



## LYONS, MAYOR

# COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

**12th January 2023**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

### ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)  
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)  
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)  
Alison Gowman (Alderman)  
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)

Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)  
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)  
Sheriff Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)  
Tim Levene (Alderman)  
Ian David Luder (Alderman)  
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Nicholas  
Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)

Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)  
Bronek Masojada (Alderman)  
Susan Jane Pearson (Alderwoman)  
Sir David Hugh Wootton (Alderman)  
Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)

### COMMONERS

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie  
George Christopher Abrahams  
Munsur Ali  
Rehana Banu Ameer, Deputy  
Brendan Barns  
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn  
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith  
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy  
Mark Bostock, Deputy  
Tijs Broeke  
James Bromiley-Davis  
Timothy Richard Butcher  
Michael John Cassidy, Deputy  
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst, Deputy  
Anne Corbett  
Simon Duckworth, Deputy  
Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy

Mary Durcan  
Helen Lesley Fentimen  
Sophie Anne Fernandes  
John William Fletcher, Deputy  
John Foley  
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy  
Martha Grekos  
John Griffiths  
Jason Groves  
Madush Gupta, Deputy  
Caroline Wilma Haines  
Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy  
Ann Holmes, Deputy  
Wendy Hyde  
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, Deputy  
Elizabeth Anne King  
Gregory Alfred Lawrence

Frances Leach  
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen, Deputy  
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP, Deputy  
Antony Geoffrey Manchester  
Paul Nicholas Martinelli  
Andrew Paul Mayer  
Catherine McGuinness CBE  
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie  
Timothy James McNally  
Wendy Mead  
Eamonn James Mullally  
Deborah Oliver TD  
Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest  
Alpa Raja  
Anett Rideg  
David Sales

Ian Christopher Norman Seaton  
Hugh Selka  
Alethea Silk  
Paul Singh  
Tom Sleigh  
Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy  
Naresh Hari Sonpar  
James Michael Douglas  
Thomson, Deputy  
Shailendra Kumar Kantilal Umradia  
Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano Wheatley  
Ceri Wilkins  
Glen David Witney  
Philip Woodhouse, Deputy  
Dawn Linsey Wright  
Irem Yerdelen

1. Apologies      The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations      There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes      *Resolved* – That the Minutes of the Court meetings held on the 8 December 2022, are correctly recorded.

4. Mayoral  
Engagements

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements, including a visit to New York City and meeting with the Vietnamese Ambassador and the Chilean Ambassador. The Lord Mayor informed the Court that he would be hosting the Mayor of London for the London Government Dinner, and visiting Scotland, Ireland, Australia and the Gulf.

5. Policy  
Statement

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee offered his congratulations to his predecessor as Chair of the Committee, Catherine McGuinness, on her receipt of a CBE in the New Years Honours List. She had stewarded the City Corporation through a period of immense change and challenge.

The Chairman reflected on the theme of challenges in 2022 and looked forward to the year ahead, and the best ways to support the City, its residents and its local businesses.

He informed the Court that officers in the Innovation & Growth department had begun work on Vision 2030 to lay the foundations for the future success of the UK's financial and professional services sector, by harnessing the City Corporation's vital role as the sectors leading champion to produce a compelling vision for the future. The initiative was one of many ways in which the Chairman was working with the Lord Mayor to promote the financial and professional services sector and the UK's competitiveness both locally and abroad.

The Chairman would be joining the Lord Mayor in his visits to Scotland and Ireland and would also be visiting Paris to expand on the future UK/EU relationship post-Brexit.

The Chairman reflected on the effect that changes in the economic climate had had on City residents and its local businesses. The Chairman had listened to the challenges these groups faced at two City-wide resident meetings, and thanked his fellow Chairs and officers who had joined him for these. Leaflets had been delivered to every household in the Square Mile, and to residents on the City Corporation's housing estates, with information on how they could access services and programmes aimed at easing the cost of living crisis.

Following a question at the previous Court meeting on what support the City could provide to children and young people, the Chairman had written to the Chair and Executive Member for Children and Young People at London Councils, to ask whether there was any scope for developing proportionate pan-London proposals on free school meals. He understood that the Education Board would be receiving an oral update on the use of the City Premium Grant at its February meeting, with a written update to follow in April.

Finally, the Chairman informed the Court that the Policy and Resources Committee had voted in December to designate Simpsons Tavern in Cornhill as an Asset of Community Value.

The Chairman was confident that, while the above issues demonstrated that the City Corporation faced challenges from the global to the local, these could be

overcome and that the City would finish 2023 in a better place than it had started.

## 6. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)**

15 December 2022

### **Public Space Protection Order – London Marathon Related Disorder**

The Court considered a report relating to the renewal of the current London Marathon Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO), which expires in March 2023, to continue to effectively mitigate anti-social behaviour and violent disorder previously experienced with certain sections of the race route through the City of London.

*Resolved* – That the making of a Public Space Protection Order be approved, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, in accordance with Section 59 of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, along the route of the London Marathon.

## 7. **PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley)**

29 November 2022

### **Animal Reception Centre – Heathrow Airport: Annual Review of Charges**

The Court considered a report relating to an increase to be applied to the Schedule in respect of services provided at the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre (HARC), for the forthcoming financial year 2023/24.

*Resolved* - that the Byelaws contained at Appendix A to the report be made and the Comptroller and City Solicitor be instructed to seal the Byelaws accordingly.

## 8. **CIVIC AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP)**

6 December 2022

### **Applications for Hospitality**

#### **(a) Afternoon reception following the official opening of the City Junior School**

It was proposed that the City Corporation hosts an afternoon reception following the official opening of the City Junior School on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

The City of London Junior School is a joint venture between the City of London School and City of London School for Girls and is the first new independent school to have opened in the City in 128 years. The Lord Mayor and Baroness Hall, a Gray's Inn bencher and supporter of the school, will officially open the school and unveil a plaque to mark the occasion.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the

auspices of the Board of Governors of the City Junior school; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

**(b) Industry and Parliament Trust Programme 2023**

It was proposed that the City Corporation continues to collaborate with the Industry and Parliament Trust on a series of meetings in 2023 related to areas of interest to the City Corporation. Guests and speakers would include a City representative such as the Lord Mayor or Policy Chair, parliamentarians, policy makers, and prominent business, academic and industry representatives.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Policy and Resources Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

**(c) Major League Baseball London Series 2023 Official Welcome Reception**

It was proposed that the City Corporation hosts an evening reception at Guildhall on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 as the official welcome event prior to the 2023 Major League Baseball London Series.

In June 2019, Major League Baseball (MLB) organised two regular season games at London Stadium in the Olympic Park, with these being the first games ever played in London. Two further games were due to take place in 2020 but were postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Following the positive feedback from the 2019 games, MLB invited European cities to bid to host games in future years, with the Greater London Authority (GLA) putting together a successful bid in 2020 to host two games in London each year from 2023 – 2026.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Policy and Resources Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

**(d) Private View to launch 'The Big City' exhibition**

It was proposed that the City Corporation hosts a private view in Guildhall Art Gallery to launch 'The Big City' exhibition on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The exhibition 'The Big City: London Painted on a Grand Scale' will be on display from 10<sup>th</sup> February until 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 in Guildhall Art Gallery. 'The Big City' will celebrate artists who have painted London on a monumental scale and will feature the collection's largest paintings.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

**(e) Early evening reception following Pride Flag Raising**

The 2023 Pride in London Parade will take place on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023, with advice from the Department for Culture Media and Sport to Government Departments being for the Rainbow Flag to be flown during the week from Monday

26<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

It was proposed that the Pride Flag fly at Guildhall in line with Government advice and that the City Corporation hosts a reception in the Old Library following the flag raising on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The reception will provide an opportunity for the City Corporation to show its continuing support for the LGBT+ community and its commitment to promoting diversity and inclusion throughout London.

A question was raised regarding whether staff networks across other City businesses were being engaged for this and other similar events. The Chair of the Sub-Committee responded to confirm that colleague resource groups and staff networks across a range of businesses would be approached for relevant occasions. This had been undertaken recently, with success, at the recent Hannukah event.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

**(f) Early evening reception to mark the Installation of the new Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry**

It was proposed that the City Corporation hosts an early evening reception to mark the Installation of the new Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry Church on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee informed the Court that the date of this event may change following news that the original candidate identified for this role would no longer be taking up the post.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

**(g) Supper for the City Benefices**

The City of London Corporation has a long-standing patronage of Church of England Benefices in the dioceses of London, Southwark and Chelmsford. These form an important element in the relationship with the Church extending beyond the City of London.

It was proposed that the City Corporation hosts a supper for Benefices, with the aim of bringing together the representatives of each benefice, to promote City relationships and provide a forum for informal discussion on matters of common interest.

*Resolved* - That hospitality be granted and that arrangements are made under the auspices of the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee; the costs to be met from City's Cash within approved parameters.

## 9. Freedoms

The Chamberlain, in pursuance of the Order of this Court, presented a list of the under-mentioned, persons who had made applications to be admitted to the Freedom of the City by Redemption: -

<b>John Anthony Barnes</b> <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>John Paul Tobin</i>	a Ductwork Ventilation System Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Dartford, Kent
<b>Stephen Bediako, OBE</b> <i>Thomas Sleigh, CC</i> <i>Tijs Broeke, CC</i>	a Social Entrepreneur <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Lambeth, London
<b>Børge Brende</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i>	President of the World Economic Forum <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i>	Geneva, Switzerland
<b>Robert James Brown</b> <i>Gary John Smith</i> <i>Dr Anthony Guy Smart, MBE</i>	a Banker, retired <i>Citizen and Furniture Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Furniture Maker</i>	Abbey Wood, London
<b>Adele Caroline Bywater</b> <i>Peter Holmes-Johnson</i> <i>James David Fell</i>	a Talent Acquisition Manager <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Constructor</i>	Brentwood, Essex
<b>Jane Sainthill Charman</b> <i>John Anthony Telfor Saywell</i> <i>Alison Rebecca Gill</i>	a Veterinary Physiotherapist <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Horner</i>	Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex
<b>Rajiv Kumar Chityal</b> <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Global Strategic Sales Company Vice President <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Hounslow, Middlesex
<b>Mary Patricia Crowley</b> <i>Sir Michael Bear</i> <i>Lady Barbara Anne Bear</i>	a Fundraising Consultant, retired <i>Citizen and Pavior</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Golders Green, London
<b>Jane Elizabeth Crowther</b> <i>Sir Michael Bear</i> <i>Lady Barbara Anne Bear</i>	a Registered Nurse <i>Citizen and Pavior</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Golders Green, London
<b>William Thomas Diggins</b> <i>Antony Charles Greene</i> <i>Derek Martin Morley</i>	a Hairdressing Salon Company Director <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Furniture Maker</i>	Northampton, Northamptonshire

<b>Kimberly Suzanne Douglas</b> <i>William Smith</i> <i>Oliver Jack Corry Gotto</i>	an Advertising Strategy Planner <i>Citizen and Actuary</i> <i>Citizen and Broderer</i>	Brixton, London
<b>Christopher Ray Ezekiel</b> <i>Reginald Beer</i> <i>Donald Howard Coombe, MBE</i>	a Software Company Owner <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	Poplar, London
<b>Martin Christopher Flannery</b> <i>John Moran</i> <i>Vincent Dignam</i>	a Plant Hire Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Pinner, Middlesex
<b>Patrick Flannery</b> <i>John Moran</i> <i>Vincent Dignam</i>	a Plant Hire Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Ruislip, Middlesex
<b>Patrick Flannery</b> <i>John Moran</i> <i>Vincent Dignam</i>	a Plant Hire Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Kilburn, London
<b>Dr Ellen Merete Hagen</b> <i>Ian Mayes, KC</i> <i>Robin Griffith-Jones</i>	a Physician <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i> <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i>	City of London
<b>Nicole Calanit Hausdorff</b>  <i>Ald. Emma Edhem</i> <i>Hamish McArthur</i>	a Parliamentary Counsel  <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	Earls Court, London
<b>Lee Christopher Hensley</b>  <i>Alan Shelley</i> <i>Graham George Howell</i>	an Aerospace Industry Machinist  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Carmen</i>	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
<b>Joanne Cary Higgs</b>  <i>Ald. Robert Picton Seymour Howard</i> <i>Ald. Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman</i>	a Pre-School Practitioner and Ward Beadle <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	Southampton, Hampshire
<b>Lisa Kathleen Honan, CBE</b> <i>Stephen Willis</i> <i>Dr Millan Sachania</i>	a Diplomat, retired <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Bromley, London
<b>Laura Jane King, MBE</b>  <i>John Nigel Major McLean, OBE</i> <i>Ald. &amp; Sheriff Alastair John Naisbitt King</i>	a Fine Foods Company Director  <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Walton On Thames, Surrey
<b>Alex Lawrence</b>  <i>Anthony John Paice</i> <i>Gerald Michael Edwards</i>	a Paralegal  <i>Citizen and Mason</i> <i>Citizen and Fruiterer</i>	Stockbridge, Hampshire

<b>Jennifer Frances Mill</b> <i>Stephen Willis</i> <i>Dr Millan Sachania</i>	a Tour Guide <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Bromley, Kent
<b>Véronique Morel-Kane</b>  <i>Deputy James Henry George Pollard</i> <i>Biagio Fraulo</i>	a Chartered Wealth Manager  <i>Citizen and Skinner</i> <i>Citizen and Management Consultant</i>	Wandsworth, London
<b>Alan George Myatt</b>  <i>Alan Shelley</i> <i>Graham George Howell</i>	a Town Crier for the City of Gloucester  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Carmen</i>	Gloucester, Gloucestershire
<b>Melanie Suzanne Robinson, CBE</b> <i>Captain Robin Batt</i> <i>Lord Mountevans</i>	a Royal Navy Officer  <i>Citizen and Master Mariner</i> <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i>	Fareham, Hampshire
<b>Daniel Douglas Ronen</b>  <i>Roger William Whitworth</i> <i>Peter Michael</i>	a Chartered Engineer  <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Edgware, Middlesex
<b>Dr June-Alison Sealy</b>  <i>David Arnold Raines</i> <i>Susan Liv Keane, JP</i>	a Justice of the Peace  <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	Golders Green, London
<b>Jane Shakeshaft</b> <i>Ald. Vincent Keaveny</i> <i>David Anthony Barrett</i>	a Catering Operations Director <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i> <i>Citizen and Coachmaker &amp; Coach Harness Maker</i>	Woolwich, London
<b>Devesh Srivastava</b> <i>Dominic Gerard Christian, CC</i> <i>Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst</i>	an Insurance Executive <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	Mumbai, India
<b>James Clement Wheeler-Mallinson</b>  <i>Scott Marcus Longman</i> <i>Michael David Wear</i>	a Chartered Wealth Manager  <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Haywards Heath, West Sussex
<b>Professor Sir Christopher John Macrae Whitty, KCB</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Simon D'Olier Duckworth, OBE, DL</i>	Chief Medical Officer for England  <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Skinner</i>	Westminster, London
<b>Lt Cdr Josephine Jane Young</b> <i>Clare Hughes, OBE</i> <i>Lord Mountevans</i>	a Clinical Psychologist <i>Citizen and Cooper</i> <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i>	Epsom, Surrey

## 12. Questions

*Grekos, M., to  
the Chairman of  
the Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

**Assets of Community Value**

Noting the recent decision by the Policy and Resources Committee not to list St Bride's Tavern as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) counter to the advice of officers, Martha Grekos expressed her doubts that Members had been properly equipped to make the decision and had not received legal training to make these decisions. She also felt that Members had not properly read the reports in advance. She therefore asked the Chairman if there were any plans to train Members on making decisions on these issues.

Responding, the Policy Chairman said that it was for officers to advise and for Members to decide, and this was precisely what had happened in the case of St Bride's Tavern. The Policy and Resources Committee was the body responsible for taking a decision on listing a premises as an Asset of Community Value and that, in the specific case of St Bride's Tavern, it had been clear that the Committee had not been convinced that the designation was justified. On the matter of training, the Chairman encouraged those interested to join the recently re-established Member Learning and Development Steering Group, which would be meeting to consider a refreshed Member Learning Strategy. It was incorrect to say that Members were required to undertake legal training in order to participate in general decision-making, other than with regards to licensing and planning.

He expressed disappointment at the insinuations made by the questioner. The comments were not appropriate, did not have substance and were unacceptable, and expressed a hope that they would be withdrawn. He understood that all Members take the responsibility of discharging their duties seriously, and reminded the Court again that while Members relied on the expert advice of officers, they were not bound to follow this advice.

In response, Martha Grekos questioned whether the matter was planning related and if there was a requirement for Members to have legal training.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks asked a supplementary question of the Chairman of Policy and Resources, referring to the Chairman's statement that it is the role of officers to advise and Members to decide. Deputy Fredericks agreed that in most cases, this was correct, but reminded the Court of an application for a designation of an ACV that had had to be retaken after originally being refused. Deputy Fredericks said that the report on St Bride's Tavern had said that the submitted evidence met the national criteria and the City Corporation's guidelines for designation, and therefore asked why it had not been approved.

In reply, the Chairman said that Members were guided by legality and officer's advice on their legal functions. If he had been told that the decision should have automatically been approved as it met national criteria, then he felt it should have been taken under a delegated decision by officers and not referred to Members, and if referred to Members there should not have been a recommendation in the report.. He undertook to look into the matter further outside of the Court and would take further legal guidance to confirm that Members had discharged their responsibilities legally and correctly.

Deputy Ann Holmes asked a supplementary question, referring to her eight years of

experience on the Member Development Steering Group. She had frequently requested that all Members receive planning training, as decisions around this came up at many Committees, and were also a large part of ward business for Members. She asked the Chairman if she would be minded to consider that training on planning be given to all Members.

The Chairman said that the Civic Affairs Sub Committee would be considering the new draft strategy for such training, and was confident that the Chair of this Committee would take the comments into account at the relevant meeting.

*Singh, P., to the  
Chairman of the  
Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

### **Diversity on the Court**

Paul Singh asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee how the Committee could work with the Court of Alderman to address issues of diversity, with a particular focus on the diversity of ethnicity among Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor.

In reply, the Chairman reflected that Lord Lisvane had rightly pointed out that a lack of diversity was a weakness for the City Corporation and that improving the diversity of candidates in the Court elections had been a key part in the campaign for 2021-22. The campaign had been successful in increasing the number of people eligible to stand for election by growing the size of the Ward Lists. The campaign had also focused on communicating the need to register voters reflecting the workforce of the City, including those from diverse backgrounds. The Chairman noted that the City Corporation could continue to improve its engagement with diversity networks in workplaces across the Square Mile to feed into Common Council and Aldermanic elections. He said that without increasing awareness of the City Corporation among eligible candidates across the City, these individuals would never get to the point of considering standing. The best way of increasing the diversity of the Court, including the Court of Alderman and civic officers, was to increase the diversity of candidates who came forward for election. The Chairman reminded Members that it was ultimately for the electorate to decide who to vote for. Every Member played an ambassadorial role in raising awareness of the City Corporation and its activities, helping to take people on the journey from being unaware of the City Corporation to actively considering standing for election. The Chairman assured Mr Singh that the core element of the forthcoming community engagement plan would be to involve the workplace diversity networks and introduce them to the idea of standing as candidates in the future, with a report to be brought forward in the coming months.

The Chairman, referring again to Lord Lisvane's report, reminded Members that the Equality Act prescribed nine protected characteristics, which were not always visible or immediately obvious. He said that it was important to be careful not to identify people on sight. He said that the activities being undertaken were improving outcomes in this important manner in the Court and the Court of Alderman but recognised that there was always more work to be done.

Tom Sleight asked a supplementary question of the Chairman, referring to his own experience as the founder of the Member Diversity Working Party and the work that had been done to make the Court more reflective of the diversity of London, asked if the Chairman agreed that it was time to reactivate the Member Diversity Working

Party. He also said that the Ward Lists did not apply to candidates for Alderman. He acknowledged that there were nine protected characteristics, but said that the Working Party had been focused on gender and race.

The Chairman of the Civic Affairs Sub Committee made a point of order to say that the Policy and Resources Committee and Corporate Services Committee had established an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee, with responsibility for Member diversity.

The Chairman thanked both Members and confirmed that the Ward Lists were only applicable to candidates for Common Council seats. He said that the Alderman formed part of the wider Court of Common Council and played a full role in the work of the Committees and the wider activities of the City Corporation. The Chairman informed the Court that he had spoken with the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen, and they had both agreed to meet to look at the Community Engagement Plan as it impacts on the Court of Alderman. The Chairman reminded the Court that over the two years of the pandemic, the City had been unable to hold aldermanic elections, and it was only recently possible to hold these again. The evidence of these recent elections demonstrated a much wider breadth of candidates standing.

Frances Leach asked the Chairman if he would make a commitment to widening the intake of candidates from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The Chairman agreed with these comments.

Greg Lawrence asked the Chairman if he could look into the question of diversity among Freemasons. In reply, the Chairman said that the issue being discussed was that of diversity among candidates for the Court of Common Council and the Court of Alderman, not diversity in masonic lodges.

*Wheatley, M., to  
the Chairman of  
the Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

### **Ethical Policy**

Mark Wheatley asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, asking for an update on the development of an Ethical Policy for the City Corporation.

The Chairman replied that, subject to the agreement of the Chief Commoner, it was his intention to include discussion of a draft ethical policy statement at the informal Court meeting in February.

*Boden, C.  
Deputy, to the  
Chairman of the  
Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

### **Employment support for adults with learning difficulties**

Deputy Christopher Boden asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning what employment support the City Corporation could provide for adults with learning difficulties.

The Chairman said that the disability employment gap remained a significant challenge, with only half of disabled adults across the UK in employment compared to just half of non-disabled adults. The lowest employment rate for any disability was one in three adults with autism in employment.

The Chairman acknowledged that this was a cause close to the Lord Mayor's heart,

and that he and the Court were aware of the Lord Mayor's support for Neurodiversity in Business.

The Chairman was pleased to say that the City Corporation had been successful the previous year in securing Department for Education funding for Supported Internships, a programme which supports adults with disabilities to provide work placements within the City and wider London based employers.

The Chairman also highlighted the work of Central London Forward, a body based at the City Corporation which operates the devolved Work & Health Programme for Central London and manages the Central London Integration Hub, which brings together employment and skills support to help adults with disabilities.

### **Salisbury Square Development**

*Lawrence, G., to  
the Chairman of  
the Finance  
Committee*

Gregory Lawrence asked of the Finance Committee Chairman whether the Finance Committee would report the full financial picture of the Salisbury Square development to this Court, to see what the business case and whether there would be an undertaking to stop any further spending on the project until the Court has received the information.

The Finance Chairman responded by confirming that oversight of the Salisbury Square Development, comprising the new Court complex and Police Head Quarters, was a development within the remit of the Capital Buildings Board. That board was tasked with delivering the project from within a budget envelope set by this Court when it made the decision to proceed in 2018. The Court report at the time had made it clear that a full economic appraisal had not been carried out at that stage - only a financial appraisal, which reflected on the wider economic and reputational benefits that arose from the scheme.

The Chairman recalled historic concerns about failing police accommodation and mounting costs of maintaining an ageing estate. The Court had made its decision to proceed within that context and set a budget envelope which currently stood at £596m.

Following that decision, commitments had been made. What had not been anticipated at the time were the later pandemic, or cost inflation of the scale now being experienced.

The Chairman said that an immediate halt to works to save costs sounded tempting, it would incite an unfavourable reaction from HMCTS and Government. There would be enormous implications, reputational and otherwise, if the City Corporation went back on committed obligations and contractual agreements. It was unlikely that this course of action would save money given costs associated with delays and redesigns.

The Chairman said that responsibility for expenditure lay with the Capital Buildings Board. The role of the Finance Committee was limited - provided that such decisions sit within the approved envelope. Nevertheless, on behalf of the Finance Committee, the Chairman had recently asked officers to ensure that the Finance Committee is provided with a high level monthly summary of financial progress of

all major Capital Buildings projects. Their ability to stay within their budgets forms a crucial part of financial planning. The aim is to ensure that all Members of the Finance Committee can monitor the position robustly but objectively and are presented with no sudden surprises which impact budgets and expectations elsewhere.

In conclusion, the Chairman said that he could not give the commitment which the Honourable Member requests, and that it was not in his remit to countermand the approved position of this Court.

The Chairman thanked the Honourable Member for highlighting the financial pressures which this Honourable Court is going to face for the foreseeable future, and hoped that vigilance and balanced judgment from all members would help the inevitable demands from all sides made as part of budget setting to be addressed wisely and prudently, and kept within the financial envelope that could afforded.

*Under Standing Order 13(10), Members were advised that remaining questions not dealt with owing to the expiration of the 40 minutes time limit shall be deferred for consideration at the following meeting and shall be put in advance of other questions, or may, with the consent of the questioner, be answered in writing within two working days, a copy of the answer being placed in the Members' Reading Room.*

13.  
Legislation

The Court received a report on measures introduced by Parliament which might have an effect on the services provided by the City Corporation as follows:-

**Statutory Instruments**

**Date in force**

**The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Commencement No. 5) Regulations 2022 No. 1227**

31st January  
2023

These Regulations bring into force provisions of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 relating to the duty under the Act on specified authorities to collaborate with each other to prevent and reduce serious violence. The specified authorities under the Act include the Common Council of the City of London, in its capacity as a local authority, and the Commissioner of the City of London Police.

**The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 5 and Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2022 No 1266**

1st January  
2023

These Regulations bring into force provisions of the

Environment Act 2021 which require public authorities, including the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority, to take action to conserve and enhance biodiversity and to produce biodiversity reports detailing the action taken. This strengthens the requirement under existing legislation for local authorities and local planning authorities to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity when delivering their functions.

**The Prevention and Reduction of Serious Violence (Strategies etc.) Regulations 2022 No 1305** 31st January 2023

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 places duties on specified authorities, including the Common Council in its capacity as a local authority, to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence. This includes a duty to prepare and implement a strategy for exercising the authority's functions to prevent and reduce serious violence in its area. These Regulations provide for the publication and dissemination of a serious violence strategy and confer functions on local policing bodies, including the Common Council, to enable them to assist specified authorities in relation to their duties of preventing and reducing serious violence.

The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.

Read.

*(The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.)*

14.  
Resolutions

Hayward, C.  
Deputy,  
Duckworth,  
S.D'O., O.B.E

*Resolved unanimously* – That, on the occasion of his retirement, Members of this Court are delighted to have the opportunity to convey to:

JOHN BARRADELL OBE

their gratitude and sincere appreciation for his distinguished service and manner in which he has undertaken his responsibilities as Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation over the past ten years.

John joined the Corporation in 2012, appointed as the City's 50<sup>th</sup> Town Clerk. We should recall the decade with pride not only for the City's notable successes, but for the manner in which John has endured its significant challenges, all of which he met with remarkable leadership, and unwavering integrity.

Both of these characteristics have gone hand in hand with John's extensive experience and networks in the resilience and emergency management fields. His work on the Government Grenfell Recovery Taskforce is well known within the City, as well as his more recent role in the Grenfell Inquiry. In all instances, John's has

demonstrated great commitment to those in need.

He was key to leading the response to the COVID pandemic, not only within the City but Pan-London, which involved significant crisis management for services impacting all residents, workers and visitors of London. Closer to home, it included responsibility for the implementation of whole new way of working for the City's some 4000 officers and, of course, its 125 Members. This was just one of many notable areas of considerable change that John has overseen at the City Corporation.

John has witnessed and managed the smooth transition between multiple changes in political leadership within the organisation, including governance reviews, a net of 79 new Members and no fewer than three Policy Chairmen. He has also been fundamental in the delivery of a new and diverse Senior Leadership Team within the establishment, who will ensure that the future of the organisation lives out his vision of pride, pace, passion and professionalism.

Under John's stewardship we have seen the progression of a number of Major Projects and campaigns that will alter what the City is and does for the coming century, enabling us to be more relevant, reliable, responsible and radical, whilst making best use of our resources to create a vibrant and thriving City, supporting a diverse and sustainable London. These include the submission of the Markets Bill, for the relocation of two of the City's historic Markets to a purpose-built site in Dagenham Dock, the new Police Estate at Salisbury Square and the relocation of the Museum of London to West Smithfield.

Of course, he has also steered us through one of the most significant changes within living memory, with the Proclamation of our new monarch, King Charles the Third, on the steps of our very own Royal Exchange, then later representing the City with Members at the funeral of her late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth the Second.

John has exercised his duties at the City Corporation with extreme care and compassion. His presence at Guildhall, the City and across London, will be sorely missed. In thanking him for his most distinguished service, his integrity and passion, the Court wishes to express to him, Maggie and their daughters their sincere wishes for all there is to come.

In recognition of a number of Members and Officers of the City Corporation and City of London Police in the New Year's Honours List:-

*Resolved unanimously* – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Catherine McGuinness, CBE, on her recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of her services to the financial sector and to educational inclusion.

*Resolved unanimously* – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Paul Double on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, in recognition of his services to the Platinum Jubilee of Her Late Majesty the Queen.

Duckworth,  
S.D'O., O.B.E.,  
D.L. Deputy,  
Colthurst,  
H.N.A., Deputy

Duckworth,  
S.D'O., O.B.E.,  
D.L. Deputy,

Colthurst,  
H.N.A., Deputy

*Resolved unanimously* – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Commander David Lawes, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to policing.

Duckworth,  
S.D'O., O.B.E.,  
D.L. Deputy,  
Colthurst,  
H.N.A., Deputy

It was noted that a further two individuals associated with the City were referred to in the New Year's Honours List and congratulations were consequently extended to:-

Mouhssin Ismail, lately the Principal of Newham Collegiate Sixth Form Centre, for his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of services to education.

William Michael Thornton, who was awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of services to the community in docklands, following decades of involvement at Billingsgate Market.

17. Hospital  
Seal

There were no docquets for the Seal.

18. Awards &  
Prizes

There was no report.

20.

*Resolved* – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

21. Non-  
public minutes

*Resolved* – That the non-public minutes of the last Court held on 8 December are correctly recorded.

22.

#### **PROPERTY INVESTMENT BOARD**

The Court was asked to approve the disposal of a long leasehold.

23.

#### **PROPERTY INVESTMENT BOARD**

The Court was asked to approve the purchase by City's Estate of a freehold interest.

24.

#### **BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES BOARD**

The Court received a report relating to an investment property forming part of the charity's permanent endowment.

25.

#### **PROPERTY INVESTMENT BOARD**

The Court received a report of action taken relating to the refurbishment and extension of City property.

**The meeting commenced at 1pm and ended at 2.13pm**

COGHER.