

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 30 April 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.30 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Shравan Joshi MBE (Chairman)	Deborah Oliver
Graham Packham (Deputy Chairman)	Aldерwoman Susan Pearson
Mary Durcan	Deputy Henry Pollard
Deputy John Edwards	Ian Seaton
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	Hugh Selka
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney	Shailendra Kumar Kantilal Umradia

Officers:

Zoe Lewis	- Town Clerk's Department
Fleur Francis	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
David Horkan	- Environment Department
Samuel James	- Environment Department
Tom Nancollas	- Environment Department
Rob McNicol	- Environment Department
Gwyn Richards	- Environment Department
Robin Whitehouse	- Environment Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Ian-Bishop Laggett, Deputy Michael Cassidy, Deputy Simon Duckworth, Deputy John Fletcher, Antony Fitzpatrick, Jaspreet Hodgson, Deputy Edward Lord, Eamonn Mullally, Alderwoman Jennette Newman, Judith Pleasance, Alderman Simon Pryke and William Upton.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee received the Order of the Court of Common Council of 28 April 2024 appointing the Committee and setting out its terms of reference for the ensuing year.

RECEIVED.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order No. 29.

Being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, Deputy Shравan Joshi was re-elected as Chair of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That Deputy Shравan Joshi be elected Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29 for the year ensuing.

On being elected, the Chairman thanked the Committee for its support.

The Chairman went on to pay tribute to those Members who had now left the Committee – Brendan Barns, Dawn Frampton, Steve Goodman, Anne Corbett and Dawn Wright.

The Chair also welcomed new Members of the Committee – Deputy Randall Anderson, Deputy Michael Cassidy, Deputy Natasha Lloyd-Owen, Deputy Eamonn Mullally and Jacqueline Webster.

5. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

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

Being the only Member expressing a willingness to serve, Deputy Graham Packham was duly elected as Deputy Chair of the Committee.

RESOLVED – That Deputy Graham Packham be elected Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30 for the year ensuing.

6. MINUTES

The Committee considered the public minutes of the Planning and Transportation Committee held on 5 March 2024 and approved them as a correct record.

7. APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk concerning the appointment of its Sub-Committees, their composition and terms of reference.

Streets and Walkways Sub Committee

The Town Clerk announced that with nine Members expressing an interest in standing for the seven available spaces from the Planning and Transportation Committee, a ballot would be required.

The results of the first ballot were as follows:

Deputy Randall Anderson	-	12
Mary Durcan	-	9
Deputy John Edwards	-	9
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	-	8
Deputy Edward Lord	-	7
Deputy Alastair Moss	-	7
Eamonn Mullally	-	5
Hugh Selka	-	8
Ian Seaton	-	8

As there was a tie for the seventh place on the Sub-Committee, there was a second ballot held between those two members receiving an equality of votes for this place.

The results of the second ballot for seventh place were as follows:

Deputy Edward Lord	-	3
Deputy Alastair Moss	-	9

Successful Candidates after two rounds of voting:

Deputy Randall Anderson
Mary Durcan
Deputy John Edwards
Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Deputy Alastair Moss
Hugh Selka
Ian Seaton

Local Plans Sub-Committee

The Town Clerk announced that with five Members expressing an interest in standing for the five available spaces from the Planning and Transportation Committee, a ballot would not be required.

The Town Clerk stated that Officers proposed that responsibility for the consideration of changes to the Transport Strategy and Local Implementation Plan be moved to the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee with the following line added into its terms of reference - To provide guidance and make recommendations on changes to the Transport Strategy and Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to the Grand Committee.

In line with Standing Order 27(2), the Chairman put forward nominees for the position of Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the sub-committees of the Grand Committee. For the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee, he nominated the Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee, Graham Packham to continue in the role of Chairman, with Deputy John Edwards as Deputy Chairman. For the Local Plans Sub-Committee he nominated himself to continue in the role of Chairman with the Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee, Graham Packham as Deputy Chairman.

RESOLVED – That the appointment, composition and terms of reference of the sub-committees for the ensuing year are approved as follows: -

1) Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee

- The Chairman of the Grand Committee
- The Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee as Chairman

Seven other Members as follows:

- Deputy Randall Anderson
- Deputy John Edwards as Deputy Chairman
- Mary Durcan

- Deputy Marianne Fredericks
 - Deputy Alastair Moss
 - Ian Seaton
 - Hugh Selka
- Together with four Members representing the Finance, Police, Natural Environment Board and Port Health and Environmental Services Committees.

Terms of Reference

The Sub-Committee is responsible for:-

- (a) traffic engineering and management, maintenance of the City's streets, and the agreement of schemes affecting the City's Highways and Walkways (such as street scene enhancement, traffic schemes, pedestrian facilities, special events on the public highway and authorising Traffic Orders) in accordance with the policies and strategies of the Grand Committee;
- (b) all general matters relating to road safety;
- (c) the provision, maintenance and repair of bridges, subways and footbridges, other than the five City river bridges;
- (d) public lighting, including street lighting;
- (e) day-to-day administration of the Grand Committee's car parks;
- (f) all matters relating to the Riverside Walkway, except for adjacent open spaces;
- (g) to provide guidance and make recommendations on changes to the Transport Strategy and Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to the Grand Committee;
- (h) to be responsible for advising the Grand Committee on:-
 - (i) progress in implementing the Grand Committee's plans, policies and strategies relating to the City's Highways and Walkways; and
 - (ii) the design of and strategy for providing signposts in the City
- (i) Those matters of significance will be referred to the Grand Committee to seek concurrence.

2) Local Plans Sub-Committee

- The Chairman of the Grand Committee as Chairman
- The Deputy Chairman of the Grand Committee as Deputy Chairman

Five other Members as follows:

- Deputy Randall Anderson
- Deputy John Edwards
- Deputy Marianne Fredericks
- Deputy Edward Lord
- Deputy Alastair Moss

- Together with two Members representing the Policy and Resources Committee and the Port Health and Environmental Services Committees.

The Committee also approved the Terms of Reference as set out in the report.

Terms of Reference

To provide guidance and make recommendations on changes to the City of London Local Plan to the Grand Committee.

3) Planning Applications Sub-Committee

Terms of Reference

To determine all planning, listed building and advertisement consent Applications (including matters relating to planning obligations, conditions and to the principle of stopping up orders under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relevant to such determinations) not delegated to officers under the Scheme of Delegation with all other functions within the Terms of Reference of the Planning and Transportation Committee not delegated to officers continuing to be exercised by that Committee or any other Sub-committees to which it delegates functions.

8. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

In relation to a question about the definition of 'broad interest' and the factors considered in weighing up whether there was broad interest, the Planning and Development Director stated that broad interest was a term that the Court of Common Council had adopted as one of the criterion on the scheme of delegation. The concept could encompass a very wide range of consideration from the scale, strategic and wider impact of proposals, impact on community infrastructure and also in reviewing representations from strategic stakeholders. It was common procedure across all UK local planning authorities to grant delegated authority to the planning director to carry out this sifting exercise to ensure applications which had a broader and strategic interest were brought to committee, even if they were policy compliance and had not triggered the number of objections required by the scheme of delegation. The Planning and Development Director stated that he had regular meetings with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee to discuss the planning pipeline of cases and to highlight any applications which were potentially eligible to be determined by delegated authority but which ought to be brought to the committee's attention because of their broader interest. He stated that such consultation was common practice in every local planning authority.

The Planning and Development Director stated that a recent example, which had broad interest but did not trigger the number of objections required by the scheme of delegation and was policy compliant, was the Hill House application which was considered by the committee. It was considered to be of broad interest due to the scale of the development, the impact on citywide and

London views and the fact that a public library replacement was proposed. The decision was therefore taken by committee.

Members were informed that other examples were instances where strategic stakeholders, such as the TfL and Historic England, objected to an application. This was indicative of wider, broader interest. Forthcoming Planning Application Sub-Committee meetings would include applications which, although not triggered by the number of objections and were policy compliant, were nevertheless considered to have broad interests.

A Member raised concerns about 81 Newgate Street and public benefits having been removed and the process. The Chairman referred the Member to the answer given by Officers at a previous committee meeting. The Director of Planning and Development stated that there was a statutory consultation undertaken for every application and there had been no breach of statutory duties. He stated that 81 Newgate Street was advertised as per process and this took place in a transparent and open manner.

In response to a Member's question about the policy around the use of a design review panel and the composition of a panel, the Chairman stated that as the Member had only given notice of her question at the start of the meeting, Officers would be unable to provide a response but were welcome to provide a written response on the City of London's processes.

The Chairman advised a Member, who had not given prior notice of her question, to submit the question in writing and then she would receive a written response from Officers.

In response to a Member's question about the requirement for advanced notice of Members' questions, the Chairman asked the legal officer to comment. The legal officer stated that although relevant questions relating to the work of the committee could be taken, it was helpful to have advanced notice so that appropriate Officers were present to answer the questions.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no urgent business.

The meeting closed at 10.50 am

Chairman

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