

Terms of reference for the Court of Aldermen

Overall responsibilities

- to support and promote the City of London and more widely the UK as a world leader in financial and professional services with key interlocutors
- to produce and support the best Sheriffs and Lord Mayors possible
- to engage widely with Civic City to gain broad experience and support the Lord Mayor

Main areas of activity

1. To support the Lord Mayor in promoting UK financial and professional services including representing the Lord Mayor at official events.
2. To operate as a team of Aldermen to ensure the wide range of experience and talent is used effectively.
3. To represent the City of London and Court of Aldermen in Civic City activities.
4. To seek opportunities to widen the reach of the Court of Aldermen and promote the work of the City of London/Corporation.
5. To promote and demonstrate effective charitable work including encouraging others to undertake wide range of activities.
6. To contribute to the Continuum to ensure a strategic approach to the development of policies.
7. To encourage suitably qualified candidates with a broad range of experience to take an interest in the work of the Court of Aldermen with a view to standing for election in the future.

The role of the Court of Aldermen (CoA) is more fully described below under the six “C’s” which cover the activities of the City of London and shows the contribution which the CoA can make in each area - Civic, Commercial, Corporation, Charitable, Cultural and Community sectors. Activities across these sectors should be coordinated to ensure effective engagement to increase the visibility and impact of the CoA and demonstrate that it is a modern organisation with a real purpose which is clear, open and transparent.

Civic

The Court of Aldermen plays a key role in relations with the Civic City to reinforce the Mayoralty in supporting and promoting the City of London as a world leader in financial and professional services. This is carried out in conjunction with key stakeholders such as the Lord Mayor, Mansion House and the City of London Corporation.

The main activities and roles of the CoA are:

- Overseeing the process for the election of Aldermanic Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor to ensure it is as open and transparent as possible.

- Encouraging a more diverse set of suitable candidates to stand for election as Aldermen and mentoring them about the role of the CoA including how best to prepare for progression.
- Supporting the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs in office including representing at more events to develop relations and gain more experience.
- Undertaking a coordinated programme of engagement with a wide range of sectors to promote the City of London.
- Providing speakers at Livery Company and Ward Club events when the Lord Mayor/Sheriffs are not available.
- Deciding on proposed changes to Livery Company ordinances and on applications for a Royal Charter. Ensuring that proposed new Guilds meet the proper standards which to allow them over time to become Livery Companies.
- Overseeing the financial and operational activities of Mansion House including agreeing the annual budget for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.

Commercial

Many Aldermen have a financial or professional services background. They are well placed to develop further the City's relations with this key sector to ensure that those who live and work in the City have a better understanding of its activities. A core script on key issues is available to ensure that Aldermen are delivering consistent messages in line with other City of London Corporation representatives.

Corporation

Aldermen are an integral part of the City's constitution as described by Acts of Parliament and Acts of Common Council and play a full part in the City of London Corporation's activities. As well as serving on the Court of Aldermen and its committees, Aldermen are full members of the Court of Common Council and are expected to play an active part in its business. Aldermen support the Corporation publicly in its defined policy objectives and lead the team of Common Councilmen in their Ward and act as Returning Officer for non-Aldermanic elections in their Ward.

Charitable

The Court of Aldermen maintains strong links with many charities reflecting the Court's rich history, the generosity of previous members of the Court and its wider City connections. The Court and the Aldermen continue to actively foster and advance charitable and philanthropic activity for the benefit of the City, Greater London and beyond.

- The City of London Corporation acting by the Court of Aldermen is the trustee of (or appoints all or a majority of trustees to) various charities which operate to relieve need and/or poverty, including Emanuel Hospital (founded in 1601), Morden College (founded in 1695), Samuel Wilson's Loan Charity (founded in 1769), and Sir William Coxen Trust Fund (founded in 1946).

- The Court has also maintained historic connections to a number of schools and educational foundations which are charities, such as Christ's Hospital (founded in 1552), Bridewell Foundation incorporating King Edward's School Witley (founded in 1553), and United Westminster Schools' Foundation incorporating Emanuel School (founded in 1736 originally within the Emanuel Hospital charity).
- Through membership of the Court of Common Council, by which the City Corporation acts as corporate trustee of a number of charitable trusts, the Aldermen are also directly involved in the administration of a significant number of charities including, Bridge House Estates (and its funding arm, the City Bridge Trust). [Others can be mentioned.]
- Aldermen administer the charity responsible for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the City Giving Day each year, encouraging charitable giving by the City, its institutions and workers, reaching out through the Appeal to benefit wider society.
- In recent years members of the Court have led in the support of new charitable and philanthropic initiatives aimed at benefiting the wider community, including Coexist House. [Are there any others to be referenced here?]
- All Aldermen are members of Livery Companies which are also actively involved in charitable activities.
- Some Wards also have their own historic charities operating within the City which the Aldermen continue to be engaged with.

Cultural

The City of London has a world class cultural offer which brings economic benefits through employment as well as encouraging companies to operate in the City. Several major projects are underway to enhance this offer and Aldermen play a key role in maximising the opportunities that these bring.

- Aldermen sit on various Committees and Boards such as the Barbican Centre, Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Museum of London and can influence policy.
- The City of London Corporation organises a wide range of cultural activities and Aldermen are expected to promote and attend these events.

Community

The City provides support to the neighbouring boroughs, especially Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Southwark, as well as across Greater London through City Bridge Trust.

- Aldermen are appointed to serve on the governing bodies of the City's academy schools in Tower Hamlets, Hackney and Southwark.
- Aldermen should also play a role in enhancing relationships between the City and its neighbouring boroughs and support the City's Outreach programme by providing their own expertise or that of their organisations.

With whom and how The Court of Aldermen engages with key stakeholder groups including:

Internally

Mayoralty/Mansion House

City of London Corporation, Members including Chairman of Policy & Resources and Chief Officers

Central Criminal Court, including supporting Sheriff

Externally

Parliament

Government (national/local)

EU including Brussels

Diplomatic Corps, Ambassadors and senior diplomats in London, **especially** those with responsibility for trade and investment issues, as well as British Embassies/High Commissions overseas

Key policymakers

UK regional centres

Business City/financial and professional services sectors

Professional Associations

Trade bodies, **including** Chambers of Commerce

TheCityUK

The Wards

The Liveries

Judiciary

NGOs and charities

The Church and leaders of other faiths

Education – supporting the City's schools and Academies as well as Universities and other educational institutions

Media, in coordination with the Communications team, to deliver key core script messages

Cultural contacts

How - By being:

Relevant and purposeful

Modern while respecting tradition

Clear, open and transparent

Collegiate, working together

Sharing and supporting each other including in personal development

More diverse

Younger (relevant to young/ future talent)

Connected

Flexible and adaptable to meet future challenges