

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Tuesday, 18 October 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 at
11.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chairman)
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (Deputy Chairman)
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Vincent Keaveny
Alderman Ian David Luder
Alderman Sir David Wootton
Alderman Nicholas Lyons
Alderman Alison Gowman
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman and Sheriff Alastair King DL
Alderman Prem Goyal
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman Susan Langley
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Alderman Christopher Makin

Officers:

John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Gemma Stokley	- Town Clerk's Department
Rhiannon Leary	- Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Alexander Barr, Alderman Sir Peter Estlin, Alderman Gregory Jones, Alderman Tim Levene, Alderwoman Jennette Newman, and Sir Andrew Parmley.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 6 September 2022.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 6 September 2022 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman's Congratulatory Remarks

The Chairman wished to place on record his congratulations to Alderman Gregory Jones on his recent appointment as Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester by the Lord Bishop as well as his appointment as a Fellow of the Faculty of Law from Goodenough College.

The Chairman encouraged all to keep him informed of any new positions or accolades for noting at future meetings.

4. **CITY BIDS PRESENTATION**

The Chairman welcomed Lady Lucy French, the Chief Executive for Fleet Street Quarter and Ruth Duston, the Managing Director of Primera to the meeting.

Ms Duston began by sharing some insights on the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) across the Square Mile and the impact that they had had across the UK more generally. Ms Duston highlighted that Primera as an organisation were very focused on place-based leadership and were keen to develop partnerships between the private and public sector, which was where the BIDs, still relatively new as a sector, came in.

The Committee were informed that there were now approximately three hundred BIDs operating across the UK. Primera were primarily focused on Central London in terms of their portfolio of BIDs and were normally commissioned to set up partnerships. Ms Duston explained that it ordinarily took around two years to get a BID up and running and that the seed funding for this was normally provided by property owners or developers which in turn allowed for leverage of more funding to support place-based activity. In terms of the BIDs that Primera had operating across Central London, Ms Duston highlighted the London Heritage Quarter which generated around £5 million per annum and the Central District Alliance which generated around £2.5 million per annum. She also referred to the City BID portfolio including the Cheapside Business Alliance which was now a very well-established BID in the Square Mile and the first BID in the City of London which had now been operating for 7-8 years. It was reported that this BID generated approximately £400,000 per annum. Ms Duston also spoke on Aldgate Connect, a cross boundary BID operating across both Tower Hamlets and the City of London which generated around £800,000 per annum.

Ms Duston commented that, over the years, BIDs had become bigger and more ambitious and there was now a new addition in the form of the Fleet Street Quarter as well as Eastern City BID. It was anticipated that these two BIDs

combined would generate £7-8 million per annum. It was reported that, overall, the private sector was investing approximately £9 million per annum into the Square Mile across these geographical areas. Aldermen were informed that there was a new partnership which would be going to ballot in January - the Culture Mile BID. Pending the outcome of the ballot, this would go live in April 2023.

Ms Duston commented that, unlike other BIDs which tended to focus very much on retail, leisure and hospitality, this portfolio was predominantly corporate led. Over the years, Primera had raised over £800 million through its Central London BIDs, generating more than £6 billion in further investment from various property owners. Ms Duston underlined that much of the Square Mile was now covered by BIDs which currently stretched from the Victoria bid in the South through to Aldgate Connect in the East. With regard to BIDs in the City, it was underlined that the City Corporation were the BID proposers and, therefore the accountable body, whereas ordinarily these would be entirely business-led, set up and proposed by the business community.

With reference to London more generally, Ms Duston reported that there were now more than 70 BIDs established with approximately £130 million spent throughout the UK on an annual basis within the BIDs sector, 35% of which was generated within the central activity zone.

Ms Duston went on to describe what a BID was, underlining that it was a very consultative process with BIDs established for a five-year term after having been voted on by the business community. The Committee were informed that the relevant local authority normally managed the ballot – the City Corporation in the case of the Square Mile. Ms Duston highlighted that the average size of a BID brought together 300-400 hereditaments with some of the smallest having fewer than fifty and the largest 2,500. Annual income from a BID averaged at £200,000 - £600,000 across the country but this tended to be much more in Central London where BIDs were often more strategic.

Ms Duston went on to speak on why BIDs were needed in urban cities, referring to the fact that less and less money was coming into the public sector with a lot more onus therefore on the private sector to drive things forward in terms of place-based leadership for investment in infrastructure and public realm. Ms Duston used the North Bank BID as a fantastic example of this where Strand Aldwych had been created (a new civic space outside of Somerset House) in partnership with Westminster City Council. Ms Duston underlined that BIDs were also about making attractive destinations and cited work with the City Corporation on its 'Destination City' policy in this respect. The importance of businesses within a BID working closely and collaboratively together at a local level to balance profit with purpose was also underlined. Ms Duston also mentioned the enormous opportunity for the City to work alongside City fringe residents in terms of attracting and retaining talent.

The Committee were informed of what BIDs do in terms of public realm and placemaking, security and business resilience, marketing, and promotion, ESG (Economic, Social and Governance) and positive social impact. In terms of the

City specifically, Ms Duston made mention of the on-street concierge team/ambassador service positioned around Cheapside, building relationships with the City of London Police, the City Gift Card and In The City App launched during COVID to help promote support for the ecosystem. The Committee were also informed that a lot of work had been done on the Culture Mile with residential communities to ensure that they also felt integral to the BID district. Ms Duston referred to work with various agencies and the City Corporation around homelessness and rough sleeping in the Square Mile to provide the right level of support and putting the right systems and interventions into place. She also reported on volunteering and the Tempo Time Credit system – a scheme whereby volunteers were rewarded through credits that could be spent anywhere throughout the UK.

Lady Lucy French addressed the meeting specifically on the Fleet Street Quarter reporting that this came into operation in April 2022 after a successful ballot. It was reported that there was a strong mandate from the business community for the BID which covered forty-three hectares of the City of London and spanned from the Royal Courts of Justice to St Paul's, the south side of Holborn and the north side of Blackfriars.

Lady Lucy reported that the BID was seeking to address several strategic themes – namely putting Fleet Street Quarter back on the map, clean and green, creating a connected community and safe and secure with more than £12 million invested over 5 years to drive enhancement and growth to really drive this enhancement and growth. She went on to speak of the various opportunities and challenges in terms of reinvigorating and redefining this Quarter – an area that had welcomed business for over 2,000 years and constantly evolved to meet market challenges. It was highlighted that, at present there were many empty retail units here as well as vacant office space with the intention being to now reposition the area as a real incubator for emerging markets and a key driver for international drive. It was reported that Fleet Street itself had an extremely ambitious and exciting development pipeline and it was anticipated that approximately 25,000 additional people would be seen in Fleet Street alone within the next 5 years. It was underlined that the development of an infrastructure to support this footfall was therefore vital with developers, the BID and the City Corporation working closely together on this. Much work was also being undertaken to tackle the climate emergency, including working alongside the City Corporation on the Healthy Streets Plan and the City Plan 2036 to ensure a joined up, cohesive approach to how the Fleet Street Quarter and BIDs across the Square Mile.

In terms of the Fleet Street development pipeline, Lady Lucy reported that the BID would be collaborating with developers to join up on the hoarding going up around the area to ensure a cohesive look and, in so far as possible, a safe and enjoyable environment around these development schemes.

Lady Lucy sketched out plans for the Quarter in Year One of the BID which would see work undertaken alongside Publica on an area-based strategy. Communications had been commissioned around this to raise the profile of the area on a global stage alongside a series of events to meet the need of the

area's diverse workforce, climate action project and an emerging retail strategy. Lady Lucy stated that she believed that the Fleet Street Quarter BID was the 'glue' between the private and public sector whereby private sector investment would be harnessed as well as a local commitment validating and linking up a shared vision for the Square Mile going forward. Whilst the Fleet Street Quarter had less than nine hundred residents, Lady Lucy reiterated the fact that she was keen for every person living and working in the area to feel genuinely engaged with and a part of this BID.

Lady Lucy shared images of the Fleet Street that was aspired to with widened streets and additional greening, reinvigorated retail units and the new Fleet Street Courts and Police accommodation development also visible.

Lady Lucy highlighted that the forthcoming Lord Mayor's Show would also be widely promoted across all the City's BIDs as was customary. Finally, Lady Lucy went on to report on a forthcoming Christmas extravaganza whereby various events would be hosted for all from Tuesday-Thursday each week in the run-up to Christmas.

The Chairman thanked both speakers for their contributions and invited any questions that the Aldermen might now have of them.

An Alderman stated that he felt that the private/public sector partnerships were a positive agent for change but added that he had seen SMEs in his own Ward of Bassishaw devastated by the recent pandemic. He therefore questioned how much success the BIDs had had in terms of post-COVID recovery. Ms Duston responded to report that this had been a huge challenge but highlighted that the BIDs had worked with those businesses that were still present to support them in terms of promoting themselves using the City App and City Gift Card, encouraging workers to use the facilities within their local footprint. She added that an important part of this had also been the ability to gain access to some of the empty retail units. She stated that it could often be difficult to identify the property owners for this purpose. The Committee were informed that a project had also been undertaken during the partial lockdown period of 2021 alongside the University of Arts that had seen the animation of various empty retail units across the City to ensure that the area appeared more vibrant and inviting and thereby support the small businesses which remained. It was reported that this was an ongoing project. The Committee were also informed that work had been undertaken alongside the City Corporation who had worked hard to support SMEs via their grants scheme which the BIDs had helped push out and communicate to all.

Another Alderman referred to the recent Destination City launch event and questioned how the BIDs had engaged with this and linked up various SMEs into this. Ms Duston reported that follow-up work would be undertaken to measure the success of this in due course and reported that they had engaged with the Destination City team on this event but highlighted that the lead in time for this and communications around it had not been as extensive as they would have liked. However, she recognised that two major City BIDs were still very new whilst those such as Aldgate and Cheapside which were more established

tended to have more well-established communication channels within the City Corporation.

The Lord Mayor commented that, from what he had seen to date, the success behind the Aldgate BID really seemed to be driven by the extent of community engagement. He went on to underline the need to be holistic in terms of the BIDs and things like Destination City to really harness the ‘multiplier effect.’ He also mentioned the importance of the BIDs and indeed Destination City working hand in glove with the City’s Liveries to ensure that all investment was really achieving the best return that it could. Ms Duston responded by reporting that there was a BIDs Partnership Advisory Group chaired by the current Deputy Chairman of the City’s Policy and Resources Committee. She reported that the Group had met last week and had spoken extensively on Destination City. She added that they had also entered into a Communications Framework so that the BIDs and the City Corporation could establish better, two-way, communication channels. This would also examine how the BIDs could help shape some of the future Destination City programme.

An Alderman commented that the Aldgate and Portsoken Wards had been very disappointed not to see any real communications on the Golden Key event and asked the Director of Communications to take this on board when planning ahead for any future events of this kind.

With further reference to the Lord Mayor’s Show, the Chairman of the LMS Board reported that they were now looking very seriously as to how they might do more to commercialise the brand and the show and welcomed any conversations that he might have separately with the BIDs on this agenda going forward.

The Committee thanked the speakers once more for their contributions and congratulated them on all of their work to date.

5. REVIEWED AND UPDATED WARDMOTE BOOK

The Committee considered a joint report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive presenting a reviewed and updated Wardmote Book.

The Comptroller and City Solicitor reported that the changes here reflected the various changes over the last year including a change of Sovereign, various Acts of Common Council in relation to resolutions taken by the Court of Aldermen with regard to Statutory Declarations and Retirement Age.

RESOLVED – That Aldermen note the updates to the Wardmote Book.

6. SHRIEVAL PLAN 2022/23

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor outlining the proposed 2022 – 2023 Shrieval Plan to be championed by the Sheriffs, Alderman Alastair King & Andrew Marsden Esq.

Sheriff King spoke to underline that, ultimately, the Sheriffs' role was to support both the current Lord Mayor and the Lord Mayor Elect and that this Plan which was already familiar to most sought to divided up the various duties between the two Sheriffs. Appended to the Plan were the potential topics to be covered this Shrieval year as part of the themed lunches. The intention was to report back on these in due course. It was highlighted that there was much focus here on women's issues such as domestic violence, FGM and gender and the law. It was envisaged that the Aldermanic Sheriff would focus more on the business elements of the Plan with the Non-Aldermanic Sheriff tending to focus more on the Livery and Ward Club side.

The Lord Mayor highlighted that next year would see the 600th anniversary of the death of Richard Whittington and that one of his philanthropic ventures had involved the prisoners of Newgate Prison which was something that could be picked up within the Shrieval Plan and play in nicely to the 'No Going Back' body of work that the pan-Livery Steering Group had been spearheading in recent years. Others highlighted that the Mercers had already begun work on developing a programme around the anniversary. An Alderman highlighted that Richard Whittington had also awarded funds to '64 Longdrops' and that, given that sewage in the Thames was still an issue, this might also be worth the Sheriffs exploring further.

An Alderman highlighted that there was a budget set aside for Shrieval events. Sheriff King highlighted that he had meetings scheduled next week to help better understand this and what funds might be called upon for strategic matters.

Speaking further on the proposals for themed lunches, and Alderman questioned whether any thought had been given to education and inviting pupils from various City academies or those from Goodenough College into the Old Bailey/the City.

The Lord Mayor added that Sir Ken Olisa's office had always previously been a useful source of potential guests in past years and commended this to the Sheriffs.

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen note and endorse the Shrieval Plan for 2022/23.

7. **STRATEGY MORNING - NEXT STEPS**

The Committee took the opportunity to discuss the next steps coming out of the recent Aldermanic Strategy Morning session held in September 2022.

The Town Clerk distributed the final membership of the three Strategy Groups (Internal Priorities, External Priorities, Communications and Stakeholder Engagement) established as a result of the Strategy Morning.

The Chairman suggested that he was of the view that there ought to be a Junior lead and Senior Chair of each Group. He went on to report that the expectation was that each Group would convene ahead of future meetings of this Committee with a view to each reporting back into future meetings.

The Deputy Chairman remarked that one of the outcomes which had attracted universal support at the Strategy Morning was the production of an Aldermanic Impact Report. He was of the view that it would be ideal to see this launched

early in the New Year. Sheriff King reported that he had already given some thought as to the content of the Impact Report and undertook to share this with all in due course. He added that he would also like to introduce a video element to the report which it might be helpful for the Lord Mayor to introduce for maximum impact.

The Chairman referred to the Pan Livery Impact Report which had recently been launched and suggested that this was a good example of a successful report. He asked that the Town Clerk seek to obtain hard copies of this and distribute to all Aldermen and key Officers as well as emailing PDF versions to all.

8. **APPOINTMENT TO LORD MAYORS SHOW LIMITED**

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen agree the nomination of Aldermen and Sheriff Alastair King as a Director of the Lord Mayor’s Show Limited which would be taken forward to the Lord Mayor’s Show Board for ratification.

The Chairman of the Lord Mayor’s Show Ltd reported that, with regards to the proposal to appoint an external director with marketing and commercial experience, procurement were now drafting a proposal to potentially go to the Policy and Resources Committee in November.

9. **ALDERMANIC APPOINTMENTS**

The Chairman took the opportunity to report on various recent Aldermanic appointments as follows:

- Alderman Kawsar Zaman to the Port Health and Environmental Service Committee (in the room of Alderwoman Susan Langley);
- Alderman Christopher Makin to the Community and Children’s Services Committee (in the room of Alderman Gregory Jones);
- Alderwoman Jennette Newman to Bridewell Royal Hospital

He added that there had also been some discussion with the Remembrancer as to Aldermanic spots on Emanuel School and the United Westminster Foundation. He stated that the key point here was that the Court of Aldermen had the right to nominate Governors for these schools and that these places could therefore be offered up more widely, for example to members of the City’s Education Board. An Alderman who had previously held these spaces as a Governor reported that the Schools would seemingly also be content with this approach and that this was a common approach adopted by others who nominated third-party candidates.

10. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS LIST**

The Committee considered the Outstanding Actions List which had been updated since the last meeting on 6 September 2022.

Aldermanic Clothing Allowance – The Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor reported that a substantive report on this would be brought forward to the next meeting of this Committee in December.

The Chairman asked that the Committee also be updated as to the Shrieval Budget at their next meeting.

RESOLVED: - That –

1. the Outstanding Actions List be noted; and
2. that completed items be removed from the list.

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

There were no questions.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
Quorum for Court of Aldermen

The Chairman reported that, at present, the quorum for meetings of the Court of Aldermen was ‘the Lord Mayor or their locum tenens, together with ten Aldermen’ – a high percentage. It was therefore proposed that this be reduced to ‘the Lord Mayor or their locum tenens together with seven Aldermen.’

The Town Clerk reported that, in the case of the Nominations Committee of the Court of Aldermen, the quorum was thirteen with a quorum of three for the General Purposes Committee. The Aldermen were of the view that the quorum of this Committee ought to also be increased to seven.

RESOLVED – That the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen recommend to the Court of Aldermen that the quorum for future meetings of the Court be amended to read ‘the Lord Mayor or their locum tenens together with seven Aldermen’ and that the quorum for the General Purposes Committee be amended to ‘seven Aldermen’ with the Court’s Standing Orders to amended accordingly to reflect this.

Livery Committee

The Deputy Chairman reported that the Livery Committee had been very focused in recent years on Livery Liaison and that that latest iteration of this Scheme included using the Court of Aldermen for this purpose. It was therefore suggested that the Chair of the Livery Committee be invited to the next meeting of this Committee in December to set out what this might look like.

Pan Livery Movement

The Deputy Chairman reported that the Panel Livery Impact Report also set out proposals for the future in that it was set to continue, working closely with the Livery Committee, and drawing together all stakeholders in a more advisory as opposed to executive fashion. He added that he had stepped down from his Charing role of this in September and that Alderman Michael Mainelli would now assume the role with the idea being that the Lord Mayor designate would do so each year going forward as they prepared for their Mayoral year.

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen’s Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman

and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

14. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

The Committee considered the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 6th September 2022 and approved them as a correct record.

15. **ALDERMANIC QUALIFICATIONS - FOREIGN CONVICTIONS**

The Committee considered a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor setting out options and issues in relation to the risk of an Alderman with a relevant foreign conviction being elected.

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

There were no questions raised in non-public session.

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

Additional items of business concerning the Aldermanic Appraisal Panel Meeting 2023, the Aldermanic Rolling Programme of Events, the Herald's Proclamation Fee, and the Presentation of Lord Mayor Elect at House of Lords were discussed in non-public session.

18. **STAFFING MATTER**

The Committee considered and approved a confidential report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor relative to a staffing matter.

The meeting ended at 12.25pm

Chairman

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