expressed through informal engagement being resolved as indicated.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Recommend the changes to Standing Orders presented in table 1, for approval by the Court of Common Council;
- Agree that the remaining changes and amendments to Standing Orders be and presented to Court of Common Council in such a way that reflects the three categories outlined above;
- Grant delegated authority for the Town Clerk to draft any changes to the proposed Standing Orders that give effect to matters raised, in advance of seeking final approval of the Court of Common Council. and that
- Recommend to the Court of Common Council that the Town Clerk be authorised to make any such changes as are required following the Court's consideration, so to facilitate the implementation of agreed amendments.

4. **DIGITAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk setting out draft terms of reference for a new Digital Services Committee.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approve the draft terms of reference for the new Digital Services Committee for consideration by the Court of Common Council.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items of business.

7. **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.

8. **CONFIDENTIAL RESOLUTION OF DIGITAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE TO FINANCE COMMITTEE AND POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Committee considered a resolution of Digital Services Sub-Committee relating to the circulation of papers for committee meetings moving forward.

RESOLVED; That Members (in support of the Corporations Climate Action Strategy): -

- Agree to an 'opt-in' approach whereby the default position of Members would be 'electronic-first', but that all Members be entitled to receive paper copies of committee papers on request; and

- Remove any need to seek agreement of the Assistant Town Clerk in the process of requesting hard-copies.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no additional items of business.

The meeting ended at 1.00pm.

Chairman

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