

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 15 December 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 15 December 2022 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)
Mary Durcan (Vice-Chair)
Munsur Ali
Deputy Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Deputy Shravan Joshi
Deputy Edward Lord
Alderman Ian David Luder
Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Catherine McGuinness
Wendy Mead
Alderman Sir William Russell
Ruby Sayed (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy Philip Woodhouse
Deputy Henry Colthurst (Ex-Officio Member)
Wendy Hyde (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Simon Duckworth (Chief Commoner) (Ex-Officio Member)

In Attendance (in Guildhall)

Oliver Sells

In Attendance (observing online)

Caroline Haines
Deputy Brian Mooney
Benjamin Murphy
Tijs Broeke
Madush Gupta

Officers:

Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain
John Barradell	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Valeria Cadena	- Community and Children's Services Department
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive
Paul Double	- City Remembrancer
Benjamin Dixon	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department

Polly Dunn, Clerk	- Town Clerk's Department
Graeme Low	- City Surveyor's Department
Dylan McKay	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
David Mendoza-Wolfson	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk
Gregory Moore	- Assistant Town Clerk
Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Jessica Lees	- City Surveyor's Department
Paul Wright	- Deputy Remembrancer
Rhys Campbell	- Town Clerk's Department
Simon McGinn	- Environment Department
Rob McNicol	- Environment Department
Emma Moore	- Chief Operating Officer
James Edwards	- Remembrancer's Office
Genine Whitehorn	- Chief Operating Officer's Department
Edmund Tran	- City Surveyor's Department
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Office
Tim Fletcher	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Nicholas Lyons, James Tumbridge, Marianne Fredericks, Tijs Broeke, Rehana Ameer and Deputy James Thomson.

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

The Town Clerk confirmed that Shravan Joshi had declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7 as a City Corporation nominated BID Observer.

Edward Lord declared an interest in item 7 as a Member of the group applying for Asset of Community Value status for Simpson's Tavern.

Alderman Hailes, Alderman Mainelli and Henry Colthurst declared their interest in item 16 as Directors of the Lord Mayor's Show Limited.

3. MINUTES

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 November 2022 were approved, subject to Simon Duckworth's apologies for the meeting being recorded.

- b) The draft public minutes of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 26th September 2022 were noted.
- c) The public minutes of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 7 October 2022 were noted.
- d) The draft public minutes of the Financial Investment Board meeting on Friday 21st October 2022 were noted.
- e) The draft public minutes of the Operational Property and Projects Sub-Committee meeting on 26th October 2022 were noted.

4. **MARKETS BOARD RESOLUTION**

The Committee received a resolution of Markets Board relating to future governance of the Markets Co-location Programme.

The Chairman referred to Markets Board's views relating to governance of the Markets Co-location Programme to be noted, as per their request. The Chairman added how he understood the Board's concerns regarding the volume of work and complexities associated with discharging the responsibilities of Member oversight in relation to the Markets Co-location Programme.

The Chairman referred to his discussions on the matter with colleagues, including the Chairman of Capital Buildings Board, following which it had been proposed that a new Member group be established. The group would sit under Capital Buildings Board and focus specifically on oversight of the Markets Co-location Programme.

The group would include amongst its numbers a representative of Policy and Resources Committee, Finance Committee, the Chair and Deputy Chair of Markets Committee, whilst also ensuring suitable representation of Capital Buildings Board, although not the Chairman of Capital Buildings Board who had indicated he would not wish to serve on it.

The Chairman proposed that Keith Bottomley, as a Member of Capital Buildings Board, as Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee and given his experience as Chair of Projects Sub-Committee, would be best positioned to Chair the new Board.

Members noted that going forward Capital Buildings Board would need to meet more frequently than it currently does, with it moving from bi-monthly to monthly meetings to allow for more timely action and decision making.

These arrangements, should Members agree to them, would ensure a structure appropriate to the size of the project and allow for sufficient Member capacity and engagement to address the concerns expressed by Markets Board.

The Chairman added how it would not be appropriate to go into the detail today, but that if Members were broadly happy with the proposal that he would ask

officers to take this away and come back with a report in January with detailed proposals for consideration and implementation.

A Member, also Chairman of Finance Committee, indicated his support for a Specialist Project Board. The Member suggested that any report back should include proposals relating to potential external investors, proposals for ensuring the Board would be specialist, focussed and able to make decisions. The Member add how he considered all projects should mirror the approach to be taken.

The Member accepted that the Specialist Project Board would not report direct to Finance Committee, whilst stressing that he considered a £1.5bn spend to be everything to do with finance and it being important that Finance Committee was kept up to date. The Member referred to reaching out to third party investors at an appropriate point and how he considered this to be a role for Finance Committee.

The Chairman responded, referring to consideration of financing of the capital programme as a matter for Resource Allocation Sub-Committee, of which the Member was Deputy Chairman. The Chairman agreed that the Specialist Project Board should have the ability to co-opt external expertise as it considered necessary, with there being potential of the whole nature of the group changing should external funding be achieved, and it becoming a Specialist Purpose Vehicle.

A Member, also Deputy Chairman of Markets Board, remarked on how he considered the proposed approach of the Chairman to a sensible and pragmatic way forward. The Member suggested that a meeting with relevant Members could take place in advance of the report being prepared to allow an opportunity for Members to talk to officers and share their thinking in relation to any proposals.

The Deputy Chairman added how all those involved in the Markets Co-Location Programme had one objective in wanting to see successful delivery of the project. The Chairman thanked the Deputy Chairman for agreeing to Chair the Specialist Project Board.

RESOLVED: That Members agreed to an outline proposal for a Specialist Project Board overseeing the Markets Co-Location Programme; noting a report would follow in January 2023 detailing proposals for consideration and implementation.

5. **APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF SIMPSON'S TAVERN AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment proposing Simpson's Tavern be designated as an Asset of Community Value.

The Chairman confirmed that, following consultation with the City Solicitor, Members on Planning and Transportation Committee would be able to discuss this item without jeopardising their ability to participate in any potential planning

applications in future. The Chairman added how he was aware of the concern of Members of any potential threat the City's landmark Simpson's Tavern.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY: That Members: -

- Agreed to designate Simpson's Tavern as an Asset of Community Value

6. **APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF ST BRIDES TAVERN PUBLIC HOUSE AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment proposing St Brides Tavern Public House be designated an Asset of Community Value.

The Chairman referred to an additional representation that had been received from Fleet House Developments Ltd in objection to the designation of St Brides Tavern as an Asset of Community Value. Members noted that officers had reviewed this additional representation and that they were of the view that it did not raise any material points that would change the recommendation to designate St Brides Tavern as an Asset of Community Value.

The Chairman noted the application had the backing of officers, whilst remarking on his surprise when reading of the recommendation seeking designation as an Asset of Community Value. The Chairman confirmed he would vote against the proposal.

During the discussion that followed, a Member, also Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee, remarked on it being a lovely Public House that was very well frequented, but that in his view it would be a lowering of the bar to grant it Asset of Community Value status. The Member added how there was development planned for the site, within which it had been agreed to retain a public house or bar within any new scheme. The Member confirmed he was against the proposal to grant Asset of Community Value Status.

Members noted that any removal of a public house or bar from the planning consent already granted for the site would have an impact on the existing planning application that had already been partially implemented.

The Chairman confirmed his intention to move to a vote, following which he noted that 9 Members voted against the recommendation, 3 Members voted in favour of the recommendation and 5 Members abstained. The Chairman declared that the Asset of Community Value had not been granted on this occasion.

RESOLVED: That Members:

- Refused a recommendation that St Brides Tavern Public House be designated an Asset of Community Value.

7. **MEMBER OBSERVERS ON BID BOARDS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment regarding arrangements in respect of the Member Observer roles on Business Improvement District (BID) Boards in the City.

The Chairman reminded Members of Shravan Joshi's non-pecuniary interest in this item as an existing City Corporation appointed BID Observer.

The Deputy Chairman referred to his discussions with the Chairs of each of the BID Boards, during which they had made it clear that their preference would be for option 4.

During the discussion that followed, there was support offered for option 4 as the preferred option of the BID Chairs and given the principle for rotation, but with concerns raised that annual rotation would be too often and therefore create the potential of losing an important level of knowledge.

Members noted that the City Corporation was already represented across all Bid Board meetings through the Executive Director Environment. The Executive Director Environment re-iterated the BID Board Chairs preference for option 4, further highlighting how Members were in attendance at BID Board meetings as observers to offer advice to help deliver a BID proposal. The Executive Director Environment confirmed that they would be at each BID Board meeting to offer continuity and would be able to help each new officer holder on a BID Board as they come into post each year.

A Member, also Chef Commoner, proposed agree to option 4, but giving each entity flexibility in the appointments, but with this proposal not being supported by Members of the Committee.

The Chairman proposed moving to a decision on option 4, noting the Chief Commoner's vote against this option.

REOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved Option 4 – To rotate the BID Member Observer each year across the Wards that sit within the BID footprint

8. CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY (CAS) - CAPITAL DELIVERY PROGRAMME FOR OPERATIONAL BUILDINGS

The Committee considered a Gateway 2 Project Proposal report relating to a capital delivery programme covering a portfolio of capital interventions to be delivered to decarbonise the most carbon intensive City of London operational buildings, in line with Climate Action Strategy net zero targets.

The Deputy Chairman raised his concern with a proposed payback period for certain projects of over 200 years and this appearing too long. The Deputy Chairman confirmed that he would not want to hold the project up at this gateway, but that as part of reporting at the next Gateway 3-5 he would want to see the detail of carbon savings towards net zero targets, how much was being spent on each project to achieve this and with further detail being provided on any payback period over seven years explaining why this period of time was needed.

The City Surveyor accepted the point on payback periods and confirmed this would be looked at in the round and reported as part of the next gateway. The City Surveyor further commented on the need for certain interventions to allow the City Corporation to achieve its Energy Performance Certificate rating.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Note that these proposals relate to an element of central funding previously allocated in principle to capital interventions under the Climate Action Strategy.
- Note the total estimated cost of the programme is **£5,311,867** (excluding risk).
- Note the costed risk budget of **£1,274,847** to cover potential budget variations attributable to unforeseen inflation fluctuations, potential delays due supply chain issues and asbestos removal. This budget will not be materialised at this stage and is not requested at this stage.
- Agree that a budget of **£250,000** from the above Climate Action provisions be approved to progress the work to Gateway stages 3 – 5 (£105,000 City Cash, £143,000 City Fund, £2,000 Bridge House Estates)
- Note that for expediency, Policy and Resources Committee members were being asked to approve the drawdown of the £248,000 in lieu of the Resource Allocations Sub-Committee (noting £2k is within the remit of the BHE Board).

9. **RENEWAL OF THE LONDON MARATHON PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community and Children's Service seeking the approval of Members to renew the current London Marathon Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) which expires in March 2023.

A Member remarked on how they considered a PSPO to be a heavy-handed approach, with its initial implementation and use coming about as a result of misconduct one year. The Member questioned whether it was essential now and suggested it did not represent a highly liberal approach to public order.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to the renewal of a Public Spaces Protection Order – extending it for a further three years so that a formal order can be drafted and presented to the Court of Common Council for approval.

Edward Lord confirmed their vote against the proposal.

10. **PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW**

The Committee received a report of the City Remembrancer outlining a revised proposal for the City of London's parliamentary constituency published by the Boundary Commission for England on 8 November 2022, and to take effect from 2023.

The Chairman took the opportunity to commend the Remembrancer and his team for all their work with the Boundary Commission in securing a revised proposal for the City of London's parliamentary constituency which would maintain the City of London's historic link with wards in the City of Westminster.

RESOLVED: That Members receive the report and note its content.

11. POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain providing a schedule of projects and activities which had received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund, the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund, Committee's Project Reserve and COVID19 Contingency Fund for 2022/23 and future years expenditure in 2022/23.

RECEIVED

12. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

City Residents - Damp and Mould Issues – A Member, also Chair of Community and Children's Services, provided an update on provisions put in place following reports in the media of the tragic death of a 2-year-old in Rochdale. Members noted that a process would kick in and be followed following any reports of damp or mould, with this being given a high priority and dealt with within 7 days for routine works or expedited accordingly where the issue was urgent.

The Member referred to work that remained ongoing in raising awareness through mailouts, working with local residents and through training of housing and property staff on dealing with damp and mould. It was hoped that this would give tenants a level of assurance that all was being that could be done.

The Member referred to the Green Doctors Scheme that was limited in those it can help and with it being hoped that officers could look to extend the criteria so that it covers those on low incomes. The Member remarked on potential funding issues this may create and whether there would be an option to come back to Policy and Resources Committee to request a small amount of funding.

The Chairman referred to all Members being sympathetic to the cause, whilst stressing there would be a need to operate within existing the existing funding envelope and it not being possible to commit to additional funds at this point.

A Member referred to an issue of mould and damp at Gresham Almshouses, with it being noted that a Local Authority has a statutory duty to take enforcement action and that they should raise the issue with officers so that appropriate action can be taken.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

Town Clerk's last Policy and Resources Committee

The Chairman took the opportunity to highlight that this would be John Barradell's last Policy and Resources Committee meeting, with his departure from the City Corporation at the end of this year after 10 years of service. The Chairman added how no words can be uttered that would prove sufficient to express Members' gratitude to John for his outstanding stewardship of the City Corporation throughout this period.

The Chairman asked that all Members of Policy and Resources Committee join him in wishing John every happiness in his retirement.

14. 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.

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 November 2022 were approved.
- b) The draft non-public minutes of the Financial Investment Board meeting on Friday 21st October were noted.
- c) The non-public minutes of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 7 October 2022 were noted.
- d) The draft non-public minutes of the Operational Property and Projects Sub-Committee meeting on 26th October 2022 were noted.

16. THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW - FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Operating Officer relating to the Lord Mayor's Show Future Opportunities.

17. GUILDHALL CHARGING REVIEW

The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer relating to a Guildhall Charging Review.

18. VISION 2030 - LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF UK FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Innovation and Growth relating to Vision 2030.

19. CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT - CELL AREA DUCTING AND EXTRACT SYSTEM BALANCING

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor relating to Central Criminal Court Cell Area Ducting and Extract System Balancing.

20. **APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF SIMPSON'S TAVERN AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The Committee received a non-public appendix to be read in conjunction with item 5 on the agenda.

21. **APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION OF ST BRIDES TAVERN PUBLIC HOUSE AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The Committee received a non-public appendix to be read in conjunction with item 6 on the agenda.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no additional items of business.

Part 3 - Confidential Agenda

24. **MINUTES**

- a) The confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17th November 2022 were approved.
- b) The confidential minutes of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 7th October 2022 were noted.

The meeting ended at 3.24pm

Chairman

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