

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 May 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)	Alderman Prem Goyal
Mary Durcan (Deputy Chairman)	Caroline Haines
George Abrahams	Deputy Ann Holmes
Deputy Christopher Boden	Elizabeth Anne King
Tijs Broeke	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Timothy Butcher	Andrew McMurtrie
Deputy Simon Duckworth (Chief Commoner)	Deputy Henry Pollard
John Edwards	Oliver Sells QC
Helen Fentimen	Alethea Silk
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	
Steve Goodman OBE	

In Attendance Virtually:

Irem Yerdelen
Henry Jones

Officers:

Richard Holt	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristina Drake	- Media Officer, Town Clerk's Department
Kiki Hausdorff	- Assistant Parliamentary Affairs Counsel, Remembrancer's Department
Paul Chadha	- Chief Lawyer, Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Gary Burks	- Superintendent & Registrar, City of London Cemetery & Crematorium
Ruth Calderwood	- Environment Department
Vince Dignam	- Environment Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department
Gavin Stedman	- Port Health & Public Protection Director
Robin Whitehouse	- Environment Department
Ian Hughes	- Environment Department
Adam Collins	- Environment Department
Ben Eley	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Wendy Hyde, Deputy Peter Dunphy, Alderwoman Susan Langley, Deputy Dr Giles Shilson, Alexander Barr and Shahnna Bakh.

It was noted that Irem Yerdelen would view the meeting online.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT**

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated the 21st of April 2022 appointing the Committee and setting its Terms of Reference.

Resolved- that the Order of the Court of Common Council be noted.

4. **ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Deputy Keith Bottomley, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Committee for the ensuing year and took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLVED- That Deputy Keith Bottomley be elected Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30. The Town Clerk informed that Mary Durcan, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Deputy Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED- That Mary Durcan be elected as Deputy Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the public minutes and non-public summary of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee meeting held on the 18th of January.

A Member clarified that the lighting guidance referred to in the minutes related to the management of the PIR (passive infrared sensor). Further to this it was confirmed that a guidance note regarding PIR management was being developed and would be brought for the Committee's consideration accordingly. The Chairman commented that he was determined that the City of London Corporation make progress on the management of building lighting noting the role of Business Improvement Districts in driving this forward.

RESOLVED- That the public minutes and non-public summary of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee meeting held on the 18th of January be approved as an accurate record.

7. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk on the outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

The Chairman requested an update on the action listed regarding the Measurement and mitigation options for operational rail noise from London Underground affecting the Barbican Estate. The Committee were informed that progress had been made under Defoe House following works completed by Transport for London (TFL) to the effected tracks which had resulted in a measured significant decibel reduction. In response to a Member's query it was clarified that this also included a reduction in vibration. Additionally, it was confirmed that the Chairman of Policy and Resources and the Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee had written to the Deputy Mayor of London for transport and the Chief Operating Officer for TFL on this matter. The Chairman confirmed that engagement with TFL and the Government on this would continue, noting that the root cause of this issue was funding for TFL.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

8. **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee considered various committee appointments.

8.1 **Streets and Walkways Sub Committee**

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member to the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the Oliver Sells had indicated his willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. Oliver Sells, being the only Member willing to serve, was appointed to serve on the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED- That Oliver Sells be appointed to the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee.

8.2 **Health & Wellbeing Board**

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Helen Fentimen had indicated her willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. Helen Fentimen, being the only Member willing to serve was appointed to serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED- That Helen Fentimen be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8.3 Thames Estuary Partnership

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member as a representative on the Thames Estuary Partnership. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that John Edwards had indicated his willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. John Edwards, being the only Member willing to serve, was appointed as a representative on the Thames Estuary Partnership.

RESOLVED- That John Edwards be appointed as a representative on the Thames Estuary Partnership.

8.4 Thames21

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member as a trustee on Thames21's Board. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Andrew McMurtrie had indicated his willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. Andrew McMurtrie, being the only Member willing to serve, was appointed as the City of London Corporation appointed trustee for Thames21.

RESOLVED- That Andrew McMurtrie be appointed as a Thames21 trustee.

9. **COMMERCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE PLAN 2021-2023 - UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment regarding the Commercial Environment Health Service Plan 2021-2023 update. The Chairman noted the importance of the Commercial Environmental Health Team to the Committee's statutory responsibility.

Following a Member's query it was confirmed that Officers in the Commercial Environmental Health Team had been working on site throughout the COVID19 pandemic.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The work done to-date be noted; and
- II. The work of the team going forward until March 2023 as set out in the revised Commercial Environmental Health Service Plan 2021-2023 and in this update report be endorsed.

10. **CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM RESERVE FUND REQUEST - GRAVE DIGGING EQUIPMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment regarding the Cemetery and Crematorium reserve fund request for grave digging equipment.

Responding to a Member's question regarding the use of electric grave digging equipment it was explained that the electricity supply to the crematorium was limited and there was not currently the infrastructure in place for the

introduction of electric vehicles, however work was being undertaken with the City Surveyor's Department to explore options for improving this.

Noting that tragically there had been an excess number of burials over the past two years a Member asked what was the current position of the Cemetery and Crematorium Reserve Fund. It was confirmed that the Cemetery and Crematorium Reserve Fund was just under £1.5M in credit which would be used to fund the Conservation Management Plan and other maintenance works as required.

The Chairman commented that there would be a committee visit to the Cemetery and Crematorium for Members arranged for autumn which would give Members a chance to see first-hand the work being completed.

RESOLVED- That: -

- I. The use of Cemetery and Crematorium Reserve Funds to purchase three pieces of operational equipment which are: one large excavator (digger), one small excavator (mini-digger), and one tractor be approved; and
- II. The funds achieved from the sale of the old equipment be returned to the reserve fund.

11. ***RISK MANAGEMENT - PERIODIC UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment which provided an update on Risk Management.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

12. ***BUSINESS PLANS 2021/2022: PROGRESS REPORT (PERIOD 3: YEAR END)**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Business Plans 2021/2022 Progress Report, Period 3 Year End. Officers provided an update on all the performance areas covered in the business plans and noted that the continued progress against the Business Plans would be reported to the Committee throughout the ensuing year. The Chairman commented on the importance of these key local services to those living, working and visiting the City.

Replying to a Member's question the Key Performance Indicators, as listed on page thirty one of the agenda, were explained but it was noted that it would not be appropriate to drive this target further as people have the right to be buried or cremated at whichever site is their preference.

A Member requested an update on the possibility of the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium operating at net carbon zero. It was confirmed that the most efficient equipment was used however it was noted, that as cremation used a large amount of energy, it would not be possible to move any closer to a carbon zero position at the current time.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the increase of anti-social behaviour, particularly public urination, in the City. A Member requested that Officers provide a note on the actions being taken over the last three months to tackle this. The mitigation procedures which the City of London Corporation had employed and were being considered were explained to the Committee, but it was acknowledged that the Community Toilet Scheme had been affected by the COVID19 Pandemic. The Chairman observed that this was clearly a matter of concern to the Committee which needed to be kept under review. It was added that it needed to be clearly communicated where the public lavatories are particularly to tourists visiting the City of London,

Following a Member's concern it was clarified that public lavatories had been closed in part due to budget reductions and that a cashless system was being trialled. Replying to a question from a Member the Chairman instructed Officers to come back to Committee with figures on the revenue of public lavatories in the City.

A Member suggested that the target figures for cleansing be reviewed. It was agreed that this would be brought to the Committee for review as part of the ongoing reporting against the Business Plans. Responding to a Member's query it was confirmed that data on litter bin usage was regularly reported to Officers and used to inform the provision of bins across the City. The Chairman commented that Members could inform Officers of any issues regarding litter that they notice to help Officers to deal with any problem spots. Following a Member's question it was confirmed that specific arraignments were in place to deal with increased litter which might be caused by the Jubilee celebrations.

The Committee discussed the impact that increased visitor numbers from the Destination City Strategy could have on services and agreed that cooperation between committees was required. A Member commented that they would like to see further resources allocated to the Cleansing Team as a reflection of this impact. Concern was expressed by some Members of the Committee that the cleanliness of the City had decreased over time. Officers informed the Committee that the level of funding and the associated service would be reviewed as part of the anticipated Zero Based Budgeting procedure later this year.

Replying to a Member's query regarding local source air pollutant PM 2.5 Officers undertook to confirm the reasons for the discrepancy between the City of London Corporation's and the Mayor of London's reported figures. It was added that a formal response to the Mayor of London's ULEZ consultation was being developed and that the Committee would be informed of this accordingly.

George Abrahams declared a precautionary interest in the item as he was a customer of the London Gateway facilities. Following this it was commented that there were concerns regarding London Gateway performance and the arrow should indicate a decreased not an increase in the import of Products of Animal Origin. Officers confirmed that this was correct and the upwards arrow in the report was a typographic error.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

13. ***ENVIRONMENT ACT REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Remembrancer on the Environment Act.

The Chairman highlighted to the Committee the response to the letter sent from the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee and himself on sewage discharge into the river Thames from Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency which would be circulated to the Committee for information. The Chairman observed that the key to improving this issue would be the completion of the Thames Tideway Tunnels and drew the Members attention to the Agency's blog which would be the best place to receive up to date information.

Responding to a Member's concern it was explained that the substance and practicalities regarding the implementations of many of the Bill's provisions would be subject to secondary legislation and, therefore, the detail was yet to be confirmed. In addition, it was clarified that the Committee would be informed of the progress of debates regarding this.

A Member commented that Thames21's concern was that the lack of financial penalties for water companies limited the Act's effectiveness. The Chairman confirmed this would be these concerns would be taken up with Thames21.

RESOLVED- That the report be noted.

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

It was questioned by a Member whether Officers had considered a scheme similar to the Community Toilet scheme for litter bins. Replying to this it was confirmed that a campaign regarding litter was planned for the summer which would consider how commercial premises might supplement the service.

Responding to a query from a Member of the Committee regarding buskers in Southwark it was confirmed that measures including improved signage, a code of conduct and identification of repeat offenders had been introduced but it was noted that this was a complex issue which might take a while to resolve. A Member observed that the key issue regarding this enforcement was that Southwark did not have the resources required to appropriately enforce this.

A Member raised the issue of party boats using the Thames which are a potential cause of noise pollution. It was explained that complaints regarding this were almost exclusively outside of the City but that there was a strategic group which brings the relevant partner organisations together to resolve issues regarding party boats.

Responding to a question regarding the effect of rising inflation and the cost of living on the work of the Committee, it was explained that for Cleansing these would be built into the costs of the service and that this would result in

increased budgetary pressure given the limited capacity to increase local risk budgets.

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

There was no urgent business considered in the public session.

16. **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.

17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Port Health and Environmental Services committee held on the 18th of January 2022.

RESOLVED- That the non-public minutes of the previous meeting of the Port Health and Environmental Services committee held on the 18th of January 2022 be approved as an accurate record.

18. **KENNEL BLOCK ADDITION - HEATHROW ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Kennel block addition Heathrow Animal Reception Centre.

RESOLVED- That the report be approved.

19. **HEATHROW ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE - FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment on the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre Forward Plan.

RESOVLED- That the report be approved.

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

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

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

There was no urgent business considered in the non-public session.

The meeting closed at 1.00 pm

Chairman

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