

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 28 March 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)	Alderman Prem Goyal
Mary Durcan (Deputy Chairman)	Caroline Haines
Shahnan Bakth	Deputy Ann Holmes
Alderman Alexander Barr	Deputy Henry Pollard
Timothy Butcher	Oliver Sells KC
Deputy Peter Dunphy	Glen Witney
John Edwards	

Officers:

Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Juliemma McLoughlin	- Executive Director, Environment Department
Gary Burks	- Environment Department
Timothy Bage	- Environment Department
Ellen Fouweather	- Town Clerk's Department
Joe Kingston	- Environment Department
Tony Macklin	- Environment Department
Aggie Minas	- Environment Department
Kehinde Haastrup-Olagunju jnr	- Town Clerk's Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Environment Department
Steve Playle	- Environment Department
Susie Pritchard	- Environment Department
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department
Gavin Stedman	- Environment Department
Maria Traynor	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Christopher Boden, Helen Fentiman, Marianne Fredericks, Steve Goodman, Henrika Priest, and Irem Yerdelen.

George Abrahams, Henry Jones, Andrew McMurtrie, Giles Shilson and Jason Pritchard observed the meeting virtually.

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

There were none.

3. **MINUTES**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held 24 January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

Members noted that officers were still waiting for confirmation from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the details and timeline for the introduction of the Border Target Operating Model; the Committee would receive an update once more information was available.

4. **PUBLIC OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members noted the following items from the Committee's outstanding actions list:

- Correspondence between the Chairman and London Underground had been circulated to Members following a disappointing trail.
- Members had received the presentation regarding income generation and the medium-term Capital Plan. **Closed.**

5. **DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2023/24 - ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Environment Department's draft high-level Business Plan 2023/24.

Members discussed the KPIs in the report, noting that it was a top-level strategic plan and that more specific targets would be included in a future report. Officers undertook to return with clarification on whether the projected and actual budget figures were actual revenues.

A Member requested that officers consider the wording in the plan regarding Destination City, hoping to see a more positive focus.

Members praised the Assistant Director of Gardens and Cleansing for his response rate.

Members raised concerns over the data presented in the staff engagement survey, including staff engagement and diversity in the department's workforce. It was noted that the Environment Department was the largest of the City Corporation's department, and the Natural Environment part was still going through the TOM. The figures for the old departmental breakdowns were much stronger. At the request of a Member, officers undertook to provide a breakdown of the Department's senior leadership by ethnic group. The Chairman requested that officers return with a more granular report in the autumn.

RESOLVED, that - Members:

- Note the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Environment Department Business Plan; and

- Approve the elements of the departmental high-level Business Plan which fall within the remit of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee

6. **PROPOSED CHARGES FOR STREET CLEANSING, WASTE COLLECTION AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES 2023/24**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to proposed charges for services provided by the City Corporation's (the City) Street Cleansing, Waste Collection and Public Conveniences operations.

Officers undertook to provide Members with information on the process for reporting and removing dockless bikes and scooters.

RESOLVED, that - Members approve the charges in the report with effect from 1 April 2023.

7. **STREET TRADING FEES 2023/24**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to street trading fees for 2023/24.

RESOLVED, that - Members agree the proposed fees for 2023/24 as set out in the report.

8. **IMPROVEMENTS TO METHODOLOGY OF THE CITY OF LONDON THAMES FISHERY RESEARCH EXPERIMENT**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Thames Fishery Research Experiment.

The Chairman paid tribute to Reg Butcher.

Some Members expressed their concern that the Research Experiment had moved too far towards being a competition and had lost its scientific overtones. They requested that it be reviewed again after 12 months.

RESOLVED, that – Members:

- Approve the 51st City of London Thames Fishery Research Experiment to proceed in 2023 on the basis that the proposed improvements to angling methodology are implemented and additional external funding is sought.
- Approve the grant of £4,800 from City's Cash to partially fund the 2023 Experiment.

9. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, providing an update on risk management.

RESOLVED, that – the report be received and its contents noted.

10. **TRADING STANDARDS TEAM UPDATE**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, providing an update on the work of the Trading Standards team.

The following areas were discussed:

- Although food standards and food hygiene are distinct areas of work, they are combined when undertaking interventions.
- There are well-established codes of practice governing how regulatory bodies could employ underage test purchasers, with exhaustive risk assessments and the safety of the young person always being paramount
- There was a small risk of fraud in the City regarding grants for insulation in lower council tax bands, but it was an enormous one nationally. The Trading Standards team be responsible for looking at any potentially fraudulent aspects of work carried out.

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

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023 were approved as a correct record.

15. HEATHROW ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE - FORWARD PLAN

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre Forward Plan.

16. PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEBTORS - PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2022

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to outstanding debts.

17. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions in the non-public session.

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no urgent business in the non-public session.

The Chairman informed Members that, after serving on the Committee for eight years, and as Chairman for the past three, he would be stepping down entirely

in April. He praised officers for their amazing work, and thanked Members for their diligent and collegiate scrutiny of this work.

The meeting closed at 12.51 pm

Chairman

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