

Item No: 3(B)



KING, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

5th December 2024
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)	Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Dame Susan Langley, DBE (Alderwoman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)	Gregory Jones KC (Alderman & Sheriff)	Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)	Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John	Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)	(Alderman)
	Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)	Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)

COMMONERS

Rehana Banu Ameer, Deputy	John William Fletcher, Deputy	Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP,	Ian Christopher Norman Seaton
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy	John Foley	Deputy	MBE
Brendan Barns	Dawn Frampton	Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy	Hugh Selka
Matthew Bell	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks,	Andrew Paul Mayer	Oliver Sells KC
The Honourable Emily Sophia	Deputy	Catherine McGuinness CBE	Alethea Silk
Wedgwood Benn	Steve Goodman OBE	Andrew Stratton McMurtrie JP	Paul Singh
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy	John Griffiths	Timothy James McNally	Tom Sleigh
Keith David Forbes Bottomley,	Jason Groves	Wendy Mead OBE	Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Deputy	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers,	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy	Caroline Wilma Haines	Deputy	Mandeep Thandi
Henry Nicholas Almroth	Christopher Michael Hayward,	Eamonn James Mullally	James Michael Douglas
Colthurst, Deputy	Deputy	Deborah Oliver TD	Thomson, Deputy
Anne Corbett	Ann Holmes, Deputy	Graham Packham	James Richard Tumbridge
Simon Duckworth, Deputy OBE	Michael Hudson	Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest	Jacqueline Roberts Webster
DL	Wendy Hyde	Nighat Qureishi, Deputy	Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
Chief Commoner Peter Gerard	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi,	Alpa Raja, Deputy	Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy
Dunphy, Deputy	Deputy MBE	Anett Rideg	Irem Yerdelen
Mary Durcan JP	Florence Keelson-Anfu	David Sales	
John Ernest Edwards, Deputy	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-		
Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP	Owen, Deputy		
Sophie Anne Fernandes			

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 10 October 2024 are correctly recorded.

4. **Mayoral Engagements** The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to provide an update on his recent engagements, which included hosting the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Mansion House for the Financial & Professional Services Dinner, the Prime Minister at the Lord Mayor's Banquet, and the Amir of Qatar at Mansion House on the occasion of his State Visit. The Lord Mayor also placed on record his thanks to the late Lord Mayor.
5. **Policy Statement** The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee welcomed the Lord Mayor to his first Court meeting in the Chair and provided the Court with an update on key matters relating to Vision for Economic Growth, the City Corporation's co-launch of the Transition Finance Council at COP29 in Baku, and the Government's new Industrial Strategy and its plans relating to pensions reforms, including the Local Government Pension Scheme.
6. **Appointments** The Court proceeded to consider appointments to the following Committees:-
- (A) **Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama** (One vacancy)
(No Contest)
- Nominations received:-**
Deputy Ann Holmes
- Read.
- Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Ann Holmes to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

7. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

17 October 2024

Bill for Act of Common Council – Annual Election of Ward Beadles

The Court considered a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning a Bill intended to address issues associated with the overlap of Aldermanic and Beadle terms of office.

Resolved – That the report be agreed to and that the Bill be read a first and second time.

8. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE****(Deputy Christopher Hayward)**

7 November 2024

Modern Slavery Statement 2024-29

The Court considered proposals relating to the adoption of a refreshed Modern Slavery Statement.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council approves:

1. The Modern Slavery Statement 2024-2029 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
2. The publication of the statement both on the City Corporation website and the HM Government's Modern Slavery Statement registry.

9. **PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE****(Mary Durcan)**

19 November 2024

Animal Health and Welfare Service – Annual Review of Charges

The Court considered a report concerning proposals for increases to be applied to the Schedule of Charges in respect of services provided at the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre for the forthcoming financial year.

The Chairman introduced the report and highlighted the range of services provided by the Heathrow Animal Reception Centre.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council approves:

1. The Heathrow Animal Reception Centre Byelaws as listing the maximum chargeable fees included in the Appendix to this report with effect from 1 April 2025.
2. The proposed Byelaws contained in the Appendix to this report and recommend that they be made, and that the Comptroller and City Solicitor be instructed to seal the Byelaws accordingly.

10. **LICENSING COMMITTEE****(James Tumbridge)**

31 October 2024

Gambling Act 2005: Review of Statement of Licensing Principles

The Court considered a report proposing the adoption of a revised Statement of Licensing Principles.

The Chairman introduced the report, noting that a summary of changed documents was attached to assist the Court in reviewing the changes to the Statement of Licensing Principles.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council agrees the Statement of Licensing Principles set out at Appendix 1 to the report, The Gambling Local Area Profile at Appendix 2 and the Guidance on Undertaking Local Gambling Risk Assessments at Appendix 3 as the Corporation’s ‘Statement of Licensing Principles’.

11. **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Shравan Joshi MBE)

5 November 2024

Annual On-Street Parking Accounts 2023/24 and Related Funding of Highway Improvements and Schemes

The Court considered a report presenting the annual On-Street Parking Accounts for submission to the Mayor of London.

Resolved – That the contents of the report be approved for submission to the Mayor of London.

12. Vote of
Thanks,
Late Lord
Mayor

Resolved unanimously - That the Members of this Honourable Court take great pleasure in expressing to:-

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli

Hayward,
C.M., Deputy
Dunphy,
P.G,
Deputy

their sincere gratitude and appreciation for the distinguished manner in which he has carried out the role of Lord Mayor of the City of London during the past year.

Hailing from the USA, Michael has served as the 695th Lord Mayor, and has been the first individual of not only British, but also American Irish and Italian heritage to take up this ancient office.

Whether at home or abroad, he has been an exemplary ambassador for both the City of London and for the United Kingdom. We are especially grateful to Michael for his ‘Connect to Prosper’ Mayoral Theme, whereby he has worked tirelessly to bring together leaders in the scientific, academic and business worlds, growing the global competitiveness of the UK as a world leader in those areas in order to solve global challenges.

The Lord Mayor successfully represented the UK Financial and Professional services sector at COP28 in Dubai and subsequently hosted the Net Zero Delivery Summit championing the crucial net zero pledges. The Lord Mayor has promoted the interests of the City, London and the nation around the globe, and undertook more than 24 international visits highlighting the City’s strengths in innovation and sustainable finance.

It would be remiss of me to comment on Michael’s year in office without recognising his ‘Experiment Series’, highlighting the inventiveness that thrives within the City and showcasing the work of the City’s science and academic communities.

Michael has also hosted many special occasions at Mansion House and Guildhall, including not one but two magnificent State Banquets held to mark, respectively the visits of the President of the Republic of Korea in November 2023, and the Emperor

& Empress of Japan in June 2024. Such a diverse programme has placed huge demands on the Lord Mayor and he has met the challenge with sound knowledge, dignity and good humour.

Throughout this historic and momentous year, in all of his work, the Lord Mayor has received enthusiastic support from Elisabeth, the Lady Mayoress, and, as we move to the close of what we hope has been a memorable and special period for them both, this Honourable Court thanks Michael for all that he has done as Lord Mayor. In taking their leave of Alderman Professor Michael, their 695th Lord Mayor, Honourable Members send to him, Elisabeth and their children, our very best wishes for their future good health and happiness.

13. Motions
*Hayward, C.M., Deputy:
 Dunphy, P.G., Deputy*
*Meyers, A.G.D., Deputy:
 Dunphy, P.G., Deputy*
*Wright, D.L., Deputy:
 Dunphy, P.G., Deputy*
- (A) *Resolved* - That the Resolution of Thanks to the late Lord Mayor, passed by Common Hall on 30 September last, be presented in a form agreeable to him.
- (B) *Resolved* - That the Resolution of Thanks to Dame Susan Carol Langley, Alderwoman and Insurer and Bronek Edmund Masojada, Alderman and Insurer, the late Sheriffs of the City, passed by Common Hall on 30 September last, be presented in a form agreeable to them.
- (C) *Resolved* - That Deputy Dawn Wright be appointed to the Planning & Transportation Committee, in the room of Michael Cassidy, for the Ward of Coleman Street.

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:

Kathryn Olive Adams <i>Rodney Cartwright Nicholas Robert Jones</i>	an Artist and Printmaker <i>Citizen and Plumber Citizen and Plumber</i>	Surrey
Bushra Anond Ahmed <i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Business Consultant <i>Citizen and Alderman Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Croydon, London
Ahmed Hamed Ahmed Mali <i>The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Robert James Ingham Clark</i>	a Hospital Chief Executive Officer <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Clothworker</i>	Jerusalem, Israel
Charles Alexander Edward Begley <i>Deputy Shравan Jashvantra Joshi, MBE Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	a Property Association Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Fueller Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Essex
Dr Eric Bosshard <i>Andrew Edward Paul Essinghigh</i>	an Oil and Gas Company Managing Director, retired <i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	Bromley, London

<i>Scott Andrew James Cargill</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	
Theresa Dianne Bosshard <i>Andrew Edward Paul</i> <i>Essinghigh</i> <i>Scott Andrew James Cargill</i>	a Health Company Director <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	Bromley, London
Dean Browning <i>David James Sales, CC</i> <i>Simon Andrew Abbott</i>	an Aviation Insurance Broker <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	Billericay, Essex
Silvia Camattari <i>Brendan Anthony Michael</i> <i>Barns, CC</i> <i>Deputy Patricia Ann Holmes</i>	a Foreign Language Teacher and Interpreter <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Cordwainer</i>	West Sussex
Robert Alan Clouse Jr <i>Timothy James McNally, CC</i> <i>David James Sales, CC</i>	an Information Technology Consultant <i>Citizen and Glazier</i> <i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	Minnesota, United States of America
Pamela Rosemarie Coke- Hamilton <i>Lars Bendik Andersen</i> <i>Ald. Prof. Michael Raymond</i> <i>Mainelli</i>	International Trade Centre Executive Director <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and World Trader</i>	Vaud, Switzerland
Grace Louisiana Collins <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i> <i>Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan</i> <i>D'Souza, CC</i>	a Local Government Association Leadership Adviser <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Bedford, Bedfordshire
Jack Derek Copeland <i>John Alexander Smail</i> <i>Stephen James Osborne</i>	a Chartered Accountant, retired <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Chartered Secretary & Administrator</i>	Glasgow, Scotland
Simon Gordon Roger Elsy <i>Richard George Turk</i> <i>Claude Andrew Robert</i> <i>Fenemore-Jones</i>	a Human Resources Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Richmond Upon Thames, London
Onur Engin <i>Dhruv Patel</i> <i>Shailendra Kumar Kantilal</i> <i>Umradia, CC</i>	a Property Investment Adviser <i>Citizen and Clothworker</i> <i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i>	Bexley, London
Carl Constantin Roman Emanuel Eschlböck <i>Roger William Sanders, OBE</i> <i>Carl Alexander Malmaeus</i>	a Lawyer <i>Citizen and Broderer</i> <i>Citizen and Pavior</i>	Vienna, Austria
Alec Albert Edmund Everitt <i>James David Fell</i>	a Firefighter, retired <i>Citizen and Constructor</i>	Barking, London

<i>Brian Henry Childs</i>	<i>Citizen and Coachmaker & Coach Harness Maker</i>	
Adam James French <i>Deputy Madush Gupta Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	an Investor <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Southwark, London
Stephen Robert Godden <i>Ricky James Toomey Derek John Lawrence</i>	a Residential Landlord <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Orpington, Kent
Elizabeth Mary Henderson <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza, CC</i>	a Business Development Consultant <i>Citizen and Goldsmith Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Richmond Upon Thames, London
Claire Hollinghurst <i>Thomas Shepherd Richardson The Rt Hon. Viscount Thurso John Archibald Sinclair</i>	a Livery Company Assistant Clerk <i>Citizen and Innholder Citizen and Innholder</i>	Wandsworth, London
Janice Mary Elizabeth Howard <i>Lisa Rutter Alistair John Mitchellhill</i>	a Pension Fund Company Director <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker Citizen and Fletcher</i>	Merton, London
David James Hutchinson <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Training Company Head of Finance <i>Citizen and Glover Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Coventry, West Midlands
Mark Glessing Imray <i>David James Sales, CC Timothy James McNally, CC</i>	a Housing Company Non- Executive Director <i>Citizen and Insurer Citizen and Glazier</i>	Lincolnshire
Simon John Jones <i>John Ross Foley, CC Richenda Carey</i>	an Actor <i>Citizen and Wax Chandler Citizen and Feltmaker</i>	Westminster, London
James Murray Kayll <i>Deputy Madush Gupta Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	a Banking & Capital Markets Relationship Director <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Dorset
Andrew William Lang <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley Jaspreet Hodgson, CC</i>	a Photographer and Designer <i>Citizen and Musician Citizen and Vintner</i>	Brixton, London
William Marian Lynch <i>Vincent Dignam John Paul Tobin</i>	a Plant Hire Company Chairman <i>Citizen and Carman Citizen and Carman</i>	Enfield, London

<p>Alison Flora Macmillan, LVO <i>Peter Gerard Dunphy, CC</i> <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i></p>	<p>a Senior Civil Servant <i>Citizen and Draper</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i></p>	<p>Paignton, Devon</p>
<p>Callum John Macpherson <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>Wendy Davina Calder Parmley</i></p>	<p>an Investment Banker <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i></p>	<p>Westminster, London</p>
<p>Alexander David George Marsh <i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i> <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i></p>	<p>a Strategic Consultancy Managing Director <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i></p>	<p>Brighton, East Sussex</p>
<p>Ross Manson McEwen <i>Rafe Heydel-Mankoo</i> <i>David Beattie, CMG</i></p>	<p>a Regulatory Investigator <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Mason</i></p>	<p>Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland</p>
<p>David Anthony Moody <i>Graham John Peacock</i> <i>John Edward Peacock</i></p>	<p>an Operational Heritage Manager <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i></p>	<p>Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire</p>
<p>Tristan Jeremy Nesbitt <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i></p>	<p>a Hotel Manager <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i></p>	<p>Edinburgh, Scotland</p>
<p>John Adekunle Adetola Babatunde Osibote <i>Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson</i> <i>Tijs Broeke, CC</i></p>	<p>a Police Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i></p>	<p>Havering, London</p>
<p>Alan Page-Duffy <i>Ald. Prof. Michael Raymond Mainelli</i> <i>Vladislav Dobrokhotov</i></p>	<p>a Legal Services Consultant <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Marketor</i></p>	<p>Tallin, Estonia</p>
<p>Nitesh Krishan Palana <i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i> <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i></p>	<p>a Director of Risk and Compliance <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i></p>	<p>Westminster, London</p>
<p>Chhaya Pancholi <i>Deputy Shraavan Jashvantrai Joshi, MBE</i> <i>Graham David Packham, CC</i></p>	<p>a Planning Professional <i>Citizen and Fueller</i> <i>Citizen and Upholder</i></p>	<p>Leicestershire</p>
<p>Benjamin Gordon Ramsey <i>Sir David Hugh Wootton</i> <i>Richard David Bundock</i></p>	<p>a Scaffolding Company Director <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i></p>	<p>Rochester, Kent</p>

Sudarshan Guru Ratnavelu <i>Deputy Madush Gupta Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	a Cybersecurity Consultant <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Croydon, London
Elisabeth Marie Béatrice Reyes <i>Douglas Wills Michael John James</i>	a Web Consultancy Company Director <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	Brent, London
Nathan James Rollinson <i>Alfred Gordon Bain Prof. Arthur Tudor Tucker</i>	a Threat Analyst <i>Citizen and Turner Citizen and Apothecary</i>	Lambeth, London
Oluwatobi Oluwaseun Sanyaolu <i>Ald. The Hon. Timothy Charles Levene Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson</i>	a Student <i>Citizen and Carmen Citizen and Grocer</i>	Bexley, London
Norma Claire Singers <i>His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft Fiona Josephine Adler</i>	an Executive Coach <i>Citizen and Founder Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker & Tobacco Blender</i>	Brent, London
Claire Elena Spencer <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell CC Thomas Charles Sleigh</i>	an Arts Centre Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Haberdasher Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Southwark, London
Craig Robert Spencer <i>CC Tijs Broeke Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson</i>	a Civil Servant <i>Citizen and Goldsmith Citizen and Grocer</i>	Waltham Forest, London
Lesley Susan Steeds <i>John Alexander Smail Stephen James Osborne</i>	a Dry Cleaner, retired <i>Citizen and Distiller Citizen and Chartered Secretary & Administrator</i>	East Grinstead, West Sussex
Anna Caroline Maria Strbac <i>Jamel Banda, CC Deputy Philip Woodhouse</i>	a Chartered Accountant <i>Citizen and Poulter Citizen and Grocer</i>	Wandsworth, London
Philip Geoffrey Targett- Adams Manzanera, OBE <i>His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft Fiona Josephine Adler</i>	a Musician and Record Producer <i>Citizen and Founder Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker & Tobacco Blender</i>	Brent, London

Suzanne Elizabeth Walker	an Arts Producer	Brixton, London
<i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
<i>Jaspreet Hodgson, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Vintner</i>	
Dr Peter Wong-Morrow	an Insurance Company Chairman	Hertfordshire
<i>Timothy James McNally, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	
<i>David James Sales, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	

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. Questions
Mullally, E.,
to the
Chairman
of the
Policy and
Resources
Committee

Gender and Ethnic representation within the City of London Corporation

Eamonn Mullally asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning gender and ethnic representation on the Court of Common Council.

In response, the Chairman emphasised the importance of improving the diversity of the candidates standing for election, highlighting it as a priority for the Community Engagement team. Several initiatives had been implemented to make standing for election more accessible, and a reception for prospective candidates had been attended by over 130 people from diverse backgrounds compared to fewer than 50 in 2022. The campaign website also featured a "book a call" option, allowing prospective candidates to connect directly with an officer for guidance, with dozens of calls already conducted. Through the City Belonging Project, relationships with hundreds of staff diversity networks across the Square Mile had also been strengthened, with all Ward List voters being contacted about their eligibility to stand for election, ensuring greater awareness among underrepresented groups.

The Chairman noted that the Court of Aldermen had also recently published a summary guide to increase its visibility and attract new candidates. While only ten women had sat on that Court in the last 800 years, six sat on the current Court, an indication of progress. The Chairman, noting the nine protected characteristics, reminded the Court that diversity encompassed more than visible characteristics such as race or gender. Although Member demographics were not formally recorded, the Chairman suggested that the Court might already be more diverse than it appeared.

In summary, the Chairman acknowledged the significant progress made but stressed the need for continued efforts to drive diversity in the candidate pool for Common Councillors, Aldermen, and Alderwomen. Greater diversity was essential for improving representation, ultimately impacting Sheriffs and Lord Mayors, but it was ultimately the electorate who decided their representatives.

As a supplementary question, Mr Mullally asked whether the election process for the Lord Mayor was efficient and transparent. In reply, the Chairman expressed his

pride in the City's multicultural nature and clarified that the Court of Aldermen was responsible for the nomination process for the Lord Mayor.

Deputy Natasha Lloyd-Owen commented on the diversity within and characteristics of the City, suggesting that shortcomings within the Ward Act 2002 let down several groups. The Chairman reminded the Court of a previous commitment to reviewing this, on which activity was anticipated to commence after the upcoming elections in 2025. In response to a further supplementary question from Deputy Lloyd-Owen, the Chairman said he would support an impact assessment being conducted alongside the review.

In response to a question asked by Deborah Oliver on the perception of the influence of freemasonry and in particular the Guildhall Lodge, the Chairman stated that freemasonry had come a long way in terms of transparency. He noted that the Guildhall Lodge was one of many lodges and emphasised that being a freemason should not impact behaviours of elected Common Councillors or Aldermen.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks asked what more would be done to enhance inclusivity and diversity on the Policy & Resources Committee and improve on recognising hidden disabilities. She also noted that Deputy John Fletcher, who had difficulty standing, had not been noted as wishing to ask a supplementary question. She accordingly moved an amendment under Standing Order 2 to suspend Standing Order 13(6) so as to allow for an additional question to be asked.

Fredericks,
M.B., Deputy;
McGuinness,
S., C., CBE

Motion – That, pursuant to Standing Order 2, Standing Order 13(6) be suspended to allow for one further Member to speak.

Resolved – That Standing Order 13(6) be suspended to allow for one further Member to speak.

In response to Deputy Fredericks' question, the Chairman highlighted that the Court was responsible for appointing Members to Committees, but agreed that there was a need for candidates to come forward who provide greater choice and better opportunities. The Chairman also noted the importance of recognising all disabilities and the need for the City Corporation to improve efforts to attract potential candidates with disabilities.

Deputy Randall Anderson inquired about the measures being taken to advance diversity in leadership roles among Court Members. The Chairman recognised that there was still work to be done, although he noted that his predecessor in the role had been a woman. However, he emphasised that progress was not occurring quickly enough or with sufficient intensity, and the Aldermen were conscious of this.

Deputy John Fletcher asked the Chairman if he agreed that there had been insufficient progress in appointing a person from an ethnic minority background to the position of Lord Mayor. In reply, the Chairman praised Deputy Fletcher for his advocacy on such issues and concurred that the Court of Aldermen should take this into account moving forward.

Publication of a non-public report

This Question was withdrawn.

16. **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****(Alderman Prem Goyal OBE)**

27 November 2024

Annual Report

The Court received a report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee presenting that Committee's Annual Report.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council note the report.

17. 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****London Port Health Authority Order 2024**7th November
2024

Updates the geographic definition of the London port health district and confirms that powers conferred on the Common Council of the City of London as port health authority by other enactments (which are also updated in this Order) continue to be exercised by the authority as constituted by this Order.

Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2024Between 1st
December 2024
and 1st
December 2025

Updates a schedule to the Act such that the Financial Conduct Authority may make rules in relation to pre- and post-trade transparency obligations.

Local Authorities (Rental Auctions) (England) and Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) Regulations 20242nd December
2024

Sets out the process to be followed when a local authority exercises the powers given to it in Part 10 of the Levelling Up Act 2023 to arrange for a rental auction to be carried out in respect of qualifying high-street premises. Requires authorities to consult on any proposal to designate a high street, or to vary or withdraw an existing designation. The forms to be used are also set out.

Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses) (City of London) Order 20244th December
2024

Increases the maximum amounts of candidates' election expenses at a ward election and an election by liverymen in common hall in the City of London.

Official Controls (Import of High-Risk Food and Feed of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/1793) (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2024

8th December
2024

Updates the list of food and feed of non-animal origin from certain third countries which will be subject to a temporary increase of official controls at border control posts and control points.

Financial Services (Gibraltar) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2024

16th December
2024

Post Brexit Regulations that extend by 12 months the transitional arrangements which enable some categories (for example insurance and credit intermediaries) of Gibraltar-based firms to provide financial services in the United Kingdom, and facilitate the access by similar types of UK-based firms to Gibraltar's financial services market.

Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 (Commencement No. 8) Regulations 2024

Between 31st
December 2024
and 6th July 2026

Commences the revocation of the assimilated EU law under which the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is recognised as a critical benchmark. This Regulation removes LIBOR as a critical benchmark. Gives the FCA the power to make rules relating to pre- and post-trade transparency requirements for fixed income instruments and derivatives. Other revocations and replacements include those relating to providing information for transparency calculations 1st December 2024,

Read.

18. Ballot
Results

There were no ballot results.

19. Resolutions

Resolved unanimously – "That, on his retirement from this Honourable Court, Members wish to place on record their sincerest thanks to

*Wright, D.L.,
Deputy:
Dunphy,
P.G,
Deputy*

Michael Cassidy CBE

their gratitude and sincere appreciation for his distinguished service and the manner in which he has undertaken the many roles and responsibilities at the City of London Corporation over the past 44 years.

Michael joined the Corporation in 1980 when he was elected to represent the ward

of Aldersgate, going on nine years later to represent the ward of Coleman Street. In the 44 years he has been at the Corporation, during which 10 Prime Ministers and 43 Lord Mayors have come and gone, he has been involved in dozens of Committees and organisations both within the Corporation and beyond it. These include Planning, Policy and Resources, the London Museum, Barbican Centre, Port and City Health, City of London School for Girls, Investment, Finance, Bridge House Trust, Culture Heritage and Libraries, London Planning Advisory, Property Investment Board, and the London Boroughs Transport Scheme - as well as a dozen or so Reception Committees. His outside interests have included senior-level involvement in Crossrail, the Crossrail Art Foundation, British Land PLC, UBS London, Ebbsfleet Garden City Development, the London Pensions Authority, Homerton University Hospital, New London Architecture, several property companies, and the music management company Askonas Holt. It will come as a surprise to no one that Michael has often been referred to by his many supporters – and the *occasional* adversary - as ‘Mr London’ for his energetic, assertive and spirited promotion of the City.

Michael was elected Chairman of the Corporation’s Planning and Communication Committee in 1986, a year after receiving an MBA with Distinction from City University for which he studied in what he has referred to as his ‘spare time’. Michael’s election to the Chair of that Committee coincided with the abolishment of the Greater London Council and the so-called Big Bang in which the City’s financial markets were deregulated. His leadership was marked by what was to become his trademark vision, determination and foresight: with a brand-new Canary Wharf snapping at the heels of the City, Michael slashed restrictions governing development in the Square Mile meeting resistance with persistence and shaping the area into the dynamic, entrepreneurial, future-facing place it is today by setting in motion a rebuilding programme resulting first in The Gherkin and later on the Eastern Cluster, an iconic symbol of the City’s international reach and ambition. Ever mindful of the unique historical character of the City, he emphasised the importance of balancing modern development with preservation of its long and rich history, setting up the City Architecture Forum for that purpose.

Michael became Deputy Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee in 1991, taking over as Chairman in 1992. A year later, Michael led the City’s response to the Bishopsgate bomb and rebuilt morale as he drove the recovery of small businesses and big companies alike, also setting up the Ring of Steel around the City.

During his time as Policy Chairman Michael set about nurturing connections to promote London on the world stage. His relentless and infectious energy drove forward a wide range of projects including joint venture charity initiatives, the Property Forum, and the City Research Project: one of the most substantial programmes of coordinated research ever undertaken into the City’s international competitive position, putting the City on the map as a key voice of the UK’s financial services industry. Other highlights of his five-year period in that role include his leadership of campaigns such as the Millenium Dome, Wembley Stadium, and the new Millenium Bridge.

Michael stepped back from the role of Chairman of Policy & Resources in 1996, the

year he was named Property Lawyer of the Year, later going on to become Chairman of the London Museum 8 years later in 2004, the year he was awarded a CBE for his services to the City. For nine years he steered the Museum through a period of significant growth and change during which he drew on his professional and legal skills to bring the Docklands Museum into the fold, recruited the current Director, and chaired the Cultural Hub Advisory Group that led to the creation of the Culture Mile and the Museum's decision to move to Smithfield - the first part of which will open in October 2025. It was during Michael's chairmanship that the Museum became the ambitious, visionary cultural venue that we now know. He oversaw changes in the way the Museum was funded, and was instrumental in establishing the first partnership between a Museum and a TV shopping channel – for those of us that once considered QVC to be the pinnacle of retail innovation. He also established the Museum of London Archaeology as a charity, and secured title transfers to the Museum of some of its most important acquisitions - notably the 2nd Century stone inscription uncovered in Southwark in 2002 that is the earliest known reference on a stone monument to Londoners.

Today, nearly 2000 years after that stone was carved, a new group of Londoners gather here today to pay tribute to 'Mr London', and to express our heartfelt thanks for his vision, his energy, his good humour, his formidable intellect, his bracing and relentless championing of this incredible City and also his unique, inimitable manner that has thrilled many and alarmed a few - mainly those in the E14 postcode.

Michael could not have fulfilled the role without the support of his wife Amelia and we pay tribute to her unstinting support and contribution.

As the next chapter of this amazing City is written, we pay tribute to Michael's outsize influence and footprint in the shaping of our City. There is nothing inevitable about the success of the City of London, and we recognise that it takes the foresight and courage of people like Michael to drive change, to forge new paths, to seize opportunities, and to articulate a vision of how the next chapter of this extraordinary City will be written. Councillors, Aldermen, Londoners: to echo an earlier architect of London, if you seek his monument, go outside and look around you.

Michael's presence here at Guildhall and in the City will be sorely missed. In thanking him for his most distinguished service, his integrity and his passion, the Court wishes to express to him, his wife and his children sincere wishes for all there is to come.

20. Awards and Prizes

There was no report.

21. Hospital Seal

There were no docquets for the seal.

22. Exclusion of the public

Resolved – That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business below on the grounds that they either involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act,

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

1972; 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; or relate to matters treated in confidence at the request of His Majesty's Government.

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 & Resources Committee

(A) Barbican Renewal Programme

The Court considered a joint report of the Policy and Resources and Finance Committees concerning the Barbican Renewal Programme.

(B) City Fund – Development Agreement and Acquisition

The Court considered a report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the London Wall West Development agreement and associated property acquisition.

25.

Finance Committee

(A) Stage 1 and 2 Report for the Provision of Electricity and Gas Supplies

The Court considered a report of the Finance Committee concerning an energy procurement strategy.

(B) Housing Repairs and Maintenance Contracts – Procurement Stage 2 Award Report

The Court considered a report of the Finance Committee concerning the award of a maintenance contract.

(C) New Spitalfields and Billingsgate Markets Waste Management & Market Cleansing Procurement Stage 2 Award Report

The Court considered a report of the Finance Committee concerning proposals relating to the award of a waste management and cleansing contract.

26.

Corporate Services Committee

(A) MFS Request for Innovation & Growth Role

The Court considered a report of the Corporate Services Committee concerning a request for Market Forces Supplement.

(B) MFS Request for City Surveyor's Department Role

The Court considered a report of the Corporate Services Committee concerning a request for Market Forces Supplement.

27.

Civic Affairs Sub-Committee

(A) Applications for Hospitality

The Court considered a report of the Civic Affairs Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee concerning applications for hospitality.

(B) City Events Programme

The Court considered a report of Civic Affairs Sub (Policy and Resources) Committee concerning the annual City Events Programme.

28. **City Bridge Foundation Board**
The Court received a report of the City Bridge Foundation Board concerning action taken under urgency procedures in relation to a freehold disposal.

29. **Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Procurement Committee**
The Court received a report of the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Procurement Committee concerning action take under urgency procedures in relation to a contract extension.

30. **Investment Committee**
The Court received a report of the Investment Committee concerning action take under urgency procedures in relation to two investment property disposals.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 3.03 pm

THOMAS.