

PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30 May 2023

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

Present

Members:

George Abrahams	Wendy Hyde
Alderman Alexander Barr	Deputy Elizabeth King
Deputy Simon Duckworth	Deputy Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen
Deputy Peter Dunphy (Deputy Chairman)	Owen
Mary Durcan (Chair)	Andrew McMurtrie
John Edwards	Deputy Henry Pollard
John Foley	Hugh Selka
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	Oliver Sells KC
Steve Goodman OBE	Alethea Silk
Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE	Mandeep Thandi
Jaspreet Hodgson	Henrika Priest

Officers:

Juliemma McLoughlin	- Executive Director, Environment Department
Tim Bage	- Environment Department
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Joe Kingston	- Environment Department
Susie Pritchard	- Environment Department
Joanne Purkiss	- Environment Department
Gavin Stedman	- Environment Department
Robin Whitehouse	- Environment Department
Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Ellen Fouweather	- Town Clerk's Department
Rhiannon Leary	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Christopher Boden, Tijs Broeke, Timothy Butcher, Helen Fentimen, Henry Jones, Deputy Natasha Lloyd-Owen and Jason Pritchard.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **COURT ORDER**

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 27 April 2023 appointing the Committee and setting its Terms of Reference.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Mary Durcan, being the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee for the ensuing year and took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

RESOLVED – That Mary Durcan be elected Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee for the ensuing year.

Deputy Simon Duckworth moved a Vote of Thanks to Deputy Keith Bottomley, the past Chairman of the Committee.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – That the Members of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee wish to place on record their sincere thanks to

Deputy Keith Bottomley

their sincere thanks and appreciation for the manner in which he has presided over their deliberations and the detailed care and interest he has shown in all aspects of the work of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee.

AS CHAIRMAN, Keith carefully steered the services that are responsible to the Committee through the pandemic. By working closely with Officers, the City ensured that food continued to enter through our ports, live animals through HARC, that the Cemetery and Crematorium continued to offer its vital services, that the streets were cleaned and business and residents were supported. Keith also played a key role in supporting the officers during this very challenging time.

UNDER KEITH'S CHAIRMANSHIP, the ports have seen a substantial increase in trade. Keith has also been at the forefront of the City's EU exit responses, negotiations and preparations. His efforts in these areas have resulted in a large investment in developing staff resources in preparation for the various Brexit implementation dates.

THROUGHOUT KEITH'S TERM, the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium has seen the reuse of graves for further burial become the second most popular choice for burials. This is an area where the City truly leads the country and is now being replicated in the private sector through private Acts of Parliament.

KEITH'S COMMITMENT TO AIR QUALITY has seen a number of notable achievements, such as the progression of the City's Emissions Reduction Bill and the delivery of the City's fleet of electric refuse collection vehicles. The

latter ensured that the City was the first Local Authority in the country to have a fully electric fleet.

WITH KEITH'S SUPPORT, officers have investigated the causes of and solutions to the operational rail noise and vibration experienced by residents of the Barbican Estate. He has played a vital role in negotiating improvements with London Underground in this technically complex area, and his detailed consideration has been invaluable.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING have been key themes in Keith's tenure. This has included an instrumental role working across Committees to develop a ground-breaking approach to reducing light pollution from the City, and also leading on cross-boundary issues such as illegal street trading, noise pollution and sewage release.

WITH KEITH'S GUIDANCE, the Street Cleansing Service was able to ensure that the right resources were in place to support the return of workers and visitors to the City following the pandemic.

FINALLY, THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO PLACE ON RECORD its sincere thanks to Keith for his great passion and commitment to the role of Chairman. His unfailing willingness to provide support through the varied and interesting challenges that the Committee faces in the twenty-first century, has been greatly appreciated by the Members, staff, and stakeholders alike. His colleagues wish him future health and happiness.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 30.

As multiple expressions of interest were received, a ballot of Members was undertaken and Deputy Peter Dunphy, upon receiving a majority of votes cast, was duly elected as Deputy Chair for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – that Deputy Peter Dunphy be elected Deputy Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee for the ensuing year.

6. MINUTES

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 were received.

A correction to the minutes was agreed to record Wendy Hyde and Alethea Silk's attendance at the previous meeting, and to remove Irem Yerdelen from the list of attendees.

RESOLVED – that the public minutes and non-public summary be approved, as corrected.

Matters arising

The Chairman asked officers to provide an update on Alderman Prem Goyal's request from the previous meeting for further information on diversity statistics for the senior leadership team. Officers replied that they had discussed how best to present this information with responsible officers in the City Corporation, to ensure that individuals could not be identified from the data. These discussions were ongoing, but once the information was available in an appropriate format it would be circulated to the Committee.

7. **OUTSTANDING ACTIONS**

Members received the Committee's Outstanding Actions.

The Chairman updated Members on her recent meeting with the Deputy Mayor for Transport regarding operational rail noise affecting the Barbican Estate, which she felt had made progress on the issue following a disappointing letter from London Underground.

8. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk relative to the Committee's appointments to sub-committees and its representatives on outside bodies.

The Committee considered the following appointments:

Health and Wellbeing Board

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Helen Fentimen had indicated her willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. Helen Fentimen, being the only Member willing to serve was appointed to serve on the Board.

RESOLVED - That Helen Fentimen be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Local Plans Sub-Committee

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member to the Local Plans Sub-Committee. As multiple expressions of interest were received, a ballot of Members was undertaken and Elizabeth King, upon receiving a majority of votes cast, was duly appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED – That Elizabeth King be appointed to the Local Plans Sub-Committee.

Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member to the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Deputy Oliver Sells had indicated his willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. Deputy Oliver Sells, being the only Member willing to serve was appointed to serve on the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED – That Deputy Oliver Sells be appointed to the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee.

Thames Estuary Partnership

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member as a representative on the Thames Estuary Partnership. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that John Edwards had indicated his willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. John Edwards, being the only Member willing to serve, was appointed as a representative on the Thames Estuary Partnership.

RESOLVED - That John Edwards be appointed as a representative on the Thames Estuary Partnership.

Thames21

The Committee considered the appointment of one Member as a trustee on Thames21's Board. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Andrew McMurtrie had indicated his willingness to stand and invited any other declaration of interest in the position. Andrew McMurtrie, being the only Member willing to serve, was appointed as the City of London Corporation appointed trustee for Thames21.

RESOLVED- That Andrew McMurtrie be appointed as a Thames21 trustee.

Members noted the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Committee would be taking up their places on the Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – that the report be received and the above appointments made.

9. FOOD LAW ENFORCEMENT PLAN

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Commercial Environmental Health Service Plan.

RESOLVED, that – Members:

- a) Note the work done to-date;
- b) Approve the Commercial Environmental Health Service Plan; and
- c) approve the Port Health Service Plan 2023/24 at Appendix 2 of the report

10. REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PLAN 2023 - 2025

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 – 2025.

Officers undertook to review the available information and communication on recycling. This included circulating the dates for Give and Take days and Refill Stations to Members and looking at what communication was being provided regarding recyclable materials, including soft plastics.

Members requested that officers consider of the Give and Take Days and refill stations, as they felt they were currently aimed at residents of the Estates rather than across the City as a whole.

A Member said that he had been encouraging usage of bins on the Golden Lane Estate by providing keys to others, to discourage littering. Another Member warned that this could be considered fly-tipping.

RESOLVED, that – Members approve the Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 – 2025.

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

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, relative to the Environment Department's High-Level Business Plan.

RESOLVED, that – Members note the final version of the Environment Department's high-level Business 2023/24, which covered the service areas for which the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee and Licensing Committee are responsible. This version of the Business Plan incorporated changes requested by the Committee in March 2023.

12. **BUSINESS PLANS 2022/23: PROGRESS REPORT (PERIOD 3, DECEMBER 2022 - MARCH 2023)**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, providing a progress update on business plans for period 3.

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

13. **UPDATE ON THE IMPACT OF THE BORDER TARGET OPERATING MODEL ON PORT HEALTH & PUBLIC PROTECTION**

Members received a report of the Executive Director, Environment, providing an update on the Border Target Operating Model.

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

14. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

A Member asked a question regarding the schedule for emptying a bin located outside of the West Wing. In reply, officers said that there had been a technical fault which was preventing notification.

Following a question from a Member, officers confirmed that bin ashtrays should be emptied by sweet sweepers.

A Member, referring to an increase in graffiti levels in the City of London, asked when the City Corporation would be removing it from its own premises, and assisting in its removal from private premises. Officers replied that they were working with the relevant City Corporation departments to remove from Corporation premises. The owners of private property needed to be notified to allow for the removal of graffiti.

A Member said that they had noticed several City Corporation vehicles left idling, and asked how this could be enforced. In reply, officers said that it fell under the remit of several committees, with air quality enforcement being the responsibility of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee. It is important to ensure that vehicles belonging to the City Corporation were not idling to set a good example to other road users.

At the request of a Member, officers undertook to investigate the cork recycling policy.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2023 were approved as a correct record.

18. HEATHROW ANIMAL RECEPTION CENTRE - FORWARD PLAN

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

Members agreed to extend the duration of the meeting under Standing Order 40.

19. PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEBTORS - PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

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

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

A Member requested that the dates for meetings in 2024 be circulated as soon as possible.

A Member requested that questions which would not involve the likely disclosure of exempt information be asked in the public session, rather than waiting for the non-public session end of the meeting.

A Member requested that officers keep them informed of temporary event notices.

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

The Chairman informed Members that she had met with the MP for Southwark to discuss the issue of busking, and had requested a follow-up meeting.

The meeting closed at 1.16 pm

Chairman

**Contact Officer: Ben Dunleavy
ben.dunleavy@cityoflondon.gov.uk**