



MAINELLI, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

11th January 2024
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Bronek Masojada (Alderman & Sheriff)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)	Gregory Jones KC (Alderman)	Jennette Rachel Newman (Alderwoman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)	Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Alison Gowman (Alderman)	Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)	Susan Jane Pearson (Alderwoman)
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)	Dame Susan Langley, DBE (Alderwoman & Sheriff)	Simon Pryke (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)	Tim Levene (Alderman)	Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Alderman)
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman	Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)
Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)	
	Christopher Makin (Alderman)	

COMMONERS

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie	John Ernest Edwards	Gregory Alfred Lawrence	David Sales
George Christopher Abrahams	Helen Lesley Fentimen	Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP, Deputy	Ruby Sayed
Munsur Ali	Sophie Anne Fernandes	Paul Nicholas Martinelli	Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy	John William Fletcher, Deputy	Andrew Paul Mayer	Hugh Selka
Brendan Barns	John Foley	Catherine McGuinness CBE	Oliver Sells KC
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy	Andrew Stratton McMurtrie	Paul Singh
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith	John Griffiths	Timothy James McNally	Tom Sleigh
Ian Bishop-Laggett	Jason Groves	Wendy Mead	Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy	Caroline Wilma Haines	Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, Deputy	James St John Davis
Tijs Broeke	Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy	Eamonn James Mullally	James Michael Douglas
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy	Jaspreet Hodgson	Benjamin Daniel Murphy	Thomson, Deputy
Dominic Gerard Christian	Ann Holmes, Deputy	Deborah Oliver TD	James Richard Tumbridge
Henry Nicholas Almroth	Amy Horscroft	Suzanne Ornsby KC	William Upton KC
Colthurst, Deputy	Michael Hudson	Judith Pleasance	Glen David Witney
Anne Corbett, Deputy	Wendy Hyde	James Henry George Pollard, Deputy	Dawn Linsey Wright
Graeme Doshi-Smith, Deputy	Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones	Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest	Irem Yerdelen
Simon Duckworth, Deputy	Shravan Jashvantraï Joshi, Deputy	Alpa Raja, Deputy	
Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy	Elizabeth Anne King, Deputy	Anett Rideg	
Mary Durcan			

1. Introduction of new elected Members

The following Member, lately elected to be of the Common Council, for the Wards mentioned, was introduced to the Court and having previously made the declaration prescribed by the Promissory Oaths Act, 1868, took their seat, viz:-

Name	Ward
Suzanne Ornsby KC	Farringdon Without

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

3. Declarations There were no additional declarations.

4. Minutes The Town Clerk informed the Court of two corrections to the minutes, which had been circulated to Members in the form of an addendum.

The first related to the debate at Item 8, Bank Junction Improvements, and was to add the following text after the second paragraph:

“Others, also in support of proposals, cited a number of external factors negatively impacting the black cab trade. These Members noted that the proposed equalities impact assessment, traffic modelling and data collection would be essential to making an informed decision. It was suggested that innovation (such as the use of digital solutions) and understanding the benefits of pedestrianisation, would be key to ensuring the best outcomes for the City, and that rushing to any conclusions could lead to Judicial Review.”

The second related to Item 12(E) Motions, where “E. King, Deputy” was incorrectly listed as he Mover of the Motion altering Ward Committee appointments for Farringdon Without, captured within the margin. This was to be corrected to to “C.E. Lord, OBE, JP, Deputy.”

Resolved – That subject to these corrections, the minutes of the last Court, are correctly recorded.

5. Mayoral Engagements The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to wish the Court a Happy New Year, and to provide an update on his engagements.

6. Policy Statement The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee took the opportunity make a statement to the Court, within which he emphasised the importance of the Corporate Plan being presented to the Court later in the agenda.

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

(A) One Member on the Epping Forest & Commons Committee, for a term expiring in April 2025.

Nomination received:-
Alderman Bronek Masojada

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderman Bronek Masojada to be appointed

to the Epping Forest & Commons Committee.

(B) One Member on the Markets Board, for a term expiring in April 2026.

Nomination received:-
Suzanne Ornsby KC

Read

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Suzanne Ornsby KC to be appointed to the Markets Board.

(C) Two Members on the Pensions Committee, for terms expiring in 2026.

Nomination received:-
Timothy McNally
Deputy Christopher Boden

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Timothy McNally and Deputy Christopher Boden to be appointed to the Pensions Committee.

8. **Policy and Resources Committee**

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

14 December 2023

Draft Corporate Plan 2024-2029

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee introduced the report and set out the objectives of the Corporate Plan for 2024-2029. It was important that the Corporation publicly and regularly held itself to account, and the Chairman was pleased that officers were working at pace to create metrics for measuring success, something which the previous plan had not contained. The Chairman wanted to see the Corporate Plan brought to life through departmental, team and individual plans, led by the Town Clerk and Chief Executive. A new People Strategy was being developed alongside the Plan and would be brought forward for Member consideration in coming months. The Chairman noted that the Corporate Plan could not entirely capture the complete richness of the City Corporation, and it could not include all aspects. This did not diminish the importance on aspects left out, but it was important to retain focus and prioritisation. The Chairman thanked all those who had contributed to the Plan and hoped Members would support the draft outcomes.

*Thomson, J.,
Deputy;
Hayward, C. M.,
Deputy*

Amendment – to revise recommendation (a) to insert ‘in principle’ after April 2024, and to revise recommendation (b) to: ‘authorise the Policy and Resources Committee to agree any changes to the wording and content (which may be refined and reduced).’

Deputy James Thomson in introducing his amendment, noted the importance of a foreword and executive summary in documents such as the Corporate Plan, and

expressed their concern that the Court were being asked to delegate authority to the Town Clerk to finalise these elements without Members having a chance to see the final product. He therefore moved to amend the recommendations so that the Court would approve the plan in principle, with the Policy and Resources Committee to approve any changes to the final wording.

The Policy Chairman thanked the Member for their amendment and seconded it, noted the need to have Member sign-off of the foreword and executive summaries.

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

Members returned to debating the substantive recommendations, as amended. They congratulated all those who had been involved in putting the Corporate Plan together and welcomed the level of stakeholder consultation involved. During debate, Members made several suggestions for areas to include in the final Plan. These included drawing out the need to make the City an attractive place to live (alongside the appropriate performance metrics), social connectivity, educational outcomes, providing excellent services, the sports strategy, the economic make-up of City residents and the Workplace Attendance Policy. Members also requested that points in the Plan be numbered to aid navigation, and that the phrasing Key Performance Indicators should be replaced by Objectives and Key Results.

There were some questions relating to the inclusion of references to specific work areas, such as sports. There was also a question concerning whether workplace attendance was something that needed to be addressed in the Plan.

Concluding the debate, the Chairman thanked Members for their contributions and acknowledged the points that had been made. He agreed on adding words on making the City an attractive place to live, but felt this should also include making it an attractive place to work. Education was fundamentally important, and the City Corporation had to demonstrate how it contributed across London through its schools and the City of London Academy Trust. On the resources necessary to drive the objectives of Community and Children's Services, the Policy Chairman raised the serious financial challenges facing the Corporation. These had to be backed up with a political mandate. He was confident that numbering of points could be included and acknowledged that more modern acronyms could be used. In response to specific requests for work areas to be included, the Chairman referred to his opening remarks on the need for focused prioritisation meaning not every individual preference could be included. He agreed that the insurance sector was significant. The question of returning to the office was an operational issue, not strategic, and A paper would be coming to the Corporate Services Committee. He agreed that there was a need to showcase social purposes.

Resolved, that Members:

1. Approve the draft Corporate Plan 2024-29 at Appendix 1, for formal adoption from April 2024 in principle including:
 - a) the six outcomes (Dynamic Economic Growth, Diverse Engaged Communities, Flourishing Public Spaces, Vibrant Thriving Destination, Providing Excellent Services and Leading Environmental Sustainability);

- b) the direction of travel set out for the performance measures.
2. Authorise the Policy and Resources Committee to agree any changes to the wording and content (which may be refined and reduced).

9. **Community and Children's Services Committee**

(Ruby Sayed)

13 December 2023

Care Experience as a Protected Characteristic

The Chairman introduced the report and provided the Court with the background on the experience of care-leavers. She felt that, as the City Corporation had a statutory duty as a corporate parent, the proposed policy would provide a significant opportunity.

Resolved – That the Court recognises care experienced as if it were a protected characteristic where practicable and, in doing so, approves the City of London's Specific Policy, 'Care Experienced as a Protected Characteristic'.

10. **Planning and Transportation Committee**

(Deputy Shravan Joshi)

12 December 2023

Proposed Creechurch Conservation Area

A Member, welcoming the proposals, sought reassurance that the concerns of stakeholders in the Ward of Aldgate had addressed. They noted that the Ward retained some of its historic character and asked if the Chairman would seek, through the document, to views from within the Bevis Marks Synagogue courtyard. They also asked if the impact of reflected light had been considered, given the importance of this for the lighting of the synagogue.

A Member noted that the Court was being asked to approve the consultation map. This would be followed by a detailed management plan and asked the Chairman whether the concerns raised by the previous Member would be included in this plan.

A Member asked if the conservation document created a presumption in favour of the preservation of views in and out of Bevis Marks Synagogue.

In response, the Chairman agreed that Bevis Marks synagogue was a jewel in the City's heritage which the City Corporation would aim to protect through the proposed Creechurch Conservation Area and the Local Plan. The public consultation for the designation of the conservation area had been a notable success, with 84% of the almost 1,000 representations received advocating the conservation boundary presented in the report. Development on the site would be required by legislation and policy to preserve and, where possible, enhance the character and appearance of the conservation area. Tall buildings were already visible from within the courtyard, and the conservation area would be one of a handful that already include tall buildings. Further guidance would be provided in Spring 2024 in the form of a character appraisal and management strategy. On the

impact on light, the Chairman said that planning applications were always assessed on merit, and where appropriate a daylight-sunlight assessment would be required in accordance with BRE guidance. Right of light was a legal assessment rather than a planning consideration. The designation of a conservation area did not impact on a landowner right to light. The impact of any development within the synagogue and its courtyard would be assessed, including the impact on the appreciation of historic, cultural and religious elements of significance and the religious use of the synagogue. Third party reviews of daylight-sunlight impacts were required to ensure appropriate rigour was applied. The Chairman felt that the wording of the report and the document was clear with regards to the creation of a presumption in favour of the preservation of views in and out of Bevis Marks Synagogue.

Resolved – That the Court approves the designation of the area identified on the map in Appendix 1 of the report as the Creechurch Conservation Area.

11. **Natural Environment Board**

(Caroline Haines)

2 January 2024

Natural Environment Board – Revised Terms of Reference

Members were invited to review an amendment that had been circulated to the Court.

Muphy, B.D.;
Haines, C.W.

Amendment – to amend the recommendation as follows:

“That Members approve the revised constitution of the Natural Environment Board (captured in Appendix A, paragraphs 1 and 3) and refer amendments to its Terms of Reference (Appendix A paragraphs 4(a) to (i)), back to the Natural Environment Board and Policy & Resources Committee for further consideration.”

On introducing the amendment, the Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee welcomed the proposed changes to the Natural Environment Board’s composition, but raised a concern regarding the proposed amendments to the Board’s Terms of Reference. He highlighted the complex arrangements for the City Corporation’s open spaces, which had statutory functions as charities as well as needing to fit into the City Corporation’s governance structure, and he felt the wording of the proposed revisions as presented would not help as it had intended. Having consulted with the Chair of the Natural Environment Board and the Director of Natural Environment, he proposed amending the recommendations so that the terms of reference would be referred back to the Natural Environment Board and the Policy and Resources Committee so further consideration could be given.

The Chair of the Natural Environment Board spoke to second the amendment and thanked the Chair of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee for moving it. She concurred that it the paper as presented to the Court was not completely representative of the views of Members on the Board. The approval of the composition would allow the Board to start recruiting the four non-voting advisory members, which was considered more time critical. The changes to the terms of reference could be included in the annual terms of reference review.

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

A Member asked for clarification on the rationale on the change to the Board's composition. The Chair replied that the Board had wanted to recruit four additional External Members to provide skills cover on its four overarching strategies. They were recommending that these Members should not have voting rights as they wanted to use their knowledge in an advisory capacity rather than to affect the strategic direction.

Resolved – That Members approve the revised constitution of the Natural Environment Board (captured in Appendix A, paragraphs 1 and 3) and refer amendments to its Terms of Reference (Appendix A paragraphs 4(a) to (i)), back to the Natural Environment Board and Policy & Resources Committee for further consideration.

12. Motions There were no motions.

13. 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:-

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari, MBE DL	a Physicist and Educationalist, retired	Tooting, London
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Shakib Al Hasan	a Professional Cricketer	Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Murat Bingol	a Property Investment Consultant	Hampstead, London
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Arthur James Brinn	a Diamond Mounter, retired	Luton, Bedfordshire
<i>Ian Wilson Tough</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
<i>Simon Peter McIlwaine</i>	<i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i>	
Rory Alexander Broomfield	a Marketing Consultancy Managing Director	Bermondsey, London
<i>Jaspreet Hodgson, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
<i>Stephen John Hodgson</i>	<i>Citizen and Tax Adviser</i>	
Loftus Leo Burton	a Film Director and Producer	Notting Hill, London
<i>Nicholas Simon Coletta</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
<i>Mark Richard Cooper</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Clemente Anselmo Agostino Cattini	a Professional Musician, retired	Winchmore Hill, London
<i>Antonio Masella</i>	<i>Citizen and Mason</i>	
<i>Robert James Mason</i>	<i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	

Deborah Mary Cluett <i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i> <i>Deputy Alastair Michael Moss</i>	a Lawyer <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Islington, London
Fiona Elaine Irene Collins <i>William George Thomas</i> <i>Elaine Irene Clack</i>	a Retailer <i>Citizen and Fanmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Fanmaker</i>	Farnborough, Hampshire
Ian William Crowe, MBE DL <i>Sir David Roche, Bt</i> <i>John James Tunesi of Liongam, The Younger</i>	a Retail Company Director, retired <i>Citizen and Saddler</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Eglington, Londonderry, Northern Ireland
Ezekiel Graham Dodds, MBE, DL <i>Sir David Roche, Bt</i> <i>John James Tunesi of Liongam, The Younger</i>	a Police Chief Inspector <i>Citizen and Saddler</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Omagh, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland
Stephen John Doyle <i>Richard George Turk</i> <i>Edward Gradosielski, BEM</i>	a Reinsurance Broker <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i> <i>Citizen and Wax Chandler</i>	Buckhurst Hill, Essex
Andrew Albert Eden <i>Brian Anthony Vickers</i> <i>Ross Scott Stuart</i>	an Insurance Agent, retired <i>Citizen and Painter-Stainer</i> <i>Citizen and Air Pilot</i>	Rayleigh, Essex
Zachary Patrick Gough <i>John Frederick Hudson</i> <i>Lieutenant Rene Leonard Neville De Silva, JP</i>	a British Army Officer <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i> <i>Citizen and Upholder</i>	Bristol
Anthony John Haines <i>Martin John Davies</i> <i>John Cruddas Murray, OBE</i>	a Chartered Surveyor, retired <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i>	Harpenden, Hertfordshire
Michael Charles Hales <i>Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones, CC</i> <i>Deputy Marianne Bernadette Fredericks</i>	a Catering Company Director <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Baker</i>	Dormansland, Surrey
Simon Robert Hammond <i>Richard George Turk</i> <i>Edward Gradosielski, BEM</i>	a Shipbroker and Ship Operator <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i> <i>Citizen and Wax Chandler</i>	Bromley, Kent
Yvonne Lavinia Harrop <i>Zoe Dick</i> <i>Malcolm David Lawrence Dick</i>	a Business Development Company Owner <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Richmond, London
Richard James Hignett <i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Barrister <i>Citizen and Alderman</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	St Albans, Hertfordshire

Janine Joy Hirt	a Fintech Industry Body Chief Executive	Highbury, London
<i>Ald. Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons</i>	<i>Citizen and Merchant Taylor</i>	
<i>Felicity Ruth Lyons</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
Kobir Hussain	a Group Management Accountant	Ilford, London
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Aysin Keser	an Economist and Business Consultant	Orpington, Kent
<i>Donald Howard Coombe, MBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	
<i>David Peter Coombe</i>	<i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	
Christopher Paul Manners	a Boat Sales Company Director	Shepperton, Middlesex
<i>Richard George Turk</i>	<i>Citizen and Shipwright</i>	
<i>Edward Gradosielski, BEM</i>	<i>Citizen and Wax Chandler</i>	
Sir Robert Stephen O'Brien, CBE	a Health Trust Chair, retired	Colchester, Essex
<i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i>	<i>Citizen and Alderman</i>	
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Peter Greig Radcliffe	a Fintech Company President	St. John's Wood, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
<i>Deputy Alastair Michael Moss</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
Debra Susan Sales-Tiffin	a Healthy and Safety Manager	Benfleet, Essex
<i>David James Sales, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<i>Nicholas James Redgrove</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
Catherine Bernadette Scott	a Stakeholder Engagement Manager	Oakwood, London
<i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
<i>Richard David Arthur Burge</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
Ian Charles Frederick Scott	a Crematorium Technical Officer	Harold Wood, Essex
<i>Mary Durcan, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
<i>Jonathan Martin Averbs</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
Lixiang Shao	a Business Development Director	Golders Green, London
<i>Timothy James McNally, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	
<i>Michael Mark Shapiro</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
Álvaro Joaquim De Melo Siza Vieira	an Architect	Porto, Portugal
<i>Christopher Andrew Williamson</i>	<i>Citizen and Chartered Architect</i>	
<i>Christopher Edward Dyson</i>	<i>Citizen and Chartered Architect</i>	
Robyn Murdo Smith	a Barrister	Whitstable, Kent
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Adam Edward Thompson	a Senior Civil Servant	Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
<i>Robert Andrews</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Michele McCarthy</i>	<i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	

Andrew Peter Christopher Tong <i>Steven William Tamcken</i> <i>Peter Richard Cowland</i>	a Training Company Managing Director <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Firefighter</i>	Ellesmere Port, Cheshire
Dr Emily Laura Waits <i>Michael John James</i> <i>James Patrick Vaughan</i>	a General Practitioner <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i> <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	King's Lynn, Norfolk
Eric Ronald Warren <i>James Mark Eaton</i> <i>Simon Richard Martin</i>	a Financial Services Risk Manager <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	West Malling, Kent

14. Questions
Brendan Barns
to the Chair of
the Barbican
Centre Board

Facilities at the Barbican Centre

Brendan Barns asked the Chair of the Barbican Centre Board what could be done to facilitate the renewal of the lower ground floor bathrooms at the Centre, and sought assurance that this would be a priority.

In reply, the Chair of the Barbican Centre Board acknowledged the poor state of the facilities. The operational machinery had not been invested in since the Barbican Centre had been opened. He acknowledged the efforts of staff at the Centre and their hard work in keeping things going when faced with almost continuous failures. The Chair noted that the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee had approved funds to address the most urgent work required, including the toilets. This work would commence shortly. Beyond the urgent works, the Chair reflected on the role of the Barbican Renewal project. There was a long list of required work, and the Chair acknowledged that there would be a significant price. However, Barbican Renewal was not just about restoring the Centre to its status when opened, but about turbo-charging the City's biggest tourist attraction and helping to delivery on net-zero. The scope of the work required was such that it would be seen across the City Corporation's committees.

Brendan Barns asked a supplementary question, noting that the toilets had been an issue for several years and asking for assurance that he would not need to repeat his question next year.

In reply, the Chair said that the toilets at the Centre were at the top of the list of prioritised works.

Old Bailey

Alderman Timothy Hailes noted that a member of the public had been injured on 27 December due to masonry that had fallen from the Old Bailey.

In reply, the Chairman, with regret, informed the Court that on 23 December a small section of stone had fallen from a statue above the gates at the Old Bailey, landing on the pavement. Nobody had been hurt at this time. However, before the area was cordoned off, a member of public had tripped over the stone and sustained an injury. The Chairman was sure that the Court would join him in sending their best wishes to the affected individual. A tap test had been undertaken, and a further small piece of masonry has been removed. A tap test of the wider façade had been commissioned and barriers had been installed at the Old Bailey. The Chairman acknowledged that, while the City Corporation had spent £46m on boilers and key

Alderman
Timothy Hailes
to the Chairman
of Policy and
Resources

infrastructure at the Old Bailey, it was still an operational asset suffering from a maintenance backlog which was not commensurate with a facility of its size and use. The incident highlighted the importance of ensuring that health and safety remained a priority of the City Corporation. This had been discussed at the Corporate Services Committee, and the City Corporation had agreed to hire a new Health and Safety Officer at the Old Bailey.

Alderman Hailes, as a supplementary question, asked the Chairman if he agreed that the time had come to address urgently the historic backlog of maintenance work (or 'bow-wave') on the City Corporation's operational property.

The Chairman agreed that Members had a duty to take action to address the condition of the operational property estate. The bow-wave referred to the significant and simultaneous issues at the City Corporation suffering from decades of underinvestment in cyclical works. The Policy Chairman, along with the Finance Chairman, had been clear that the situation could not deteriorate any further. This would undermine the commitment to health and safety and make things worse for successive generations at the City Corporation. In December, both the Policy & Resources Committee and the Finance Committee had approved £133m of funding for cyclical works. This funding envelopment included money to address the bow-wave, and for forward maintenance on areas a range of operational property. £4m had been allocated to address the specific backlog at the Old Bailey, and a further £3.4m for forward maintenance. This would incorporate an estimated £120k to refurbish the ceremonial gate. The Chair was confident that all Members took the challenge seriously, especially as it came at a difficult time for the City Corporation's finances. This latter could not be an excuse for inaction. The Court would need to come together to make difficult discussions.

Andrew McMurtrie thanked Alderman Hailes for his efforts in leading the review of the City Corporation's operational property portfolio. He asked the Chairman if he would consider the limitations of the current centralised procurement framework which limited flexibility.

In reply, the Chairman agreed with Mr McMurtrie's opening comments regarding Alderman Hailes' work. He also felt that the question was correct in suggesting there was a need to be flexible and would ask the Town Clerk to explore how this could be achieved.

Gregory Lawrence asked the Chairman for his views on the lessons from the City Corporation's maintenance record.

In reply, the Chairman assured Mr Lawrence that the leadership team took the issue seriously. He hoped that the numbers he had already referenced would make a real impact in addressing the bow-wave, though this would by necessity take time.

Ward boundaries

Deputy Madush Gupta asked the Policy Chairman if he agreed that it was time to redraw the ward boundaries in the City, noting that despite a commitment to refresh every ten years, the last time it had happened was in 2010.

In reply, the Chairman thanked Members and officers for their hard work in supporting ward voter registration. He agreed that a review of ward boundaries was overdue. Any review would need to be thorough and completed with due care. The Chairman did not think it would be practical to conduct a review before the elections in 2025, as a review of this scope would take up to three years and draw on staffing resources which were already committed to the 2025 elections. He would ask the Town Clerk to prepare for a review immediately after the 2025 elections.

Deputy Gupta asked the Chairman if he still supported a review of voter registration and an internal review of the City of London (Ward Elections) Act 2002, and for further information on the timeline and scope of these reviews.

In reply, the Chairman said that a scoping paper on the future of the City franchise was due to be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee at its March meeting.

Deputy Christopher Boden, reflecting on the historic development of the ward boundaries and the background to the current arrangements, asked the Chairman if he would consider creating a working party to explore the question of retaining the current arrangements.

In reply, the Chairman agreed that these were issues requiring fundamental review. He suggested that the Civic Affairs Sub-Committee might be the appropriate parent committee of any working party.

Tijs Broeke asked the Chairman if he agreed that there was a risk of Members using questions as an opportunity to make statements.

In reply, the Chairman agreed and said the number of words that could be used in a question had already been limited. He appealed to Members to be careful when asking questions and encouraged them to share questions between the various Committee Chairs.

Jason Groves asked if any review could include exploring the tightening of electoral procedures such as the certification of nomination signatures and the verification of lease-holding as a qualification to run for election.

The Chairman agreed that this should be within the scope of the review.

15. 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.

Read.

16. Ballot
results

There were no ballots taken at the last Court.

17.
Resolutions

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

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

Resolved unanimously — That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney B.E.M on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as Medallist of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to the community in the City of London and in Coggeshall, Essex.

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

Resolved unanimously — That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to David Farnsworth, O.B.E, the Managing Director of the City Bridge Foundation, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to the voluntary sector in London.

Deputy Brian Mooney was heard in response.

18. Hospital
Seal

There were no docquets for the Seal.

19. Awards

National Transport Awards – Winner of the Best Practice in Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility category – City of London Streets Accessibility Tool

(Deputy Shravan Joshi)

20 December 2023

CiTTi Awards – Winner of the Transport Accessibility Award – City of London Streets Accessibility Tool

"I wish to draw Members' attention to the following achievements of the Environment Department.

National Transport Awards – Winner of the Best Practice in Diversity, Inclusivity and Accessibility category – City of London Streets Accessibility Tool

CiTti Awards – Winner of the Transport Accessibility Award – City of London Streets Accessibility Tool

The City of London Street Accessibility Tool (CoLSAT) enables street designers to easily identify how street features impact on the different needs of disabled people.

The tool's key feature recognises that the needs of different groups of disabled people can be contradictory; that improving accessibility for one group may decrease accessibility for another. CoLSAT identifies the trade-offs that may be needed to ensure no one is excluded from using the City's streets and provides the basis for engagement and discussion to maximise the benefits for all.

The award-winning tool is freely available on the City of London Corporation's website at City of London Street Accessibility Tool – City of London

I commend these achievements to the Court.”

Read.

20.
Holmes, P.A.,
Deputy;
Colthurst, H. N.
A., Deputy

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:-

21. Non-public
minutes

Resolved – That the non-public minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

22.

Finance Committee

(A) Repairs and Maintenance Contract Variation

The Court received a report concerning variations to repairs and maintenance contracts.

(B) Procurement of Purchase Card Scheme Stage 1-2 Strategy and Award Report

The Court received a report concerning the procurement of purchase cards.

23.

Investment Committee

(A) Report of Urgent Action Taken: City's Estate: Asset Swap – The Courtyard, 1 Alfred Place, WC1 and 95-96 New Bond Street, W1 Report

The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures concerning an asset swap with Great Portland Estates.

(B) Report of Urgent Action Taken: City's Estate: Freehold Disposal of 55-61 Charterhouse Street, EC1M

The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures concerning the disposal of a freehold interest.

(C) Report of Urgent Action Taken: City's Estate - Disposal of freehold of 21 Whitefriars Street EC4 (Price Reduction)

The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures concerning the disposal of a freehold interest.

(D) Report of Urgent Action Taken: City Fund: 21-26 Garlick Hill, EC4 – Sale of a long leasehold interest

The Court noted action taken under urgency procedures concerning the sale of a long leasehold interest.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 3.20pm

THOMAS.