

COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS (POLICY & RESOURCES)
COMMITTEE

Monday, 31 October 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Communications & Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Deputy Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)	Alderman Nicholas Lyons
Deputy Rehana Ameer	Catherine McGuinness
Emily Benn	Deborah Oliver
Mary Durcan	Ian Seaton
Alderman Prem Goyal	Alderman Sir William Russell

Officers:

Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Director of Communications
Kristy Sandino	- Town Clerk's Department
John Park	- Town Clerk's Department
Sam Hutchings	- Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Paul Double	- Remembrancer
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
William Stark	- Remembrancer's Department

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Shравan Joshi and Deputy Henry Colthurst. Tijis Broeke issued apologies but observed the meeting virtually.

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

Alderman Prem Goyal declared an interest in respect of item 7, Think Tank Review and Membership due to being a Senior Advisor on the Economic and Commercial Diplomacy Advisory Group at the International Business and Diplomatic Exchange (IBDE).

3. MINUTES

A Member noted that benchmarking would be important for the Resident Survey.

The report on the elections mentioned at item 17, had been submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee in October 2022.

RESOLVED – That the public minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk regarding the Sub-Committee's outstanding actions.

1/2022/P - The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the City Corporation could email Ward Newsletters using data for the Ward Lists (which is an electoral function) due to a lack of permissions when collecting the information.

Rather than seeking these permissions the Deputy Town Clerk recommended, with the support of Members, that the City Corporation bring back proposals for better and more effective engagement methods.

2/2022/P – the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that this action had been completed, with the statement having been issued to the editor of the Livery Committee website. The Deputy Town Clerk commented that there were now greater lines of communication between the City Corporation and those working on the Livery Committee website.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

5. **PARTY CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding an update on Party Conferences.

Both the Deputy Town Clerk, Chairman and Members of the Sub-Committee expressed their gratitude to the team of officers responsible for coordinating the various party conference visits and events.

Having requested that Members be given more specific duties for their visits, the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee had hoped for more detailed Member feedback and intelligence to be featured within the report. It was also requested that more quantitative data be pulled together year on year (e.g., fringe attendance numbers etc.)

Another Member asked if Members could see how much was spent. It was suggested that because the funding came from City's Cash, this may need to be presented as an aggregate figure, with detail set out in a non-public supplement.

It was noted that there had been substantial and robust engagement with Labour.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. **SPORTS UPDATE**

Members considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding a update on sport engagement and the corporate wide sport review.

11.50 – Catherine McGuinness joined the meeting.

Members referenced the recent Global Sport Agora event at Guildhall and the important relationship between business and sport. It was acknowledged that sport engagement events were helping to improve relations between sport and the global Financial and Professional Services Sector. Members also noted that sport should play an integral part of plans for Destination City, City Livery engagement, and the new Corporate Plan.

All Members expressed support for repurposing of the unused Policy Initiative (PIF) monies for other sports engagement – noting that this would need to be approved by the Policy & Resources Committee.

The Policy Lead for Sport Engagement noted that opportunities to host more sporting events in the City, were being explored. Encouragingly, a large number of Members had expressed an interest to attend a Member Sounding Board breakfast on sports engagement, to discuss issues such as this.

11.59 – Deputy Randall Anderson left the meeting.

The schedule of engagement was deemed impressive, but a question was raised as to why the Qatar World Cup did not feature. Whilst it was being hosted abroad, it was felt that there could be potential to host screenings etc. or put a spotlight on relevant social themes such as LGBTQ+ representation in sport or Human Rights issues.

The Deputy Town Clerk noted that there was an Ethical Investment Policy being brought for Member consideration in December 2022/January 2023.

RESOLVED, that Members

- (i) note the progress being made on the City Corporation's sport strategy and engagement work as outlined in this report
- (ii) endorse the proposed new Sport Ticket Allocation Procedure as set out in Appendix 1
- (iii) request that the Policy and Resources Committee agree to repurpose the underspend of £39,399, allocated from the Policy Initiatives Fund to the Commonwealth Games Queens Baton Relay event earlier this year, for other sport engagement activity in 2023/24

7. **THINK TANK REVIEW AND MEMBERSHIP 2022/23**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the Think Tank Review and Membership for 2022/23.

Concern was raised by Members about assessing concrete examples value the City Corporation gets from each institution. There was particular interest to

ensure there was a good party-political balance, as the nation approached the next general election.

The Deputy Town Clerk committed to providing greater detail to Members, including information on the various events, costs and core memberships.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

8. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding an update on Corporate Affairs activities.

Thanks were issued by Members to Officers of the Corporate Affairs Team.

A political engagement plan informed by a series of policy priorities helped the City Corporation work with and utilise a series of allies.

Members were encouraged to hear of the efforts undertaken to ensure a “one team” approach between the Chairman of Policy and the Lord Mayor.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

9. **MEDIA UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding a Media Activities Update.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

10. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Remembrancer regarding an update from the Parliamentary Team.

The Remembrancer provided an introduction, focussing upon the Financial Services and Markets Bill, the Online Safety Bill and the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill.

There was a brief discussion on the Boundary Commission.

It was suggested that the Schools Bill be brought to the attention of the Education Board.

RESOLVED, that the update be noted.

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

There was one question raised on the governance and oversight of the Museum of London. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Museum was operationally independent of the City Corporation, but that contact was made on a weekly basis to support and amplify their communications initiatives.

12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There was one item of urgent business, whereby the Deputy Town Clerk provided a brief update on the recruitment for a Director of Communications. There had been a high level of interest and he was confident in the high calibre of candidates.
13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
Members agreed that there was no discussion to be had in non-public session and concluded the meeting in public session.
14. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE**
None.
15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE SUB COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
None.

The meeting closed at 12.41 pm

Chairman

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