

MARKETS BOARD
Wednesday, 19 January 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Markets Board held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor
West Wing, Guildhall on Wednesday, 19 January 2022 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

John Chapman (Chairman)
Deputy Henry Pollard (Deputy Chairman)
Caroline Addy
Matthew Bell
Nicholas Bensted-Smith
Deputy Mark Bostock
Deputy David Bradshaw
John Edwards
Deputy Kevin Everett
Helen Fentimen
Alderman Prem Goyal
Deputy Tom Hoffman
Michael Hudson
Henry Jones
Gregory Lawrence
Wendy Mead
Deputy Brian Mooney
Deputy Barbara Newman
Deputy Elizabeth Rogula
Deputy John Scott
Ian Seaton
James Tumbridge
Dawn Wright

Officers:

Emma Moore	-	Chief Operating Officer
Gemma Stokley	-	Town Clerk's Department
Joseph Anstee	-	Town Clerk's Department
Ben Milligan	-	Media Officer
Aqib Husain	-	Technology Support
Shani Annand-Baron	-	Markets Director
Donald Perry	-	Head of Business Performance
Daniel Ritchie	-	Superintendent, Billingsgate Market
Shelley Ross-Harding	-	Operations Manager, Smithfield Market,
Debbie Howard	-	Superintendent, Spitalfields Market
Peter Young	-	City Surveyor's Department
Steven Chandler	-	Senior Principal Surveyor
Anna Dunne	-	Programme Director
Simon Owen	-	Chamberlain's Department

Andrew Fothergill

Julie Gibbs

Paul Wright

- Principal Property Lawyer
- PA to Director of Markets and Consumer Protection
- Deputy Remembrancer

Introductions

The Town Clerk opened the meeting by introducing herself.

The Town Clerk highlighted that the meeting was being recorded as well as live streamed and would be made available on the City Corporation's YouTube page for a period of time after the meeting had concluded. It was confirmed that all personal data would be processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. The Town Clerk highlighted that, for further information on this, viewers could contact the City Corporation using the details provided on the public webpages.

The Town Clerk also reminded Members, and any members of the public observing the meeting on-line, that this was an informal meeting and that any views reached by the Committee today would therefore have to be considered by the Chief Operating Officer or those deputising for her after the meeting in accordance with the Court of Common Council's COVID Approval Procedure and that they would make a formal decision having considered all relevant matters. The Town Clerk highlighted that this process reflected the current position in respect of the holding of formal Local Authority meetings and the Court of Common Council's decision of 16th December 2021 to recommence hybrid meetings and take formal decisions through a delegation to the Town Clerk and other officers nominated by him after the informal meeting has taken place and the will of the Committee was known in open session. Details of all decisions taken under the COVID Approval Procedure would be available online via the City Corporation's webpages.

A roll call of Members present was undertaken.

The Chairman then welcomed all in the room and online to the meeting. He went on to pay a special tribute to Debbie Howard, Superintendent of Spitalfields Market at this, her last meeting of the Markets Committee, before her retirement. The Chairman reported that Debbie had worked at the City Corporation for 16 years and praised her work and efforts throughout her time here.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Peter Bennett and Alderman and Sheriff Alison Gowman.

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

The Chairman declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda Item 16 and stated that he intended to leave the room whilst this matter was discussed.

A Member questioned why Item 16 could not be considered in public session and would not be in the public interest. The Town Clerk highlighted that the relevant reason for exemption was highlighted at the top of that report

3A) **Public Minutes**

RESOLVED - That - the public minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 be approved as a correct record, subject to recording apologies submitted from John Scott, Philip Woodhouse and Michael Hudson.

MATTERS ARISING

Members noted that, because this meeting had been convened as a hybrid, in accordance with the Court of Common Council's Covid Approvals Procedure, then it would need to proceed on this basis, even if a quorum of Members were present in the room.

3B) **Outstanding Actions Log**

Members received the outstanding actions log and noted that they would receive an update on the New Spitalfields Market barrier in the non-public part of this meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Outstanding Actions Log be noted.

4. **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES (ORAL UPDATES)**

The Committee received the Superintendents updates and noted the following :

Billingsgate

The London Fish Merchants Tenants Association had recently elected a new Chairman and Council. The Superintendent had met with the new Chairman in respect of the action plan, and tenants remained supportive of moving to a co-located site. A programme of meetings had been set up to retain engagement.

The Metropolitan Police had not been able to provide support in the run up to the Christmas period. However, the Billingsgate Constabulary had worked with partners in respect of traffic management, with exceptional results; i.e. - no complaints from tenants or customers and a 50% increase in pay and display revenue on last year.

Standard operating procedures were being updated in respect of the most recent Government advice on Covid and risk assessments were being monitored. The Market had hosted many testing sessions on behalf Tower Hamlets, including a pop-up clinic from 3 am, making the facility fully accessible to market staff. More clinics would be held in the coming weeks.

Spitalfields

The Christmas period had not been as busy as the tenants would have liked but trade had been brisk in the week before the Christmas closedown. Vehicle numbers for paying customers in November and December were 7% up on the same period in 2020, but data was not available in respect of any additional

volumes purchased. HGV entry figures for November and December were down 23% on the same period last year, suggesting that either less produce was entering the site, or that tenants had been consolidating deliveries from the EU to save costs.

The Market had been assisting an ancillary tenant, who sells fuel on the market, by engaging a company to supply biofuel for forklifts, thereby improving air quality in the market hall.

Risk assessments in respect of Covid were being worked on and a standard operating procedure had been sent to all tenants. Tenants had been provided with masks within the first few days of the new restrictions, thereby ensuring that customers were wearing them in the Market Hall and adhering to Government and City of London Corporation regulations.

A tenant had been found for the large premises vacated in May 2021, and Members would receive an update in the non-public report at item 16 on this agenda. Further negotiations were ongoing with a prospective tenant for the vacant premises at 6 Allen House.

The Energy Team would be meeting with the Tenants' Association on 27th January 2022.

Smithfield

Trade over Christmas had been quieter than expected, with a peak just before the Christmas closure but, as a result of the Omicron variant, footfall was down in comparison to 2020. Car parking concessions had been in place between 10th and 24th December, and there had been a decrease of 7.2% in parking compared to 2020. Peak parking had been recorded on 16th and 17th December and then between 19th and 21st, with an excess of 1400 cars daily during the concession period. As with Spitalfields, no data was available on volumes. Overall, there had been an increase in car park usage of 15% compared to last year.

There had been no significant changes to trade in the market as a result of Brexit, but risk meetings were ongoing.

All 3 markets had amalgamated standard operating procedures in respect of Covid. There had been an impact on security over Christmas, due to high numbers of staff testing positive, but this had been covered by additional resources from the City Corporation's security contract. When supply was short, the Public Health Team at the City and Hackney had provided free face coverings and lateral flow tests to staff.

The Energy Team had intended to visit in November 2021, but this was postponed until the New Year. The Tenants' Association is happy to engage in terms of good practice.

Works had started on Monday this week (17th January 2022) to address the failure of the glass canopy, with completion expected by 25th March 2022. This was showing as 'green' on the Risk Register as there is a security netting

underneath it, with a 4-year longevity. A hoarding would be in place during the works, and at no point would the glass be exposed. City Surveyors had checked the structure and were satisfied in respect of the safety aspects.

Works to water storage tanks, air compressor dryers and the water condenser would commence in Quarter 4.

The LED lighting replacement works were due to start at the end of January/early February 2022, to replace the lighting in Grand Avenue.

Cash from capital works would be used in Phase 1 of the Car Park programme, and officers would be working with the Energy Team to secure additional funding for Phase 2, in order to replace bulbs and fittings in the car park and communal areas, thereby making savings on energy costs.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

5. DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2022/23

The Committee received a report of the Markets Director regarding the Draft High Level Business Plan 2022/23.

In response to a question, officers agreed that any works should be shown as a risk until they had received full approval. It was suggested that the Health and Safety matters be highlighted as part of the approvals process.

Members suggested that, in terms of energy consumption on the Major Work Streams, the objective should be re-worded to reflect the fact that the desired outcome was *'to achieve good value for tenants as well as reducing carbon footprints'*.

Members also suggested that the central section on the Major Work Steam template be amended to show which areas the Committee should focus on.

RESOLVED – That the Committee:

- Note the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Markets Business Plan; and
- Approve, subject to the incorporation of any changes sought by this Committee, the departmental Business Plan for Markets Department for 2022/23 (or the elements therein that fall within this committee's Terms of Reference)

6. MARKETS BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE PERIOD 2 2021/22 (AUGUST-NOVEMBER)

The Committee noted a report of the Markets Director regarding the Markets Business Plan Update Period 2 2021/22 (August-November).

Once the Energy Team from City Surveyors had concluded their meetings with high energy users at the market, the Chairman asked if their findings could be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

The Condition Survey for the roof at New Spitalfields had been conducted using a drone, which had highlighted some water ingress. An intrusive survey would now be undertaken with any repairs covered by the 10-year plan.

Officers were compiling statistics which demonstrated the Market's good work in reducing waste to landfill, and this would be passed to the Comms Team.

Although Smithfield Occupancy is at 100%, there would be lettable space once the Poultry Market roof is completed.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

7. **WHOLESALE MARKETS RISK UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Markets Director concerning the Wholesale Markets Risk Update Report. The report had been scaled down as requested, showing just amber and red risks.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8. **WHOLESALE MARKETS FOOD HYGIENE RISK**

The Committee received a report of the Markets Director concerning the Wholesale Markets Food Hygiene Risk.

In response to a question about the target risk rating, Members noted that this was the best outcome that could be achieved, given the current infrastructure, and until a purpose-built facility became available.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

9. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS - CITY'S CASH - POULTRY MARKET - AREAS TO BE DECLARED SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS AND AREAS TO BE LICENSED**

The Committee noted a report of the Town Clerk concerning a Report of Action Taken Between Meetings – City's Cash – Poultry Market – Areas to be Declared Surplus to Requirements and Areas to be Licensed.

As the Markets Committee was not scheduled to meet again until 19th January 2022, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Markets Committee, had approved the above decision under Urgency. This had enabled the areas to be used by the Museum of London, in connection with their proposed use of the General Market, and the City of London Corporation's conversion of the Annexe into a commercial building.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items.

The Chairman recognised this at the last meeting of the Committee before the elections and therefore wished all Members well.

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED – That under Section 100A(4) 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 Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as follows:-

Item	Paragraph
13-14	3
15	3, 5 & 7
16-19	3

13. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

RESOLVED - The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 were considered and approved as a correct record.

14. **SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES (ORAL UPDATES)**

The Committee heard an update of the Superintendents.

15. **DEBT ARREARS - MARKETS - PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2021**

The Committee received a report of the Markets Director.

16. **TENANCIES AT WILL AND ASSIGNMENTS**

The Committee received a report of the Markets Director.

17. **REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS - NEW SPITALFIELDS MARKET - LETTING OF 1&2 BALCH HOUSE**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk.

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

There were no questions raised in the non-public session.

19. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There were no urgent items.

20. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2021 were considered and approved as a correct record.

21. **MARKETS DEPARTMENT TARGET OPERATING MODEL**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Chief Operating Officer.

22. **MARKETS CO-LOCATION PROGRAMME UPDATE - ORAL UPDATE**

Officers provided an update to the Committee on the Markets Co-location Programme.

The meeting ended at 1.47 pm

Chairman

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