

**COMMUNICATIONS & CORPORATE AFFAIRS SUB (POLICY & RESOURCES)
COMMITTEE
Monday, 1 July 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the Communications & Corporate Affairs Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee held at Committee Room 3 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 1 July 2024 at 9.00 am

Present

Members:

Jason Groves (Chair)
Deputy Christopher Hayward (Deputy Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tijs Broeke
Deputy Peter Dunphy
Helen Fentimen OBE JP
Deputy Madush Gupta
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE
Deputy Charles Edward Lord
Deputy James Thomson

Officers:

Emily Tofield	- Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs
Dionne Corradine	- Chief Strategy Officer
Paul Wright	- City Remembrancer
Matt Baird	- Communications and External Affairs
Lewis Keller	- Communications and External Affairs
Kristy Sandino	- Communications and External Affairs
John Park	- Communications and External Affairs
Lisa Ward	- Communications and External Affairs
Bruce Hunt	- Remembrancer's Office
Zoe Lewis	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk advised that the agenda front sheet incorrectly listed Deputy Madush Gupta rather than Deputy Elizabeth King.

The Chair welcomed Deputy Peter Dunphy, Alderman Timothy Hailes, Alderman Alastair King and Deputy James Thomson to the Sub-Committee. He also welcomed Deputy Elizabeth King, who was taking up the Chairman of Finance's position for the year.

The Chair thanked Emily Benn, Alderman Prem Goyal, Deputy Edward Lord, Deputy Rehana Ameer, Deputy Henry Colthurst, Catherine McGuinness, Ruby

Sayed, Tom Sleigh, The Rt. Hon, The Lord Mayor Alderman Michael Mainelli, Alderman Sir William Russell and Deputy Madush Gupta for their contributions in the previous year noting that Emily Benn, Alderman Prem Goyal, Deputy Lord, Deputy Gupta and Tom Sleigh featured on the nominee list for item 4.

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman King and Caroline Haines. It was noted that they were both observing the meeting online.

Apologies for absence were also received from Alderman Prem Goyal who had submitted an expression of interest in joining the Sub-Committee.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the public minutes and summary of the meeting held on 24 April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

4. **APPOINTMENTS**

Members conducted a ballot to appoint four Members from the Court of Common Council to the Sub-Committee. The results of the first ballot were as follows:-

First Ballot

Emily Benn	-	6
Alderman Prem Goyal	-	4
John Griffiths	-	4
Deputy Madush Gupta	-	6
Deputy Edward Lord	-	6
Deborah Oliver	-	4
Tom Sleigh	-	4
Naresh Sonpar	-	1
James Tumbridge	-	1
Jacqui Webster	-	4

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

Second Ballot for the fourth place

Alderman Prem Goyal	-	5
John Griffiths	-	0
Deborah Oliver	-	1
Tom Sleigh	-	2
Jacqui Webster	-	2

RESOLVED, that Members appoint Emily Benn, Alderman Prem Goyal, Deputy Madush Gupta and Deputy Charles Edward Lord, to the Sub-Committee for the year ensuing.

5. **OUTSTANDING REFERENCES**

Members received a report of the Town Clerk concerning outstanding actions of the Sub-Committee.

- 2/2023/P - The round table had been held and using the insight gathered, recommendations would be brought back to the next meeting of the Sub-Committee.
- 1/2024/P - The summary of the Deputy Prime Minister's speech on Economic Security had been sent to Members
- 2/2024/P– The request was included in the minutes noted by the Policy & Resources Committee at its last meeting.

RESOLVED, that Members note the report.

6. **CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS & EXTERNAL AFFAIRS UPDATE REPORT**

Members received a report of the Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs regarding an update on the Department's work.

The Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs advised Members that following an extensive engagement period, the Communications and Corporate Affairs Strategy had been well received by the Executive Leadership Board and approval would be sought through the committee process. The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee stated this could be considered by the Committee in September 2024.

Work was taking place on Elections and Members would be contacted to discuss improving voter registration in their wards. A new resident newsletter had been distributed to every residential property in the square mile through the Royal Mail door-to-door service. The ongoing work on Economic Security was noted.

The Chair thanked Officers for their work on the Japan State Banquet and stated there was good print and broadcast coverage in Japan. He added that the inclusion of metrics on social media was useful.

A Guildhall Pride event had been held with over 300 people in attendance. This was the largest LBGTQ+ event ever held at the Guildhall and was the largest community event held in recent years. A report on holding more community events would be submitted to the Corporate Services Committee. The Chair suggested that extending the length of events be considered.

Members welcomed the filming team being expanded and relaunched as Film City. It would promote the work of the team and maximise the potential of the open spaces with the team being self-funding and its size increasing as revenue generation increased. It was suggested that the team should work with agencies and attend relevant conferences.

In relation to concerns about the number of websites in use, the Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs stated that work was taking place to change the digital presence first and clear guidance would be provided on the website about the best use of resources. A Member suggested that consideration be given to taking a risk-based approach to meeting UK government website guidelines as these had not been updated for 15 years. The Executive Director of Corporate Communications and External Affairs stated that the ambitions for transformation were set out in the draft Communications Strategy.

RESOLVED - That Members of the Sub-Committee

1. Note the report; and
2. Request that the Communications and Corporate Affairs Strategy be considered at the September 2024 Policy & Resources Committee meeting.

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

The Sub-Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director & Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor, Executive Director of Innovation, Deputy Town Clerk and Chief Strategy Officer.

In the discussion, the following matters were raised:-

- Members were supportive of the priorities linking in with the Corporation's objectives including the Corporate Plan and the vision for economic growth.
- It was suggested the theme of Growth Unleashed would tie in with any new government's agenda as growth would be fundamental.
- A Member commented that having named the next four likely Lord Mayors subject to election, gave them the opportunity to meet and look to align individual approaches collectively over a four-year term.
- Members welcomed the inclusion of risk optimisation and the City Belonging project.
- A Member commented she would like the area of communities to be explored further. Alderman Alastair King stated work was taking place with communities, employee resource networks would be launched and 240 significant stakeholders had taken part in mayoral theme events. He added that he would meet the Member to discuss further options. He was also willing to reach out to residential communities and support residential engagement.

RESOLVED, that the report be noted.

8. PARTY CONFERENCES 2024

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs concerning the Party Conferences 2024.

In the discussion the following points were made:

- In 2024, there would be a similar format as in previous years with attendance at the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat conferences and other party conferences being observed.
- Members discussed the importance of considering the outcome of the General Election in the planning of which conferences to attend/observe i.e. some of the smaller parties could have increased representation. It was acknowledged there would be a financial impact if smaller conferences were to be attended rather than observed virtually. A Member suggested that for the smaller conferences, day passes without accommodation could reduce the cost of attendance.
- It was considered that Member engagement, briefing Members on their role, leveraging Members' expertise and using Members effectively at conferences was fundamental to ensure a good return on investment, make links and better understand policy agendas. Officers encouraged Members to attend different conference events and this meant there could be a focus on social policy issues as well as financial professional services.
- Consideration should be given to ensuring Members and Officers attending conferences received the most appropriate level of pass to fulfil their roles. A Member suggested the type of passes applied for should be considered as it might be possible to apply for public sector or charitable passes rather than commercial passes. A Member suggested that Members of political parties could get passes through their parties at a reduced cost.
- It was suggested that Members paying for their own attendance, should be invited to the Corporation dinner.
- A Member suggested that the size of both Member and Officer delegations attending party conferences from 2025 onwards should be considered. The Sub-Committee was informed that Member and Officer delegation costs were part of the budget which also included partnership costs for the delivery of the core programme of events.
- The importance of not being too prescriptive in terms of which Members could attend was discussed. Agendas should be considered when deciding which Members should attend. A Member suggested that Members who considered they should be at a conference could submit their interest to the Chair and Deputy Chair for consideration or elections could be held.

RESOLVED - That Members of the Sub-Committee

1. Note the plans for the City Corporation's events at the 2024 party conferences; and
2. Agree that that a final proposal on future Member delegations would be delivered to the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee for decision following party conferences in 2024.

9. **PARLIAMENTARY TEAM UPDATE**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the City Remembrancer which updated Members on the main elements of the Parliamentary Team's previous and planned activity in support of the City of London Corporation's political and

parliamentary engagement since the last formal update to the Sub-Committee on 24 April 2024.

In the discussion the following points were made:

- Parliament was dissolved on 30 May 2024 prior to the General Election.
- The Corporation had been engaged with a number of bills which did not make it through the wash-up of legislation at the end of the Parliamentary session. These included the Data Protection Digital Information Bill which aimed to reform the UK's data protection rules, as well as a number of government-backed private members' bills including on litigation and space debris.
- The dissolution of Parliament meant that the All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) were dissolved and therefore the Corporation run APPG on Financial Markets and Services would need to be reconstituted on Parliament's return.
- The Policy Chairman had given evidence to the House of Lord's Financial Services Regulation Committee. The City of London Corporation was the second group invited to give evidence. The Policy Chairman thanked Officers in the Remembrancer's and Communication's departments who assisted with the preparations for his evidence giving.
- In relation to the Treasury consultation on the captive insurance market in the UK, Members were informed there was likely to be a review of policy initiatives if there was a new government. Officers would keep this under review and would continue to monitor all of the Government consultation papers.
- It was not anticipated that there would be a change in membership of the House of Lord's Financial Services Regulation Committee, but Members would be kept informed if this changed.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

10. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED, that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

13. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 24 April 2024 be approved as a correct record.

14. GENERAL ELECTION UPDATE

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Communications and External Affairs and The Remembrancer providing an update on the General Election.

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

A question was asked in respect of the City of London (Markets) Bill.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

17. **UPDATE ON THE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND DIRECTION OF TRAVEL**

The Sub-Committee received a presentation from the Executive Director of Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am

Chairman

Contact Officer: Zoe Lewis
zoe.lewis@cityoflondon.gov.uk