



LYONS, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

22nd June 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)
Alison Gowman (Alderman)
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)
Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)

Gregory Jones KC (Alderman)
Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)
Sheriff Alastair John Naisbitt King DL
(Alderman)
Dame Susan Langley (Alderwoman)
Tim Levene (Alderman)
Ian David Luder (Alderman)
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Nicholas
Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)
Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli
(Alderman)

Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Jennette Rachel Newman (Alderwoman)
Susan Jane Pearson (Alderwoman)
Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell
(Alderman)
Sir David Hugh Wootton (Alderman)
Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)

COMMONERS

Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy
Brendan Barns
Matthew Bell
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith
Ian Bishop-Laggett
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy
Mark Bostock, Deputy
Keith David Forbes Bottomley,
Deputy
Tijs Broeke
James Bromiley-Davis
Timothy Richard Butcher
Michael John Cassidy, Deputy
Henry Nicholas Almroth
Colthurst, Deputy
Ann Holmes, Deputy
Anne Corbett
Graeme Doshi-Smith, Deputy

Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy
Mary Durcan
John Ernest Edwards
Helen Lesley Fentimen
Sophie Anne Fernandes
John William Fletcher, Deputy
John Foley
Steve Goodman
John Griffiths
Jason Groves
Madush Gupta, Deputy
Christopher Michael Hayward,
Deputy
Jaspreet Hodgson
Michael Hudson
Wendy Hyde
Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi,
Deputy

Elizabeth Anne King
Frances Leach
Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-
Owen, Deputy
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP,
Deputy
Paul Nicholas Martinelli
Andrew Paul Mayer
Catherine McGuinness CBE
Andrew Stratton McMurtrie
Wendy Mead
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers,
Deputy
Brian Desmond Francis Mooney,
Deputy
Eamonn James Mullally
Deborah Oliver TD
Graham Packham, Deputy
James Henry George Pollard,
Deputy
Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest

Anett Rideg
Ruby Sayed
Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson,
Deputy
Alethea Silk
Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Naresh Hari Sonpar
James Richard Tumbridge
Shailendra Kumar Kantilal
Umradia
William Upton KC
Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Delano Wheatley
Ceri Wilkins
Glen David Witney
Dawn Linsey Wright

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations There were no additional declarations made.
3. Minutes The Town Clerk informed the Court of an amendment to the minutes of the

previous meeting, as follows:

Resolved – That the Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded, subject to the following amendment:

On page 8, paragraph 4 of Item 9 (Ethical Policy): to replace “to be included in future iterations and sought the Court’s leave to consider come up with an appropriate form of wording to re-present for inclusion.” with: “the Chairman agreed to look to amend the statement with appropriate wording and, with the Court’s permission, would work with the questioner to appropriately amend the policy, which would be brought back for the Court’s future approval”.

4. Mayoral Engagements

The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to mark the 75th anniversary of the Empire Windrush’s arrival in Britain and provided the Court with an update on his recent engagements, including visits to Singapore, Japan, and China to promote UK financial and professional services in Asia. He also reported on his participation, together with the Sheriffs, in the Livery weekend in Glasgow, as well as on his address to the Ukraine Recovery Conference held at Mansion House.

5. Policy Statement

There was no statement.

6. Appointments

With the leave of the Court, Deputy Madush Gupta and Deputy Charles Edward Lord, withdrew their nominations for the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls.

The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments to vacancies on various committees and outside bodies:-

- (A) **Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls** (one vacancy)
(No Contest)
Nominations received:-
Alderswoman Susan Pearson

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderswoman Susan Pearson to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls, for the balance of a term expiring July 2025.

- (B) **Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee** (three vacancies)
(No Contest)
Nominations received:-
Deputy Charles Edward Lord

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Charles Edward Lord to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2025.

(C) **Digital Services Committee** (one vacancy)

(No contest)

Nominations received:-

Ian Bishop-Laggett

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Ian Bishop-Laggett to be appointed to the Digital Services Committee, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2024.

(D) **Education Board** (one vacancy)

(No contest)

Nominations received:-

John Griffiths

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared John Griffiths to be appointed to the Education Board, for the balance of a term expiring in April 2026.

7. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

12 June 2023

Electronic Voting for Divisions (Standing Order No. 14 Revision)

In March 2022, the Court of Common Council approved, in-principle, a proposal to introduce a method of electronic voting, using handheld devices, for the purposes of Divisions taken at meetings of the Court in accordance with Standing Order No. 14. This proposal had itself arisen from a resolution passed by the Court in December 2022, instructing the Policy & Resources Committee to investigate the viability of introducing such a mechanism.

The adoption of this process was to be subject to the satisfactory completion of testing. This process having been undertaken and positive feedback received, an alteration to Standing Order No.14 was proposed to allow for electronic voting devices to be used for Divisions at Court of Common Council meetings from July 2023 onwards.

It was suggested that this might an appropriate time to consider returning the Court of Common Council to a purpose-built council chamber. However, the Chairman stated in reply that, while he was sure many Members would welcome this proposal, the City Corporation's capital commitment for the next decade meant that he could not commit to exploring this option.

Resolved - That Members approve the proposed amendment to Standing Order No.14, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, to provide for electronic voting in respect of Divisions at meetings of the Court of Common Council.

8. **PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Shravan Joshi)

12th June 2023

Gateway 4b: St Pauls Gyratory Project

The Court considered a report of the Planning and Transportation Committee seeking approval to continue the development of proposals to partially remove the gyratory between the old Museum of London site and St. Paul's Underground station.

The St Paul's Gyratory project would enable the closure of the southern section of King Edward Street to create a new public space. At over 3000sqm this would be larger than Aldgate Square and would offer exceptional views of St Paul's Cathedral and Christchurch Greyfriars. This would form a cultural thread connecting the connects the Tate Modern, the Millennium Bridge, St Paul's and the London Museum in Smithfield. As such, the square would help draw new audiences into the heart of the City, supporting the Destination City ambitions.

The concept design for the square sought to maximise opportunities for greening and seating. As the design was refined, Members and Officers were exploring how best to incorporate opportunities for exercise, play and culture. This would potentially include interpretation of the historical and archaeological significance of the immediate area.

The project complements the development at 81 Newgate Street, and would deliver wider improvements for the public. These would include improved crossings, wider pavements, protected space for cycling and an enhanced public realm.

The project would also have an impact on traffic flow and journey times. Taxis travelling on Newgate Street towards Cheapside would have a reduced journey time, while a car going northbound would use St Martins Le Grand to make travel around the square. The placement of bus stops would need to be altered, but modelling had indicated that most journey times would remain equivalent. It was not proposed to implement restrictions on which vehicle types could use which street.

As the design progressed, officers would continue to work closely with St Barts Hospital to ensure appropriate emergency access, and were also seeking to reduce traffic on Little Britain.

Members referred to the Equality Impact Assessment referenced in the report, which noted that the preferred option may have a negative impact on certain groups, including some disabled people. Considering the existing challenges for those with disabilities in traversing the City, concerns were expressed that the proposals may lead to further challenges.

Assurance was sought that the proposal was being considered alongside the various air quality improvement schemes across the City.

It was noted that the proposed option was not supported by St Bartholomew's (Barts) Hospital and Transport for London (TfL) that the coach industry may object due to the changes to parking arrangement. A question was raised as to whether these objections would cause a long delay, ultimately reverting to the other options.

Some Members were pleased to see the City Corporation considering changes to the public realm and linking up different parts of the City. The area in question had needed reinvestment and redesign for several years, with particular hazards for pedestrians and cyclists.

There was a possible increase in motor vehicle usage of Little Britain South, and residents of the affected Ward had suggested that they had not received feedback on the questions they had raised about this. Concern was expressed that commitments were made but no actions.

Responding to the points raised, the Chairman said the Equality Impact Assessment was a critical part of any planning process and officers would engage with the City of London Access Groups to ensure that accessibility and inclusion were at the heart of the proposals.

TfL had welcomed the proposed repositioning of bus stops, and the Chairman had been assured that the bus routes would hopefully be smoother and allow greater access. The project team had regular meetings with Barts Hospital, whose input had helped to inform the design development, particularly on blue-light access response time. Vehicle access to the hospital would be largely unchanged, however a proposal to introduce two-way working with vehicles on Montague Street between its junction with the Rotunda roundabout and Little Britain North would shorten blue-light journeys to Barts arriving from London Wall and Aldersgate Street. Pedestrian access to Barts would be improved by moving the new bus stops on King Edward Street closer to the hospital, as well as the improved environment created by the new public space. The Chairman informed members that the Barts Executive Board would be receiving the proposals in the following week, and he was confident that that body was supportive of the proposals.

On Little Britain South, the Chairman said that the majority of traffic passed through Little Britain North, where Barts Hospital had its main access for blue-light emergencies and its servicing bays. An analysis of traffic movements had shown that it was likely there would be an increase in traffic using Little Britain South if the gyratory system was modified, something which the project was actively seeking to avoid. The introduction of two-way working on Montague Street would significantly reduce traffic on Little Britain South, as well as aiding blue-light responses to Barts as it would create a more direct route.

Addressing the matter of air pollution, the Chairman said that the proposals were not expected to increase traffic on Aldersgate Street and Beech Street. The proposals before the Court did not change the current layout; any changes would form part of the second phase of the project, and they would likely be associated with any potential development at the former Museum of London site.

The Chairman reminded Members that all proposals went through the City Corporation's Transport Strategy, which had been endorsed by the Court, and also sat within the Healthy Streets Policy. The Chairman invited Members to contact him if they had any further questions.

Resolved – that Members approve the progression of the project at Gateway 4B stage, on the basis of Options 1/1A as set out within the report (noting they will continue to be developed and progressed to public consultation), and note the total estimated cost range of the project at £15-17 million.

9. Motions

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

Motion – “That this Honourable Court reaffirms the City of London Corporation's commitment to upholding the Armed Forces Covenant on this Armed Forces Day.

The Court notes that:

1. The City of London Corporation signed the Covenant ten years ago, in 2013;
2. The City of London Corporation is currently recognised with a Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This scheme is for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant;
3. The Armed Forces Community is of great historic importance to the City of London and it is imperative it is fully integrated, treated fairly with respect and gratitude.

Reaffirming the Corporation's commitment to upholding the Armed Forces Covenant will show the approximately 25,000 veterans who commute into the City, and the 230 veterans who live in the City, that this Honourable Court will continue to work to ensure that – in the words of the Covenant – “Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services.”

This Honourable Court therefore commits to reaffirming this commitment by having a renewed Armed Forces Covenant signed by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.”

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee introduced the Motion, noting that the Flag Raising Ceremony would be taking place in Guildhall Yard following the rising of the Court. The Ceremony was an occasion to thank and pay respect to the vital work done by those in the Armed Forces to protect the country at home and abroad. The Chairman also acknowledged the efforts of servicemen and women when they had left the Armed Forces, and remember the challenges they can face when returning to civilian life.

The Court had first signed the Covenant in 2013, by which the City Corporation had formalised its relationship with the armed forces communities and their families, agreed to raise awareness of the challenges that personnel and veterans faced,

undertaken to support the needs of this community and to promote fair employment opportunities for veterans and service leavers. Since then, the City Corporation had received a Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme, and was working to ensure that this status was maintained at an upcoming review.

Resolved - That this Honourable Court reaffirms the City of London Corporation’s commitment to upholding the Armed Forces Covenant on this Armed Forces Day.

The Court notes that:

1. The City of London Corporation signed the Covenant ten years ago, in 2013;
2. The City of London Corporation is currently recognised with a Gold Award in the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. This scheme is for employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate or advocate support to defence and the armed forces community, and align their values with the Armed Forces Covenant;
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Reaffirming the Corporation’s commitment to upholding the Armed Forces Covenant will show the approximately 25,000 veterans who commute into the City, and the 230 veterans who live in the City, that this Honourable Court will continue to work to ensure that – in the words of the Covenant – “Those who serve in the Armed Forces, whether regular or Reserve, those who have served in the past, and their families, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services”

This Honourable Court therefore commits to reaffirming this commitment by having a renewed Armed Forces Covenant signed by the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor and the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

10. 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:-

<p>Nicola Jane Aiken</p> <p><i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i></p>	<p>Member of Parliament for the Cities of London and Westminster</p> <p><i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i></p>	<p>Westminster, London</p>
<p>Pauline Heather Bennetts</p> <p><i>Audrey Jean Smith Rowena Dorothy Patrick</i></p>	<p>a Forester</p> <p><i>Citizen and Glass Seller Citizen and Glass Seller</i></p>	<p>Church Crookham, Hampshire</p>
<p>Michael Branch</p> <p><i>Stephen Decatur Haines Deputy Charles Edward Lord, OBE,</i></p>	<p>a Clerk in Holy Orders</p> <p><i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Broderer</i></p>	<p>Waterloo, London</p>

JP

Cathrine Anne Brokenshire <i>Deputy Graeme Martyn Doshi-Smith</i> <i>Robert Lauchlan McLean</i>	an Administrative Assistant <i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i> <i>Citizen and Wax Chandler</i>	Bexley, Kent
Mikhail Alexei Xavier Charles <i>Simon Stuart Walsh</i> <i>Anthony Sharp</i>	a Barrister <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	Acton, London
Patricia Dixon <i>Ruby Sayed, CC</i> <i>Helen Lesley Fentimen, OBE, JP, CC</i>	a Head of Safeguarding and Quality Assurance <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Chelmsford, Essex
Alan Thomas Dobson <i>Henry John Emms</i> <i>Roger Richard George North</i>	a Paramedic <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Brewer</i>	Sidcup, Kent
David Haylett Easton, JP DL <i>Barry John Frederick Theobald-Hicks</i> <i>John James Tunesi of Liogam, The Younger</i>	a Local Government Head of Services <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Faversham, Kent
Mary Bridget Flannery <i>John Moran</i> <i>Vincent Dignam</i>	a Plant Construction Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Ruislip, Middlesex
Lady Lucy Kathleen French, OBE <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>Wendy Davina Calder Parmley</i>	a Charity Chief Executive Officer and Founder <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i>	Camberwell, London
Kim Anne Gould <i>Peter Hubert William Ruddy</i> <i>Melvyn Stuart Davis</i>	an Office Manager and Personal Assistant <i>Citizen and Bowyer</i> <i>Citizen and Bowyer</i>	Eltham, London
Dr Fiona Barbara Hammans <i>Dr Jeffrey Quaye, OBE</i> <i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	an Education Leader <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	Torquay, Devon
David Edward Hollander <i>Deputy Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers</i> <i>Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley</i>	a Chamberlain's Court Assistant <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Peckham, London
Olivia Frances Horsley <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i>	an Assistant Private Secretary <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i>	Brixton, London

<p>Sophie Hulm</p> <p><i>Catherine Sidony McGuinness, CBE, CC</i> <i>Ald. Vincent Keaveny</i></p>	<p>a Diversity Membership Body Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i></p> <p><i>Citizen and Solicitor</i></p>	<p>Wimbledon, London</p>
<p>Eric Charles Patrick Large</p> <p><i>David Harry</i> <i>Guy Fairbank</i></p>	<p>a City Guide <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Vintner</i></p>	<p>Herne Hill, London</p>
<p>Juliette Caroline Last</p> <p><i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i></p>	<p>a Homemaker <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i></p>	<p>Maidenhead, Berkshire</p>
<p>Marie Louise Leaphard</p> <p><i>Andrew Ellingworth</i> <i>Philip William Hynard</i></p>	<p>a Construction Consultancy Project Manager <i>Citizen and Chartered Surveyor</i> <i>Citizen and Mason</i></p>	<p>Staplehurst, Kent</p>
<p>Michael Frank Mail</p> <p><i>Lisa Rutter</i> <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i></p>	<p>a Charity Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i></p>	<p>Hendon, London</p>
<p>Danny Brett Errol Puresh</p> <p><i>Roy Raymond Cullen</i> <i>Michael Charles Anthony Thwaites</i></p>	<p>a Disability Equality Services Consultant <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i> <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i></p>	<p>Sutton, Surrey</p>
<p>Corporal Max William Reeve</p> <p><i>Major Stanley Brown</i> <i>Michael Richard Adkins</i></p>	<p>a Royal Air Force Weapons Armourer <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Water Conservator</i></p>	<p>Swaffham, Norfolk</p>
<p>Ragbhir Singh Sandhu</p> <p><i>Kristen James Cottier</i> <i>Robert George Mumsow</i></p>	<p>Deputy Mayor of Bexley <i>Citizen and Spectacle Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Builders Merchant</i></p>	<p>Dartford, Kent</p>
<p>Cornelius Noel Sheehan</p> <p><i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i></p>	<p>a British Army Warrant Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i></p>	<p>Farnborough, Hampshire</p>
<p>Terence Michael Short</p> <p><i>Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones, CC</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal</i></p>	<p>a Principal Fire Adviser <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i></p>	<p>Tadworth, Surrey</p>
<p>Theresa Mary Shortland</p> <p><i>Ruby Sayed, CC</i> <i>Helen Lesley Fentimen, OBE, JP, CC</i></p>	<p>an Education and Early Years Services Manager <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i></p>	<p>Camberley, Surrey</p>
<p>Georgia Elizabeth Rose Sparkes</p> <p><i>Jonathan Martin Avern</i> <i>Roger Watson</i></p>	<p>a Legal Secretary <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i></p>	<p>Benfleet, Essex</p>

<p>Mark Andrew Spencer-Charlton <i>Deputy Simon D'Olier Duckworth, OBE, DL</i> <i>Deputy Charles Edward Lord, OBE, JP</i></p>	<p>an Information Technology and Data Director <i>Citizen and Skinner</i> <i>Citizen and Broderer</i></p>	<p>Southwark, London</p>
<p>Robert Andrew Stokes <i>Timothy John MacAndrews, JP</i> <i>Clifford Mark Sturt</i></p>	<p>a Police Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i></p>	<p>Peterborough, Cambridgeshire</p>
<p>Ion Marius Tatomir <i>Craig Stuart Philip Harding</i> <i>David Victor Cecil Leakey</i></p>	<p>a Poet <i>Citizen and Constructor</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i></p>	<p>Radstock, Somerset</p>
<p>Scott Roy Tomblin <i>Deputy Simon D'Olier Duckworth, OBE, DL</i> <i>Geraldine Norris</i></p>	<p>a Management Consultant <i>Citizen and Skinner</i> <i>Citizen and Farrier</i></p>	<p>Sidcup, London</p>
<p>Wing Commander Michael Christian Luke Udall <i>Timothy Luke Fitzgerald-O'Connor</i> <i>Philip Leslie Egerton</i></p>	<p>a Royal Air Force Pilot <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i></p>	<p>Putney, London</p>

11. Questions

Barns, B., to the Chairman of Policy & Resources

Brendan Barns, praising the installation of Morph's Epic Art Adventure, the UK's first step-free art trail as a great example of Destination City, asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee if he would consider a future art trail specifically within the City of London.

The Chairman began his reply by congratulating Mr Barns on his appointment as resident representative to the City Envoy Network and voiced his confidence that he would be an excellent champion for residents and provide a valuable contribution to Destination City.

The Chairman drew Members attention to the four 'Morphs' around Guildhall. The Chairman agreed that the art trail was a great initiative, particularly as the school summer holidays approached, and congratulated the organisers Whizz-kids.

Initiatives such as Morph's Epic Art Adventure were tried and tested models for driving footfall and the Chairman expressed his support for a City of London trail. In this vein, Officers from Destination City were in contact with the organisers of the Morph Trail. It would be important to consider how the City Corporation could work with businesses and other partners on funding and delivery of such an initiative.

Wheatley, M., to the Chairman of Policy & Resources

Mark Wheatley asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee regarding Ward Newsletters, asking if City residents and workers had been consulted specifically about their removal prior to the agreement of the Policy and Resources Committee's recent approval for a two-year suspension of their

production.

In reply, the Chairman said that the City Corporation had carried out a survey of residents and workers towards the end of 2022. While the survey had not included a specific question on the removal of the ward newsletters, it had shown an appetite for more regular communication. The Chairman said that, in hindsight, he considered that it would have been wise to have included a specific question on newsletters. However, no long-term decision on their future had yet been taken.

Following the March 2022 elections, the Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee had asked for a community engagement strategy to improve communications with both workers and residents. The decision to suspend, rather than cancel, the newsletters allowed the City Corporation to explore and resource new forms of engagement with our workers and residents. Earlier in June, the Corporation had launched the City Belonging Project, which was aimed at deepening engagement. The Policy & Resources Committee had also agreed to meet costs from the Policy Initiative Fund for a Resident Campaigns and Engagement Manager, to drive forward engagement with residents, including engaging with both residents and workers on their preferred means of communication.

Mr Wheatley asked a supplementary question of the Chairman, asking if he would take the issue of ward newsletters back to the Policy and Resources Committee for a further review.

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee replied to say that there had been a clear decision of both the Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee and the Policy & Resources Committee on this matter, with a need to find better and more effective methods of communication. The new Resident Campaigns and Engagement Manager would be consulting residents and workers before a final decision was taken. The Chairman reiterated that the Ward Newsletters had only been suspended, not abolished. If the response from residents was a preference to bring the newsletters back, they would bring them back.

Elizabeth King asked a supplementary question of the Chairman for further information on what other methods of communication had been explored, considering that for reasons of accessibility it was important that people could receive information in different ways, and what analysis had been undertaken to assess the impact of those residents living outside the estates from receiving communication through their door. She also asked what metrics would be used to consider the success of the new arrangements.

The Chairman responded to say he would provide a detailed reply by email, copying in the whole Court.

Frances Leach asked a supplementary question of the Chairman and reflected that it seemed as if the 'Residential Reset' had not begun. She asked if, for future conversations, Members and officers would consider that older residents had appreciated newsletters.

In reply, the Chairman drew attention to the various initiatives to engage with residents which had been undertaken, including ones in which he had been personally involved, which showed that that the Residential Reset was underway.

Deputy Brian Mooney asked if the Chairman could reassure Members that the funds for the Ward Newsletters would remain in the relevant budget.

The Chairman confirmed that this would be the case.

Henrika Priest sought further information about the consultation process, and noted that she was a resident, but did not recall being engaged as part of the survey.

The Chairman confirmed that the survey had taken place and undertook to return to Ms Priest with an answer following the meeting, copying in the rest of the Court.

The Town Clerk informed Members that although there were additional Members indicating a wish to speak, but that pursuant to Standing Order 13(6) the limit of supplementary questions had been reached. He suggested that Members write to the Chairman following the meeting if they wished to receive an answer.

Alderman Ian Luder drew Members' attention to a recent situation in his Ward of Castle Baynard, in which some constituents had found themselves unable to pay service charges for the building they occupied without having to repeatedly obtain a license from the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation, as the building had been sold to a tax haven company which had since been found to be a front company for a sanctioned individual. He asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee if he agreed that the payment of invoices for utilities could not be considered to be sanction-busting.

Alderman Luder thanked the Chairman for having already written to HM Treasury on this matter, to which the relevant Minister had replied, but noted that a follow-up letter to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation requesting a meeting promised by the Minister had not received a response. He therefore also asked the Chairman if he would send a further strong request to this Office and follow up with the relevant Minister.

The Chairman thanked the Alderman for his question and said that he would be happy to pick the matter up with the Treasury Ministerial team again and to ask officers to pursue official level conversations with the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation. He encouraged other Members to draw any similar cases to his attention.

The Chairman also noted that it was Alderman Luder's last Court of Common Council meeting before his retirement. He thanked Alderman Luder on behalf of the whole Court for his decades of service to the Corporation and the City of London, as Common Councillor, Alderman, Sheriff, and Lord Mayor.

Steve Goodman asked the Chairman if the inclusion of a commitment to the Fair Tax Foundation in the Ethical Policy would have provided a context in which the

incident raised by Alderman Luder would have been less likely to happen.

In reply, the Chairman noted the question, and remarked that he was unable to say for certain if such a commitment would have helped. The inclusion of a commitment had been considered for inclusion in the Ethical Policy, but Members were advised of various reasons why it was not appropriate to include it at that time.

As a further supplementary question, Mr Goodman asked the Chairman to provide further information on why a commitment to the Fair Tax Foundation had not been included in the Ethical Policy. The Chairman undertook to provide a detailed response in writing, circulated to the whole Court.

12. CIVIC AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE

(Tom Sleigh)

8 June 2023

Report of Action Taken: 400th Anniversary of the publication of William Shakespeare's First Folio

Members received a summary of action taken under urgency procedures in relation to hospitality provision associated with a lecture, to be held on Thursday 13th July 2023, to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of William Shakespeare's First Folio.

Resolved – that the Court note the action taken under urgency procedures.

13. Legislation

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

Statutory Instruments

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (Commencement No. 1) (England and Wales) Regulations 2023 No. 227

These Regulations bring into force on 7th March 2023 specified provisions of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, which provide for the Secretary of State to issue a code of practice about the processing of personal data by a member of a police force in relation to non-criminal hate incidents.

Date in Force

7th March 2023

The Sentencing Act 2020 (Magistrates' Court Sentencing Powers) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 No. 298

The Sentencing Act 2020 specifies the general limit on a magistrates' court's power to impose imprisonment or detention in a young offender institution in respect of an offence, including the "applicable limit" that may be imposed in respect of triable either way offences. The Act gives the Secretary of State powers to alter that applicable limit by

30th March
2023

Regulations. These Regulations reduce the applicable limit for a triable either way offence to 6 months from 12 months.

The Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 6) Regulations 2023 No. 381 1st April 2023

These Regulations bring into force on 1st April 2023 provisions of the Environment Act 2021. This includes amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in relation to enforcement against littering and related offences, and the levels of fixed penalty notices under those sections.

The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions (England) (No. 2) (Amendment) Order 2023 No. 386 20th April 2023

This Order amends an existing 2022 Order to modify guidance on school teachers' pay and conditions in relation to the school year beginning in 2022. The purpose is to amend the number of days for which a teacher must be available to teach pupils in that school year, to account for the additional bank holiday on Monday 8th May 2023 to mark the coronation of His Majesty King Charles III.

The Public Order Act 2023 (Commencement No. 1) Regulations 2023 No. 502 3rd May 2023

These are the first commencement regulations under the Public Order Act 2023. They bring into force on 3rd May 2023 the new criminal offences of "locking on", "being equipped for locking on", and interference with the use or operation of key national infrastructure. The Regulations also bring into force amendments to delegation powers under the Public Order Act 1986 in relation to the Metropolitan Police and City of London Police, in order to bring parity to London police forces with those outside London.

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

Read.

14. Ballot results

There was no ballot taken at the last Court.

15. Resolutions

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

Holmes, A.
Deputy; Colthurst,
H.N.A., Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE, lately Lord Mayor of this City, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to socio-economic advancement, to British-Irish relations and to the City of London.

Holmes, A.
Deputy: Colthurst,
H.N.A., Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Fiona Hoban, MBE, the Assistant Remembrancer, on her recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of her services to the City of London and to the State Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Holmes, A.
Deputy: Colthurst,
H.N.A., Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Richard Woolford, MBE, the City Corporation's Strategic Security Director and Counter Terrorism Adviser, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to the State Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Holmes, A.
Deputy: Colthurst,
H.N.A., Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Sandeep Dwesar, MBE, lately the Chief Operating and Financial Officer at the Barbican Centre, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his public services to the City of London.

Holmes, A.
Deputy: Colthurst,
H.N.A., Deputy

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Gary Burks, BEM, until recently the Superintendent and Registrar of the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium, on his recent award by His Majesty the King of the British Empire Medal, for services to the bereaved and to the community in East London.

Following amendment to clarify the wording in respect of two further congratulatory resolutions, it was:-

Lord, C.E.,
Deputy, O.B.E., JP;
Broeke, T.

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley as a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, reflecting her many contributions to Government through the Home Office, in her capacity as senior Non-Executive Director, as well as for her broader contributions to business.

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be given to Dame Kathryn McDowell as a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of her services to music.

16. Hospital
Seal

There were no docquets to be sealed.

17. Awards &
Prizes

Complete University Guide 2024 – Arts, Drama & Music League Table

(Deputy Graham Packham)

7 June 2023

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Governance of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama:-

"I wish to draw Members' attention to the following achievement of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

I am delighted to announce that the Complete University Guide 2024, published on 7 June 2023, ranks the Guildhall School of Music & Drama as the top institution in its Arts, Drama & Music category. This is the second year in a row in which the School has topped this particular table, which reflects on the exceptional quality of the teaching, leadership, student body, and educational environment.

The table, together with further information, can be found at the following website: <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings/arts-music-institutions>

I commend this achievement to the Court.”

Read.

18. Exclusion
of the Public

Resolved – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business below on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, 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.

19.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst)

21 February 2023

Architectural Services Framework – Contract Award

The Court considered and approved a report concerning a contract award.

20.

BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES BOARD

(Deputy Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson)

22 February 2023

Bridge House Estates: Change of Working Name

The Court considered and approved a report of the Bridge House Estates Board concerning rebranding.

21.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

(Deputy Andrien Meyers)

1st June 2023

Report of Urgent Action Taken

The Court received a report of action taken under urgency procedures relating to the purchase of a long leasehold interest.

The meeting commenced at 1pm and ended at 2.09pm

THOMAS.