



LYONS, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

12th October 2023
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)	Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Bronek Masojada (Alderman & Sheriff)
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Jennette Rachel Newman (Alderwoman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)	Dame Susan Langley (Alderwoman & Sheriff)	Susan Jane Pearson (Alderwoman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)	Tim Levene (Alderman)	Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Alderman)
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)	Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)	Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)	
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	Christopher Makin (Alderman)	

COMMONERS

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie	Simon Duckworth, Deputy	Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones	Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest
Munsur Ali	Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, Deputy	Nighat Qureishi, Deputy
Rehana Banu Ameer, Deputy	Mary Durcan	Florence Keelson-Anfu	David Sales
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy	John Ernest Edwards	Elizabeth Anne King, Deputy	Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Shahnan Bakht	Helen Lesley Fentimen	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen, Deputy	Hugh Selka
Jamel Banda	Anthony David Fitzpatrick	Charles Edward Lord, Deputy	Alethea Silk
Brendan Barns	John William Fletcher, Deputy	Antony Geoffrey Manchester	Paul Singh
Matthew Bell	John Foley	Paul Nicholas Martinelli	Tom Sleigh
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy	Andrew Paul Mayer	Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith	Steve Goodman	Catherine McGuinness	James St John Davis
Ian Bishop-Laggett	John Griffiths	Andrew Stratton McMurtrie	Mandeep Thandi
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy	Jason Groves	Timothy James McNally	James Michael Douglas
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Wendy Mead	Thomson, Deputy
Tijs Broeke	Caroline Wilma Haines	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy	Shailendra Kumar Kantilal Umrada
Timothy Richard Butcher	Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy	Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, Deputy	William Upton
Michael John Cassidy, Deputy	Jaspreet Hodgson	Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy	Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano Wheatley
Dominic Gerard Christian	Ann Holmes, Deputy	Eamonn James Mullally	Glen David Witney
Henry Nicholas Almroth	Amy Horscroft	Benjamin Daniel Murphy	Philip Woodhouse, Deputy
Colthurst, Deputy	Michael Hudson	Deborah Oliver	Dawn Linsey Wright
Anne Corbett	Wendy Hyde	Judith Pleasance	Irem Yerdelen
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan		James Henry George Pollard, Deputy	
D'Souza			
Graeme Doshi-Smith, Deputy			

The Lord Mayor offered thoughts and condolences for all those affected in the recent tragic events in the Middle East. The Court proceeded to pause for a moment's silence and reflection.

On behalf of the Common Council, the Chief Commoner welcomed Martha Grekos following her recent election as Alderwoman for the Ward of Castle Baynard.

Aldерwoman Grekos was heard in reply.

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.

2. There were no additional declarations.
Declarations

3. Minutes *Resolved* – That the Minutes of the Court held on 7 September are correctly recorded.

4. The Court proceeded to elect a Chief Commoner for 2024/25.
Election of Two valid nominations had been received in accordance with Standing Order No. Chief 18; namely, Deputy Peter Dunphy and Deputy Andrien Meyers.
Commoner

The Court therefore proceeded, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10, to ballot.

The Lord Mayor requested the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the Finance Committee to be the scrutineers of the ballot.

After the votes had been counted, the results were as follows:_

Dunphy, P.G., Deputy – 53 votes
Meyers, A. G. D., Deputy – 46 votes

There was one spoilt ballot.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Peter Dunphy to be elected to the office of Chief Commoner for 2024/25.

Deputy Dunphy spoke to thank Honourable Members for their support.

5. Draft Vote Deputy Marianne Fredericks, for the Ward of Tower, read the draft terms of a vote of thanks to the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, which was intended to be moved formally at the next meeting of the Court.
of Thanks to the Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor was heard in reply.

6. Letter A letter of the Lord Mayor Elect, declaring his assent to take upon himself the Office of Lord Mayor, was laid before the Court.

7. The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements,

Mayoral
Engagements

including the launch of the Vision for Economic Growth and visits to Monaco, Hong Kong and China, and the Gulf.

8.
Policy
Statement

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee began by acknowledging the tragic events in the Middle East.

The Chairman wished the Lord Mayor all the best at his last Court of Common Council meeting in the role, and reflected on their time working together and the legacy the Lord Mayor would leave.

The Chairman updated the Court on his recent engagements, including his attendance at the party conferences and visits to India and the United States.

In accordance with Standing Order 6(6) a Member raised a question with the Policy Chairman. In doing so, the Member joined the Chairman in his condemnation of the attacks in Israel, and asked if there was a danger that the City Corporation could be accused of hypocrisy in having a selective foreign policy. In reply, the Chairman said that he understood that these issues were deeply polarising, and that he wanted to focus on a lasting peace. It was right that the City Corporation did not lead on foreign, defence or security policy, and he had been expressing a personal view rather than speaking on behalf of Members.

A further Member echoed the sentiments on the City Corporation's involvement in foreign policy issues, and asked the Chairman if he would widen his remarks to include innocent lives being lost in Palestine, and to clarify the City Corporation's approach to foreign policy. In reply, the Chairman said that he condemned the taking of innocent lives anywhere in the world.

A final Member said that he agreed that the City Corporation should stay removed from international politics, but that the current situation was different for two reasons. The government had uniquely asked all local authorities and public bodies to express their revulsion at the terrorist attacks on Israel. There were also City residents who were now fearful for their safety simply because they were Jewish. The Chairman replied to confirm that the City Corporation had a duty to all the communities it served and knew that the City of London Police were also conscious of this responsibility.

9.
Appointments

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

(A) One Member on the **Markets Board** for a term expiring in April 2027.

Nomination received:-
Deputy Madush Gupta

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Madush Gupta to be appointed to

the Markets Board.

- (B) One Member on the **Natural Environment Board and West Ham Park Committee** for a term expiring in April 2025.

Nomination received:-

Deputy Alpa Raja

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Alpa Raja to be appointed to the Natural Environment Board and West Ham Park Committee.

- (C) One non-residential Member on the **Barbican Residential Committee** for a term expiring in April 2026

Nomination received:-

Deputy Madush Gupta

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Madush Gupta to be appointed to the Barbican Residential Committee.

- (D) One Member on **Bridewell Royal Hospital** for a term expiring in October 2029.

Nomination received:-

Caroline Haines

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Caroline Haines to be appointed to Bridewell Royal Hospital

10. **Policy and Resources Committee**

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

21 September 2023

(A) Ward Committee Pairing Arrangements

The Court considered a report concerning considering pairing arrangements for ward committees.

The Chairman introduced the report, stating that the proposed changes to Standing Orders aimed to make ward committees more representative while removing the risk of last-minute confusion. The Committee had recognised that the Community and Children's Services Committee had different requirements, and there would be a follow-up report to specifically address this.

During the debate that ensued, Deputy Randall Anderson spoke to highlight an

amendment he intended to move regarding the Community and Children's Services Committee. He stressed the importance of getting the arrangements for this Committee right. The Committee often had several places not taken up by wards, which were then filled from the Court by Members with an interest in the work. This also allowed these Members to serve on the associated sub-committees, which had important statutory responsibilities. He warned that if the arrangements were not right for this Committee before changes to ward pairing were made, there was a risk that the City Corporation would fail in these responsibilities.

Anderson,
R. Deputy;
Murphy, B.

Amendment – to add at the end of the motion '*However, the ability to withhold ward committee places will not take effect until this Court approves revised arrangements for the Community and Children's Services Committee*'.

During debate on the amendment, several Members agreed that the Community and Children's Services Committee had a distinct role compared to other Ward Committees, especially in relation to its statutory functions. A Member sought assurance from the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee that the follow-up report would be carefully drafted, and any changes would allow future membership of the Committee to draw on Members with relevant knowledge.

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee accepted the amendment and noted the rationale behind it. He assured Members that the report would be carefully drafted, and written in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, and senior officers from that department.

Upon the amendment being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be carried.

Debate then resumed on the substantive report, as amended. Two Members raised concerns that the second recommendation, which proposed removing the requirement for unfilled Ward vacancies to be advertised to the wider Court, might have the effect of limiting wider participation by Members and not necessarily be in the best interests of a Ward.

Closing the debate, the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee agreed that it was important to get the widest possible participation on every Ward Committee, but there were specific challenges faced by the Community and Children's Services Committee. Until those challenges were addressed, he agreed the need for the delay of wider changes. The Chairman felt it was right for appointments to remain the Ward's final decision. While the Lisvane Review had encouraged the reduction of the number of Members on several Committees, the Court had felt this risked reducing the options for Members. He felt it was important to consider the unique remit of and challenges faced by the Community and Children's Services Committee, and address the points raised in the follow-up report.

Resolved, that – Members approve changes to Standing Order 23 with the effect of:

1. Adding a strict deadline for pairing decisions to be made; and
2. removing the requirement for unfilled Ward vacancies to be advertised to the wider Court. However, the ability to withhold ward committee places will not

take effect until this Court approves revised arrangements for the Community and Children's Services Committee.

3 October 2023

(B) Appointment of Independent Persons

The Court considered a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the appointment of an Independent Person.

Resolved, that – the recommendations of the Appointment Panel are endorsed and the appointments of Mr Andrew Ayre, Ms Karen McArthur and Ms Amina Hossain as Independent Members of the City of London Corporation are approved.

11. Petitions

The Court received a petition submitted by Deputy Marianne Fredericks relative to an officer post at a City Corporation housing estate.

Resolved, that – the petition be referred to the Community and Children's Services Committee for consideration.

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:-

Daniel Omoniyi Afilaka	an Information Technology Executive	Coventry, Warwickshire
<i>Antony Charles Greene</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	
<i>Derek Martin Morley</i>	<i>Citizen and Furniture Maker</i>	
Faria Harooj Ali	a Lawyer	Cheadle, Greater Manchester
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Christopher John Allen	a Lawyer	Maldon, Essex
<i>Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny, CBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
<i>Ald. Alison Jane Gowman</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
Kathryn Elise Rebecca Andrews	a Business Consultant	Oakville, Ontario, Canada
<i>Robert Andrews</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Richard John Bean John</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
Richard William Angell	a Chief Executive Officer of a Charity	Ilford, Essex
<i>CC Thomas Charles Sleigh</i>	<i>Citizen</i>	
<i>CC Benjamin Daniel Murphy</i>	<i>Citizen</i>	
Donato Briamonte	an Event Manager	Cricklewood, London

<i>Calogero Alu</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
<i>Russell Chweidan</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
George Steven Butler	a Marine Engineer	Rochester, Kent
<i>CC Wendy Mead, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Patricia Agnes Campfield, MBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	
Sarah Davina Clarke, CVO DBE	Lady Usher of the Black Rod	Wandsworth, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i>	
<i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
Anna Elizabeth Clayton	a Charity Development Manager, retired	Ascot, Berkshire
<i>Andrew John Gillett</i>	<i>Citizen and Founder</i>	
<i>Hugh Christopher Emlyn Harris</i>	<i>Citizen and Turner</i>	
Robert Thomas Ferguson Crothers	a Solicitor	Bow, London
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Thomas Macknight Dawson	a United States Attorney At Law	Wilton, Connecticut, United States of America
<i>Malcolm Alastair Craig</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Rosemary Beaver</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
Henry Dony	an Insurance Broker and Loss Assessor	Finchley, London
<i>Sir Michael Bear</i>	<i>Citizen and Pavior</i>	
<i>Lady Barbara Anne Bear</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
Michael John Eakins	a Chief Investment Officer	Hammersmith, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i>	
<i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
Dominic Arthur Craig Edwardes	a Charity Communications Director	Norwood, London
<i>CC Thomas Charles Sleigh</i>	<i>Citizen</i>	
<i>CC Benjamin Daniel Murphy</i>	<i>Citizen</i>	
Muneera Yusuf Esat	a Bookkeeper	Ilford, Redbridge
<i>Christopher John Robinson</i>	<i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	
<i>Christopher Charles Fisher</i>	<i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	
Alexandra Samantha Fontaine	a Concierge Service Company Director	Pimlico, London
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Christopher Charles Hipkins</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Rosemary Pema Glazebrook	a Commonwealth Enterprise Council Chief Executive	West Kensington, London
<i>Oliver Edward Gadsby</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
<i>Wayne Campbell Sime</i>	<i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i>	

<p>Nicholas James Ross Gordon <i>Andrew John Gillett</i> <i>Hugh Christopher Emlyn Harris</i></p>	<p>a Television Producer and Director <i>Citizen and Founder</i> <i>Citizen and Turner</i></p>	<p>Richmond, Surrey</p>
<p>Timothy John Douglas Gordon <i>Andrew John Gillett</i> <i>Hugh Christopher Emlyn Harris</i></p>	<p>a Publishing Director <i>Citizen and Founder</i> <i>Citizen and Turner</i></p>	<p>East Horsley, Surrey</p>
<p>Karen Ann Green <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Wellbeing Company Director and Adviser <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Chiswick, London</p>
<p>Andrew John Griffith <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i></p>	<p>a Member of Parliament <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i></p>	<p>Westminster, London</p>
<p>Katherine Mary Hattrell <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Chartered Accountant, retired <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Clapham, London</p>
<p>Martin Edward Michael Hattrell <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Clapham, London</p>
<p>Nicholas Paul Hewlett <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Headteacher <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Catford, London</p>
<p>The Hon. Julia Anne Hoggett <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>CC Florence Keelson-Anfu</i></p>	<p>a Stock Exchange Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen</i></p>	<p>Westminster, London</p>
<p>General Gwyn Jenkins, CB OBE <i>Jeremy Mark Fox</i> <i>Admiral Sir Philip Andrew Jones, GCB DL</i></p>	<p>a Senior Royal Marines Officer <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i></p>	<p>Wareham, Dorset</p>
<p>Lord Johnson of Lainston Dominic Robert Andrew Johnson, CBE <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i></p>	<p>a Minister of State <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i></p>	<p>West Brompton, London</p>
<p>Alexandra Emma Lyons <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire</p>

<p>Catriona Mary Lyons <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>A Teacher <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Upper Holloway, London</p>
<p>Inderpal Singh Kalsi <i>Christopher Paul Grant Russell Chweidan</i></p>	<p>a Construction Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Baker Citizen and Baker</i></p>	<p>Rochester, Kent</p>
<p>Rupert Kaye <i>Andrew Yarrow Neil Hendriksen</i></p>	<p>a Chaplain <i>Citizen and Educator Citizen and Educator</i></p>	<p>Bathampton, Somerset</p>
<p>Jamal Ahmed Khan <i>CC Shahnna Bakth Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i></p>	<p>a Public Relations Company Director <i>Citizen Citizen and Pattenmaker</i></p>	<p>Hackney, London</p>
<p>Dr Nicole Klyman <i>CC Mary Durcan, JP Deputy Marianne Bernadette Fredericks</i></p>	<p>a Doctor and Director of Public Health <i>Citizen Citizen and Baker</i></p>	<p>Muswell Hill, London</p>
<p>Ian Kenneth Lazarus <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Recruitment Consultancy Company Director <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>St John's Wood, London</p>
<p>Hannah Emily Doris Lea <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Management Consultant <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Hammersmith, London</p>
<p>Fiona Luck <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>an Insurance Company Non- Executive Director <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Smiths, Bermuda</p>
<p>Stephen May <i>James Anthony Drabble Alan Roy Willis</i></p>	<p>a Construction Company Director <i>Citizen and Art Scholar Citizen and Baker</i></p>	<p>Hornchurch, Essex</p>
<p>Sarah Kristen McLeod, CBE <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i></p>	<p>a Civil Servant <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Wimbledon, London</p>
<p>Ajit Mishra <i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward Deputy Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi</i></p>	<p>a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker Citizen and Fueller</i></p>	<p>Belgravia, London</p>
<p>Andrew Joseph Neilands <i>Bryan Rosslyn Spearman Simon Victor Langton</i></p>	<p>a Building and Security Company Director <i>Citizen and Firefighter Citizen and Basketmaker</i></p>	<p>Worthing, West Sussex</p>

Finbar Anthony O'Dwyer <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i>	an Insurance Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i>	Ascot, Berkshire
Franck Robert Petitgas, Chevalier de la légion d'honneur <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	The Prime Minister's Special Adviser <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Chelsea, London
Aliyu Abayomi Salawu <i>Howard Andre Beber Adewale Oladele-Ajose</i>	a Bus Driver <i>Citizen and Poulter Citizen and Poulter</i>	Wimbledon, London
Mark Anthony Santos <i>CC Thomas Charles Sleigh CC Benjamin Daniel Murphy</i>	a Charity Executive Director <i>Citizen Citizen</i>	Chigwell, Essex
Dr Colin Anthony Sell <i>Fiona Josephine Adler Peter Rook, KC</i>	a Musician <i>Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker Citizen and Makers of Playing Cards</i>	Stoke Newington, London
Colin Henry Stears <i>Simon Phillip Bannister Paul Nigel Thomas Smith</i>	a National Health Service Managing Partner <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Insurer</i>	Carshalton, Surrey
Adam Carl Stiles <i>Anthony Francis Drewitt Christopher James Drewitt, RVM</i>	a Mortgage Brokerage Managing Director <i>Citizen and Firefighter Citizen and Firefighter</i>	Epping, Essex
Bruer William Tidman <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i>	an Artist <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i>	Great Yarmouth, Norfolk
Barbara Adedayo Tinubu <i>CC Thomas Charles Sleigh CC Benjamin Daniel Murphy</i>	a National Advice Supervisor <i>Citizen Citizen</i>	Carshalton, Surrey
Christy Edward Benjamin White-Spunner <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Felicity Ruth Lyons</i>	a Writer <i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor Citizen and Musician</i>	Highbury, London
Carl Vivian Woodall <i>Vincent Dignam John Paul Tobin</i>	a Director of Facilities, retired <i>Citizen and Carman Citizen and Carman</i>	Hanwell, London
Yesika Maritza Yopez Villegas <i>Deputy John William Fletcher Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Local Community Group Volunteer <i>Citizen Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Wembley, Brent

13. Motions There were no motions.

14. Questions

Griffiths, J. to
the Chairman
of Community
and Children's
Services
Committee

Homelessness

John Griffiths noted that there had recently been an increase in the incidence of rough sleeping in the City, noticeably around St Paul's Cathedral and the alleys to the north of Fleet Street, and asked the Chair of the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee what steps had been taken to address the problem since the cessation of the temporary use of the YHA building in Carter Lane, and to provide some guidance as to the current number of rough sleeper numbers across the Square Mile, and what action was being taken to improve the situation.

In reply, the Chairman advised that Carter Lane Service had provided an emergency provision for rough sleepers during the Covid-19 pandemic but had closed in March 2022. Several new services had been launched to ensure that the City Corporation's commissioned outreach services retained a vital 'route off the street' offer for rough sleepers, and a new Rough Sleeping Assessment Centre was due to open in January 2024. The service, based within the Square Mile, would offer 14 spaces for newly encountered rough sleepers. The Chair regretted that the City had seen a 29.5% increase in rough sleeping during 2022/23. This reflected a trend seen across most London authorities, with all of the City Corporation's neighbouring boroughs seeing an increasing in rough sleeping, and Greater London recording a 21% increase. The Chairman also noted that the Chair of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub Committee had carried out local visits around the Fleet Street Business Improvement District (BID) to listen to local concerns. These concerns had been shared with officers, and as a result of this proactive action, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee has been invited to visit several other BIDs.

Mr Griffiths, noting that a new organisation 'Home Connections' would be taking over the national public-facing Streetlink service, asked as a supplementary question for some background on this change, and for assurance that officers would be fully prepared to work effectively with the new provider.

In reply, the Chairman said the Streetlink was commissioned nationally by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, alongside the Greater London Authority (GLA) in London. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Committee in April 2023 consulted with the GLA and Home Connections on these changes, and Members had highlighted several key areas that they felt should be retained. The City Corporation had been part of a 'soft launch' in September, allowing the testing of the new systems and processes.

Goodman, S to
the Chairman of
Policy and
Resources
Committee

Artificial Intelligence

Steve Goodman asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee if he could comment on the extent to which the Corporate Plan and the recently published 'Vision for Economic Growth' fully covered the opportunities and threats created by the rapid advances being made in the field of artificial intelligence (AI), and if there was more that could be done to mitigate the changes.

In reply, the Chairman advised that the Corporate Plan was considering several of the long-term external trends that would affect the City Corporation over the coming five years, including the pace of technological change. A draft AI policy was due to be considered by the Digital Services Committee before end of this year, and a wider renewal of the City Corporation's Digital Strategy was under way to consider responses to opportunities and threats. 'Vision for Economic Growth' set out how the City Corporation could be a leader in digital adoption, partly by enabling regulators to drive competitiveness and growth through smart regulation. The Chairman also announced that, subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee, the City Corporation would on 30 October host a major one-day conference and dinner as part of pre-summit engagement ahead of the Prime Ministers AI Summit. It was considered an excellent opportunity for the City Corporation to be at the forefront of this area.

John Foley asked a supplementary question, asking how ready the City Corporation was to deal with the threats posed by AI through its 'harvesting' of printed material and its ability to mimic 'voiceprints', which he felt potentially posed a serious danger to the City Corporation.

The Chairman replied, agreeing that this was the fastest moving area of technology that had been encountered in Members' lifetimes and that the developments could lead to reputational risks. He assured Members that strategies and policies were being developed, at a pace which ensured issues were being properly considered.

Grekos, M.,
Alderwoman, to
the Chairman of
Planning and
Transportation

Development delays

Alderman Martha Grekos asked a question of the Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee in relation to the cessation of work on a development in her Ward of Castle Baynard. She felt that the pause in development had caused issues for the area in terms of access, shop closures, the accumulation of rubbish and reports of squatters. She therefore asked the Chairman what could be done to stop sites being sterilised by developers who delay or cease construction in order for the communities not to be left with vacant shops, and for tenants to have certainty of tenure.

In reply, the Chairman said that the eastern end of Fleet Street area was subject to unprecedented change, which he felt pointed to a positive transformation for the area. He acknowledged that the transitional stage of development would hold short term challenges for the local community. The majority of consented schemes in the area were progressing at pace, but there were unfortunately some sites which were not proceeding. The planning system was unable to enforce the implementation of a scheme on a development or ensure retail units remained open. The issue and importance of encouraging 'meanwhile use' to maintain vibrancy was being addressed in the Local Plan review, and the Chairman cited several successful examples of 'meanwhile use' in the City. Section 106 agreements were also currently being negotiated to ensure the delivery of a 'meanwhile use' strategy of sites. Officers were liaising closely with building owners to address the unkempt nature of sites, particularly the accumulation of rubbish. In relation to the specific site referenced in the question, the Chairman said that the leaseholder was in discussion with the Fleet Street BID and the St Bride's Institute

with the intention of creating a 'meanwhile use' in the coming months. The Chairman believed that a combination of a clear expectation set out in the City Corporation's policies determining applications and creative engagement with building owners was the best way to deliver meanwhile uses and maintain vibrancy on vacant sites.

Alderwoman Grekos asked a supplementary question. She appreciated that 'meanwhile uses' would become part of the Local Plan, but this would not be place for a couple of years. She asked if the Chairman could use CPO powers for developments, or issue a completion notice threatening to revoke planning permission.

In reply, the Chairman said that the City Corporation would work with developers in a constructive way to achieve meanwhile uses until the Local Plan was adopted. The development of the Local Plan timeframe had been clearly laid out for the Court, including an explanation on why the timeframe had been extended to ensure consultation. It was important to work in conjunction with developers rather than using the force of law, and especially for meanwhile use to consider the views of BIDs, local communities and local businesses to ensure success.

Michael Hudson asked a supplementary question, noting that the City Corporation included as a standard provision that planning permission would lapse after a period, usually three years. Mr Hudson asked if it would be feasible for the City Corporation to include a provision that the permission would be timed as being three years from the date of the Planning and Transportation Committee's resolution to ensure prompt implementation.

In reply, the Chairman undertook to consult with officers to see what could be done in this area.

Housing and Almshouses Sub-Committee

Alderwoman Susan Pearson asked a question of the Chairman of the Children and Community Services Committee, asking why the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee had not met since April 2023.

In reply, the Chair confirmed that the Sub-Committee's meeting in June had been cancelled as a result of a lack of items for decision. After discussions with officers, she felt that having a meeting without decision items would be a good use of time or public funds. The October meeting had been cancelled as the Chairman and Deputy Chairman had been unable to attend, with concerns that several other Members would also be affected. Both decisions had been made in accordance with Standing Orders and the Chairman had personally written to all Sub-Committee Members to explain the circumstances in which the decision had been taken. She had committed to ensure that meeting dates for 2024 were fixed in good time. Members had been consulted on a provisional new date of 24 October.

The Chairman added that despite the Sub-Committee's rescheduled meetings, the issues affecting the various housing estates were still being addressed. The Community and Children's Services Committee had considered 18 reports concerning housing since March 2023. Furthermore, the Chairman had recently

received an update from officers from a 'walkabout' on the Middlesex Street Estate conducted in early October, providing their findings of issues needing addressing. She thanked Deputy John Fletcher, the allocated Member for the Middlesex Street Estate, for his diligence in also bringing these matters to the Committee's attention, and to all the allocated Members who oversee the housing estates.

The Chairman confirmed that she remained personally committed to helping address live issues arising on the estates and had recently worked to ensure that urgent health and safety works were undertaken following concerns raised for a vulnerable resident at Golden Lane.

The Chairman concluded by acknowledging the frustrations caused by the cancellation and scheduling of Sub-Committee meetings but did not feel it was fair to suggest that these actions had resulted in issues within the housing estates being left unaddressed.

Alderman Pearson asked a supplementary question, noting the range of issues affecting the housing estates and asking the Chairman to confirm that housing issues were her first priority and to commit to bimonthly meetings of the Sub-Committee.

In reply, the Chairman assured Alderman Pearson that all of the issues raised were at foremost of her consideration, and of Members of the Community and Children's Services Committee and its sub-committees.

Deputy John Fletcher asked a supplementary question, noting that more regular meetings of the Sub-Committee would have meant his report on Middlesex Street Estate could have been addressed there rather than the parent Committee. He asked the Chair for assurance that she was understood that those who cared for the City Corporation's social housing were terribly concerned that the issues affecting Middlesex Street were replicated everywhere else, and if she agreed that the Sub-Committee was the best place to address these. He also asked if the Chair agreed that the lack of progress on the recommendation to establish a Housing Committee was unhelpful.

In reply, the Chairman informed the Court that reports from allocated Members always came to the grand Committee rather than the Sub-Committee. The funding requirements to mitigate the historical failure to provide for the housing estates would hopefully address many of these issues. The Chair reiterated that meetings for 2024 would be fixed in good time. She also warned that Members had to be careful in not becoming too involved in operational matters.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks asked a supplementary question, noting that while a Committee may not have decision items on its agenda, non-decision items were often discussion, especially for sub-committees. She asked the Chairman when the new Housing Committee would be established.

Pursuant to Standing Order 13 (9) and (10), the Town Clerk informed the Court that the 40-minute limit for questions had been reached. All unanswered questions would consequently be deferred until the next Court meeting or may, in consultation

with the consent of the questioner, be answered in writing within two working days and a copy placed in the Member's Reading Room.

15. **Civic Affairs Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee**

(Tom Sleigh)

1 September 2023

The Court considered a report of the Civic Affairs Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee concerning action taken under urgency procedures in relation to hospitality provision.

Resolved, that – the report be received.

16.
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:-

Bills

Date of Royal Assent

The Pensions (Extension of Automatic Enrolment) Act 2023

18 September 2023

This Act amends provisions in the Pensions Act 2008 to give regulation making powers which will enable the Secretary of State to make regulations to reduce the lower age limit at which otherwise eligible workers must be automatically enrolled and re-enrolled into a pension scheme by their employers, and to make regulations to remove the Lower Earnings Limit (LEL) from the qualifying earnings band so that contributions are calculated from the first pound earned and to make regulations modifying the requirements of the annual review of the qualifying earnings band. The Government has stated its intention to implement these changes by the mid-2020s and so it is anticipated that Regulations will be brought forward under the powers in the Act in the next 12-18 months if that timetable is to be adhered to. This is of interest to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation as regards wider work on pensions and pensions provision.

Statutory Instruments

Date in Force

The Data Protection (Adequacy) (United States of America) Regulations 2023

12 October 2023

Identifies the United States of America as a country which provides an adequate level of protection of personal data for transfers under the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK GDPR (also under the 2018 Act). This means that personal data which will be in the scope of the EU-US Data Privacy Framework Principles can be transferred to persons in the United States of America who participate in the UK Extension to the EU-US Data

Privacy Framework without the need for any specific authorisation.

The Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc. and Polystyrene Containers etc.) (England) Regulations 2023 1 October 2023

These Regulations apply in relation to England only. They prohibit persons from supplying or offering to supply certain plastic or polystyrene items in the course of a business: they also prohibit the supply of single-use plastic plates, trays or bowls, balloon sticks and cutlery and the supply of single-use polystyrene food or drink containers and cups. This is of interest to the Corporation as an catered events venue.

The Alcohol Licensing (Coronavirus) (Regulatory Easements) (Amendment) Regulations 2023 28 September 2023

Prolongs an existing extension of permissions for automatic extensions of premises licences that only permit sales of alcohol for consumption on the premises (“on-sales”) to allow sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises (“off-sales”). This easement will continue to 31 March 2025.

The Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 (Commencement No. 1 and Saving Provision) Regulations 2023 20 September 2023

Brings into force provisions relating to the Regulator of Social Housing’s new powers to set standards and requiring providers to comply with future arrangements for remedying hazards. Also brings into force a power for the Secretary of State’s to give a direction about providing information to tenants.

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

17. Ballot
Results

The Town Clerk reported the results of the several ballots taken at the last Court, as follows:-

* denotes a Member standing for re-appointment;

★ denotes appointed.

(A) ONE Member to the **City of London Police Authority Board**.

	Votes
Jason Groves	52 ★
James Tumbridge	35

(B) ONE Member to the **Natural Environment Board** and **West Ham Park Committee**.

Votes

Eamonn Mullally	57 ★
Alpa Raja	35

(C) TWO Member to the **Board of Governors of the Museum of London.**

	Votes
Matthew Bell	47 ★
*Tijs Broeke	47
John Foley	50
Deputy Charles Edward Lord	33

18. There were no resolutions.
Resolutions

19. Awards and Prizes **2024 Guardian University Guide – Music League Table**

(Deputy Graham Packham)

18 September 2023

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

2024 Guardian University Guide – Music League Table

I am delighted to announce that Guildhall School is the number one higher education for Music in the 2024 Guardian University Guide music league table, the only institution scoring 100/100 in the Guardian’s rating for excellence for music and the second year in a row it has topped the table.

In the Drama and Dance league table, the School was placed 8th, receiving an excellence score of 92.7 for Production Arts and Acting programmes. Ranked number one in Arts, Drama & Music by the Complete University Guide 2024, and one of the top ten performing arts institutions in the world in the QS World University Rankings 2023, the School delivers world-class professional training in partnership with distinguished artists, companies and ensembles.

The table, together with further information, can be found at the following website: <https://www.theguardian.com/education/ng-interactive/2023/sep/09/the-guardian-university-guide-2024-the-rankings>

I commend this achievement to the Court.”

Read.

20. Hospital Seal There were no docquets for the Seal.

21. Exclusion of the Public In addition to the items listed, the Lord Mayor advised Members of two further matters, one of which was to be treated in confidence at the request of His

Majesty's Government and the related to a staffing matter.

Resolved – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below on the grounds that they either involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972; relate to functions of the Court of Common Council which are not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of that Act; or relate to matters treated in confidence at the request of His Majesty's Government.

Summary of exempt items considered whilst the public were excluded:-

22. *Resolved* – That the non-public minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.
Non-public minutes
23. **City Bridge Foundation Board**
- (A) Appointment of Co-Opted Members**
The Court considered a report of the City Bridge Foundation Board relating to the appointment of Co-opted Members.
- (B) Events Management Contract at Tower Bridge**
The Court considered a report of the City Bridge Foundation Board relating to the award of an events management contract at Tower Bridge.
24. **Policy and Resources Committee**
The Court considered a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the creation of a Grade I post.
25. **Barbican Centre Board**
The Court considered a report of the Barbican Centre Board concerning the creation of two Grade I posts.
26. **Investment Committee**
The Court received a report of the Investment Committee relating to action taken under urgency procedures.
27. **Civic Affairs Sub-Committee**
The Court approved proposals relative to the provision of hospitality associated with a visiting Head of State.
28. **City of London Police Authority Board**
The Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board Chair provided Members with a staffing update.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 3.04pm

THOMAS.