



MAINELLI, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

10th October 2024
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)

Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)
Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)
Gregory Jones KC (Alderman & Sheriff)
Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)
Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)
Tim Levene (Alderman)

Sir Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)
Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)
Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Simon Pryke (Alderman)
Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Alderman)
Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)

COMMONERS

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie MBE
George Christopher Abrahams
Munsur Ali
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy
Jamel Banda
Brendan Barns
Matthew Bell
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith JP
Ian Bishop-Laggett
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy
Tijs Broeke
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy
Michael John Cassidy CBE
Henry Nicholas Almroth
Colthurst, Deputy
Simon Duckworth, Deputy OBE
DL

Chief Commoner Peter Gerard
Dunphy, Deputy
Mary Durcan JP
John Ernest Edwards, Deputy
Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP
John William Fletcher, Deputy
John Foley
Dawn Frampton
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy
Steve Goodman OBE
John Griffiths
Jason Groves
Madush Gupta, Deputy
Caroline Wilma Haines
Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy
Ann Holmes, Deputy
Michael Hudson
Wendy Hyde

Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones MBE
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, Deputy MBE
Gregory Alfred Lawrence
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP, Deputy
Antony Geoffrey Manchester
Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy
Catherine McGuinness CBE
Wendy Mead OBE
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy
Eamonn James Mullally
Benjamin Daniel Murphy
Deborah Oliver TD
Suzanne Ornsby KC
Judith Pleasance
James Henry George Pollard, Deputy
Jason Paul Pritchard
Anett Rideg

Ian Christopher Norman Seaton MBE
Hugh Selka
Paul Singh
Tom Sleigh
Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Naresh Hari Sonpar
James St John Davis
Mandeep Thandi
James Michael Douglas
Thomson, Deputy
James Richard Tumbridge
Shailendra Kumar Kantilal Umradia
William Upton KC
Jacqueline Roberts Webster
Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
Glen David Witney
Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy

*Dunphy, P. G.,
Deputy;
Colthurst, H.,
N., A., Deputy*

Resolved unanimously - That David Chalk, one of the Sheriffs of the City, be invited to take his seat on the Dais.

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 Court held on 12 September are correctly recorded.
4. Election of Chief Commoner The Court proceeded to elect a Chief Commoner for 2025/26.
One valid nomination had been received in accordance with Standing Order No. 18, namely, that of James Henry George Pollard, Deputy.
Resolved – that James Henry George Pollard, Deputy be declared to be elected to the office of Chief Commoner for 2025/26.
Deputy Pollard spoke to thank Honourable Members for their support.
5. Vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor Deputy Christopher Hayward, for the Ward of Broad Street, read the draft terms of a vote of thanks to the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, which was intended to be moved formally at the next meeting of the Court.
The Lord Mayor was heard in reply.
6. Letter A letter of the Lord Mayor Elect, declaring his assent to take upon himself the Office of Lord Mayor, was laid before the Court.
7. Mayoral Engagements The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements, which included visits to Sheffield, Paris, the Baltic and South-East Asia.
8. Policy Statement The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee took the opportunity to make a statement, updating the Court on his attendance at the Party conferences, a trip to Scotland and visits to various City Corporation sites.

9. CITY OF LONDON POLICE AUTHORITY BOARD

(Tijs Broeke)

30 June 2024

Appointment of Commissioner of Police for the City of London

In accordance with Standing Order No. 63, the City of London Police Authority Board submitted a candidate for appointment to the Office of Commissioner of Police for the City of London. Details of the candidate and the interview and assessment process were set out in an accompanying confidential report at Item 27(B).

It was advised that the candidate would appear before the Court of Common Council (in private session) and give a presentation. Upon the candidate's withdrawal from the Court, a ballot would be held for the appointment and, on

completion of that, the public would be re-admitted and the decision of the Court made known.

*Dunphy, P. G.,
Deputy;
Colthurst, H.,
N., A., Deputy*

Resolved – that the public be excluded from the meeting for the interview of the candidate for Commissioner, together with the consideration of other non-public items of business, on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of the Local Government Act, 1972

Summary of the exempt item considered whilst the public were excluded

The candidate for the post of Commissioner, having been called in, addressed the Court on a given subject and then withdrew.

The Court proceeded to ballot on the appointment.

Whilst the ballot count was conducted and the public excluded, the Court proceeded to consider Items 23 to 27.

The ballot for the Commissioner having been taken up and cast, the Lord Mayor declared Peter O'Doherty to have been appointed.

Whereupon the Court resolved that strangers be re-admitted.

The Town Clerk reported that the Court of Common Council had, in accordance with Standing Order No. 63(1), appointed Peter O'Doherty to be Commissioner.

Whereupon The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor declared Mr O'Doherty to be duly appointed to the Office of Commissioner of Police for the City of London subject to receipt of approval of His Majesty The King (to be sought in accordance with Section III of the City of London Police Act 1839) and to the taking of an Oath before one of His Majesty's Judges, on the usual terms and conditions relating to the appointment of Chief Officers and subject to such other regulations as this Court had adopted or may hereafter adopt in respect of the said appointment, and to all other orders and regulations of this Court with reference to its Officers.

Peter O'Doherty accepted the appointment, thanked the Court and withdrew. Resolved – That Peter O'Doherty be appointed to the Office of Commissioner of Police for the City of London on a date to be confirmed subject to receipt of the approval of His Majesty The King (to be sought in accordance with Section III of the City of London Police Act 1839) and subsequently to the candidate taking an Oath before one of His Majesty's Judges.

10. Appointme
nts

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

- (A) **Barbican Residential Committee** (One vacancy)
(No contest)

Nominations received:-
Michael Hudson

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Michael Hudson to be appointed to the Barbican Residential Committee.

(B) **Cripplegate Foundation** (One vacancy)
(Contest)

Nominations received:-
Dawn Frampton

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Dawn Frampton to be appointed to the Cripplegate Foundation.

11. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

26 September 2024

(A) Member Financial Support Policy - Uplift

The Court received a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning Member allowances.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council agrees:

1. That an inflationary uplift should be applied to the Extended Member Support Scheme element of the Member Financial Support Policy, on the basis of the Consumer Price Index, to update the current allocation to £9,000 (applicable from April 2025);
2. That the allowance be set and reviewed every four years, in advance of each allout Common Council elections;
3. That a provision be added, requiring the annual publication of Members' claims, and
4. That the Town Clerk be authorised to make such changes as required to the MFSP to allow Members to claim under both the EMSS and the Carer / Childcare element of the Financial Loss Scheme.

26 September 2024

(B) Panel of Independent Persons Report

The Court received a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the activities of the Panel of Independent Persons.

A Member drew the Court's attention to an email which had been circulated to all Members of the Court which, in their opinion, was racist, Islamophobic and homophobic in respect of its content. They also asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee for an update on when a revised Member Code of

Conduct would be brought to the Court for consideration, with another Member asking the Chairman if access to the all-Member email contact group could be reviewed.

Replying, the Chairman said that he would respond to the question on the Code of Conduct following the meeting. He shared the Member's concerns over the content of the email, expressing his disappointment that this message had been circulated and suggested that he would refer the matter to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee for further consideration.

Resolved – That the report be received and its contents noted..

12. **EDUCATION BOARD**

(Naresh Sonpar)

17 June 2024

City of London Corporation: Education Strategy Update

The Court received a report of the Education Board concerning the Education Strategy.

The Chair of the Board introduced the report, noting the ambitions to deliver excellence in education.

Resolved – That Members approve the Education Strategy 2024-29.

13. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst)

24 September 2024

Extension of Central London Works and Pioneer Support programmes

Members received a report of the Finance Committee concerning the extension of two Central London Forward Programmes.

Resolved – That the Court approves:-

- i. A seven-month extension of Central London Works and Pioneer Support, to the end of April 2025;
- ii. CLF accepting up to £10m of additional funding from DWP to fund this extension;¹
- iii. The signing of associated documents with DWP to accept the funding and extend the programme;
- iv. The signing of associated documents with Ingeus to extend the programme.
- v. That the Finance Committee be authorised to:
 - a. vary the extension agreements with DWP if the transition period and/or funding arrangements change; and
 - b. vary the contract with the provider commissioned to deliver the programme

(subject to approval by the CLF Programmes Board).

14. 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:

<p>Ali Raza Abbasi <i>David Arnold Raines</i> <i>Martin Stanley Riley</i></p>	<p>a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Distiller</i></p>	<p>Liverpool, Merseyside</p>
<p>Carol Elizabeth Abbasi <i>David Arnold Raines</i> <i>Martin Stanley Riley</i></p>	<p>a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Distiller</i></p>	<p>Liverpool, Merseyside</p>
<p>Deborah Belinda Abergil <i>Hugh Joseph Ogus</i> <i>Adrian Charles Mumford</i></p>	<p>a Bookkeeper <i>Citizen and Lightmonger</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Barnet, London</p>
<p>Adetunji Adeboyejo Akintokun, MBE <i>CC Joanna Tufuo Abeyie, MBE</i> <i>Deputy Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers</i></p>	<p>a Head of Enterprise Solutions <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i></p>	<p>Barnet, London</p>
<p>The Rt. Hon Sir Robert James Buckland, KBE KC <i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i> <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i></p>	<p>a Barrister and Politician <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i></p>	<p>Swindon, Wiltshire</p>
<p>The Rt. Hon. Sir Conor Burns <i>Deputy Charles Edward Lord, OBE, JP</i> <i>Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny, CBE</i></p>	<p>a Politician <i>Citizen and Broderer</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i></p>	<p>Bournemouth, Dorset</p>
<p>Ching Jack Choi <i>Mei Sim Lai</i> <i>David Lawrence Byron Stringer-Lamarre</i></p>	<p>a Trainee Solicitor <i>Citizen and Horner</i> <i>Citizen and Glazier</i></p>	<p>Lambeth, London</p>
<p>Hannah Nenna Chukwu <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i></p>	<p>a Literary Editorial Director <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i></p>	<p>Lambeth, London</p>
<p>Sarah Lucy Stewart Dickson <i>Malcolm De Mowbray Adam Stewart</i> <i>Robin Hugh Harcourt Williams</i></p>	<p>a Town Planner <i>Citizen and Chartered Accountant</i> <i>Citizen and Arts Scholar</i></p>	<p>Lambeth, London</p>
<p>Victor George Dodig <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i> <i>Ald. Michael Raymond Mainelli</i></p>	<p>a Bank of Commerce Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and World Trader</i></p>	<p>Toronto, Ontario, Canada</p>

Paschal James Martin Donohoe <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	an Irish Government Minister <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Dublin, Ireland
Lynsey Jane Ford <i>CC John William Fletcher</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Journalist, Researcher and Librarian <i>Citizen and Common Councilman</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Merton, London
Elaine Pamela Godfrey <i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa</i> <i>Jacqueline Chan</i>	an Electrical Contracting Company Director <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and Gold and Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire
Paul Kenneth Hazeldene <i>Colin George Ring</i> <i>George Richard Cannell</i>	a Contracts Manager <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	Surrey
Colonel Colin Robert Jones <i>Alan Leslie Warman</i> <i>Diane Irene Warman</i>	a Crown Servant <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Clockmaker</i>	Hampshire
H.E. Ilir Kapiti <i>Jonathan Martin Averns</i> <i>Michael John Tadman</i>	an Ambassador <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	Camden, London
Neil David Kedward <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i>	a Hotelier <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i>	Pembrokeshire, Wales
Daphne Susan Morgan <i>Deputy James Henry George Pollard</i> <i>Ald. Simon Tony Pryke</i>	an Investment Director, retired <i>Citizen and Skinner</i> <i>Citizen and Painter-Stainer</i>	Greenwich, London
Paul Richard Skinner Morris <i>CC David James Sales</i> <i>CC Jaspreet Hodgson</i>	a Verderer of Epping Forest <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Vintner</i>	Essex
Dermot Joseph Moynihan <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i>	a Financial Services Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Jersey, Channel Islands
Angelos Thomas Papakostas <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> <i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i>	a Student <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Haringey, London
Jack Joseph Perry <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> <i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i>	an International Trade Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Kensington and Chelsea, London
Rt Hon. Sir Hugh Robertson <i>Deputy Christopher Michael</i>	<i>A Company Director</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Sittingbourne, Kent

Hayward

*Deputy Charles Edward Lord, Citizen and Broderer
OBE, JP*

Dr Aranzazu Rodriguez Guerrero a Medical Doctor Hammersmith and Fulham,
London

*Mahmoud Hamid Warriah Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper
Maker*

*Simon Paul Hamlet Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper
Maker*

Paul Stuart Scully a Politician Elmbridge, Surrey

Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward Citizen and Pattenmaker

Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE Citizen and Goldsmith

Benjamin Paul Sizer, JP a Bank Director Gravesend, Kent

Lisa Rutter Citizen and Pattenmaker

Anne Elizabeth Holden Citizen and Basketmaker

Hiu Hung Tai a Corporate Affairs Director Tower Hamlets, London

Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP Citizen and Pewterer

Deputy Madush Gupta Citizen and Pewterer

Anthony Charles Taylor a Licenced Taxi Driver Hertfordshire

Michael Osborne Citizen and Basketmaker

Robert Brian Linton Citizen and Blacksmith

Tevin Titilope Tobun a Technology and Logistics Surrey

Chief Executive

CC Dr Joanna Tufuo Abeyie, MBE Citizen and Haberdasher

Deputy Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers Citizen and Goldsmith

Andrew Bernard Walker a Commercial Insurance Essex

Auditor, retired

Stephen David Willis Citizen and Musician

Dr Millan Sachania Citizen and Musician

Michael Oliver Warren a Hotel Group Managing Salisbury, Wiltshire

Director

David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt Citizen and Innholder

Philippe Roland Rossiter Citizen and Innholder

John Weedon a Reinsurance Broker Islington, London

Ronald Peter Murray Citizen and Firefighter

Alan William Mabbutt Citizen and Firefighter

Ian Anthony Yeoman, BEM a Client Services Manager and Havering, Essex

Band Director

CC David James Sales Citizen and Insurer

CC Timothy James McNally Citizen and Glazier

Dr Elsa Gayle Zekeng a Technology Company Chief Lambeth, London

Executive

The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Citizen and World Trader

Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL Citizen and Blacksmith

DL

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.

15. Motions There were no motions.

16. Questions
Murphy, B., to
the Chairman
of the
Community and
Children's
Services
Committee.

Homelessness and rough sleeping

Ben Murphy asked a question of the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee concerning homelessness and rough sleeping in the Square Mile.

In reply, the Chairman recognised that rough sleeping continued to rise in London and the Square Mile. In 2023/24, there had been 656 recorded individuals sleeping rough in the Square Mile, the 5th highest local authority total in London. There had been 66% more rough sleepers in the last quarter than in the same period in 2023/24, and the last five quarters had seen an increase in the previous month. The Chairman also highlighted the importance of supporting the 'hidden homeless' to prevent rough sleeping.

The causes of and response to street homelessness was complex, and compounded by issues of transient immigration status and local connections. The factors culminating in rough sleeping occurred far from the point at which people slept on the streets, and there could be a lifetime of engagement with services in many areas and countries. The City of London Corporation's response was provided through the work of a team that provided assessment, support and interventions, working closely with health, social care and accommodation providers. The City Corporation commissioned an outreach service from Thamesreach, who delivered daily outreach shifts, and had recently opened a specialist assessment centre for rough sleepers at Snow Hill Court. A safe women's only space for victims of domestic abuse had also recently been opened.

Despite this action taken by the City Corporation, the City had seen an increase in tent encampments, particularly at the Monument and Castle Baynard Street. The multi-agency approach was continuing to support the people in these encampments. The City Corporation adopted a welfare-first approach, and had seen successful outcomes at the Monument site earlier this year. The Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee had received updates on the situation at Castle Baynard Street. The Chairman regretted that a recent incident at the latter had resulted in a serious injury to one of the occupants of a tent following an altercation with another occupant. Following this, many occupants had been moved towards a temporary accommodation while police investigations were undertaken. Unused tents and property were being moved into storage, which would allow the area to be cleaned and the property to be protected. Further work on these and any future encampments was being embedded into policy development, and this would be reported back to Members in early 2025.

The Chairman concluded her answer by saying that under the leadership of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee, officers continued to ensure that services evolved to try and match the increasing complexity of need. This commitment would be underpinned by research work. It was recognised that high private rents were a barrier, and the City Corporation would continue to work with providers of private rented accommodation to try and sustain the capacity in our local services.

As a supplementary question, Mr Murphy asked the Chairman if the City Corporation was on track to reach Government's goal of ending rough sleeping by 2027. In reply, the Chairman said this was an ambitious target, and the City Corporation's status as a 'net importer' of rough sleepers meant it would be extremely difficult to meet. The Chairman assured the Court that the City Corporation was working as hard as possible to find accommodation, and provide care and welfare services for those in need.

Member personal safety

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

Munsur Ali asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the safety and personal security of Members, noting his own recent personal experiences.

The Chairman began by expressing his support for the Honourable Member on a personal level. He said that no Members should have to worry about their personal safety as they engaged in public life.

The Chairman informed the Court that he had first-hand experience of threats and intimidation, including death-threats. It was abhorrent, affecting every aspect of one's life, and the Chairman extended his deepest sympathies for the treatment he has been subjected to.

The Chairman was aware that the incidents in the question were the subject of police investigation and so he would not go into specifics. Any behaviour that involved potential criminal offence is primarily a matter for the police.

Members were right to expect a reasonable level of security inside Corporation buildings and additional security could be arranged at other official events, such as wardmotes, as needed. In appropriate circumstances, the City Corporation could also explore civil proceedings, such as applying for an injunction.

The Chief Commoner had contacted all Honourable Members regarding advice and guidance on safety.

The Chairman felt that the City Corporation could improve on how it signposted Members to advice and security briefings. In the past, Member security briefings have been offered by Counter Terrorism Policing, for instance, and the Local Government Association (LGA) and ProtectUK also provided useful material. The Chairman finished by suggesting that now was a good time to draw these different resources together and ensure they were signposted clearly to so that they can be easily located and used.

The Chief Commoner asked a supplementary question, asking if the Chairman agreed that everything should be done to ensure support. The Chief Commoner highlighted the Employee Assistance Programme and urged any Member who was a victim of abuse to report it to the City of London Police as soon as possible and, if comfortable, to the Chief Commoner or the Town Clerk. The Chairman agreed with the Chief Commoner.

Deputy John Fletcher, providing examples of his own experiences, supported Mr Ali's statements, and said he would have welcomed it if he had known about the available support. He was concerned that it was a coordinated attack in advance of the 2025 elections. In reply, the Chairman expressed his sympathies with Deputy and agreed that there was more to be done, especially in light of the elections.

Jason Pritchard asked the Chairman to provide further detail on the possibility of applications for injunctions. In reply, the Chairman said that this was an area on which the Comptroller and City Solicitor would be able to provide further information.

Ben Murphy asked the Chairman if the new Commissioner of the City of London Police could find a liaison from the Police to help Members. In reply, the Chairman said this was an excellent suggestion, and he would look to the new Commissioner to help facilitate this.

Destination City and Culture workstream

The question was deferred.

Commercial real estate sector

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

Deputy Shравan Joshi asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, asking if the Chairman would direct officers to produce a paper considering if the commercial real estate sector should be included in the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) grouping.

In reply, the Chairman agreed that the City Corporation should consider how it engaged with the Real Estate industry more collaboratively to promote the shared interests in delivering best in class business accommodation.

The Chairman felt that this work should focus initially on working with the real estate sector in the Square Mile, building on the work being carried out by the Environment, Innovation & Growth and City Surveyor's Departments, to further promote the City as a destination, distinct within London, for inward investment to both occupiers and investors. This work was being prioritised in the Destination City programme. The Environment Department enjoyed a close relationship with Innovation and Growth's Trade and Investment Team and the team had recently supported the Planning Chairman in representing the City Corporation at the Munich Expo conference and in engaging with international asset managers and owners who were investing in both real estate and the FPS sector.

This was an area where officers are currently developing the City Corporation's thinking and the Chairman said that Deputy Joshi was right to stress its importance

and to support it in his role as Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee. Once scoping has been completed, the Chairman felt it would be right for a paper to come to the Policy and Resources Committee as suggested – and he would request that such a paper was commissioned in due course.

The Chairman concluded by informing the Court that he was due to deliver keynote speech that evening at the City Property Association's annual dinner, at which he would emphasise the importance of this sector to the Square Mile.

*Groves, J., to
the Chairman
of the Planning
and
Transportation
Committee*

Jason Groves to the Chairman of Planning and Transportation Committee

Jason Groves asked the Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee if he could provide an update on plans to increase allocated space for dockless bikes, and on his negotiations with other London councils and the bike companies on tackling the issue of dockless bikes parking on public footpaths.

The Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee began his reply by sharing the frustrations with the elongated processes that had to be conducted before meaningful enforcement could begin. This feeling was shared with many of the City Corporation's London Councils partners and Transport for London.

The City currently had 87 dockless bays, of which 23 were shared with e-scooters. This provided capacity for 660 bikes and 104 scooters. The City Corporation would install another 19 bays this financial year, to increase capacity to over 800 spaces, and additional capacity for more bays had been identified. Where appropriate, more bays would be installed as part of transport and public realm projects. The City Corporation was working hard to provide additional parking space for dockless bikes, but the Chairman emphasised that it was the responsibility of operators to manage their fleets in accordance with available capacity and the City Corporation's requirement for all dockless bikes to be left in designated bays. The Chairman represented the City Corporation on the London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee which was actively developing a single pan-London contract for dockless bikes and e-scooters. The City Corporation had formally stated its intent to join the contract when it came into effect and it was expected it would lead to better compliance and the ability to fine operators for exceeding fleet sizes and for continual poor parking practice. However, the Chairman noted that timing for the contract was currently unclear. He hoped it would be in place next year. Ultimately, there was need for national legislation to give councils the ability to regulate dockless operators, which currently fell outside the legislative framework. The City Corporation had previously called on Government to grant these powers, and the Chairman said that others, including the MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, were also advocating for this. The Chairman would be writing to the Minister for Transport to highlight the increasingly urgent need for legislation.

Mr Groves asked a supplementary question, asking for further information on the possibility of additional bays, and if the Chairman would commit to having further conversations with the dockless bike companies on the possibility of introducing enhanced fines in certain areas. In reply, the Chairman said that the correct way to report on this was through the Streets & Walkways Sub-Committee.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks asked the Chairman if he agreed that the City

Corporation needed to be firmer in using its current powers in dealing with operators. The Chairman replied to agree with Deputy Fredericks, and said that officers were working within the full realm of their current powers to ensure that operators behaved.

Deputy Ann Holmes, noting that dockless bikes in her Ward were blocking access to footpath users with accessibility needs and to emergency vehicles, asked the Chairman if he agreed that there was a need to act urgently as the situation was becoming a life or death issue. In reply, the Chairman regretted that those with the highest accessibility needs were those most affected. The Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee would ensure that this issue was properly addressed and that accessibility needs were considered as a priority.

Sports engagement strategy

The question was withdrawn and deferred to December meeting.

*Mullally, E., to
the Chairman
of the Planning
and
Transportation
Committee*

Questions at committee meetings

Eamonn Mullally, noting a recent email sent by the Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee on his approach to the conduct of debate at meetings of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee, including on questions and calls to move for a vote, asked the Chairman of the Committee if he appreciated that this approach could be damaging to the City Corporation's reputation as a planning authority.

The Chairman began his reply by providing the internal context for those Members who did not sit on the Sub-Committee. He had issued, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sub-Committee, advance notice of how he planned to manage the timings of debates on applications more closely. This included a framework of how much time he proposed to allocate to each section: from the presentations from officers, presentations for objectors, questions from Members, and so on; it also contained the suggestion that, given the size of the sub-committee, he might initially only take one question per Member on each section.

The Chairman clarified that his email had not provided any comment on welcoming calls for Members to move to the vote. The mechanism that the "question to be now put" remained a mechanism available to all Members of any committee and, in line with Standing Order 37(3), a Chairman could veto this if they were of the opinion that the Motion was premature or in any sense is an abuse of the rule of the Committee. The Chairman noted that this was a right he had historically exercised.

This guidance was developed at the Chairman's request following considerable feedback from the membership after several three-plus hour meetings. As a result of these lengthy meetings, at which the Sub-Committee usually only ever considered one application at a time, a number of Members had had to depart the meeting before a decision was taken. There were also some Members who felt unable to ask their questions, for fear of prolonging the meeting further. The whole driver for the guidance had been to ensure as many Sub-Committee Members as possible were provided with a fair opportunity to contribute to the debate and the decision.

The Chairman highlighted that he had said in his email that “if there are exceptional circumstances, I will always take a pragmatic and inclusive approach ... if it is clear to me that more time is required, I will of course flex this framework as necessary”d. This proposal is not intended to be prescriptive but will hopefully help focus Members’ minds during the meeting an facilitate an open debate for all.” He said that beyond this, there was nothing prohibiting Members from asking any questions or points of clarification by email ahead of the meeting, and they were encouraged to do so.

The Chairman felt it was incumbent upon all chairs of every committee to manage the time effectively, to make rulings on issues of repetition and to ensure that all parties are given an opportunity to be heard, responsibilities he took seriously.

This guidance had been drafted with considerable input from the Planning, Comptroller & City Solicitors and Governance Teams. The Chairman thought that it struck the right balance between allowing Members to ask questions at the meeting, whilst ensuring that as many committee Members as possible were still present to participate in the decision. It also concurred with the City Corporation’s Planning Protocol and Standing Orders.

The Chairman noted that the officers from the Planning team were responsible for the City Corporation’s recent accolades of Planning Authority of the Year and National Planning Permission of the Year, and so did not agree with the suggestion that his approach would be damaging the City’s reputation as a Planning Authority. It was the ability to determine often complex applications expeditiously, whilst giving thorough consideration to the issues, that has led to the City Corporation’s professional reputation and prestigious standing within the Planning community. It also reflected the new Government’s desire to make planning more effective.

The Chairman concluded by saying that there had not been a single meeting of the sub-committee since he had issued the guidance. He was open to feedback and would be seeking constructive reflections from all parties following our next meeting. Some Members had already written back in support.

Mr Mullally, as a supplementary question, asked the Chairman how he would explain this position to the electorate. In reply, the Chairman asked Mr Mullally to email him if there were any points that he felt had not addressed in the initial response.

17. Ballot
results

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

Where appropriate:-

**denotes appointed.*

(A) One Member to the Capital Buildings Board.

*Gregory Lawrence
Deputy Alastair Moss

Votes

30

48 *

18. 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

Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 (Commencement No. 7) Regulations

2 September 2024

Revokes certain of the instruments (or provisions) related to securitisation referred to in Schedule 1 to the Act. This includes revocation of Regulation (EU) 2017/2402 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2017 regarding the general framework for securitisation, and of Delegated Regulation (EU) No 625/2014 of 13 March 2014 regarding technical standards.

Procurement Act 2023 (Commencement No. 3 and Transitional and Saving Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

17 September 2024

Delays the coming into force of the Act, so that provision start to come into force February 2025, rather than October 2024 as originally planned.

Read.

19. Resolutions There were no resolutions.

20. Awards and Prizes There was no report.

21. Hospital Seal There were no docquets for the Seal.

22. Exclusion of the public The public having been excluded during consideration of Item 9, all non-public items were considered prior to the re-admission of the public. The summary of the decisions taken are set out below.

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

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

24. **Policy and Resources Committee**
The Court considered a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning an acquisition.

This item was withdrawn with the approval of the Court.

25. **Finance Committee**

The Court considered and approved two reports of the Finance Committee, one concerning a contract for temporary labour and the other a catering contract at the Barbican Centre.

26. **City Bridge Foundation Board**

The Court considered and approved a report of the City Bridge Foundation Board concerning fire safety at Tower Bridge.

27. **City Of London Police Authority Board**

The Court considered and approved a report of the City of London Police Authority Board concerning cryptocurrency storage.

The meeting commenced at 13.00 and ended at 2.48 pm

THOMAS.