

**COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS (POLICY & RESOURCES)**  
**COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 12 December 2022**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Communications & Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 1.45 pm**

**Present**

**Members:**

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Deputy Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)	Catherine McGuinness
Emily Benn	Ruby Sayed
Deputy Henry Colthurst	Ian Seaton
Alderman Prem Goyal	Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli

**Officers:**

Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Director of Communications
Kristy Sandino	- Town Clerk's Department
Sanjay Odedra	- Town Clerk's Department
Sarah Bridgman	- Town Clerk's Department
Mark Gettleson	- 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
Dylan McKay	- Office of the Policy Chairman
Doug Precey	- Mansion House

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Henry Colthurst, Alderman Sir William Russell, Deputy Shravan Joshi and Deborah Oliver. Catherine McGuinness and Mary Durcan observed the meeting virtually.

It was noted that Ian Seaton's name was erroneously omitted from the agenda front sheet.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 31 October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

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

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.

5. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**

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

It was noted that the Schools' Bill had been dropped.

Members commented on the outcome of the Parliamentary Boundary Review, which recommended no change to the City of London. Members welcomed this result. The final decision would be taken in June 2023, but it was considered unlikely to go against the original recommendation.

There was a brief discussion on the Financial Services and Markets (FSM) Bill. It was not believed that the Edinburgh Reforms would incite changes, but there may be some arising from the House of Lords.

It was noted that the FSM Bill and Edinburgh Reforms fed into the policies of the Lord Mayor and Chairman of Policy. The Remembrancer suggested that the City Corporation needed to work to create synergies.

The Remembrancer agreed to share key points and scripts for Members to use when meeting relevant industry and parliamentary figures on the Markets Bill.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.

6. **CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs regarding an update on Corporate Affairs activity.

The Centre for London's Phase 2 report on London's Contribution in the UK was referenced and would be circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee after the meeting. It reflected on what investment could do for London and the country and added weight to the Levelling-Up report evidence base, with third party endorsement.

Members encouraged a balance between Government and opposition engagement. They also sought detail on regional engagement out of London.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.

**7. MEDIA UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs regarding an update on media activity.

There had been some positive coverage in recent months, and it was noted that the key to successful media engagement was being available.

When asked about any trends, Members were informed that the engagement around Destination City and the use of influencers had helped to reach those not on corporate channels. Some of the City's Freedom awards had also generated huge interest.

**RESOLVED**, that the report be noted.

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

Questions were raised as follows -

The Deputy Town and Clerk Executive and Director of Communications and External Affairs was invited to give an update on the recruitment of a Media Officer to cover Planning & Transportation.

Members were advised that there had been multiple recruitment campaigns and in one instance the successful candidate withdrew. There had been a Market Force Supplement added to the role following various benchmarking exercises, along with changes to the job description. In the meantime, a Media Officer was covering the portfolio alongside other responsibilities. There had been issues with recruitment and sustaining staff across the Corporation, but it was believed that the matter would be resolved shortly.

The Deputy Town and Clerk Executive and Director of Communications and External Affairs was invited to give an update on the City-wide opinion survey.

A Market Research expert with Local Authority experience had been engaged at a competitive rate given the desired timeframe and budget envelope. 500 residents and 1000 workers were approached. There were high response rates, and work was underway to ensure the final report met with certain quotas (e.g. to ensure not all resident responses came from one estate – and worker feedback was sourced from different sectors).

A question was raised on the cost-of-living crisis and whether there had been consideration given to a social media campaign on energy savings.

There was a brief discussion on light pollution at night, which had been raised in other committees. There were no statutory powers that the City Corporation could exercise to stop this, but it could encourage businesses through a campaign. It was noted that conversations needed to be with building owners/facilities management, rather than just tenants. The Chairman agreed to raise the matter as part of his work with BIDs.

A question was raised on the Pan Livery Steering Group Impact Report of 2022, and what was done to help promote it. The Deputy Town and Clerk Executive and Director of Communications and External Affairs confirmed that it was supported through the City's social media channels and webpage. The report was considered a valuable resource which would feature on an ongoing basis.

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

There were no urgent items.

10. **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 or relates to functions of the Court of Common Council which are not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

There were two questions.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

**The meeting closed at 2.54 pm**

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Chairman

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