

Committee(s)	Dated:
Policy and Resources Committee	12 December 2024
Subject: Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency procedures	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	See background papers
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	See background papers
If so, how much?	£n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	n/a
Report of: The Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Chris Rumbles, Governance and Member Services Manager	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk outside of the Committee’s meeting schedule, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and (b).

Recommendation(s)

That Members note the report.

Main Report

Decision Under Standing Order 41(a) – Standing Order 64 (Disciplinary Action)

BACKGROUND:

1. [Standing Order 64](#) (SO64) sets out the procedure by which elected Members can raise complaints about Statutory Officers, namely: The Town Clerk & Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service); the Chamberlain (Chief Finance Officer); and Comptroller & City Solicitor (Monitoring Officer).
2. The City of London Corporation, like other Local Authorities, is obliged to have this Standing Order in accordance with [The Local Authorities \(Standing Orders\) \(England\) Regulations 2001](#). Regulation 6: *Standing Orders in respect of disciplinary action*, states that:

“No later than the first ordinary meeting of the local authority falling after the day on which these Regulations come into force, a local authority must, in respect of disciplinary action against the head of the authority’s paid service, its monitoring officer and its chief finance officer—

- (a) incorporate in standing orders the provisions set out in Schedule 3 or provisions to the like effect; and

(b) modify any of its existing standing orders in so far as is necessary to conform with those provisions.”

3. In light of S6(b), above, and following consultation with leading Counsel (Daniel Stilitz KC) the City Corporation has been advised that the Court of Common Council’s current SO64, requires amendment.
4. In broad terms, the two changes represent necessary clarification of the existing process. These are:
 - i. An explication of the assessment stage, at which the Commissioning Chairs (i.e. the Chairs/Chairmen of the Policy and Resources Committee, Finance Committee and Corporate Services Committee) determine whether the complaint raises a prima facie case of misconduct.
 - ii. a simple administrative clarification to a reference to “the Statutory Officer Review Panel”, which applies consistency and removes any possible confusion.

The changes were administrative in nature, but the City Corporation has an obligation under Regulation 6 (outlined above) to ensure its Standing Orders are compliant. If unaddressed, it could put the three aforementioned Statutory Officers in a compromising position. As such, it is considered in the best interests for the City of London Corporation as employer, to seek remediation immediately and seek a decision through urgency procedure.

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee resolved to:-

- Approve the amendment to Standing Order 64, for onward approval by the Court of Common Council

Decision Under Policy and Resources Committee Delegation to the Town Clerk – Administrative Change to Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund Policy

BACKGROUND:

Since the original Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) Policy was agreed in 2020 the range and complexity of projects funded through the CILNF has broadened.

A key tenet of the fund is that no grantee can hold more than one grant at any one time, ensuring the successful completion of an activity prior to further investment. Applications to the CILNF are predominantly from organisations but the CILNF policy has always allowed applications from City Corporation service departments if they have wider City-based community support.

CILNF policy states:

‘Applications from City Corporation service departments will be accepted where they: Have the support of a City-based community group, or Can demonstrate that delivery will meet community priorities, either through consultation with communities,

or through an adopted City Corporation strategy which can demonstrate community support.'

Approval was sought to amend the policy as follows:

'Applications from City Corporation teams, divisions and institutions will be accepted where they:

- Have the support of a City-based community group, or*
- Can demonstrate that delivery will meet community priorities, either through consultation with communities, or through an adopted City Corporation strategy which can demonstrate community support.'*

The reasons for requesting the policy amendment were twofold:

Firstly, the restriction to limit CILNF applications to just the three 'City of London Service Departments' excluded applications from any of the 'City of London Corporate Departments' and by inference the 'City of London Institutions' which was clearly not the original intention. This exclusion of applications from 'Corporate Departments' would prevent newly formed teams and relocated teams from being able to submit applications to CILNF such as potentially the 'City Belonging Team' and 'Destination City Team'.

Secondly, several teams have successfully applied for CILNF funding to realise projects on behalf of, for example, residents' associations and Livery Companies. Without an immediate change to the policy wording other strategically important CILNF applications for community endorsed projects cannot be progressed despite these being undertaken by totally different arms of the organisation, in differing physical locations and with different functions/beneficiaries. For example, Housing would be prevented from supporting the redevelopment of Middlesex Street Estate Podium & Garden because Libraries are funded to build a community room in the Barbican Library given they are both within the Community & Children's Services 'Service Department'.

Various department restructures since the drafting of the original CILNF policy has resulted in a diversity of naming conventions in different parts of the organisation.

An exercise has been undertaken to map out the various Service Depts/Corporate Depts/Institutions and their 'services' and 'teams' to identify CILNF funded projects led by CoL teams that were active or in development. Suggested new wording to the CILNF policy 'City Corporation teams, divisions and institutions' was an attempt to futureproof the CILNF policy against further restructures whilst keeping the policy in line with its original intention to support community groups across the City of London to access funding for complex and resident endorsed projects.

The Town Clerk therefore granted approval to an amendment to the Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund (CILNF) Policy as outlined.

Conclusion

Copies of background papers concerning these decisions are available from Chris Rumbles on request.

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