

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 12 December 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 12 December 2024 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Keith Bottomley (Chairman)
Caroline Haines (Vice-Chair)
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 Paul Martinelli
Deputy Andrien Meyers
Deputy Brian Mooney BEM
Alderman Sir William Russell
Deputy James Thomson

In attendance (Observing online)

James Tumbridge

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE

Gregory Moore

Polly Dunn

Jen Beckermann

Benjamin Dixon

David Mendoza Wolfson

Chris Rumbles

Emily Slatter

Michael Cogher

Caroline Al-Beyerty

- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
- Deputy Town Clerk
- Assistant Town Clerk and Executive Director of Governance and Member Services
- Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee
- Town Clerk's Department
- Town Clerk's Department
- Town Clerk's Department
- Town Clerk's Department
- Comptroller and City Solicitor, Deputy Chief Executive
- Chamberlain

Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Dionne Corradine	- Chief Strategy Officer
Alison Littlewood	- Executive Director of HR and Chief People Officer
Damian Nussbaum	- Executive Director of Innovation and Growth
Doris Chan	- Innovation and Growth
Omkar Chana	- Innovation and Growth
Daniel O'Byrne	- Innovation and Growth
Carla Sateriale	- Innovation and Growth
Simi Shah	- Innovation and Growth
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director, Environment
Joanna Leyden	- Environment Department
Rob McNicol	- Environment Department
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Emma Bushell	- City Surveyor's Department
Mark Donaldson	- City Surveyor's Department
Paul Wright	- Remembrancer
Emma Markiewicz	- Director of London Archives

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the Chairman, Deputy Chris Hayward, Dame Susan Langley, Tijs Broeke, Philip Woodhouse, James Tumbridge, Alastair Moss and the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, Alastair King.

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

Alderman Vincent Keaveny declared an interest in respect of item 18 on the agenda as a Member of Gresham College Council

3. **MINUTES**

- a) The public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 25 September 2024 were noted.
- c) The public minutes of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting on 24 October 2024 were noted.
- d) The public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting on 30 October 2024 were noted.
- e) The public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 30 October 2024 were noted.

- f) The public summary of the Competitiveness Advisory Board meeting on 11 November 2024 was noted.

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

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk seeking approval of funding to commission research into the City Corporation's links to the historical trade in enslaved African people.

The Director of London Archives introduced the item and highlighted the City Corporation's public commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, and tackling racism in all its forms. The research proposed aligns with that commitment.

During the discussion that followed, the research was welcomed, with there being a need for the City Corporation to be well informed and pro-active in understanding its historical links rather than reacting to external publications in academia and the press. A question was raised regarding the cost of the research and the impacts from it, with a concern raised that it would not address concerns of relevance in the modern world and that it should have a clear purpose such as addressing modern slavery. It was questioned if the research should be re-scoped to include additional elements such as the City's role in the abolition of the slave trade and comparing it to other empires built on slavery.

It was suggested giving a brief to three or four ex City of London students to undertake the research. An emphasis was placed on the need for a comprehensive approach to the review.

In response, the Director confirmed that the research would serve as a foundational piece to inform future actions and discussions. It aimed to provide a detailed understanding of the City's historical links to the trade in enslaved African people. It was important to be well informed to be able to proactively address the City's past and consider implications for the future, with the research having a broader national significance. The expertise of Professor Pettigrew, as lead investigator, would be invaluable given the complexity of the research. Professor Pettigrew would be leveraging his expertise and using existing data from the universities of Lancaster, Manchester and University College London, with this ensuring the research was based on robust and credible data. The research would enable broader conversations and actions. It was confirmed that Livery Companies would be included in the research from the outset to ensure their involvement and with a roundtable discussion to be convened in the first instance.

Members agreed that the research as proposed would form the basis of core work. Once this initial phase had concluded there would be the need for a further paper to come back to Policy and Resources Committee looking at the other wider historical elements raised.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved an application to the Policy and Resources Committee's 2024/25 Policy Initiatives Fund for £34,400 to commission a piece of independent research into the City of London Corporation's links to the historical trade in enslaved African people.

5. CIRCULAR ECONOMY FRAMEWORK FOR THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment outlining the system of a Circular Economy where materials never become waste and nature was regenerated and seeking approval of the City of London's Circular Economy Framework that set out the foundation to achieve this objective.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Approved the implementation of the Circular Economy Framework and the associated Action Plan 2024-2027.

6. CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain proposing the release of funding (following gateway approvals) to allow schemes to progress.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- (i) Reviewed the schemes summarised in Table 1 and, particularly in the context of the current financial climate, confirmed their continued essential priority for release of funding at this time and accordingly:
- (ii) Agreed the release of up to £2.1m for the schemes progressing to the next Gateway in Table 1 from City Fund £2.1m (including £0.4m for OSPR and £0.6m from CIL)

7. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY AND ON-STREET PARKING RESERVES CAPITAL BIDS (QUARTER 2 - 2024/25)

The Committee considered a joint report of the Executive Director, Environment and Chamberlain seeking approval of allocation of Community Infrastructure and On-Street Parking Reserves funding.

A Member, also Chairman of Finance Committee, referred to a potential over-allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy in due course, and emphasised a need to be careful with future spending and management of the fund given the pressure it was under.

RESOLVED: - That Members: -

- Approved the following allocations:

- Golden Lane Leisure Centre: £10.35m from Community Infrastructure Levy
- Sculpture in the City: £116,000 from Community Infrastructure Levy, pending exploration of options for external funding by officers
- Outdoor fitness equipment at Old Watermen's Walk: £90,500 from On Street Parking Reserve
- Noted the financial position for CIL funding in future years resulting from the above allocations and the implications for other potential infrastructure projects.
- Noted the capital review on existing projects being undertaken as part of the 25/26 budget and medium-term-financial plan.

8. **GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON ENABLING REMOTE ATTENDANCE AND PROXY VOTING AT LOCAL AUTHORITY MEETINGS**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk providing an update on a Government consultation relating to introducing powers to allow for remote (virtual) participation and proxy voting at formal local authority meetings and seeking approval of the City Corporation's proposed responses.

A Member expressed their concern with a direction of travel that would allow for remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. The Member referred to the unique structure of the City Corporation, with its shared responsibility in wards and the absence of political divisions. Remote attendance should only be allowed in exceptional circumstances. There was a need to emphasise the City Corporation's unique structure when responding to the government consultation.

A number of Members raised their objection to allowing proxy voting at meetings, but with there being general agreement to allowing remote attendance. A Member stressed the importance of retaining face to face meetings, highlighting the timing of meetings during the daytime as an issue and this making it difficult for those Members with work commitments to be able to attend meetings in person.

Jason Groves proposed an amendment to the City Corporation's response to the consultation, seconded by James Thomson, that the answer to the question on whether to 'introduce proxy voting' should be 'no' instead of 'unsure'. The importance of debate and reasoned arguments in swaying votes was highlighted as key to in person attendance at meetings and voting. The Committee moved to a vote on the proposed amendment, with a majority voting in favour of it. As such, the amendment was carried.

The Deputy Town Clerk sought clarification on a response to the question on whether there should be any specific limitations on remote attendance at meetings, with Members agreeing that remote attendance at meetings should be in exceptional circumstances only.

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that he would work with the Remembrancer on re-crafting the responses based on the debate today, following which he would circulate the updated responses to Members to allow an opportunity to provide final comment on these in advance of their submission to Government.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

1. Agreed that a response should be submitted; and
2. Considered the questions and proposed responses set out at paragraph 12 and provided feedback and agreed amendments thereon;
3. Authorised the Town Clerk to complete the consultation form and submit a response reflecting the views of this Committee.

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

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain providing the schedule of projects and activities which had received funding from the Policy Initiatives Fund and the Policy and Resources Committee's Contingency Fund for 2024/25 and future years with details of expenditure in 2024/25.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

10. **TERRORISM (PROTECTION OF PREMISES) BILL - 'MARTYN'S LAW'**

The Committee received a report of the Remembrancer outlining the provisions of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill, also known as "Martyn's Law" and any implications for the City of London Police and Police Authority Board.

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

11. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**

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

RESOLVED: That Members: -

- Received the report and noted its content.

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

Two questions were received as follows:

Deputy Henry Colthurst - Markets Co-Location Programme

Regardless of the variances in views about the Markets Co-Location Programme decision it was hugely clear to those of us who had been involved in the matter for the past few months that staff working for the City Surveyor, Chamberlain, City Solicitor, Remembrancer and Town Clerk devoted a huge amount of time, both in and out of working hours, to ensure that numerous matters were addressed diligently and promptly. Would the chairman join the Member in thanking them all for their extraordinary devotion to duty?

The Chairman responded confirming his view that the Member was absolutely right to make that point. Regardless of any one view, an enormous amount of work was done to facilitate our decision-making process - especially one of such scale and complexity as the Markets Co-Location Programme.

The Chairman added his agreement to the Member's question, confirming that he would join him in thanking the City Surveyor, Chamberlain, City Solicitor, Remembrancer and Town Clerk - as well as all the officers who contributed and continue to contribute throughout the process.

Deputy Ann Holmes – Standing Orders Review

The Chair of Policy and Resources Committee assured the Court that the recommendations of the review of standing orders would enable recommendations to be actioned at the start of the new Court in April 2025. At the consultation sessions, Members were reassured that this would be ensured by a report to this meeting of Policy and Resources Committee sending recommendations to the meeting of the Court in January 2025. This would allow for any amendments to be dealt with. The report was not before us today, but it was understood that it would be coming to the January meeting of Policy and Resources Committee and the March Court of Common Council meeting, and that that process would still allow time for recommendations to be implemented before the April Court of Common Council.

The Member proposed agreeing today that, should there be significant areas of disagreement between Policy and Resources Committee and Court of Common Council anticipated, that the opening part of the informal Court of Common Council meeting in February be repurposed as a special Court meeting to discuss Policy and Resources Committee's recommendations, so as to allow for further discussion and refinement at the March Court, should this prove necessary. A concern was raised regarding getting the changes required implemented by the new Court in April, with the action proposed being a cautionary caveat that the Member sought agreement on.

The Chairman responded confirming the Member was right that the initial proposal had aimed to bring recommendations to this meeting. Following consideration at Informal Court, there was a requirement to hold an additional Court meeting around the Markets Co-location Programme which took a huge amount of resource from our Governance team.

The fact was, it was just not possible to submit this item for consideration today so it would be taken in January instead. The Chairman confirmed that he had been assured that this meant changes to Standing Orders could still be

adopted by Court ahead of the all-out City-wide elections, with sufficient time for changes to be communicated and rolled out, as originally agreed.

The Member responded and stressed how they were accustomed to hold ups owing to issues being raised that required officer time. The Member added that they were not suggesting that a meeting must take place, but was simply seeking agreement to a repurposing of the meeting should it prove necessary.

The Chairman confirmed that the Informal Court of Common Council meeting was in the hands of the Chairman of Policy and Chief Commoner, with there being agreement on the urgency of the Standing Orders Review, its importance and of there being a need to make it happen. The Committee agreed that the option of repurposing the Informal Court of Common Council meeting be available should the Assistant Town Clerk consider it necessary.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no additional items of business.

14. 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.

15. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

- a) The non-public minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
- b) The non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 25 September 2024 were noted.
- c) The non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting on 30 October 2024 were noted.
- d) The non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting on 30 October 2024 were noted.

16. PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS TO UK CARBON MARKETS FORUM AND TO UK-CHINA GREEN FINANCE TASKFORCE

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Innovation & Growth providing an update on the process of appointment to two industry groups supporting green finance, the UK Carbon Markets Forum and UK Green Finance Taskforce, and seeking approval of the appointment process for City Corporation representatives on the two bodies.

17. **CITIGEN AND HEAT NETWORK ZONING – INITIAL DECISIONS**
The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor relating to heat networks in the Square Mile and seeking approval of the City Corporation's approach to taking this forward.
18. **GRESHAM COLLEGE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**
The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk proposing future funding arrangements for Gresham College.
19. **REVIEW OF CITY RATE DISCOUNT OF GUILDHALL HIRE CHARGE**
The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer providing an update on a review of City Rate Discount of Guildhall Hire charges.
20. **UPDATE ON COMMISSION**
The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer providing an update on commission relating to City Events
21. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - CASUAL WORKERS**
The Committee received a joint report of the Executive Director of HR & Chief People Officer and Chamberlain providing an update relating to Local Government Pensions Scheme and casual workers.
22. **DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY OR URGENCY POWERS**
The Committee received a report of the Town Clerk advising 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 41(b).
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.
25. **MINUTES**

The confidential minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 7 November 2024 were approved as an accurate record.
26. **CITY OF LONDON PAY AWARD 2024/25 - UPDATE FOLLOWING TRADE UNION ENGAGEMENT**
The Committee considered a joint report of the Chief People Officer & Director of HR and Chamberlain providing an update on the City of London pay award 2024/25.

The meeting ended at 3.07pm

Chairman

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