

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 18 January 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 18 January 2024 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Vice-Chair)
Deputy Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Mary Durcan (Ex-Officio Member)
Helen Fentimen
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Alderman Timothy Hailes
Deputy Shravan Joshi
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Alderman Alastair King DL
Paul Martinelli
Catherine McGuinness
Deputy Andrien Meyers
Deputy Brian Mooney
Benjamin Murphy
Tom Sleigh
Deputy James Thomson
James Tumbridge
Philip Woodhouse

In attendance (observing online):

Deputy Elizabeth King
Ruby Sayed

Officers:

Ian Thomas CBE	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk
Jen Beckermann	- Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee
Polly Dunn	- Assistant Town Clerk and Executive Director, Governance & Member Services
Peter Barlow	- Town Clerk's Department
Benjamin Dixon	- Town Clerk's Department
Barbara Hook	- Town Clerk's Department
David Mendoza Wolfson	- Town Clerk's Department
Chris Rumbles	- Town Clerk's Department
Kristy Sandino	- Town Clerk's Department
Emily Slatter	- Town Clerk's Department

Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- Chamberlain
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Damian Nussbaum	- Executive Director of Innovation & Growth
Simi Shah	- Innovation & Growth
Judith Finlay	- Executive Director of Community and Children's Services
Bob Roberts	- Executive Director Environment
Emily Brennan	- Environment Department
Sally Gadson	- Environment Department
Joe Kingston	- Environment Department
Dionne Corradine	- Chief Strategy Officer
Emily Tofield	- Executive Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs
Paul Wright	- City Remembrancer
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Office
Ruth Pinner	- Remembrancer's Office
Robert Murphy	- City Surveyor's Department

The Chairman welcomed Alderman Alastair King to his first Policy and Resources Committee meeting following his appointment by the Court of Aldermen.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Deputy Christopher Hayward, the Right Hon the Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli, Tijs Broeke, Alderman Sir William Russell, Deputy Ann Holmes, Deputy Henry Colthurst, Jason Groves, Munsur Ali and Rehana Ameer.

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

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

a) Public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 14 December 2023

A member referred to consideration of the Corporate Plan and there having been a suggestion during the discussion that 'reference should be included in all policies and proposals coming forward to Policy and Resources Committee stating how they contributed to delivery of the Corporate Plan and Business Plan, with Members offering their endorsement of this.' The Member asked that this reference be included within the minutes, with Members agreeing to this.

RESOLVED: That the public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 14 December 2023 be approved, subject to inclusion of the additional reference as detailed.

- b) The public minutes of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting on 15 September 2023 were noted.
- c) The draft public summary of the Competitiveness Advisory Board meeting on 31 October 2023 were noted.
- d) The draft public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 15 November 2023 were noted.
- e) The draft public minutes of the Resources Allocation Sub-Committee meeting on 30 November 2023 were noted.
- f) The draft public minutes of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 11 December 2023 were noted.

4. **DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 - TOWN CLERK'S DEPARTMENT**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk presenting for approval high-level business plans for several areas of the Town Clerk's Department for 2024-2025.

During the discussion that followed, key points of note were raised as follows:

- Clarity was sought on the exclusion of the London Metropolitan Archives and Mansion House.
- Total cost and head count should be shown rather than presenting a percentage.
- Partnership working should include London Borough of Hackney as a key partner on health and safeguarding. London Councils was highlighted as a key partner for inclusion also.
- It was too early to refer to an expanded and revised Destination City mandate given the ongoing review.
- Residential Reset was highlighted as an important cross-cutting area that ought to be referenced to allow for a read across.
- There was no reference to operational property usage; there was a need to look very carefully at working practices and the existing footprint. It was not the right conclusion to so say there was no operational property to give away.

The Deputy Town Clerk responded explaining how exclusion of Mansion House and London Metropolitan Archives Business Plans were down to a timing issue, with these areas having previously been reported separately and under a different budget; it had not been possible to bring everything together to include within this reporting period but with this being the ambition moving forwards.

London Borough of Hackney was acknowledged as a key partner, as were all London Boroughs, with the City Corporation's partnership work with the LB Borough of Hackney on health being referenced within the Community and Children's Services Department Business Plan. Residential Reset was an area that would be included within the Communications and Corporate Affairs Business Plan, with there being agreement that it should also be referenced within the Town Clerk's Business Plan. Operational property usage was noted as an area for further consideration and review. The position on Destination City was noted and of it being important not to give the wrong impression of pre-judging the outcome of the review through any wording used; the document would be updated accordingly.

The Chairman confirmed that Members were being asked to approve relevant sections of the Business Plan, subject to the feedback and comments provided being incorporated as required.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved sections related to the Office of the Policy Chairman and Strategic Security and Resilience.
- Noted organisational changes which will affect the Town Clerk's Department and Deputy Town Clerk reporting lines, particularly that Electoral Services has moved to the Comptroller and City Solicitor, and that Health and Safety will report into the Deputy Town Clerk.

5. DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 - REMEMBRANCER'S OFFICE

The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer presenting for approval the high-level Business Plan for the Remembrancer's Office for 2024/25.

During the discussion that followed reference was made to a lack of ethnicity background data within the 'our people' breakdown. It would prove helpful to have a baseline level included when looking for improvements moving forward. Clarity was also sought on the events trading account and where this fitted into the plan.

In response, the Remembrancer confirmed that work on trading accounts continued, with there being a need to ensure all budgets were being accounted for and the areas they related to. The Remembrancer added how ethnicity data was not to hand, but that he would be able to provide this following the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Note the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Remembrancer's Office Business Plan; and
- Approved, subject to the incorporation of any changes sought by this Committee, the departmental Business Plan 2024/25.

6. **DRAFT HIGH-LEVEL BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25 - CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE TEAM**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Strategy Officer presenting for approval the high-level Business Plan for the Corporate Strategy & Performance Team.

A Member welcomed the ongoing work in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion. It was noted that work remained ongoing to create an expanded and unified Town Clerk's Department and it was questioned whether any update would be offered to Members giving a timeline for implementation, implications on budget and also more importantly impacts on staffing.

Reference was made to work of the Public Health team looking at the hidden workforce, with this being an important issue that would need incorporating at the right time.

The Chief Strategy Officer responded confirming that she would work with the Chief People Officer on the hidden workforce and incorporating this important area moving forwards. It was further clarified that an expanded Town Clerk's Department would be standing up what had previously been in place and had been removed as part of the Target Operating Model; there would be no new money but rather putting resources together and focussing on key areas. Discussions remained ongoing looking across the piece at what the Town Clerk's Department was there to do and looking to bring this together within a single Business Plan moving forward.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Noted the factors taken into consideration in compiling the Corporate Strategy and Performance Team Business Plan; and
- Approved, subject to the incorporation of any changes sought by this Committee, the departmental High Level Business Plan 2024/25 at Appendix 1.

7. **LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS SCHEME**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk relating to expenditure to be incurred under the Local Council's Grant Scheme and the City Corporation's annual contribution.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved the total amount of expenditure to be incurred in 2024/25 under the Scheme (£6.732m) and to the City Corporation's subscription for 2024/25 (£8,102) as set out in Appendices A and B of the report; and
- Subject to the Court of Common Council's approval (as levying body for the Scheme), the levy of £6.68m (as set out in Appendix B) be agreed.

8. CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY MEMBERSHIP

The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs and Executive Director of Innovation and Growth relating to renewal of the City Corporation's membership of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI).

During the discussion that followed, there was a question raised regarding the impacts of the suspension and any consequences resulting from it, with further clarification sought on those organisations that had suspended their Membership and had declined to rejoin.

The Director of Innovation and Growth responded confirming that the City Corporation's suspension of its Membership, being one of a number of organisations having done so, had resulted in CBI responding very strongly in addressing the areas of concern. The Director added that he did not have to hand a list of those organisations that had decided not to rejoin but agreed to follow up on this point following the meeting and request the information.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to the renewal of the City Corporation's membership of the CBI at the cost of £33,075 for 2024/2025, to be released on a quarterly basis subject to ongoing monitoring and approval by the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee.

9. DEPARTMENTAL 2024/25 BUDGET ESTIMATES - POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a joint report of the Deputy Town Clerk, Remembrancer, Executive Director of Innovation and Growth, The Chamberlain, the Executive Director of Environment and the Executive Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs providing the annual submission of the revenue budgets in relation to the operational services directly overseen by Policy and Resources Committee.

Alderman Tim Hailes took the opportunity to remind the Committee of his standing disclosure as a Church Warden of St Lawrence Jewry Church.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- i) Approved the Deputy Town Clerk's, Remembrancer's, Executive Director of Innovation & Growth's, The Chamberlain's, The Executive Director of Environment's & The Executive Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs' proposed revenue budgets for 2024/25 for submission to the Finance Committee.
- ii) Authorised the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Deputy Town Clerk, Remembrancer, Executive Director of Innovation & Growth, The Chamberlain, The Executive Director of Environment & The Executive

Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, other reviews and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme; and

- iii) Authorised the Chamberlain to agree minor amendments for 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets arising during budget setting.

10. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY, ON-STREET PARKING RESERVES AND CAPITAL BIDS (QUARTER 3 - 2023/24)

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chamberlain and Executive Director Environment relating to bids for allocation from the City's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and On-Street Parking Reserves (OSPR).

During the discussion that followed, clarification was sought on City Bridge Foundation's role in granting approval, with the Chamberlain confirming that City Bridge Foundation had no remit over Community Infrastructure Levy or On-Street Park Reserves as local authority funds, and with any request relating to an uplift to Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) funding having gone through Digital Services Committee as host committee and City Bridge Foundation having confidence in their decision. This followed the same approach as with City of London Police and the City Schools with one Committee focussing on ERP. It was further clarified that recommendation 4 made clear what City Bridge Foundation were being asked to approve under delegation, which was an arrangement they were happy with.

Reference was made to Sculpture in the City and whether the outcome of the Destination City Review should be awaited before granting further funds. The Executive Director Environment responded clarifying that a source of long-term funding was not currently in place for Sculpture in the City, with work continuing and ongoing efforts to achieve this and the funding request presented today allowing time for it to continue for another year until a long-term funding source was secured moving forward.

A Member sought clarification on the allocation of funding for Museum of London and whether this would impact on their fund-raising efforts through the City Corporation plugging a gap, with clarification provided that this was simply a process of switching money from one pot to another between unrestricted and restricted reserves.

A Member welcomed an allocation of funding to support street cleansing. In addition, street signage in the City was highlighted as an area that needed improving, with the Director indicating that he would need to come back on this point.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

1. Agreed to delegate authority for the consideration of the following items to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman,

following scrutiny by, and recommendation from, the **Resource Allocation Sub-Committee** at its meeting of 23 January 2024:

- a) amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Priorities Board as set out in Appendix 1.
 - b) recommendations of the Priorities Board to allocate £30.08m of CIL to the new Museum of London and Sculpture in the City projects and £11.715m of OSPR to the projects listed in the summary above.
 - c) Approval of the Cyclical Works Programme funding requirements over the medium-term-financial plan against OSPR to be included in 2024/25 budget setting and medium-term financial planning.
2. Agree the additional uplift requested for the ERP totalling £9,595,231 (of which £400k is proposed to be funded by the City Bridge Foundation (CBF) and is subject to a decision by the City Bridge Foundation Board.
 3. Agree the proposal to address the Network Refresh Project funding gap (which has increased from £4.5m to £8.3m) through residual funding from completed projects and or future years contingencies.

11. **POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain providing a schedule of projects and activities which have received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund (PIF), the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund and Committee's Project Reserve for 2023/24 and future years with details of expenditure in 2023/24.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and note its content.

12. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b).

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and note its content.

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

Deputy James Thomson raised the following question: -

Transport for London (TfL)

Could the Chairman of Policy please provide feedback from his meeting with Transport for London.

The Chairman responded confirming that on 15th December, the Policy Chairman and the Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee met the Commissioner of TfL, Andy Lord. Overall, it was a positive meeting and, it was hoped, the start of a refreshed relationship with TfL.

Members would be glad to hear that the meeting started with an acknowledgement, and apology, from TfL for the tube closures that impacted the Lord Mayor's Show last year. The Commissioner gave a clear reassurance that TfL will pre-plan scheduled works to ensure this does not happen again.

The meeting also covered:

- The Corporation's Safety and Vision Zero Action Plan
- The current funding position of TfL and ongoing work at Bank Junction
- The need for timely completion of works tied to the opening of the Markets co-location
- And noted Member concerns surrounding Bishopsgate and Monument Junction.

To keep updated on progress, the Policy Chairman would be meeting with the TfL Commissioner annually, with the Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee meeting with TfL counterparts on a quarterly basis.

A Member, also Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee, added how day to day interaction between the City Corporation and TfL would continue, with meetings at a strategic level taking place alongside this. The meeting had shown that what TfL and the City Corporation were pushing for was dependent on funding from Government, with funding having come through from Government since the meeting. TfL now have the Capital Budget and the City Corporation would continue pushing on key areas of concern e.g., Monument Junction.

A Member, also Chairman of Police Authority Board, referred to ongoing traffic restrictions and the importance of not spending a disproportionate amount of money on certain areas. In response, it was confirmed that key areas would be looked at against the evidence base, which would prove critical.

Members noted the update.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

The Chairman confirmed that there was one additional item of business on which he wanted to provide Members with an update as follows:

All Party Parliamentary Group For Financial Markets and Services (APPG)

The Chairman confirmed that the City Corporation had successfully bid to take over the administration of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Financial Markets and Services to be managed through the Remembrancer's Office. This move secures the future of the group, which has been the leading cross-party voice for wholesale financial markets and services in Parliament for over 20 years. This was an excellent opportunity for the City Corporation and adds weight to its role as convenor of the UK's Financial Professional Services sector, providing both the sector and the City Corporation an established vehicle for outreach both in the run up to and after the general election."

The Chairman conveyed his thanks to the Remembrancer for facilitating, which was very good for the City Corporation.

15. **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 the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

16. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 14 December 2023 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting on 15 September 2023 were noted.
- c) The draft non-public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting on 15 November 2023 were noted.
- d) The draft non-public minutes of the Resources Allocation Sub-Committee meeting on 30 November 2023 were noted.
- e) The draft notes of an informal meeting of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee on 30 November 2023 were noted.

17. **CARBON REMOVALS (CLIMATE ACTION) PROJECT RESCOPING REAPPROVAL (JANUARY 2024)**

The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director Environment and Executive Director of Innovation and Growth relating to Carbon Removals Project Rescoping Reapproval.

18. **OPTIONS ANALYSIS - PUDDLE DOCK**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor and Executive Director of Property relating to an options analysis of Puddle Dock.

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

Alderman Tim Hailes raised a non-public question on the following item:

All Change at Bank Project

20. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**

There were no additional items of business.

21. **MINUTES**

- a) The confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 14 December 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

- b) The draft confidential minutes of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 11 December 2023 were noted.

The meeting ended at 3.26pm

Chairman

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