

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 27 March 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held at Committee Room 3 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 27 March 2023 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Wendy Hyde (Chair)	Jason Groves
Munsur Ali (Deputy Chairman)	Frances Leach
Jamel Banda	Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli
Brendan Barns	Wendy Mead
Matthew Bell	Eamonn Mullally
Emily Benn	Deborah Oliver
Deputy Mark Bostock	Anett Rideg
James Bromiley-Davis	David Sales
John Foley	Mark Wheatley
John Griffiths	Irem Yerdelen

In Attendance

Officers:

Elizabeth Scott	- Head of Guildhall Art Gallery, Town Clerks
Damian Nussbaum	- Director of Innovation & Growth
Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Markiewicz	- London Metropolitan Archives
Will Gompertz	- Barbican Centre
Tania Harrison	- Innovation and Growth
Luciana Magliocco	- Innovation and Growth
Dylan McKay	- Deputy Town Clerk's Department
Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Graham Packham, Caroline Haines, Jaspreet Hodgson, Antony Manchester, Alpa Raja, and Ian Seaton.

The following Members observed the meeting online: James Bromiley-Davis, Deputy Madush Gupta, Judith Pleasance, Deputy Nighat Qureishi, and Dawn Wright.

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

John Foley declared that he is a customer of Hoare's Bank.

3. **VOTE OF THANKS**

Members agreed that the Vote of Thanks be moved at the July 2023 meeting.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the public minutes of the meeting of 23 January 2023 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

The following matters were raised in relation to the minutes of 23 January 2023:

Item 3: The meeting noted that the Policy & Resources (P&R) Committee had, on 23 March 2023, agreed to approve the following recommendation:

- *Task officers to explore suitable alternative arrangements for a **Culture** Forum and Masterplan and present back to the Committee within six to twelve months.*

The meeting noted that the CHL Committee's brief was to consider content and strategy rather than City properties' use (though working alongside property use). A Member commented that no decision had actually been made, and that there appeared to be a need for a cultural strategy with an implementation plan. The Member commented that culture and creative industry strategy issues would benefit from being considered and reviewed in a more holistic manner, and it was noted that the CHL Committee would be involved in the recommendation presented to the P&R Committee. A Member sought reassurance that the exploration of alternative arrangements would maximise the expertise within the City's resident community aside from the envoy programme. The meeting heard that the exploration would be thorough and far-reaching, and would consider resident engagement issues as part of its brief, and that the formation of the group was at a very early stage.

Item 5: A Member commented that suitable residents had not been given an opportunity during 2022 to apply to become an envoy, and that resident representation was important to the success of the City's cultural strategy. The Member proposed that an additional envoy from the resident community be selected via an open recruitment exercise to add to the existing expertise. The meeting heard that both CHL and P&R Committees had recently approved the recruitment process for the Member-resident envoy's appointment, that appointments were set to run a further two years, and that it would be disruptive to the process to appoint a further envoy at this stage. The Committee noted that an open recruitment process would need to commence soon for further envoy recruitment exercises from 2025, and Members commented that an open and transparent recruitment exercise going forward (to include clear KPIs) would be welcome. The meeting noted that the City envoy network currently included senior-level industry-leading experts across all categories of the Destination City agenda.

Item 6: A Member commented that Hoare's Bank appeared to have withdrawn their application (causing it to be rejected) and questioned whether the minutes reflect both that and the discussion on the issue itself. The meeting heard that some miscommunication had occurred between Hoare's Bank, the City of

London Corporation (CoLC) and the Committee, and that the minutes reflected the discussion during the meeting though an update was appropriate.

Members queried whether the CoLC had a clear policy on 'retain and explain' (to include refraining from commissioning any new works that commemorate or celebrate contested heritage, including the slave trade), commenting that the existence of such a policy had been indicated. The meeting heard that reviews of relevant policies were expected to be conducted to ensure its clear and consistent application and understanding following significant changes in personnel in the City's Culture team, noting that there was a gap in the Corporation's policy following the work of the Statues Working Group during 2021.

The meeting noted that research on the contested heritage was commissioned in mid-March 2023 and entrusted to the LMA to be completed by mid-April 2023, to encompass an examination of historic records (see action 01/2023). A Member expressed disappointment that such research had not been undertaken earlier, commenting that academic evidence submitted during the decision process appeared to be flawed. In response to a question on the brief to the researcher, the Committee heard that the brief encompassed an investigation of any of the Bank's association with the slave trade (if applicable) that might give rise to concern.

The following points were also made:

- The City of London Corporation itself and most of the City was likely to have been involved in the slave trade;
- The commissioned research is expected to shed light on whether issues needed to be addressed in the case of the Hoare's Bank proposal;
- A user-friendly general policy on commemorating/celebrating contested heritage would be welcome;
- Prominent abolitionists were active in the City of London and were worthy of commemoration;
- The decision on the Hoare's Bank application was taken entirely in line with CoLC procedures; and
- The Hoare's Bank proposal was intended to mark a historical fact rather than celebrate problematic history.

Item 8: A Member asked what progress had taken place on the Culture Mile BID since January 2023, recalling the discussion during the January meeting on potential confusion around the 'Culture Mile' designation. The meeting heard that the new BID would work under a new name, and the public realm designs would be removed by mid-2023. Members sought clarification on whether residents had been appropriately consulted, and the meeting heard that such consultation would be discussed with Primera (including an exploration of whether a working group comprising residents would be appropriate) (see action 02/2023).

5. **FORWARD PLAN**

Members noted the Committee's forward plan.

6. **REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The meeting noted that the City of London Police museum had been reinstated during the most recent P&R meeting.

On section (m) of the Terms of Reference, Members agreed that the following phrase should be amended: 'following consultation with the Policy & Resources Committee' to read as follows 'following consultation with all stakeholders'. The amendment was proposed, seconded and approved by a majority following the expression of concerns that the P&R Committee appeared to exert significant influence on the CHL Committee's work, and that the work of the CHL Committee was to drive cultural strategy as a collaborative effort.

RESOLVED, That the Committee's amended Terms of Reference be approved ahead of their submission to the April meeting of the Court of Common Council, noting the reinstatement of the City of London Police Museum, and subject to the amended wording of section (m): replace the phrase 'following consultation with the Policy & Resources Committee' to read as follows 'following consultation with all stakeholders'.

7. **LONDON METROPOLITAN ARCHIVES UPDATE REPORT**

Members noted the report of the Deputy Town Clerk setting out the three key areas of development at the London Metropolitan Archives, updating the report submitted to the Committee in November 2022.

On the proposal to create an 'exciting digital offering', a Member asked for clarification on what that would entail. The meeting heard that the offering would include the picture archive that was currently under-used, and a new front-end website to present the LMA in a more engaging way. A Member commented that some of the search functions would benefit from further work. The meeting noted that the LMA team is aware the system needs some work and would be adjusted to generate a more user-centred experience as soon as other priorities were under way.

Members noted that the LMA's audience was global, and that further engagement work would benefit from continuing to take that into account over and above encouraging visitors to the building. Members commented that there was merit in creating connections with other institutions such as the Barbican Centre and the Museum of London (as well as other City and non-City assets), and the meeting heard that such initiatives had taken place in the past, and that further such initiatives were planned. A Member commented that there were likely to be interesting opportunities for link-ups with the new site of the Museum of London expected to be officially opened on 25 October 2025.

On the element of confusion among some users around the name, a Member asked whether a re-brand was being considered. The meeting heard that there was enthusiasm for changing the name to better reflect the institution's work and that progress was being made to that end.

Referencing the project 'Switching the lens', a Member asked for further information on the volunteer strategy. The meeting heard that further reviews of

the volunteer strategy were expected when current priorities have been addressed.

Members commended and thanked the LMA for its work.

8. **LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Members considered the report of the Director of Community & Children's Services and noted the outcome report.

RESOLVED, That the Project be closed.

9. **CITY ARTS INITIATIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE**

Members considered the report of the Executive Director, Innovation & Growth.

A Member commented that residents did not appear to have been consulted in the manner suggested by the document, and some appeared unhappy with the scope of the currently proposed Jaggard memorial. The meeting noted that some canvassing had been undertaken and that there was support for some kind of commemorative structure to mark the site of the Folio 400 printing, though opinions differed on what that structure should be. The meeting also noted that the anniversary was in November 2023 and that there were, therefore, timing implications.

The meeting noted that Seats at the Table had been agreed for Postman's Park, and that consultation was ongoing in respect of 'Urban Playground'.

RESOLVED, That Members ratify the City Arts Initiative's recommendations as set out in the report, as follows:

- **Folio 400 – William Jaggard – Permanent Memorial** – take into account updates on ongoing consultation;
- **London Festival of Architecture (LFA) – Urban Playground:** approve subject to accessibility consultation, and consultation with Highways and Planning with regards to location, maintenance, safety & liability. Further clarification on how installation is interpreted also recommended; and
- **London Festival of Architecture (LFA) – Seats at the Table:** approve subject to clarifications on timeline, location and accessibility.

10. **KEATS HOUSE - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

Members received and noted the report of The Chamberlain and the Executive Director Environment presenting the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year-ended 31 March 2022 for Keats House.

11. GUILDHALL LIBRARY CENTENARY FUND - TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Members received and noted the report of The Chamberlain presenting the Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year-ended 31 March 2022 for the Guildhall Library Centenary Fund.

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

Members asked for regular updates on the work of Destination City given that the CHL Committee had oversight on Destination City, and the meeting heard that key updates and material regular updates would be submitted on the work of Destination City.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

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 next 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.

The meeting ended at 1.15 pm

Chairman

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