

CULTURE, HERITAGE AND LIBRARIES COMMITTEE

Monday, 20 January 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee held at Committee Room 2 - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 20 January 2025 at 11.00 am

Present

Members:

Munsur Ali (Chairman)	Wendy Mead OBE
John Griffiths (Deputy Chairman)	Deborah Oliver
Jason Groves	Deputy Alpa Raja
Jaspreet Hodgson	Anett Rideg
Wendy Hyde	Deputy Dawn Wright
Frances Leach	Alderwoman Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP
Antony Manchester	Brendan Barns

In Attendance

Officers:

Jayne Moore	- Town Clerk's Department
Emma Markiewicz	- London Metropolitan Archives
Omkar Chana	- Innovation and Growth
Andrew Buckingham	- Town Clerk's Department
Laurie Miller-Zutshi	- Town Clerk's Department
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk
Julia Pridham	- City Bridge Foundation
Kevin Colville	- Comptroller & City Solicitor's Dept

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Caroline Haines, Ian Seaton, Andrew Mayer, David Sales, Amy Horscroft, Irem Yerdelem, John Foley, and Suzanne Ornsby KC.

The following Members observed the meeting online: Caroline Haines, Suzanne Ornsby KC, David Sales, and Irem Yerdelem.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting of 09 December 2024 be approved as an accurate record of the proceedings (subject to the amendment of one Member's attendance record).

4. **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee discussed the Terms of Reference as set out in the agenda, noting the proposed changes. The following points were made, in response to Member queries:

- The City of London Police Museum does not currently have a home. Options are being considered and will be presented to the Committee during 2025 (including a space at the London Museum), and those contents are currently in secure storage;
- Updates on the CoL Police Museum and the Lord Mayor's coaches would be welcome; and
- There are mechanisms by which the Committee can be sighted on the work of Destination City, including the Deputy Chair's membership of the Destination Advisory Board.

Members noted that the proposed phrase in brackets in (a) that includes the phrase "encompassing Destination City" and "relevant strategy" did not necessarily align with agreements made during 2024 on the governance and accountability around Destination City, could be ambiguous, and could potentially encroach on the territory of other Committees. Members agreed that the phrase could be removed.

A Member commented on the benefits of the Committee being involved in Planning decisions where culture elements are proposed, referencing the Cultural Planning Framework in particular, and that the Committee would benefit from being one of the consultees in respect of any relevant planning application.

In response to a question on why the CoL Police Museum was not expecting to be sited at the Salisbury Square development, the meeting noted that there did not appear to be sufficient space for the Museum at the development.

RESOLVED, That a Forward Agenda be set out that covers updates on every element of the Terms of Reference (in its final agreed form), to be submitted to each meeting.

RESOLVED, That delegated authority be granted to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair, to fine-tune the wording in section (a) and make any other amendments as deemed to be relevant.

5. **UPDATE ON MONUMENT**

The Committee received an update on the Monument that included the following information:

- A full update will be presented to the Committee's February meeting to include visitor figures and transition plan proposals; and
- A full transition plan is expected to be available from April 2025 (after the elections).

6. **UPDATE ON CULTURE STRATEGY**

The Committee received a verbal update on the Culture Strategy, noting the following points:

- Terms of Reference for Strategy proposals were approved in December 2024 and the consultation is currently ongoing;
- Audience analysis projects are also being commissioned; and
- A decision is expected to be reached by the end of January 2025.

The meeting noted the fruitful deliberations of the December 2024 strategy workshop, noting also the need to carefully map resource allocations to any sub-group to further the formulation and execution of the strategy.

The Committee reiterated its strong interest in being involved in the development of the culture strategy around clarification of the scope and remit of any consultation, including involvement in pre-contract discussions with consultants, that would potentially entail Member representation at the project clarification and scope stage.

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

A Member reiterated their disappointment at the absence of submitted documents in respect of updates on the Monument and the culture strategy that could be shared with constituents ahead of the meeting in order to get feedback and seek residents' views.

Members noted that a cross-sectorial Destination City (DC) public-private partnership held its first meeting in December 2024, whose actions included: aligning KPIs and metrics with each priority workstream; building a programme of activities and initiatives; launching a DC partnership fund in collaboration with central grants entities; evaluating the CoLC's online DC presence and consolidating the communications strategy; and identifying progress on external entity partnership activities.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

A Member shared information about upcoming events at the new London Museum site.

9. **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.

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chairman

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