

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 7 November 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 7 November 2024 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)
Deputy Keith Bottomley (Deputy Chairman)
Tijs Broeke (Vice-Chair)
Caroline Haines (Vice-Chair)
Munsur Ali
Deputy Randall Anderson (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Henry Colthurst (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Peter Dunphy (Ex-Officio Member)
Mary Durcan (Ex-Officio Member)
Helen Fentimen OBE JP
Steve Goodman OBE
Jason Groves
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Jaspreet Hodgson
Deputy Ann Holmes
Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Deputy Andrien Meyers
Deputy Brian Mooney BEM
Deputy Alastair Moss
Alderman Sir William Russell
Deputy Sir Michael Snyder
Deputy James Thomson
James Tumbridge
Philip Woodhouse

In attendance (in Guildhall)

Deputy Marianne Fredericks
Oliver Sells
Madush Gupta

In attendance (Observing online)

Alderwoman Elizabeth King
Deputy Edward Lord
Benjamin Murphy
Henry Pollard

Officers:

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| Ian Thomas CBE | - Town Clerk & Chief Executive |
| Gregory Moore | - Deputy Town Clerk |
| Polly Dunn | - Assistant Town Clerk and Executive Director of Governance and Member Services |
| Jen Beckermann | - Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee |
| Benjamin Dixon | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Sam Hutchings | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Gemma Stokley | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Emma Markiewicz | - Town Clerk's Department |
| David Mendoza Wolfson | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Chris Rumbles | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Kristy Sandino | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Emily Slatter | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Lisa Ward | - Town Clerk's Department |
| Michael Cogher | - Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Town Clerk |
| Caroline Al-Beyerty | - Chamberlain |
| Sonia Sharma | - Chamberlain's Department |
| Sonia Virdee | - Chamberlain's Department |
| Alessia Ursini | - Chamberlains' Department |
| Genine Whitehorn | - Chamberlain's Department |
| Dionne Corradine | - Chief Strategy Officer |
| Judith Finlay | - Executive Director of Community and Children's Services |
| Damian Nussbaum | - Director of Innovation & Growth |
| Doris Chan | - Innovation & Growth |
| Omkar Chana | - Innovation & Growth |
| Daniel O'Byrne | - Innovation & Growth |
| Katie Stewart | - Executive Director, Environment Department |
| Paul Wright | - Remembrancer |
| Peter Young | - City Surveyor's Department |
| Robert Murphy | - City Surveyor's Department |

The Chairman referred to the substantial agenda before Members today, with there being significant items due for consideration during the confidential and non-public parts of the agenda. The Chairman proposed a re-ordering of the agenda to allow for consideration of the confidential and non-public items during the first part of the meeting and then moving to the public agenda for consideration during the final part of the meeting, with Members offering their agreement to this approach.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Benjamin Murphy and Paul Martinelli.

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

Caroline Haines declared an interest in respect of item 18 as a Director of the Financial Services Skills Commission.

Alderman Vincent Keaveny declared an interest in items 6 and 18 as Chair of Progress together.

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At this point in the meeting, the Town Clerk referred to the agreement of Members to take the confidential and non-public agenda items during the first part of the meeting.

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15. 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.

25. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

- a) The confidential minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 23 July 2024 were noted.
- b) The draft confidential minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting on 17 September 2024 were noted.

26. MARKETS CO-LOCATION PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive relating to the future of the Markets Co-Location Programme.

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 October 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 23 July 2024 were noted.
- c) The draft non-public minutes of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 4 September 2024 were noted.

17. BARBICAN CENTRE RENEWAL

The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief Executive Officer, Barbican, City Surveyor and Chamberlain relating to Barbican Centre renewal.

At this point in the meeting, in accordance with Standing Order 40, a decision was taken to extend the length of the meeting.

18. **FUTURE SKILLS AND TALENT - STRENGTHENING INNOVATION AND GROWTH SUPPORT FOR CITY COMPETITIVENESS, AND SUPPORTING PROGRESS TOGETHER AND FINANCIAL SERVICES SKILLS COMMISSION**
The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth relating to future skills and talent.
19. **STRATEGIC PROPERTY ESTATE STRATEGY**
The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor relating a Strategic Property Estate Strategy.
20. **APPOINTMENTS TO DESTINATION ADVISORY BOARD**
The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk relating to appointments to Destination Advisory Board.
21. **NEW LONDON MUSEUM CLAIMS**
The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk & Chief Executive and the City Surveyor relating to New London Museum claims.
22. **ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB) IN LONDON**
The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth relating to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in London.
23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions.
24. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**
There were no additional items of business.

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At this point in the meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed the conclusion of the confidential and non-public sections of the agenda and sought Members' agreement to move to the public agenda and to re-admit Members of the public for its consideration, with Members agreeing to this.

For the benefit of the public viewing the meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed that the committee had already considered item 1 where apologies were received; item 2 there had been two declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**
 - a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 17 October 2024 were approved as an accurate record.

- b) The public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 23 July 2024 were noted.
- c) The draft public minutes of the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting on 4 September 2024 were noted.

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE: ANNUAL REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk presenting terms of reference for the Committee as part of an annual review.

RESOLVED: That Members:-

- Approved the terms of reference of the Committee, subject to any changes proposed being incorporated, for onward submission to Court of Common Council in April 2025; and,
- Agreed that should any amendments be required, Delegated Authority be granted to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to consider the final wording of the revised terms of reference, for onward recommendation to Court of Common Council.

5. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

The Committee considered a report of the Comptroller and City Solicitor providing an update relating to future arrangements for polling stations and polling places in the City to be used in National and London-wide elections.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed the recommendations in the (Acting) Returning Officer's Report (set out in Appendix 1), that no change should be made to the boundaries of the polling districts, and that no change should be made to the location of the polling places within the polling districts.
- Approved any changes to Polling Places to be made under Delegated Authority by the Comptroller and City Solicitor, in consultation with the chair and deputy chairman, where a venue was unavailable, and an election was called at short notice.

6. **UN GLOBAL COMPACT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) - COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT 2024**

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Chief Strategy Officer relating to the City Corporation as a participant in the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), being required to produce a Communication on Engagement every two years and seeking approval of its 2024 submission.

RESOLVED: That Members; -

- Approved the UN Global Compact and Sustainable Development Goals Communication on Engagement 2024 at Appendix 1.
- Authorised the Chief Strategy Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to approve any final changes which may be required

following Committee and once approved, authorise the Chief Strategy Officer to submit the Communication on Engagement 2024 for publication on the UNGC website, in accordance with the deadline of 19 December 2024.

- Noted the annual £550 + VAT membership fee to the UNGC, and that Officers would review our membership and the requirement for future reports, prioritising the value added to the City of London Corporation in doing our business.
- Noted that commitment to the UN SDGs was sustained through our policy and ongoing activities in the three themes previously agreed by members of the Policy and Resources Committee.

7. PAN-LONDON SEXUAL HEALTH E-SERVICES PROGRAMME - CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION ROLE

The Committee considered a joint report of the Director of Community and Children's Services and Chamberlain seeking approval to the City Corporation continuing to act as Lead Authority and the accountable body and host of the London Sexual Health Programme.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- a. Approved that the City Corporation continues to act as the Lead Authority and accountable body for the procurement of a new Pan-London Sexual Health E-services contract and the host of the programme management service under an inter-authority agreement subject to:
 - i. those terms being satisfactorily agreed by all the participating authorities (including the City Corporation in the discharge of those functions acting through the Health and Wellbeing Board), and
 - ii. the City Corporation being satisfied that the arrangements adequately protect the City Corporation acting as the Lead Authority; and
- b. Agreed that the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services in consultation with the Chamberlain and Comptroller and City Solicitor be authorised to settle the terms of a new inter-authority agreement for the City Corporation as Lead Authority.
- c. Noted that once agreed in principle and terms were agreed including sign off of the new IAA, the procurement would proceed with adherence to the procurement code, via CoLC authorisation process.

8. SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW CULTURE STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION

The Committee considered a report of the Town Clerk highlighting a need to support the development of a Cultural Strategy for the City of London Corporation and seeking approval of funding in support of its development.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved an application to the Policy and Resources Committee's 2024/25 Policy Initiatives Fund for £45,000 to support the development of a Culture Strategy for the City of London Corporation.

9. **RESEARCH INTO THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION'S LINKS TO THE HISTORICAL TRADE IN ENSLAVED AFRICAN PEOPLE**

The Committee were presented with a report relating to commissioning of independent research into the City of London Corporation's links to the historical trade in enslaved African people.

A question was raised regarding the impact of the research and whether the funds could be better used supporting disadvantaged people. It was suggested better value could be achieved through spending money on university students to explore the consequences of slavery and its modern implications. A question was also raised regarding the process for appointing the Professor to undertake the research.

The Deputy Town Clerk responded confirming the Director of the London Archives had departed the meeting owing to an urgent private appointment. Given the item was not time critical, the Deputy Town Clerk proposed holding it over to the next Policy and Resources Committee meeting in December to allow an opportunity for the Director to be able to respond to the points raised, with Members offering their agreement to this approach.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to the withdrawal of the item.

10. **INNOVATION AND GROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Innovation & Growth presenting the impact of the City of London Corporation's work in support of UK Financial and Professional Services between July and September 2024.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

11. **POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

The Committee received a report providing a schedule of projects and activities which have received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund and the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

12. **DELIVERING THE SQUARE MILE SPORT STRATEGY (2023-30) – UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Remembrancer setting out work that has taken place to deliver the City Corporation's new Sport Strategy – A Global City of Sport.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

13. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

One question was received from Jaspreet Hodgson as follows:

Representation to Government since autumn budget was presented.

A number of City businesses and workers have expressed concern and dismay at the negative impact that last week's Autumn Budget would have on their businesses, on the wider City economy, and on the attractiveness of the City as a place to invest. The independent Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts the budget would result in higher public debt, lower growth, and fewer jobs. What representations has the City Corporation made to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and/or HM Treasury on behalf of concerned businesses and workers since the Autumn Budget was presented?

The Chairman responded confirming that, as had been noted in his response to the budget, as the Government has taken the decision to raise taxes, and thus increasing the cost of doing business in the UK, it was vital these changes were balanced with measures to enhance our competitiveness. A coherent, stable, predictable and internationally competitive tax regime was essential; therefore, a *tax roadmap and the capping of corporation tax were positive steps in that direction.*

The City Corporation engages regularly with the Chancellor and wider Treasury team, representing the views of City businesses and the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) sector. The Chairman confirmed that he was shortly due to see the City Minister as well as officials at the Department for Business and Trade and had engaged with many Ministers across Cabinet while they were at Guildhall recently for the International Investment Summit, always representing the views of business and industry. As part of the City Corporation's convening role, the Chancellor would be hosted at the Financial and Professional Services dinner next Thursday where she can set in further detail her plans for maintaining the competitiveness of the UK FPS sector and businesses in the Square Mile.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

Members noted that there was one additional item of business from the Chairman relating to EDI Sub-Committee.

EDI Sub-Committee

The Chairman referred to those Members being present at the last Court of Common Council meeting recalling that he raised the referral of a matter concerning a particular email, to the EDI Sub-Committee.

Sub-section e of the EDI Sub-Committee Terms of Reference sets out its responsibility to assess what the City of London Corporation does to tackle prejudice in all its forms and assess any further action that can be undertaken to promote inclusion.

On that basis, the Chairman confirmed that he would like to invite the Sub-Committee to consider this matter at their next meeting on 22 November. Although this had been suggested at Court of Common Council, to adhere to the City Corporation's governance process, formal referral was required via Policy and Resources Committee, with it being raised today for approval for onward referral to EDI Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Agreed to referral of the item to EDI Sub-Committee.

The meeting ended at 12.17pm

Chairman

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