

Item No: 3



KING, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

9th January 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Sir Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)	Gregory Jones KC (Alderman & Sheriff)	Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)	Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)	Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Timothy Russell Hailes JP (Alderman)	Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)	Simon Pryke (Alderman)
Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Tim Levene (Alderman)	

COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams	Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP	Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy	David Sales
Munsur Ali	John Foley	Andrew Paul Mayer	Hugh Selka
Rehana Banu Ameer, Deputy	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy	Catherine McGuinness CBE	Oliver Sells KC, Deputy
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy	Steve Goodman OBE	Andrew Stratton McMurtrie JP	Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson, Deputy
Brendan Barns	John Griffiths	Timothy James McNally	Alethea Silk
Matthew Bell	Jason Groves	Wendy Mead OBE	Paul Singh
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy	Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith JP	Caroline Wilma Haines	Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, Deputy BEM	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Ian Bishop-Laggett	Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy	Eamonn James Mullally	James Richard Tumbridge
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy	Jaspreet Hodgson	Benjamin Daniel Murphy	Jacqueline Roberts Webster
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy	Ann Holmes, Deputy	Deborah Oliver TD	Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Tijs Broeke	Amy Horscroft	Suzanne Ornsby KC	Delano Wheatley
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy	Michael Hudson	Judith Pleasance	Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
Henry Nicholas Almroth	Wendy Hyde	James Henry George Pollard, Deputy	Glen David Witney
Colthurst, Deputy	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, Deputy MBE	Henrika Johanna Sofia Priest	Philip Woodhouse
Simon Duckworth, Deputy OBE DL	Natasha Maria Cabrera Lloyd-Owen, Deputy	Nighat Qureishi, Deputy	Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy
Chief Commoner Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy	Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP	Alpa Raja, Deputy	Irem Yerdelen
Mary Durcan JP	Antony Geoffrey Manchester	Anett Rideg	
John Ernest Edwards, Deputy			

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend the meeting were noted.
2. Declarations There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes **(A) 26 November 2024**
Jason Groves's attendance at the meeting on 26 November 2024 had not been

accurately recorded, this was to be corrected to “Present”.

Resolved – That, subject to this amendment, the Minutes of the Court meetings on 26 November 2024 are correctly recorded.

(B) 5 December 2024

A correction to page 19 was proposed.

In the fourth paragraph, Deputy Fredericks moved a procedural Motion, rather than an Amendment. Therefore, the words “an amendment” should be replaced with the words “a procedural Motion”.

The corrected sentence should therefore read: *“She accordingly moved a procedural Motion under Standing Order 2, to suspend Standing Order 13(6) so as to allow for an additional question to be asked.”*

Resolved – That, subject to this correction, the Minutes of the Court meeting on 5 December 2024 are correctly recorded.

4. Mayoral Engagements

The Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements, including the launch of new City Belonging networks and a visit to Northern Ireland, and on his upcoming engagements including the London Government Dinner.

5. Policy Statement

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee took the opportunity to make a statement in which he congratulated colleagues featured in the New Years Honours list. He also informed the Court of his recent and upcoming engagements and provided updates on several areas of business.

6. Appointments

The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments to vacancies on various committees and outside bodies:-

(A) One Member on Bridewell Royal Hospital.

Nominations received:-

Deputy Alpa Raja

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Alpa Raja appointed to the Bridewell Royal Hospital.

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 concerning a Bill intended to address issues associated with the overlap of Aldermanic and Beadle terms of office.

Resolved – That the Court approved:

1. Proposals around a reversion to the prior arrangements whereby Beadles are once again elected annually.
2. The draft Bill for an Act of Common Council to effect this change, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

8.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst)

10 December 2024

(A) Procurement Code Review

The Court considered a report relating to the Procurement Code.

Introducing the report, the Chairman of the Finance Committee noted that the Procurement Code had not been reviewed or updated since 2015, and required updating in part to reflect the implementation of new legislation. This also provided an opportunity to address issues with the City Corporation's procurement procedures, such as the lack of involvement of commissioning committees, inflexible tender protocols, last-minute contract extension requests, misuse of contingency provisions in pricing envelopes and approval delays due to low thresholds for Court approval. The Chairman said the City Corporation needed a robust and efficient code.

During debate, a Member said that the review of the Procurement Code ran in parallel with the project governance review, and asked that Members took advantage of any opportunities to engage with the review.

A Member asked that the review considered how to maximise the social value of procurement. The Chairman said that this would be taken into account.

Resolved – That Members:

1. Approve the development of a new Procurement Policy and supporting framework to replace the existing Procurement Code.
2. Authorise the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee, to approve changes to the Procurement Code and supporting framework to align with the new Procurement Act 2023.
3. Approve the temporary increase of the threshold for the approval of procurement options and contract awards by the Court of Common Council to £20m until 31 July 2025 whilst the new Procurement Policy is developed.

10 December 2024

(B) Extension of Contract for the Pan-London Sexual Health E-Services Contract

Members considered a report concerning a contract extension.

Resolved – That Members grant approval for the current E-services contract with Preventx Ltd, dated 15 August 2017 and currently due to expire on 15 August 2025, to be extended for a further year to expire on 15 August 2026.

9. PORT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Mary Durcan)

19 November 2024

Circular Economy Framework for the City of London Corporation

The Court considered a report relating to waste management.

The Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee encouraged Members to support the implementation of the Circular Economy Framework and associated action plan.

A Member noted their concern about the issue of litter on the City's streets. In reply, the Chairman said she was working with officers to improve standards.

Resolved – That Members approve the implementation of the Circular Economy Framework and the associated Action Plan 2024-2027.

10. Motions There were none.

11. 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:

Jamie Mildon Angus	a News Channel Chief Operating Officer	Dorset
<i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, BEM</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
Samantha Louise Brown	a Therapist	Islington, London
<i>Ian Fagelson</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
<i>Ulrike Murphy</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
Henry Otto Brünjes	a Physician and Opera Company Chairman	Lambeth, London
<i>His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft</i>	<i>Citizen and Founder</i>	
<i>Fiona Josephine Adler</i>	<i>Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker & Tobacco Blender</i>	
Jacqueline Mary Brünjes	a Dance Company Chair	Lambeth, London
<i>His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft</i>	<i>Citizen and Founder</i>	
<i>Fiona Josephine Adler</i>	<i>Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker & Tobacco Blender</i>	
Louise Jane Fairweather	an Accountancy Practice Manager	Enfield, London

<i>Steven William Tamcken</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
<i>Adam John Armsby</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
Wenjian Fang	a Bank General Manager and Chief Executive	Hammersmith & Fulham, London
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
Alison Farmery	a Charity Head of Development	Chiswick, London
<i>The Hon. John Charles Michaelson</i>	<i>Citizen and Gardener</i>	
<i>Wendy Mead, OBE, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
Prof Dr Aline Gallasch Hall De Beuvink	a University Professor	Cascais, Portugal
<i>Jacqueline Chan</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa</i>	<i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	
Clare Denise Gibbs, OBE	a Civil Servant	Hampshire
<i>Jeremy Mark Fox</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
<i>Peter James Bottomley</i>	<i>Citizen and Draper</i>	
Stephen Frederick Girling	a Site Service Engineer, retired	Ipswich, Suffolk
<i>Christopher Paul Grant</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
<i>Russell Chweidan</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
Susan Patricia Gower, MBE JP	a Public Health Programme Manager	Welling, Kent
<i>Kristen James Cottier</i>	<i>Citizen and Spectacle Maker</i>	
<i>Robert George Munson</i>	<i>Citizen and Builders' Merchant</i>	
Janice Lynn Grimsey, JP	a Solicitor, retired	St Albans, Hertfordshire
<i>David Andrew Harry</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
<i>Philip Wright</i>	<i>Citizen and Marketor</i>	
Thomas Antonius Bernhard Gerhard Hall De Beuvink	a Lawyer and Entrepreneur	Cascais, Portugal
<i>Jacqueline Chan</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
<i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa</i>	<i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	
Steven Jeffrey Hartigan	a Firefighter, retired	Bromley, London
<i>Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones, MBE, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
<i>Deputy Marianne Bernadette Fredericks</i>	<i>Citizen and Baker</i>	
John Paul Hennessey	an Electrical Design Consultancy Company Director	Bedford, Bedfordshire
<i>Revd. Christopher John Damp</i>	<i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	
<i>James Andrew Lees</i>	<i>Citizen and Maker of Playing Cards</i>	

<p>Clifford John Hewitt <i>James St John Davis, CC</i> <i>Oliver Matthew St John Davis</i></p>	<p>a Musician <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i></p>	<p>West Sussex</p>
<p>Sir Christopher Andrew Hoy <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Caroline Wilma Haines, CC</i></p>	<p>a Track Cyclist <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i></p>	<p>Scotland</p>
<p>Damon Spencer Humphreys <i>Graham John Peacock</i> <i>David Bullock</i></p>	<p>a Transport Instructor Operator <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i></p>	<p>Borehamwood, Hertfordshire</p>
<p>Steven Michael Jackson <i>John Charles Jordan</i> <i>Kathryn Jean Jolley Milton</i></p>	<p>a Telecommunications Supply Company Director <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Buckinghamshire</p>
<p>Sarra Kemp, Lady Hoy <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Caroline Wilma Haines, CC</i></p>	<p>a Charity Ambassador <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i></p>	<p>Scotland</p>
<p>Suzanne Kianpour <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i> <i>Deputy Brian Desmond Francis Mooney, BEM</i></p>	<p>a Journalist <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i></p>	<p>Washington DC, United States of America</p>
<p>Laura Lanaro <i>Peter Leslie Crispin</i> <i>David John Wilkinson</i></p>	<p>a Governance Adviser <i>Citizen and Glass Seller</i> <i>Citizen and Glass Seller</i></p>	<p>Hove, Sussex</p>
<p>Sir Brandon Kenneth Lewis, CBE <i>Ald. Alastair John Naisbitt King, DL</i> <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i></p>	<p>a Primary Education Company Director <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i></p>	<p>Chelmsford, Essex</p>
<p>Jill Lofthouse <i>Wendy Mead, OBE, CC</i> <i>Patricia Agnes Campfield, MBE</i></p>	<p>A Market Researcher, retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i></p>	<p>Canterbury, Kent</p>
<p>Eamon Martin Joseph Lynam <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>John Paul Tobin</i></p>	<p>a Quantity Surveyor <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i></p>	<p>Watford, Hertfordshire</p>
<p>Captain David Gareth Miles <i>Alan Roy Willis</i> <i>Charles Verriour Marment</i></p>	<p>a British Army Officer <i>Citizen and Baker</i> <i>Citizen and Draper</i></p>	<p>Islington, London</p>

James Summers Osborne-Patterson <i>Philip John Woodhouse, CC</i> <i>Jamel Banda, CC</i>	a Student <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	Surrey
Jane Elizabeth Owen <i>James St John Davis, CC</i> <i>Oliver Matthew St John Davis</i>	a Writer <i>Citizen and Gardener</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	West Sussex
Wing Commander Ian Littleton Palmer <i>David Robert White</i> <i>Jane Marietta Palmer</i>	a Royal Air Force Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Tyler & Bricklayer</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Westminster, London
Dr Hitesh Dhanji Patel <i>Adewale Oladele-Ajose</i> <i>Lionel Carl Correya</i>	an Engineer <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Poulter</i>	Brent, London
Joseph Gordon Radmore <i>Richard George Turk</i> <i>Claude Andrew Robert Fenemore-Jones</i>	a Ship Trader <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Islington, London
Eric Bryson Richardson <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>John Paul Tobin</i>	a Road Safety and Sustainability Adviser <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Staten Island, New York, United States of America
Abdulhalim Mohammad Sarker <i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Solicitor <i>Citizen</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Redbridge, London
Grant William Stephens <i>Dr Iain Reid</i> <i>Gina Blair</i>	a Waterman & Lighterman <i>Citizen and Ironmonger</i> <i>Citizen and Master Mariner</i>	Kent
Calliope Tardios <i>Ald. Kawsar Zaman</i> <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i>	a Preparatory School Principal <i>Citizen</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Hertfordshire
Otto Albert Tepassee <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>John Paul Tobin</i>	a Hospitality Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Camden, London
Maria Regina Rosario Tierney <i>Azad Ayub</i> <i>David Lawrence Byron Stringer-Lamarre</i>	a Property Company Director <i>Citizen and Glazier</i> <i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	Enfield, London
Captain Daniel James Oliver Toms <i>Alan Roy Willis</i> <i>Charles Verriour Marment</i>	a British Army Officer <i>Citizen and Baker</i> <i>Citizen and Draper</i>	Kingston-upon-Thames, London

David Frederick Tyler	an Insurance Broker, retired	Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire
<i>David James Sales, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<i>Nicholas James Redgrove</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
James Michael Walker	a Head of Internal Audit	Surbiton, Surrey
<i>Dayne Paulding</i>	<i>Citizen and Constructor</i>	
<i>Stratton George David Richey</i>	<i>Citizen and Air Pilot</i>	
Deborah Jane Worrell	a Furniture Company Director	Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire
<i>Gareth Wynford Moore</i>	<i>Citizen and Joiner</i>	
<i>William Frederick Payne</i>	<i>Citizen and Joiner</i>	
Aimin Yang	a Bank General Manager	Westminster, London
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Deputy Keith David Forbes</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Bottomley</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.

12. Questions
Qureishi, N,
Deputy, to the
Chairman of the
Finance
Committee

Business rates and SMEs

Deputy Nighat Qureishi asked the Chairman of the Finance Committee to provide an update on small business rate reform, alternatives such as online sales tax and any other support which could be given to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

In reply, the Chairman said that the City Corporation remained fully engaged with the government in relation to Business Rate reform and would be feeding into the Transforming Business Rate Consultation announced at the October budget; this would include suggestions around Business Rates reform. The Chairman was disappointed that the parameters of the consultation appeared more limited than either he or the Member would have liked – not least as they did not include consideration of alternative and more transparent options for local taxation such as local sales tax.

The Chairman continued to list the measures accounted in the October Budget to support small business and the retail and hospitality sector. He also described measures to be introduced in 2026/27.

The Chairman acknowledged that rental values and business rates in the Square Mile reflected its position as one of the most prestigious locations in the country. However, he felt that the City Corporation needed to prioritise its focus in this area to assist these businesses via its SME Strategy. This point had been raised at both Finance and Policy and Resources Committees in recent months.

As a supplementary question, Deputy Qureishi noted that other local authorities received considerable levels of government funding for small business support, and asked the Chairman if a higher priority would be given to lobbying the government for a higher funding settlement which recognised the City's role.

The Chairman replied to say that, having spoken to the Chairman of Policy and Resources, he was happy to give that assurance. The Policy Chairman was already in contact with both the Greater London Authority and London Councils regarding the future allocations of government funding for small business support. Under an existing anomaly, such funding was allocated to boroughs partly on a formula linked to headcount of residential population rather than numbers of small businesses. The Chairman felt that formula warranted review if the nation was to achieve full and proper value from the unique business concentration within the Square Mile.

The Chairman said that if the City Corporation was to have a role, it must act to ensure that Government understood that business brought benefits; and that small business/SMEs represented the little acorns from which great oaks grow.

Green Investments

The question was deferred.

*Tilleria, L, to the
Chairman of the
Policy and
Resources
Committee*

Homelessness and rough sleeping in the Square Mile

David Sales asked a question of the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, asking what action the City Corporation had undertaken to rectify homelessness in the Square Mile, with particular reference to Castle Baynard Street.

*Sales, D, to the
Chairman of the
Community and
Children's
Services
Committee*

In reply, the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee reminded Members of her comments in October regarding the challenging issue of rising numbers of people sleeping on the streets of the City of London, and the range of interventions that Officers and partners had implemented to tackle this issue. This had included informing Members that work was underway to develop a City Corporation wide policy to address encampments, such as the one that existed at Castle Baynard Street.

Before updating Members on the policy development, the Chairman confirmed that a range of support services regularly targeted people sleeping in the tents on Castle Baynard Street.

The Chairman emphasised that the City Corporation's approach to rough sleeping would always be welfare led. However, there were circumstances in which issues such as antisocial behaviour could impact negatively on those who were homeless, and on the wider community. A policy was being developed to ensure that the City Corporation had an approach that balanced the delivery of support with the need to tackle negative impacts. It would provide clarity and transparency about the approach to interventions, and a clear authorisation process which drove consistency with that approach.

The Chairman confirmed that since the October meeting of the Court, Members of

the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Sub-Committee had been involved in several meetings with officers to develop a draft policy and provided further feedback at the Sub-Committee's formal meeting on 9 December 2024. The final policy would be submitted to the Community and Children Services Committee for approval on 16 January 2025, and the City of London Police Authority Board on 12 February 2025

In addition to her update on the policy, the Chairman was pleased to confirm that the government had formally approved a further 12-month funding as part of Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant, applicable from April 2025 until March 2026.

As a supplementary question, Mr Sales noted that on previous occasions, previous Lady Mayoresses had organised a sleep out to support homelessness and asked if the Chairman would be prepared to attend such an event. The Chairman said that she hoped these events would continue and would be happy to attend.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks asked the Chairman for assurance that she would explore creative solutions and use all leverage to the problem of homelessness, including the use of empty sites in the Square Mile and committing to a pan-London response.

In reply, the Chairman agreed that creative solutions were required, and officers were already focused on creativity and flexibility. As an example, she set out the processes where people had no recourse to public funds. During Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEPE) periods, services immediately acted to help. If there was no recourse officers would try to help people work through the process. The City Corporation always tried to encourage people to stay and move into other accommodation. The Chairman also gave assurance that there was an enormous amount of London-wide work. Officers worked across London throughout the year to try and ensure there were co-operative arrangements, as it was known that people moved across boroughs. She finally committed to explore a more permanent, proactive and creative arrangement for belongings.

Munsur Ali asked for reassurance that the City Corporation was not addressing the issue of homelessness in Square Mile by relocating rough sleepers away from the iconic landmarks in the Square Mile. The Chairman replied to confirm that people were not being moved from one part of the City to the other; the policy would apply across the entire City.

Edward Lord asked the Chairman if she would take advantage of her attendance at the London Government Dinner that evening to draw attention to relevant attendees. In reply, the Chairman confirmed that she would, as she had done at the recent Parliamentary Reception.

Mark Wheatley asked the Chairman if she would work with the City Remembrancer to address the issue of the Vagrancy Act. The Chairman committed to explore the options available.

Holmes, A.
Deputy to the
Chairman of the
Policy and
Resources
Committee

Publication of non-public minutes

Deputy Ann Holmes, noting that any potentially sensitive information was already in the public domain, asked if the non-public minutes from 26 November 2024 could be made public, once agreed.

In reply, the Chairman said that he was happy to confirm that, provided the minutes at Item 20 were approved, then they could and would be made public, except for one sentence deemed to be commercially sensitive.

Benjamin Murphy asked the Chairman if officers could explore the possibility of putting non-public papers into the public realm following their consideration at Committee meetings. In reply, the Chairman said he was happy to talk with officers to progress this matter. He reminded Members that they were guided by the professional advice of officers as to what could and couldn't be made public. He did not think it was for Members, as politicians, to challenge the rationale, unless they had a particular reason.

Benjamin Murphy asked the Chairman if he agreed that a framework should be established to help clarify who would be responsible for making the decision. The Chairman said he would consult with officers and respond to all Members.

Deputy Natasha Lloyd Owen asked if the entire recordings of meetings could be made publicly available, if it was felt appropriate, and for the Chairman to clarify that, in all instances other than where legally impermissible, the City Corporation would always err on the side of transparency. She also asked if the minutes of the informal meetings of the Court of Common Council could also be released. In reply, the Chairman said that he shared the wish to be as transparent as possible, as often as possible. He felt that the only reason to not be transparent was where an item was commercially sensitive or would damage the City Corporation if published. He gave his assurance in principle, but would respond to Members in writing.

Michael Hudson asked the Chairman if he could check that publishing the minutes would not lead to information from the report being published, and redacting the report if necessary. The Chairman replied to give his assurance in principle.

13. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

10 December 2024

Report of Urgent Action Taken: Standing Order 64 (Disciplinary Action)

The Court received a report concerning action taken under urgency procedures relating to the Statutory Officer complaint procedure.

A Member asked if the Senior Officer Complaints procedure should be aligned with the process for Members.

In reply, the Chairman said that the adjustments were technical and did represent a change to the substantive process. The City Corporation was required by legislation to incorporate the process in its Standing Orders, and the changes had been

proposed following review by a leading KC.

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

14. 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

Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) (Extension to Switzerland etc.) Regulations 2024 13 December 2024 and 1 January 2025

Implements provisions of the Switzerland Recognition of Professional Qualifications Agreement. The Agreement provides a framework for the recognition of professional qualifications between the UK and Switzerland. The Agreement applies to professionals (eg auditors, accountants, lawyers) holding qualifications from the UK or Switzerland applying for recognition by a relevant professional authority in the other country, regardless of nationality.

Inspectors of Education, Children’s Services and Skills (No. 4) Order 2024 19 December 2024

Appoints Susan Deborah Hasty as His Majesty’s Inspector of Education, Children’s Services and Skills on 19th December 2024.

Read.

15. Ballot results There were no ballots at the last Court.

16. Resolutions In recognition of a number of Members and Officers of the City Corporation in the New Year’s Honours List:-

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

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Deputy James Michael Douglas Thomson, C.B.E on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to Policing and Inclusion.

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

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Mark Emmerson, O.B.E, Chief Executive Officer of the City of London Academies Trust and, lately, Principal of the City Academy Hackney, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to Education.

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

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Margaret Elizabeth Green DL, O.B.E., a past Sheriff of this City, on her recent appointment by His Majesty the King as an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of her voluntary service and services to Prisoner

Rehabilitation in London and Hertfordshire.

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

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Peter Young, M.B.E., a former Chairman of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama Trust, on his recent appointment by His Majesty the King as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of his services to Music and Drama Education in London.

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

Resolved unanimously – That the sincere congratulations of this Court be offered to Jackson Gibbons, Basketball Academy Director, City of London Academy Southwark, in recognition of the award by His Majesty the King of the British Empire Medal, in recognition of his services to Young People and to Basketball.

17. Awards and Prizes

There was no report.

18. Docquets for the Hospital Seal.

There were no docquets.

19. 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, 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.

20. Non-public minutes

Resolved – That the non-public minutes of the Court meeting on 26 November 2024 are correctly recorded, as amended, and that an updated version be placed into the public domain.

Resolved – That the non-public minutes of the Court meeting on 5 December 2024 are correctly recorded.

21. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Court considered and approved a report relating to a contract extension

22. **GRESHAM COMMITTEE (CITY SIDE)**

The Court considered and approved a report of the Gresham Committee (City Side) concerning Gresham College funding arrangements.

23. **FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME REPORTING AND ANALYSIS PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE**

The Court considered and approved a report concerning a contract award for the implementation phase of the new Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service.

24. **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

The Court noted a report of action taken under urgency procedures relating to a freehold disposal of a City Fund property asset.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 2.24pm

THOMAS.