

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Tuesday, 14 May 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at
Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 14 May 2024 at
10.00 am

Present

Members:

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chairman)
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman Michael Mainelli
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Alderman Alastair King DL
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Gregory Jones KC
Alderman Prem Goyal, OBE
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderwoman & Sheriff Dame Susan Langley, DBE
Alderman and Sheriff Bronek Masojada
Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Christopher Makin
Alderman Tim Levene
Alderwoman Jennette Newman
Alderwoman Martha Grekos
Alderman Simon Pryke

Officers:

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| Ian Thomas, CBE | - Town Clerk and Chief Executive |
| Gregory Moore | - Deputy Town Clerk |
| Polly Dunn | - Assistant Town Clerk |
| Gemma Stokley | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Rhiannon Leary | - Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen |
| Caroline Al-Beyerty | - The Chamberlain |
| Michael Cogher | - Comptroller and City Solicitor |
| Paul Wright | - Remembrancer |
| Alison Littlewood | - Executive Director of HR & Chief People Officer |
| Caroline Jack | - Executive Director & Private Secretary to Lord Mayor |
| Mark Gettleston | - Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement |

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Deputy Chairman, Alderman Sir Charles Bowman, Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, Alderman Gowman, and Alderwoman Pearson.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 19 March 2024.

MATTERS ARISING

APPOINTMENTS (Page 5) – The Chairman reported that Alderman Hailes would be serving as his representative on the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee for the year ensuing.

MAYORAL THEME 2024-25 - ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (SUBJECT TO ELECTION) (Page 8) – Alderman King reported that his friend and colleague Ms Lee who had served as his Aldermanic and Shrieval Consort would also be called upon to attend certain events whilst Mrs King (Lady Mayoress for 2024/25 subject to election) was serving as a reservist. It had been agreed with Mansion House and the Remembrancer that Ms Lee's status when standing in for the Lady Mayoress would be 'Representative Lady Mayoress' and he wished to place this formally on record at this stage.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 19 March 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

The Committee considered appointments to the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee, the United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation and the Emanuel Hospital Management Sub (Court of Aldermen) Committee.

RESOLVED: - That the Aldermen approve:

- (a) The re-appointment of Alderman Alison Gowman to the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee for the ensuing civic year;
- (b) The appointment of Alderman Simon Pryke as a Trustee of the United Westminster and Grey Coat Foundation for a four-year term expiring in May 2028; and
- (c) The appointment of Alderman Christopher Makin to the Emanuel Hospital Management Sub (Court of Aldermen) Committee for the remainder of a three-year term expiring in November 2026.

5. **PRESENTATION - MARK GETTLESON - CITY BELONGING**

The Chairman welcomed Mark Gettleson, Head of Campaigns and Community Engagement.

Mr Gettleson updated the Committee on the 'City Belonging' project and gave a presentation on the City Corporation's. He began by highlighting how different the City was in terms of its community by depicting both the residential and worker population here with that across other London local authorities. Uniquely, workers voted in City elections and the City had a citizenry who, for the majority, had a primary civic relationship elsewhere.

Mr Gettleson went on to speak on the purpose of community engagement and covered points around democratic legitimacy, statutory engagement/consultations, creating communications channels/insight gathering about the community, changing perceptions of the organisation, recognising that businesses want to locate to a vibrant community, delivering meaningful change to citizens within the square mile and, essentially, recognising that good community engagement would make everything the City Corporation did easier.

Mr Gettleson highlighted the challenges associated with community engagement in the City, reiterating the point that the primary civic relationship of much of the citizenry was based elsewhere. A high worker population also made the citizenry hard to reach and track through traditional methods used with residents. He went on to focus on solutions and the desire to engage 'gatekeepers' at all City workplaces and to create a holistic engagement model with the goal of engaging every workplace and every worker. It was recognised that it would be important to draw upon the resources of those City businesses wanting to engage with this work and to focus on their needs and priorities. In terms of the business community, it was reported that there were over 6,000 City workplaces and that 1,000 or these had more than 100 staff and approximately 100 of these had more than 1,000 staff. Not all small workplaces were SMEs, some were part of larger companies with smaller offices based in the City and not all large workplaces were Financial and Professional Services businesses. When engaging with City businesses, there were near universal themes emerging around a desire to have happy staff who felt part of a community, an importance placed upon diversity and inclusion (albeit with a recognition that budgets around this were shrinking) and a desire to embed new starters. Larger workplaces were keen to serve their smaller communities in terms of their diversity and inclusion needs whilst it was clear that smaller workplaces were reliant upon the wider eco-system including the City Corporation for help. Mr Gettleson observed that Staff Networks of City firms were the largest sub-sets of community organisation in the Square Mile.

Mr Gettleson went on to speak on 'The City Belonging Project' campaign launched just over a year ago which focused on four key areas: - Powerful Events (event improvement – opening up invitations to the City's own events and advertising those of others), Deepening Community (engaging new starters and promoting registration and candidature), Super-networks (creating City-wide networks) and Building Connections (building and tracking at every workplace). Mr Gettleson commented that he was working to establish a point of contact at every City workplace for this kind of diversity and community engagement so that they in turn could feel empowered to engage their Staff

Network Leads and Internal Comms so that the information could then be promoted amongst the wider workforce.

Mr Gettleson reported on various first year successes for The City Belonging Project since its launch event in June 2023 which had attracted 250 attendees from 170 workplaces. A point of contact had now been established at over 80% or larger workplaces (those with more than 1,000 staff) and at 35% of mid-size workplaces (those with more than 100 staff). There had been over 750 new attendees at existing City of London events including 4 standalone City Belonging events. The Project had also worked to promote more than 100 external events. Following the commencement of the current crisis in the Middle East the City were also able to very quickly convene community conversations on the topic which had attracted 121 sign-ups. Through the City Belonging Project, approaches were made by the Link Insurance Network who were keen to sponsor this year's City Pride Reception event meaning that the Project would become a profit-making initiative. Other partners had offered free use of their event spaces as well as project management assistance.

In terms of what the current community engagement model could be used for, Mr Gettleson highlighted voter registration, community reassurance and deepening connections with the City. Looking ahead, it was highlighted that Alderman King had undertaken to make upscaling the City Belonging Project a key part of his Mayoralty. The ambition was to establish multiple points of contact at each City workplace and for every Staff Network within these workplaces. A new starter programme would be piloted which had attracted 25 sign ups to date and it was also envisaged that the City's community event offering would be increased – assistance from both businesses and the Livery would be sought in terms of hosting. Voter registration and candidature information would also be integrated into future events. A staff network event was set to be held in the Guildhall in September and a 'Faith in the City' programme would soon be launched.

Mr Gettleson concluded by recognising that there was universal support for the programme which would engage all parts of the organisation's ecosystem such as the Barbican, City Police, City Churches, and the BIDs. Corporate partners were engaged and keen to assist and the work in terms of changing perception and providing a long-term bridging of the divide between City workers and residents would be a significant opportunity, better connecting people around community and identity. Things to consider would be the need to scale up both in terms of output and tools, cultural change and recognising engagement as a function. He also spoke of potential future engagement structures in terms of establishing relationships across the community.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gettleson for his presentation and invited questions from the floor.

In response to a question regarding wider comms, Mr Gettleson reported that this was currently managed through a cascaded model with established points of contact within each workplace in the case of City workers who cascaded down to Staff Network leads and Internal Comms. He added that he had also

fed into the City's own Comms Strategy work to look at what might be done to convene internal comms managers of the City as a coherent community to cascade information on the City Corporation's behalf.

In response to a question around exploring links with Ward Clubs, Mr Gettleson stated that he would be happy to explore establishing links and welcomed any introductions that the Aldermen may be able to facilitate in this respect but recognised that this would come later in the process and be secondary to first engaging City workers in issues immediately relevant to them.

An Alderwoman queried whether there had been engagement with the Electoral Services Team on this work and spoke of the issue of leases versus licences for City Businesses and voter registrations. The Comptroller and City Solicitor reported that this was a statutory rule with the law on this very well established. The Remembrancer reported that an undertaken ad recently been given to the Policy and Resources Committee to undertake a review of the electoral franchise in the City post the March 2025 all-out elections, subject to Officer resource for this being established. This could include the bringing forward of primary legislation if this was what was agreed by Members.

An Alderman queried how visitors to the City might also be captured by the programme and went on to query how the City might reach out to its schools and other learning establishments within the City. Mr Gettleson stated that, by pursuing a community driven model, the universities themselves and also barristers' chambers had their own various diversity networks and that, by establishing contacts here, links were able to be made. It was reported that representatives from the City of London School and City of London School for Girls Pride Networks had been invited to attend the Pride Reception here at Guildhall this Summer. With regard to visitor engagement, it was reported that this was being considered by the Destination City Team who Mr Gettleson had worked alongside and would continue to do so in terms of how best to engage people with the City's community and heritage. The Town Clerk added that the Policy and Resources Committee had recently endorsed a review of Destination City with a new vision and Cultural Strategy aimed at promoting increased footfall across the City between Friday-Monday.

An Alderman queried how the City Belonging Project work was funded and whether this funding was stable. Mr Gettleson reported that there had been success around securing either direct or in-kind funding around events and activities. In terms of 'core business' this was currently funded through the Policy Initiatives Fund.

An Alderman commented on the use of email in terms of engagement, noting that many workers were experiencing email overload, particularly with remote working practices, and that many businesses were therefore increasingly using other communication platforms such as social media as an important means of disseminating information. He therefore encouraged more strategic thinking around this and cautioned that simply increasing the number of email contacts held was not necessarily a solution to any engagement barriers. He went on to query whether there might be a developing strand within this work around the

role of the Court of Aldermen and the pipeline to the Mayoralty and how this might be articulated in terms of voter engagement. Mr Gettleson remarked that, in the conversations he was having, people were particularly interested in the unique role of the Lord Mayor and stated that he was incredibly happy to engage with the Aldermen in terms of how best to articulate this and the role of the wider Court of Aldermen going forward. He reiterated that Alderman King had undertaken to help promote this work as part of his Mayoralty and that, for his Lord Mayor's Show, staff networks would be invited to participate in the parade for the first time. In terms of use of email, it was reported that the work being undertaken by the Director of Comms around a future Comms Strategy would look at what content was being provided to our community and which platforms might best facilitate this including messages posted via City business intranet sites for example.

The Chairman thanked Mr Gettleson for his time and congratulated him on his work to date.

6. SHRIEVAL PLAN 2023/24 - MID-YEAR UPDATE

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor providing a detailed mid-year update of progress against the 2023/24 Shrieval Plan of Sheriffs, Alderwoman Susan Langley, and Alderman Bronek Masojada.

Alderwoman Langley highlighted the nocturnal nature of many of the Shrieval activities with 4-5 dinners to attend each week. With this in mind, the Sheriffs had taken a different approach this year whereby if there was more than one event taking place on the same evening they would split the Civic Team to ensure representation at each. This had been commented upon positively for the most part. In terms of outreach, both Sheriffs had been trying to deliver something with longevity and take a common approach. For example, some of the Shrieval outreach buffet lunches were all being delivered in partnership with a third party and could therefore continue into a new Shrievalty rather than being associated with an individual, named Sheriff.

Alderman Masojada spoke on the extensive work of the Shrieval consorts which was a huge part of the success of any Shrievalty and also helped with broader community engagement with the Livery for example.

In response to a question on matters that forthcoming Sheriffs might find useful to consider, Alderwoman Langley spoke of the amount of interaction with and support from the Livery. Alderman Masojada remarked that the role was very much about the office as opposed to the individual thereby further underlining the importance of the continuum.

RESOLVED: - That Members note and endorse the update report.

7. MAYORAL THEME 2024-25 - ALDERMAN ALASTAIR KING (SUBJECT TO ELECTION)

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor outlining the proposed mayoral theme to be championed,

subject to election, by the Lord Mayor of London 2024-25, Alderman Alastair King.

Alderman King reported that he had now hosted 19 Mayoral Theme events over the course of the past 3-4 months which had attracted approximately 250 attendees. He reported that the chosen Mayoral Theme for 2024-25 would focus on Inspiring Growth within the City – this would be delivered through three key strands, one of which would focus on pushing for regulatory and mindset reform, one would focus upon innovative technologies and another on celebrating the networks which make up the City.

Alderman King reported that his focus between now and November would be around developing a programme that would bring in elements of the City Belonging Project and also the Vision for Economic Growth published last year. Engagement with government and opposition would also be key. He reported that he was keen to organise a session specifically for the Court of Aldermen to launch his Mayoral Theme and to keep them regularly updated with progress against this thereafter.

An Alderman mentioned that the Quoted Companies Alliance who championed and advised the UK's community of small and mid-sized businesses were also very focused on the Growth Agenda at present. He therefore undertook to facilitate introductions with the CEO. Alderman King commented that there was recognition across the current Mayoral continuum that growth would be a key theme across the next few mayoralities which had gone down very well with key stakeholders.

In response to a question regarding Permanent Secretaries, Alderman King confirmed that he was reaching out to these individuals across the various sectors to build relationships. He added that he would also be embarking on a series of meetings with them and His Majesty's Trade Commissioners.

RESOLVED: - That Members note the draft Mayoral theme.

8. **REFLECTIONS ON ANNUAL WARDMOTES**

The Aldermen took the opportunity to reflect upon the annual Wardmotes held in March.

The Town Clerk reminded all that this had first been introduced as an agenda item last year and that the Aldermen had expressed a desire for it to now feature annually to facilitate discussion. Aldermen had been asked to reflect specifically on attendance on this occasion.

During the course of discussion the following points were raised:

- The Bread Street Wardmote had attracted the normal number of attendees (approximately 20) and had featured a Motion concerning taxi access to Bank Junction.
- The Billingsgate Wardmote had approximately 15 attendees and the number one concern aired had been in relation to cyclists and their

inability to obey the rules of the road through Bank Junction and elsewhere.

- The Cheap Wardmote had a good turnout of around 40 and involved a standard, business as usual agenda.
- The Farringdon Without Wardmote had seen increased turnout this year and a Motion regarding permitting taxi access to Bank Junction had been carried. Concerns around cyclists had also been raised.
- The Langbourn Wardmote had attracted 15 attendees and the resolution passed here had related to Leadenhall Market which was the main concern locally.
- The Cornhill Wardmote had 15 voters in attendance which was slightly up on last year. A local police officer had been in attendance to talk on crime in the area which had been well received. Issues around bicycle parking was raised.
- The Cordwainer Wardmote had been attended by 15 voters which was comparable with attendance figures from recent years. A motion to allow taxi access at Bank Junction had also been passed here.
- The Bridge Wardmote had attracted 35 attendees which was approximately double that of last year. The Wardmote had been changed to an evening event on this occasion and had been followed by a drink's reception. A Corporation Officer had been in attendance to speak on the new Corporate Plan and a local police officer had also joined the meeting which had been very well received.
- The Aldersgate Wardmote had been attended by between 60-80 people with standing room only – a slight increase on the turnout of last year. Issues raised here concerned the implementation of the Considerate Lighting Charter and the management of Tudor Rose Court which the Lord Mayor had recently visited.
- The Bassishaw Wardmote had passed a motion to allow taxi access to Bank Junction and it was noted that a total of six other Wards had passed similar. Attendance this year had been approximately 40 which was down on last year which had seen a record of 100 attendees. Prior to COVID attendance had sat at around 15-20 as the norm. Issues raised here also concerned cyclists.
- The Aldgate Wardmote had welcomed around 25 attendees. There had been mixed views around Bank Junction and so no motion had been passed.
- The Castle Baynard Wardmote had seen its largest attendance of around 30 with a mixture of both residents and businesses represented. Lots of questions on local issues such as construction/development had been raised and all Ward Councillors had been in attendance. It was noted that no one had been a fan of the formal set up and so alternatives would be explored going forward as would more informal/regular engagement sessions.
- The Walbrook Wardmote had seen much improved attendance this year with around 30 present. A motion to allow taxi access to Bank Junction had also been passed here and concerns around cyclists and safety were raised. Four City police officers were in attendance which had been

well received. Concerns around the increase in rough sleepers in the area were also aired.

- The Portsoken Wardmote had been managed by the Ward Deputy as the Alderman had been engaged with a visit to Edinburgh with the Policy Chair. The event had been well attended by between 20-30 people.
- Candlewick had only recently held a Wardmote around the Aldermanic election but, nevertheless, the March event had been attended by 15-20 people who had come to offer their support to their elected Members.
- The Farringdon Within Wardmote had welcomed 59 electors which was an improvement on last year and certainly on levels pre-COVID. There was a 50/50 split between residents and workers which was representative of the wider Ward make-up. Many of the issues already highlighted had been raised here too as well as a local issue relating to the design of the new public space at Christchurch/Greyfriars which would be created with the re-routing of traffic and the opening of the HSBC building and wanting this to be the best possible public amenity it could be.
- The Coleman Street Wardmote had attracted record numbers of attendees (approximately 20) on this occasion. Many attendees had limited knowledge of the City and so the meeting sought to provide some historical context in the first instance. Concerns around cyclists were raised. In terms of format, the Wardmote took place in two parts, commencing with the formal meeting and then an opportunity for questions over drinks.

Noting that cyclists were a major issue across the board in terms of both cycle safety and parking, the Town Clerk commented that the City Police had undertaken some magnificent work in terms of tackling unsafe cycling. Since the Cycle Response Unit had been introduced approximately 9 months ago around 1,000 fixed penalty notices had been issued and the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress had recently been engaged in an education and enforcement awareness campaign.

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

There were no questions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

12. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

The Committee considered and approved the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 19 March 2024.

13. **PRESENTATION - THE CHAMBERLAIN - CITY FUND & CITY'S ESTATE FINANCES**

The Chamberlain gave a presentation and responded to subsequent questions on City Fund and City's Estate Finances.

14. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND POTENTIAL DISQUALIFICATION FOR ABSENCE**

The Committee considered and approved a report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive relative to a request for a leave of absence and potential disqualification for absence.

15. **HONORARY SECONDARY**

The Committee considered and approved a late, separately circulated report of the Town Clerk, submitted on behalf of the Counsel to the City & Under-Sheriff in relation to the post of the Honorary Secondary.

16. **MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN TO ADMINISTER THE SIR WILLIAM COXEN TRUST FUND**

The Committee received the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee of Aldermen to administer the Sir William Coxen Trust Fund held on 6 March 2024.

17. **MINUTES OF THE MAGISTRACY AND LIVERY SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Committee received the minutes of the last meeting of the Magistracy and Livery Sub-Committee held on 8 March 2024.

18. **STRATEGY GROUP 3 UPDATE - COURT OF ALDERMEN 2024 DOCUMENT**

Members of Aldermanic Strategy Group Three updated the Committee on their work regarding Communications and Stakeholder Engagement - specifically the production of the 'Court of Aldermen 2024' document.

19. **KEY COMMITTEE ISSUES**

Aldermen reported on recent wider Committee issues.

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

There were no questions raised in non-public session.

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

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration in non-public session.

22. **MEMBER-LED RECRUITMENT - DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

The Committee considered and approved a confidential report of the Chief People Officer relative to the Member-led recruitment process for the post of Deputy Town Clerk.

The meeting ended at 12.06 pm

Chairman

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