



## PARMLEY, LOCUM TENENS COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

12th September 2024  
MEMBERS PRESENT

### ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Sir Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)	Gregory Jones KC (Alderman)	Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)	Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)	Simon Pryke (Alderman)
Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Dame Susan Langley, DBE (Alderwoman & Sheriff)	Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Alderman)

### COMMONERS

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie MBE	Mary Durcan JP	Wendy Hyde	Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Munsur Ali	John Ernest Edwards, Deputy	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, Deputy MBE	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy	Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP	Gregory Alfred Lawrence	James St John Davis
Jamel Banda	Anthony David Fitzpatrick	Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP, Deputy	James Michael Douglas
Brendan Barns	John William Fletcher, Deputy	Andrew Stratton McMurtrie JP	Thomson, Deputy
Matthew Bell	John Foley	Wendy Mead OBE	Luis Felipe Tilleria
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy	Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, Deputy BEM	James Richard Tumbridge
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith JP	John Griffiths	Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy	William Upton KC
Ian Bishop-Laggett	Jason Groves	Eamonn James Mullally	Jacqueline Roberts Webster
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Benjamin Daniel Murphy	Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy	Caroline Wilma Haines	Deborah Oliver TD	Delano Wheatley
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy	Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy	Graham Packham	Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
Michael John Cassidy CBE	Jaspreet Hodgson	Nighat Qureishi, Deputy	David Williams
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst, Deputy	Ann Holmes, Deputy	Alpa Raja, Deputy	Philip Woodhouse
Anne Corbett	Amy Horscroft	Anett Rideg	Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan	Michael Hudson	Ian Christopher Norman Seaton MBE	Irem Yerdelen
D'Souza		Alethea Silk	
Chief Commoner Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy			

1. Apologies      The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations    There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes        *Resolved* - That the Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.
4. Mayoral engagements    There was no report.

5. Policy  
Statement

There was no statement.

6.  
Appointments

The Court proceeded to consider appointments to the following Committees:-

- (A) **Local Government Pensions Board** (One vacancy)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**  
Alderman Prem Goyal

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderman Prem Goyal to be appointed to the Licensing Committee.

- (B) **Capital Buildings Board** (One vacancy)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**  
Gregory Lawrence  
Deputy Alastair Moss

Read.

The Court proceeded, in accordance with Standing Order No.10, to ballot on the foregoing contested vacancy.

The Lord Mayor appointed the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the Finance Committee to be the scrutineers of the ballots.

*Resolved* – That the votes be counted at the conclusion of the Court and the results printed in the Summons for the next meeting

7. **DIGITAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Dawn Wright)**

13 May 2024

**Digital, Data and Technology Strategy**

The Court received a report proposing the adoption of a new Digital, Data and Technology Strategy.

*Resolved* - That the Court of Common Council approves the adoption of the Shared Digital, Data and Technology Strategy.

## 8. Motions

Moss, A. M.,  
Deputy;  
Dunphy, P. G.,  
Deputy

**(A) By Deputy Alastair Moss**

*Resolved* - That the Ward of Cheap be paired with the Ward of Bread Street for the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee, in the room of Tjis Broeke

**(B) By Deputy Shравan Joshi**

Joshi, S.,  
Deputy, MBE;  
Dunphy, P. G.,  
Deputy

*Resolved* - That Tom Sleigh be appointed to the Planning and Transportation Committee in the room of Deputy Simon Duckworth and that Deputy Simon Duckworth be appointed to the Finance Committee, in the room of Tom Sleigh, both representing the Ward of Bishopsgate.

## 9. 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:

<b>Jaime Daniel Alves Cardoso</b>	a Commercial Pilot & Security Specialist	Kensington and Chelsea, London
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
<b>Julian Charles Barnwell</b>	a Printing Company Director	Norwich, Norfolk
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
<i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>DL</i>		
<b>Lincoln Roy Barnwell</b>	a Printing Company Director	Norwich, Norfolk
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
<i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>DL</i>		
<b>Dr Prodipta Bhattacharya</b>	a Corporate Finance Company Managing Director	Southwark, London
<i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
<i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
<b>Benjamin Andrew Bishop</b>	an Environmental Resilience Officer	Rugby, Warwickshire
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	
<i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>DL</i>		
<b>Kevin James Bradford</b>	a Pilates Teacher	Southwark, London
<i>Deputy Keith David Forbes</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Bottomley</i>		
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Hayward</i>		
<b>Susan Mary Brinson</b>	an Infrastructure Procurement Consultant	Wiltshire
<i>Colin Norman Newsome</i>	<i>Citizen and Engineer</i>	
<i>Christopher James Thomas</i>	<i>Citizen and Engineer</i>	
<i>Burton</i>		

<p><b>Diana Penelope Brooks</b> <i>Rodney Cartwright</i> <i>Paul Nash, OBE</i></p>	<p>an Institute of Directors Administrator <i>Citizen and Plumber</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i></p>	<p>Hampshire</p>
<p><b>Michael Paul Chambers</b> <i>Simon Jonathan Mark Burrows</i> <i>John Francis Bertrand</i></p>	<p>a Payment Advisory Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Framework Knitter</i> <i>Citizen and Information</i> <i>Technologist</i></p>	<p>Essex</p>
<p><b>King Man Chui</b> <i>Lisa Rutter</i> <i>Deputy Keith David Forbes</i> <i>Bottomley</i></p>	<p>an Equity Analyst <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i></p>	<p>Wimbledon, London</p>
<p><b>Professor Andrea Cipriani</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Professor of Psychiatry <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Oxford, Oxfordshire</p>
<p><b>Lt Gen Richard John Cripwell, CB, CBE</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>Lieutenant-Governor Guernsey <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>of Guernsey</p>
<p><b>Professor Mark Lionel Athaide Da Costa</b> <i>Jonathan Peter Wallis</i> <i>Ronald Paul Ng</i></p>	<p>a Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Gold &amp; Silver Wyre</i> <i>Drawer</i></p>	<p>Galway, Ireland</p>
<p><b>Rupert Elton Daniels</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Senior Civil Servant <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Cambridge, Cambridgeshire</p>
<p><b>Nicholas James Davies</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i></p>	<p>a Hotel General Manager <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i></p>	<p>Brent, London</p>
<p><b>Niamh Catherine Elizabeth Dowling</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Drama School Principal <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Southwark, London</p>
<p><b>James Robert David Dunn</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Transport Company Operations Director <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Ashford, Kent</p>
<p><b>Adam Michael Dyke</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i></p>	<p>a Hotel Group Operations Director <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i></p>	<p>North Yorkshire</p>

<p><b>Annabelle Emney</b>  <i>Judy Senta Tayler-Smith</i>  <i>Simon Jonathan Tayler-Smith</i></p>	<p>a Staff Trainer, retired  <i>Citizen and Upholder</i>  <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i></p>	<p>Tunbridge Wells, Kent</p>
<p><b>Lt Cdr Rachel Jane Firth</b>  <i>Bettine Valerie Evans</i>    <i>Graham Nigel Cole, CBE</i></p>	<p>a City Livery Assistant Clerk  <i>Citizen and Coachmaker &amp; Coach Harness Maker</i>  <i>Citizen and Coach Maker &amp; Coach Harness Maker</i></p>	<p>Lincolnshire</p>
<p><b>Joanna Margaret Flynn</b>  <i>Gerald Michael Edwards</i>  <i>Robert Travers Smith</i></p>	<p>a Deputy Headteacher  <i>Citizen and Fruiterer</i>  <i>Citizen and International Banker</i></p>	<p>Shrewsbury, Shropshire</p>
<p><b>Janette Margaret Joyce Foster</b>  <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>  <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i></p>	<p>a Charity Programme Manager  <i>Citizen and World Trader</i>  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Waltham Abbey, Essex</p>
<p><b>Rory James Godson</b>    <i>David O'Reilly</i>  <i>Richard Logue</i></p>	<p>a Corporate Communications Group Founder  <i>Citizen and Educator</i>  <i>Citizen and Educator</i></p>	<p>Westminster, London</p>
<p><b>Martin Hackett</b>  <i>Sir David Hugh Wootton</i>  <i>Dr Iain Reid</i></p>	<p>an Almshouse Warden  <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>  <i>Citizen and Ironmonger</i></p>	<p>Hastings, East Sussex</p>
<p><b>David Heffer</b>  <i>Christopher Paul Grant</i>  <i>Russell Chweidan</i></p>	<p>a School Bus Driver  <i>Citizen and Baker</i>  <i>Citizen and Baker</i></p>	<p>Ipswich, Suffolk</p>
<p><b>Lucy Georgina Horder</b>    <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i>  <i>CC Jaspreet Hodgson</i></p>	<p>a Drama and Education Facilitator  <i>Citizen and Musician</i>  <i>Citizen and Vintner</i></p>	<p>Putney, London</p>
<p><b>Captain Martin Pelham Jones</b>  <i>Simon Andrew Camamile</i>  <i>Richard Myall Davies</i></p>	<p>a Master Mariner and Royal Fleet Auxiliary Captain  <i>Citizen and Chartered Surveyor</i>  <i>Citizen and Chartered Surveyor</i></p>	<p>Dorchester, Dorset</p>
<p><b>Timothy Koch</b>  <i>Richard George Turk</i>  <i>Claude Andrew Robert Fenemore-Jones</i></p>	<p>a Rowing Coach  <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i>  <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i></p>	<p>Ealing, London</p>
<p><b>Ying Hoi Kwan</b>  <i>Lisa Rutter</i>  <i>Mei Sim Lai</i></p>	<p>an Investment Manager  <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>  <i>Citizen and Horner</i></p>	<p>Barnet, London</p>
<p><b>Lisa Elaine Laybourn</b>  <i>David Albert Charles Ayres</i>  <i>Patricia Ann Ayres</i></p>	<p>a Policy Director  <i>Citizen and Upholder</i>  <i>Citizen and Upholder</i></p>	<p>Stanford-le-Hope, Essex</p>

<p><b>Cdr Mark Vincent Leaning</b> <i>Bettine Valerie Evans</i></p> <p><i>Graham Nigel Cole, CBE</i></p>	<p>a City Livery Clerk <i>Citizen and Coachmaker &amp; Coach Harness Maker</i></p> <p><i>Citizen and Coach Maker &amp; Coach Harness Maker</i></p>	<p>Lincolnshire</p>
<p><b>Revd Dr Bernárd Joseph Lynch</b> <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>John Paul Tobin</i></p>	<p>a Priest and LGBTQ+ Rights Activist <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i></p>	<p>Camden, London</p>
<p><b>Turkel Dervish Mahmout</b> <i>Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson</i> <i>Deputy Patricia Ann Holmes</i></p>	<p>a Security Supervisor <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and Cordwainer</i></p>	<p>Enfield, London</p>
<p><b>Mark Noel McAllister</b> <i>Simon Stuart Walsh</i> <i>Anthony Sharp</i></p>	<p>a Chief Technology Officer <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i></p>	<p>Sittingbourne, Kent</p>
<p><b>Matthew Sol McDonough</b> <i>Adam James Crockatt-Lane</i> <i>Thomas Daniel Crockatt</i></p>	<p>a Teacher <i>Citizen and Dyer</i> <i>Citizen and Dyer</i></p>	<p>Surrey</p>
<p><b>Professor John Charles McIntosh, CBE</b> <i>Lord Robert George Alexander Lingfield, Kt, DL</i> <i>Nigel Anthony Chimmo Branson, JP</i></p>	<p>a Headmaster, retired <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i></p>	<p>Southwark, London</p>
<p><b>Alessandra Miles</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i></p>	<p>a Corporate Partners and Project Executive <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Watford, Hertfordshire</p>
<p><b>Francesco Mussoni</b> <i>CC Wendy Mead, OBE</i> <i>Deputy Paul Nicholas Martinelli</i></p>	<p>a Lawyer <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Butcher</i></p>	<p>San Marino</p>
<p><b>Katherine Nicholls, OBE</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i></p>	<p>a Hospitality Trade Body Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i></p>	<p>Ealing, London</p>
<p><b>Oba Eric Nsugbe, KC</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i></p>	<p>a Barrister <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Islington, London</p>
<p><b>Dr Heather Evelyn Oakervee</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i></p>	<p>a Medical Doctor <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Lambeth, London</p>
<p><b>Veryan Mary Olivia Palmer</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i></p>	<p>a Hotelier <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i></p>	<p>Newquay, Cornwall</p>

<p><b>Rupert James Pleasant</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Finance Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Guernsey</p>
<p><b>Ian Sidney Poskett</b> <i>Henry John Emms</i> <i>Douglas William Abbott</i></p>	<p>a Construction Worker <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i></p>	<p>Lewisham, London</p>
<p><b>Paul Cameron Reid</b> <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>CC Jaspreet Hodgson</i></p>	<p>an Air Cabin Crew Member <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Vintner</i></p>	<p>Ealing, London</p>
<p><b>Deborah Jane Rowe</b> <i>John Dominic Reid, OBE</i> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i></p>	<p>a Tour Operating Company Director <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and World Trader</i></p>	<p>Tower Hamlets, London</p>
<p><b>Mayor Henry Carroll Sheehy IV</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Peter Gerard Dunphy</i></p>	<p>Mayor of Lake Havasu City <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i></p>	<p>Lake Havasu City, Arizona, United States of America</p>
<p><b>Dominic George Shepherd</b> <i>Leslie David Dennison</i> <i>Dean Hollington</i></p>	<p>a Taxi Driver <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Essex</p>
<p><b>John David Thomas Slate</b> <i>David Charles Mortlock</i> <i>David William Henderson-Begg</i></p>	<p>a Civil Servant, retired <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i> <i>Citizen and Tin Plate Worker</i> <i>Alias Wire Worker</i></p>	<p>Sittingbourne, Kent</p>
<p><b>Antony John Smithson</b> <i>CC David James Sales</i> <i>CC Timothy James McNally</i></p>	<p>an Underwriting Agent, retired <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Glazier</i></p>	<p>Berkshire</p>
<p><b>Simon Geoffrey Taylor-Nobbs</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Sales &amp; Marketing Director <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Kent</p>
<p><b>Ian Frank Tichener</b> <i>Edward Gradosielski, BEM</i> <i>Richard George Turk</i></p>	<p>a Marine Consultant Associate Director <i>Citizen and Wax Chandler</i> <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i></p>	<p>Buckingham, Buckinghamshire</p>
<p><b>Dr Konstantinos Tsiolis</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King,</i> <i>DL</i></p>	<p>a Pollinator Ecologist <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Ramsgate, Kent</p>
<p><b>Peter William Veryard</b> <i>Henry John Emms</i> <i>Douglas William Abbott</i></p>	<p>a Precision Engineer <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i></p>	<p>Buckinghamshire</p>

<b>Hannah Wadey</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i>	a Community Interest Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and World Trader Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Lewisham, London
<b>Grace Wansanze Waters</b> <i>Trevor Beedham Gerald Dawson Clarkson, CBE</i>	a Maternity Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Apothecary Citizen and Firefighter</i>	Maidstone, Kent
<b>David John Welham</b> <i>Vincent Dignam CC Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones, MBE</i>	a Traffic Management Coordination Officer <i>Citizen and Carman Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Colchester, Essex
<b>Professor Geoffrey Brian West</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i>	a Distinguished Professor <i>Citizen and World Trader Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Santa Fe, New Mexico, United States of America
<b>Sally Elizabeth Wilson</b> <i>Howard Martin Railton Philippa Ottoline Frances Maude Stary</i>	a Finance Director, retired <i>Citizen and Scientific Instrument Maker Citizen and Plumber</i>	Wandsworth, London
<b>Dr Eleni Angeliki Zoumi</b> <i>Nikolaos Kotrozos Daniel Mark Benham</i>	a Medical Doctor <i>Citizen and Feltmaker Citizen and Feltmaker</i>	Wandsworth, London

Read.

*Resolved* – That this Court doth hereby assent to the admission of the said persons to the Freedom of this City by Redemption upon the terms and in the manner mentioned in the several Resolutions of this Court, and it is hereby ordered that the Chamberlain do admit them severally to their Freedom accordingly.

#### 10. Questions

*Wheatley, M.,  
to the  
Chairman of  
the Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

#### **The City Corporation's commitment to the new Government's ambitions**

Mark Wheatley, noting the Government's ambitions of driving growth and enabling defence spending to reach 2.5%, asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee what the City Corporation was doing to develop policies and communications demonstrating its commitment against these ambitions.

In reply, the Chairman said that he would not go into detail on the matter of defence, which was a matter for national Government. However, he noted his pride in the City Corporation's work to support the Armed Forces, which including the annual Armed Forces flag day and its status as a signatory to the Armed Forces covenant.

The Chairman noted that security was central to a robust and growing economy – from the economic security, provided by the City of London Police, to national defence. The Chairman looked forward to the City working with both government



and industry over the coming period to achieve economic growth.

Noting that the Financial Professional Services (FPS) sector provided more than £110 billion in tax contribution to the exchequer, more than the entire national education budget, by focussing on growth in the sectors where the UK is strong, the Chairman said that the City Corporation could help to fund the wider public spending ambitions referred to in the question.

Mr Wheatley, through a supplementary question, asked if the City Corporation should focus on defence and security more widely, considering its impact on economic security, potentially through convening the FPS sector to discuss for defence spending.

In reply, the Chairman assured of his commitment to national defence and economic security. He would do everything he could in discussions with the Government to ensure they knew they had fullest support of the City Corporation to meet defence spending.

*Woodhouse,  
P., to the  
Chairman of  
the Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

### **Funding for sports engagement**

Philip Woodhouse asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee for further information on the amount and source of funds spent collectively and individually on representatives attending the Paris Olympics.

The Chairman replied to inform the Court that the Policy and Resources Committee at its November 2023 meeting, had approved an allocation of £100,000 from the 2024-25 Policy Initiatives Fund, to support the City Corporation's engagement with the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Chairman continued to note the success of the City Corporation's sports engagement, which included sponsorship of the Team GB welcome reception at the British Embassy in July, support for the Department of Business & Trade and UK Sport programme in Paris, and its own major event alongside the Deputy Mayors of Los Angeles and Brisbane, the next two hosts of the Olympic Games, and the CEO of VISA Europe to promote the sustainability of the Games. The summer had ended with a City Corporation hosted reception with Paralympics GB to mark the closing of Paris 2024.

Each of these activities, among others, enabled the City Corporation to engage with leaders in business, politics, and sport, reminding them of its wider roles in the community, economy, and, of course, sport. This included Lisa Nandy, Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport.

The Chairman emphasised that, alongside the Paris Olympics, there had been an increased investment in grassroots sport and physical activity in the City and on our open spaces. This included commitment to the refurbishment of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre and investment on the running track on Hampstead Heath.

The City Corporation had partnered with the BIDs on Summer of Sport, appointed a Community Sport Officer, and would continue to examine opportunities to develop more and better sport facilities in the Square Mile, and across London.

Mr Woodhouse, through a supplementary question, asked the Chairman to clarify if there had been any spending above the approved budget. In reply, the Chairman said that he was not aware that there had been significant spending above the budget. The money had been allocated with 75% used towards Olympic engagement, and 25% for Paralympic engagement.

Helen Fentimen asked if he agreed that the decision to fund the refurbishment of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre should be the first building block in developing community sport.

In reply, the Chairman said that, while the project still needed to go through the correct governance processes, the Community and Children's Committee and the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee had been abundantly clear on the political direction for the Golden Lane Leisure Centre. The appointment of contractors underway, and the funding was available. There was a lot that the City Corporation could do to drive community sport.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks congratulated all those who had participated in the games and asked if there were any developments on discussions for the City Corporation to support and sponsor an athlete from London. In reply, the Chairman echoed her congratulations for those who participated in the Games. With regards to sponsorship, there had not been adequate time or information to sponsor an athlete for 2024, but he would explore the opportunities for the 2026 Games and back to Members.

Michael Hudson asked if the Chairman could confirm how much had actually been spent on the Olympics and Paralympics engagement, and the source of the funds. In reply, the Chairman confirmed that the money had come from PIF, which was sourced from City's Estate. The specific figure would be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee in line with PIF rules, as well as a Return On Investment report. He had been assured that the overall spend had been around or about £100,000.

Eamonn Mullally, noting the commitment to the community through the refurbishment of the Golden Lane Leisure Centre, asked the Chairman if a similar commitment could be made to addressing rough sleeping. In reply, the Chairman shared the concerns but said he could not give a commitment to spend on the issue without a costed plan.

### **Key skills issues**

*Sonpar, S. to  
the Chairman  
of the Policy  
and Resources  
Committee*

Naresh Sonpar asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee how the City of London Corporation's Women Pivoting to Digital Taskforce plans to help address the key skills issues the Labour Government have highlighted in policy announcements during their first 100 days.

The Chairman replied to note that he had previously talked about raising investment levels and providing the conditions for growth. This needed to be complemented by the right supply of skills and by ensuring that people from all backgrounds can see a role for themselves in the UK's high-productivity, high-skill

industries.

The City Corporation had a long track record in skills development. The City's Livery companies developed early apprenticeships and, in the 19th Century, the Livery and the City Corporation co-founded City & Guilds which today provided more than half a million vocational qualifications per year.

Through its support of the Women Pivoting to Digital Taskforce, the City Corporation was helping to address the underrepresentation of women working in digital careers, supporting women to transition into skilled roles in the growing digital sector; meeting the industry's skills need and improving diversity. Through its leadership in this space, the City Corporation was well placed to partner with government on the skills and social mobility challenges the United Kingdom faced.

Mr Sonpar asked the Chairman if he could describe recent activities of the Taskforce and the plans to take its work nationwide. In reply, the Chairman said the Taskforce had four main areas of activity. These were: to equip businesses with the tools to better attract and retain women from non-technical backgrounds into digital careers; to provide practical tools to third sector organisations and local government to better attract/retrain women from non-technical backgrounds into digital careers; to capitalise on the momentum around AI and digital skills by working with Government, regulators and academic experts to advocate for funding and using existing/develop new policy levers to greater support female career changers; and to amplify and elevate the outputs and messages of the Taskforce to promote women's equality in tech at the heart of our mission.

### **Guildhall School of Music and Drama**

*Benn, E., to the  
Chairman of  
the Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

The Hon. Emily Benn asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee for an update on how he thought the City could best support the Guildhall School of Music & Drama as it embarked on its next phase.

The Chairman recognised that the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) was a vital asset for the City of London and the UK. It continued to nurture a thriving international community of musicians, actors, and production artists, and its cultural contribution could not be overstated.

Since 2005, the City Corporation's Education Board had provided an annual grant to support scholarships to GSMD. This funding had helped ensure that the School continued to attract the very best talent, regardless of their financial circumstances. The City Corporation recognised that the higher education landscape had evolved considerably since 2005, which was one of the reasons that it had recently agreed to maintain the annual grant through 2026.

Looking ahead, the Chairman said that the City Corporation was committed to strengthening its strategic collaboration with the School. The Education Strategy Unit was actively engaging with the principal and senior leaders to explore partnerships focused on enhancing outreach programmes for young people and expanding knowledge exchange and research excellence.

In essence, the City's ongoing financial support and strategic collaboration with the

Guildhall School would ensure that it continues to flourish as a world-leading conservatoire, attracting top talent and enriching the cultural life of our city and nation.

Ms Benn, through a supplementary question, asked the Chairman to consider how he and other Members could use their positions to think more widely about how they could promote GSMD and build better partnerships, help students and find solutions the space challenges it was facing.

In reply, the Chairman said that she was right to highlight how GSMD could be embedded into the wider work of the City Corporation. He felt that this principle applied to all our institutions. He was delighted that the head of each of these bodies now participated alongside the executive directors on the Town Clerk's Executive Leadership Board.

The Chairman informed the Court that, over the summer, the City Corporation had worked with GSMD to set up 60 workspaces in the Guildhall, allowing for around 100 administrative staff to work from its headquarters. He said that this should help embed in the minds of both City Corporation and GSMD staff that they were part of the same family and the successes of any one part reflected well on the whole.

He agreed that all Members should be proud ambassadors of the School and its contribution to the creative sector in this country, and think about how they could contribute to this promotion in their own work. GSMD was currently ranked one of the top five institutions in the world for Music and Performing Arts in the QS World University Rankings, and was number one in Arts, Drama and Music in the Complete University Guide 2025.

The Chairman concluded by saying that he looked forward to continuing this conversation to hear more about the Honourable Member's ideas for how to continue to better celebrate the Guildhall School.

*Lord, C.E.,  
Deputy, JP,  
OBE to the  
Chairman of  
the Policy and  
Resources  
Committee*

### **Northern Ireland**

Deputy Edward Lord, referring to recent growth in fintech investment in Northern Ireland and the City Corporation's long and historic connections in the region, asked the Chairman to comment on how these developments were supporting the UK wide FPS sector.

In reply, the Chairman said that it was right to highlight the impressive growth of Northern Ireland's FinTech sector. Invest Northern Ireland's report, which had highlighted Belfast's extraordinary growth in fintech investment was encouraging. It underscored the success of the Northern Ireland Executive's 10X Vision, which had rightly identified FinTech and Financial Services as priority sectors. The Chairman said that these efforts and the resulting progress should be applauded.

The City Corporation had a longstanding and productive relationship with Northern Ireland. This was maintained through ongoing engagement, including the annual visits made by the Policy Chairman, visits made by the Lord Mayor and of course the good work supported by the Honourable the Irish Society. These visits facilitated direct interaction with stakeholders, enabling the City Corporation to

understand the evolving landscape and identify areas for collaboration.

The Chairman noted that the question related to the previous question on the Women Pivoting to Digital Taskforce. The Taskforce was already engaging with Northern Irish stakeholders to support the skilling, upskilling and re-skilling of all staff working there in the FPS sector. The City Corporation was committed to supporting this growth and working to help integrate Northern Ireland's strengths into the broader UK offer.

It was actively working to facilitate connections between Northern Irish firms and the City's extensive network of financial institutions, investors, and professional service provider, and was also committed to promoting Northern Ireland's capabilities on the global stage, showcasing its potential to international audiences. The developments in Northern Ireland demonstrate the potential across the UK, and the City Corporation was dedicated to working with partners to unlock growth, and ensure the continued success of the UK's financial and professional services industry.

Deputy Lord asked a supplementary question, asking the Chairman if he would work with officers to ensure that the Honourable the Irish Society was utilised to best effect when developing relations with Northern Ireland and its FPS sector. In reply, the Chairman said that the present executive in Northern Ireland were pleased with the level of engagement with and contribution from the City Corporation. The Corporation worked closely with partners across all devolved administrations to ensure that it supported the competitiveness of the FPS sector across the UK. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the Honourable the Irish Society for all it did on cross-community grants. Having served as a Trustee and as a former Chairman of its Property Committee, he had seen first-hand its rich network of connections and contacts and the impact of its work.

*Pursuant to Standing Order 13(9) and 13(10) the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor declared that the time limit of 40 minutes for Questions had passed and that any not dealt with would be deferred for consideration at the following meeting or, with the consent of the questioner, be answered in writing within two working days and a copy placed in the Members' Reading Room.*

11. Ballot  
results

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

*Where appropriate:-*

*\*denotes a Member standing for re-appointment;*

*\*denotes appointed.*

(A) Two Members to the Board of Governors of the City of London School.

	<b>Votes</b>
*Dominic Christian	54 *
Michael Hudson	26
Naresh Sonpar	65 *

12. 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:-

**Statutory Instruments**

**In Force**

**Windsor Framework (Retail Movement Scheme: Plant and Animal Health) (Amendment etc.) Regulations 2024**

2 September 2024  
(generally)

Creates greater flexibility in relation to the entry requirements for certain plant products and products of animal origin entering GB from outside the UK or EU so that they to match the entry requirements for NI. Expands the list of “rest-of-world” goods that are eligible to move from GB to NI under the Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme. Adjusts the GB entry requirements for certain retail agri-food goods from non-EU third countries so that they match the entry requirements for those goods into NI. The Regulations are designed to reduce certification and checking requirements when moving relevant products from GB to NI under the Movement Scheme.

26 April 2025  
(for certain pests linked to rose plants)

**Statutory Paternity Pay and Statutory Adoption Pay (Parental Orders and Prospective Adopters) (Amendment) Regulations 2024**

26 August 2024

In cases of adoption, a prospective parent may choose for statutory paternity pay to be paid in respect of two non-consecutive weeks or in respect of a single period of one or two weeks.

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

13. Resolutions There were no resolutions.

14. Hospital seal There were no docquets.

15. Awards and prizes There was no report.

16. Exclusion of the public  
*Dunphy, P. G., 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph (s) 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972; or 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.

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

17. Non-public minutes *Resolved* – that the non-public Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.
18. **Finance Committee**  
The Court considered and approved a report concerning the annual pay award for London Museum staff.
19. **Barbican Centre Board**  
The Court considered and approved a report concerning the revised scope and budget for an ongoing project addressing fire safety measures at the Barbican Centre.
20. **Digital Services Committee**  
The Court considered and approved a report concerning a direct contract award for the provision of End User devices, such as laptops.
21. **Investment Committee**  
The Court considered a report and approved a report proposing the disposal of a City's Estate Freehold property.

**The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 1.54pm**

**THOMAS.**