

COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS (POLICY & RESOURCES)
COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 14 February 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Communications & Corporate Affairs (Policy & Resources) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 2.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)	Deputy Edward Lord
Emily Benn	Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Henry Colthurst	Ruby Sayed
Mary Durcan	Ian Seaton
Alderman Prem Goyal	Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Deputy Shravan Joshi	Alderman Sir William Russell

Officers:

	- Remembrancer
	- Remembrancer's Department
Bob Roberts	- Deputy Town Clerk
Philip Saunders	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Kristy Sandino	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Sanjay Odedra	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
John Park	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Mark Gettleson	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Yassar Abbas	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
David Mendoza-Wolfson	- Office of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee
Dylan McKay	- Office of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Christopher Hayward, Deputy Henry Colthurst, Tijs Broeke, Deborah Oliver and Tom Sleigh.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

It was noted that Deputy Henry Colthurst was not present at the last meeting and had issued apologies.

RESOLVED – That subject to the correction in attendance, the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 12 December 2022, be approved as an accurate record.

4. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

5. **RESULTS OF SURVEY OF CITY RESIDENTS AND WORKERS**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding the results of the City Residents and Workers Survey. The following matters were raised:

- The Deputy Town Clerk wished for the outcome of this survey should inform all of the work of the City Corporation.
- Members encouraged some consideration on the regularity of this survey and whether in future Members could be used given the links they have to their electorate.
- A query was raised as to why there were more negative reflections from older generations. It was suggested that this may have been because of perceived changes to the City Corporation's offer over time.
- It was proposed that a briefing be organised to socialise the results with the wider Court membership. This included a request to submit the report for information to a forthcoming Community and Children's Services Committee meeting. It was also suggested that some form of extract may usefully be shared to the livery via the Livery Committee.
- A query was raised as to why Sky was not involved, and the Deputy Town Clerk committed to following this up with the polling company.
- In response to a question regarding next steps, the Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that it would be presented to all Chief Officers at the Executive Leadership Board.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

6. **DELIVERING THE RESIDENTIAL RESET**

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding resetting residential engagement.

There was a brief discussion on the nature of the posts proposed. It was also noted that there were already too many databases at the City Corporation and so this exercise should seek to pool on existing data across departments.

RESOLVED, that Members support proposals to deliver the Residential Reset as set out in the report, for onward approval by the Policy & Resources Committee.

7. **WORKER ENGAGEMENT: THE CITY BELONGING PROJECT**

Members considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding worker engagement and the City Belonging Project.

A concern was raised on accessibility, and it was suggested that should the physical Ward Newsletters be stopped, a limited number of hard copy communications be made available in central locations such as libraries.

It was suggested that hard copy communications, used in a more targeted way, may still be useful.

There was a brief debate on how limited the reach of the Ward Newsletters was and how the repurposing of cost could potentially help improve electoral registration.

Pursuant to Standing Order 38, upon putting the recommendations to a vote, Deputy Charles Edward Lord wished to note their dissent from the majority decision.

RESOLVED, that Members:-

- Note the report; and
- Recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee, the suspension of the existing physical Ward Newsletters for a period of two years to provide up to £80,000 in additional funding for the above activities.

8. UPDATE ON PLANS FOR A COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN ENCOURAGING CITY BUILDINGS TO SWITCH OFF THEIR LIGHTS WHEN UNOCCUPIED

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding a campaign to encourage those managing buildings within the City, to turn lights off when unoccupied, to help reduce light pollution and energy wasting in the City.

Members noted that it was crucial that the City's operational properties were adhering to the campaign.

It was suggested that work be done to promote the campaign with other councils to see if there could be broader national take-up.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

9. MEDIA UPDATE

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding an update of the City Corporation's media activities.

Members thanked officers for the swift movement in response to the Turkish-Syrian earthquake.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

10. CORPORATE AFFAIRS UPDATE

Members received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk regarding an update of the City Corporation's Corporate Affairs activities.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

11. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Remembrancer regarding an update on the Parliamentary Team's activities.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There were no urgent items.

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.

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

Under matters arising, Members received a verbal update of action taken to improve political equity, including information on various upcoming events.

RESOLVED, that the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 December, be approved as an accurate record.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was one item of urgent business regarding the recruitment of the Director of Communications. Members were informed that a verbal offer had been made and accepted by the preferred candidate.

The meeting closed at 2.47 pm

Chairman

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