

Item

No:

3



KING, MAYOR

COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

6th March 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)	Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	Tim Levene (Alderman)
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)	Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)	Gregory Jones KC (Alderman & Sheriff)	Simon Pryke (Alderman)
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John	Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)	Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)	(Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)	Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)	
	Dame Susan Langley, DBE (Alderwoman)	

COMMONERS

Joanna Tufuo Abeyie MBE	John William Fletcher, Deputy	Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy	Alethea Silk
George Christopher Abrahams	John Foley	Catherine McGuinness CBE	Paul Singh
Munsur Ali	Dawn Frampton	Wendy Mead OBE	Tom Sleigh
Randall Keith Anderson, Deputy	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks,	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers,	Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy
Brendan Barns	Deputy	Deputy	James St John Davis
Matthew Bell	Steve Goodman OBE	Brian Desmond Francis Mooney	James Michael Douglas
The Honourable Emily Sophia	John Griffiths	BEM, Deputy	Thomson CBE, Deputy
Wedgwood Benn	Jason Groves	Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy	James Richard Tumbridge
Ian Bishop-Laggett	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Eamonn James Mullally	Shailendra Kumar Kantilal
Keith David Forbes Bottomley,	Christopher Michael Hayward,	Benjamin Daniel Murphy, Deputy	Umradia
Deputy	Deputy	Deborah Oliver TD	Jacqueline Roberts Webster
Tijs Broeke	Jaspreet Hodgson	Graham Packham	Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy	Ann Holmes, Deputy	Judith Pleasance	Delano Wheatley
Henry Nicholas Almroth	Amy Horscroft	James Henry George Pollard,	Ceri Wilkins
Colthurst, Deputy	Michael Hudson	Deputy	David Williams
Anne Corbett, Deputy	Wendy Hyde	Jason Paul Pritchard	Glen David Witney
Simon Duckworth, Deputy OBE	Henry Llewellyn Michael Jones	Nighat Qureishi, Deputy	Philip Woodhouse
DL	MBE	Anett Rideg	Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy
Chief Commoner Peter Gerard	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi MBE,	Ian Christopher Norman Seaton	Irem Yerdelen
Dunphy, Deputy	Deputy	MBE	
Mary Durcan JP	Florence Keelson-Anfu	Hugh Selka	
John Ernest Edwards, Deputy	Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP	Oliver Sells KC, Deputy	
Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP	Antony Geoffrey Manchester	Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson,	
Anthony David Fitzpatrick		Deputy	

1. Apologies The apologies of those Members unable to attend the meeting were noted.
2. Declarations There were no additional declarations.
3. Minutes *Resolved* – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the Court meeting on 9 January 2025 are correctly recorded.
4. Mayoral Engagements The Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements including the London Government Dinner, a visit to Wales and international trips to Switzerland, Australia and India.
5. Policy Statement The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee took the opportunity to make a statement, reflecting on the City Corporation's achievements in the three years since the last City-wide elections and thanking all Members for their contributions.
6. Appointments The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments to vacancies on various committees and outside bodies:-

- (A) One Member on the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee

Nominations received:-

David Williams

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared David Williams to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee.

- (B) One Member on the Mitchell City of London Charity and Educational Foundation

Nominations received:-

Aldерwoman Elizabeth King

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderwoman Elizabeth King to be appointed to the Mitchell City of London Charity and Educational Foundation.

- (C) Three Members on the Guild Church Council of St Lawrence Jewry

Nominations received:-

*Charles Edward Lord OBE JP

*Alderman and Sheriff Gregory Jones KC

*James St John Davis

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Charles Edward Lord OBE JP, Alderman and Sheriff Gregory Jones KC and James St John Davis to be appointed to the Guild Church Council of St Lawrence Jewry.

7.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst)

18 February 2025

(A) City Fund Budget

The Court considered a report of the Finance Committee which presented the overall financial position of the City Fund (i.e. the City Corporation's finances relating to Local Government, Police and Port Health services).

The Chairman spoke to introduce the Budget together with the City's Estate Budget at item 7(B), taking the opportunity to also clarify a number of elements and congratulating the Chamberlain's team for their work in undertaking the budget preparation process.

A Member raised their concern over the proposal to introduce the second home premium. They declared an interest in that they owned two residential properties in the City, through neither were designated as second homes. They felt that the Premium represented an anti-business tax on working and living in the City. The City Corporation aspired to promote the Square Mile as a 24/7 business centre and the heart of the global economy, and none of the City's international competitors had similar measures in place. Many workers needed a base in the City for work purposes, rather than as holiday homes, and the Premium would alienate residents for a marginal gain. They also argued that it was disingenuous to suggest that the sums raised through the Premium could cover social programmes. They suggested that a nightly tourist charge for hotel guests might be a more appropriate way of raising funds. The Member therefore moved to amend the proposals with the effect of removing the recommendation concerning the Second Home Premium.

Mooney, B. D.
F., B.E.M., Deputy;
Tumbridge, J.R

Amendment - That Recommendation 3.9, as set out on page 27, be deleted, with the effect of stopping the introduction of the Second Home Premium, with the corresponding paragraph 10 on page 159 of the Court Resolution at Appendix I also deleted.

Several Members spoke in support of the amendment, agreeing that it was an anti-business proposal that would make the Square Mile more expensive and less attractive for workers. It was argued that the Premium assumed that second homes were owned as holiday homes in places like Cornwall or Norfolk, rather than as *pieds-a-terre* to support working in the City. One Member asked the Court to think carefully on the City Corporation's inconsistency between saying it was unique but also justifying actions by highlighting the example of other boroughs. Several Members supporting the amendment sought assurance from the Chairman of the Finance Committee that the sums raised by the levy would be used towards addressing homelessness in the City.

Other Members, opposing the amendment, highlighted the financial pressures on City Fund as outlined by the Finance Chairman in his introduction to the Budget and noted that the proposed amendment would have the effect of removing funding and risking cuts to the core statutory services that City Fund delivered. In particular, the City was seeing an increase in its rough sleeping population. The City Corporation would be entering negotiations with His Majesty's Government on the business rate reset shortly, and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government had made it clear that they expected local authorities to be taking every opportunity to raise income.

The original Mover of the Amendment spoke to say that he had not heard anyone counter the argument that the Premium was anti-business, whilst also arguing that it was perilous for the City Corporation to compare itself to London boroughs, as it then risked becoming one. He felt that the Square Mile was an international business centre with different needs to other local authorities and that this should be recognised.

Closing the debate, the Chairman said that he did not agree that the Premium was an anti-business measure. The City Corporation needed to be financially prudent and draw on all lines of potential income for City Fund, echoing comments on the importance of demonstrating to Government that the City Corporation had done all it could to fund local services. He was attracted by idea of a tourist tax, but suggested that the City Corporation was not yet ready to implement one. He agreed that the City Corporation could not afford to take money away from City Fund and, whilst the sum might not seem significant in the context of the overall budget, it nevertheless had real significance when considering the impact it could have in support of efforts to address homelessness.

Upon the amendment being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be lost.

Returning to the debate on the substantive motion, a Member asked the Chairman for an update on efforts to expand income generation opportunities, including advertising. In reply, the Chairman agreed that the City Corporation needed to step up activity in this area. The National Audit Office had recently published a report setting out the stark financial realities facing local government. As the City Corporation provided more than just local authority services, it faced these financial challenges across different funds. However, with these challenges came opportunities, and a changed approach was required, whether through seeking innovative new ways to support activities or reopening previously discounted options such as advertising. The Chairman said that options on income generation would need to be determined through business cases identifying possible opportunities, which could then explored to consider how and if these possibilities could be turned into a realistic programme of short, medium and long-term aspirations. The Chairman welcomed the proposals to establish an Income Generation Working Group and stressed that all officers needed to collaborate on the presentation of options, with Members needing to be prepared able to make difficult or novel decisions.

Resolved, that – The Court of Common Council:

- 1.0 Approves the overall budget envelopes for City Fund.
- 1.1 Approves additional funding for new on-going cost pressures and have been included as budget uplifts:
 - 1.1.1 Net 2% inflation uplift to local risk budgets.
 - 1.1.2 £1.3m p.a. for City Fund Adult Social Care and Children Services.
 - 1.1.3 £232k p.a. City Fund for Health & Safety officers (Environment and Barbican Centre)
 - 1.1.4 £165k p.a. for increased internal control (Internal audit) split across funds.
- 1.2 Following the Government's announcement to increase employers' national insurance from 13.8% to 15%, approves the allocation of additional funding to City Fund (the final Local Government Settlement confirmed £873k of grant).
- 1.3 Supports addressing ongoing pressures identified through the budget-setting process and supported by Members through savings made elsewhere, remaining within the overall budget envelope.
- 1.4 Agrees that other one-off pressures and opportunities for transformation in 2025/26 outlined in paragraphs 18 to be funded from forecast carry forward underspends from 2024/25.
- 1.5 Uplifts the grant to the London Museum by up to 3% (£170k) pending confirmation that the Greater London Authority (GLA) are matching the uplift; and a provision to uplift the grant to the London Symphony Orchestra by up to 3% (£61k), subject to funding discussions with the Arts Council. Any such additional funding will be funded from savings found.
- 1.6 Approves that the recommended earmarked security reserve retains £1m as a minimum and is reviewed annually.
- 1.7 Approves the overall financial framework and the revised Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 1.8 Approves the City Fund Net Budget Requirement of £241.8m at Appendix A.
- 2.0 **Medium Term Corporate Plan Alignment and Financial Sustainability –**
Approves the following recommendations:
 - 2.1 **Revenue:**
 - 2.1.1 Additional resource requests and inflationary pressures: Going forward, assumptions include 2% uplift from 2025/26 onwards.
 - 2.1.2 Homelessness £2m p.a. pressure added from 2026/27.
 - 2.2 **For Cyclical Works Programme (CWP):**
 - 2.2.1 £7.5m p.a. built in from 2028/29 onwards to support ongoing works and avoid a backlog.
 - 2.2.2 Funding for City Fund has been identified and allocated from reserves for 2028/29 only. Futures years funding will necessitate disposal of assets.

Key decisions:

The key decisions are in setting the levels of Council Tax and National Non-Domestic rates:

3.0 Council Tax and Housing and Council Tax Benefits

- 3.1 Agrees an increase of 2% social care precept, raising c£194k p.a. in response to the ongoing pressures in adult social care totalling £0.2m.
- 3.2 Agrees an increase of 2.99% on core Council Tax raising c£298k p.a. to address pressures in children's social care, the gap in pressures from the national insurance increase and other pressures outlined under section 1 i) above.
- 3.3 Notes that the 4.99% increase will result in the Band D rate increasing from £1,051.62 to £1,102.82 (before GLA precept).
- 3.4 Agrees to retain a fully funded means tested council tax reduction scheme for those on low incomes who are least able to pay and providing continued support to vulnerable members of society.
- 3.5 Agrees to continue the Local Discretionary discount for Care Leavers between the ages of 18 to 25 for 2025/26.
- 3.6 Agrees that the current 100% discount awarded to unoccupied and unfurnished and uninhabitable dwellings is continued at zero (0%) for 2025/26.
- 3.7 Agrees to continue the premium levied on long-term empty property of 100%, 200% and 300% on properties that have been empty for 2, 5 and 10 years respectively in 2025/26.
- 3.8 Agrees to continue the long-term empty property premium of 100% for properties that have been empty for longer than 12 months in 2025/26.
- 3.9 Agrees to introduce the Second Home Premium of 100% in 2025/26.
- 3.10 Determines that pensions received by veterans under the War Pension Scheme or War Compensation scheme are fully disregarded in the calculation of Housing and Council Tax Benefit.
- 3.11 Having regard to the government guidance issued, approves that the Chamberlain be given the discretion, delegated to the Assistant Director, Financial Shared Services, to reduce or waive the long-term empty premium charge in exceptional circumstances.
- 3.12 Approves that the cost of highways, street cleansing, waste collection and disposal, drains and sewers, and road safety functions for 2025/26 be treated as special expenses to be borne by the City's residents outside the Temples (Appendix B).

4.0 Business Rates and Business Rate Premium

- 4.1 Approves an increase the Standard City Business Rate Premium from 1.8p to 2.2p, setting the overall standard business rate multiplier as 57.7p
- 4.2 Approves an increase the Small Business City Premium from 1.6p to 2p, setting the overall small business multiplier as 51.9p
- 4.3 Notes that for every 1p increase - this raises c£2.1m, therefore an increase in Business Rates Premium by 4p (as per above) - raises £8.4m p.a.

- 4.4 Awards a Discretionary Discount under S47 Local Government Finance Act for qualifying Nursery Schools of up to 100%.
- 4.5 Notes that, in addition, the GLA is levying a Business Rate Supplement in 2025/26 of 2.0p in the £ on properties with a rateable value of £75,000 and above (Appendix A).
- 4.6 Delegates to the Chamberlain the award of discretionary rate reliefs under Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Appendix A)

5.0 HRA Rent

- 5.1 Approves an increase on rents for social tenants within the Housing Revenue Account by 2.7% for 2025/26, as proposed to the Children's & Community Services Committee on 16th January 2025 in order to balance the HRA across the MTFP.

6.0 Capital Expenditure

- 6.1 Approves the Capital Strategy (Appendix F).
- 6.2 Approves the Capital budgets for City Fund and the allocation of central funding from the appropriate reserves to meet the cost of 2025/26 – release of funding being subject to approval at the relevant gateway and specific agreement of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee at gateway 4(a).
- 6.3 Approves the continuation of the allocation of central funding in 2025/26 to provide internal loan facilities for the HRA, currently estimated at £11.0m respectively.
- 6.4 Approves the Prudential Code indicators (Appendix D).
- 6.5 Authorises the Chamberlain to determine the final financing of capital and supplementary revenue project expenditure.

7.0 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy 2025/26 (Appendix E)

- 7.1 Approves the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy for 2025/26, including the treasury indicators (Appendix E).
- 7.2 Approves the authorised limit for external debt (which is the maximum the City Fund may have outstanding by way of external borrowing) at £348.0m for 2025/26; and the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for 2025/26 at £1.4m (MRP policy is included within Appendix E – Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Statement 2024/25 - Appendix 2).

8.0 Chamberlain's Assessment

- 8.1 Take accounts of the Chamberlain's assessment of the robustness of estimates and the adequacy of reserves and contingencies (Appendices A, C and H respectively).

9.0 Resolution

- 8.1 Agrees the Resolution set out at Appendix I.

(B) City's Estate Budget

The Court considered a report of the Finance Committee presenting the overall financial position of City's Estate.

Resolved, that - The Court of Common Council:

- 1.0 Approves the overall budget envelope for City's Estate 2025/26 revenue budgets.
- 1.1 Additional funding is required for new on-going cost pressures and have been included as budget uplifts (paragraphs 9 – 10):
 - 1.1.1 Net 2% inflation uplift to local risk budgets.
 - 1.1.2 £165k for increased internal control (split between funds)
 - 1.1.3 £1.93m for increase in employees National Insurance
- 1.2 Other one-off pressures and opportunities for transformation in 2025/26 are outlined in paragraph 12 to be funded from forecast carry forward underspends from 2024/25.
- 1.3 Additional revenue bids (paragraph 11) have been accommodated by savings identified during the 2025/26 budget setting process.
- 1.4 Consideration given to uplift the Mayoralty and Shrievalty allowances by £22k subject to agreement at the Joint Deputation meeting in April 2025.

2.0 Medium Term Corporate Plan Alignment and Financial Sustainability

- 2.1 Agrees that to address inflationary pressures going forward, assumptions include 2% uplift from 2026/27 onwards.
- 2.2 Notes the impact of decisions from the Court of Common Council regarding the conclusion of the Markets Co-Location Programme has been updated over the 5 year financial plan.
- 2.3 For Cyclical Works Programme (CWP):
 - 2.3.1 £7.5m p.a. built in from 2028/29 onwards to support ongoing works and avoid a further backlog.
 - 2.3.2 Notes that the additional funding requires an additional draw on assets (modelled).
- 3.0 Approves the overall financial framework and the revised 5-year Financial Strategy.
- 4.0 Approves the Capital and Supplementary Revenue Project Budgets, over the five-year period for City's Estate amounting to £385.1m.
- 5.0 Approves the allocation of central funding of up to £175.7m for City's Estate to meet the cost of 2025/26 approved capital schemes. Release of such funding being subject to approval at the relevant gateway and specific agreement of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee at Gateway 4(a). Note the agreed capital envelope for new bids of £2m in 2025/26.
- 6.0 Authorises the Chamberlain to determine the final financing of capital and supplementary revenue project expenditure.

Dunphy, P.G.,
Deputy; Joshi, S.
J., Deputy

Further resolved unanimously – That the thanks of the Court be given to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for his introduction to the budget reports before the Court this day.

8. CITY BRIDGE FOUNDATION BOARD

(Deputy Paul Martinelli)

5 February 2025

(A) City Bridge Foundation – 2025/26 Budget and Financial Forecasts

The Court considered a report presenting City Bridge Foundation's 2025/26 budget and financial forecasts.

The Chair introduced the report, along with the City Bridge Foundation Annual Reports and Financial Statements and the Foundation's Future Funding Policy.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council, acting for the City Corporation as the charity trustee of City Bridge Foundation (Charity No. 1035628) and solely in the charity's best interests:-

1. Approves the 2025/26 budget and note the 2026/27-2028/29 forecasts;
2. Authorises the Managing Director of City Bridge Foundation, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the CBF Board and in conjunction with the Chamberlain, to revise the charity's expenditure budgets and forecasts in Q1 of 2025/26 to provide for revised central recharges of City Corporation costs and expenditure to the and the finalisation of capital budgets for the City Corporation for its 'cross-fund' projects which involve expenditure of CBF charitable funds and
3. Approves the level of free reserves to be maintained over and above the agreed minimum policy of £35m due to economic factors and uncertainty, at £90m

8 January 2025

(B) City Bridge Foundation: Annual Report and Financial Statements 2023/24

The Court received a report presenting City Bridge Foundation's Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

A Member thanked the Chair, the City Bridge Foundation Board and officers for the reports and their work, and also thanked those who kept the bridges clean, the City of London Police, and Bridge Watch. They felt that the key risks set out in the Annual Report missed the potential for loss of life, which was mitigated through services such as the City of London Police and Bridge Watch. They suggested that the risk on maintaining bridges could be updated to clarify that these should be 'safe' bridges. Further thanking the Chair for the support that City Bridge Foundation had provided to Bridge Watch, they noted there would be a funding gap between the end of funding in July and the chance to reapply for funding in October. They therefore asked the Chair if he would consider funding Bridge Watch, which was a service mitigating a key risk, as a cost to City Bridge Foundation rather than through a grant.

In reply, the Chair undertook to raise the matter with officers after the meeting. He noted that City Bridge Foundation had a groundbreaking £10m fund to support suicide prevention measures across London.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council, on behalf of the City Corporation as Trustee of City Bridge Foundation (Charity No. 1035628), notes the CBF Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

5 February 2025

(C) City Bridge Foundation: Future Funding Policy

The Court considered a report presenting City Bridge Foundation's draft Future Funding Policy 2025-2035.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council, acting for the City Corporation as the charity trustee of City Bridge Foundation (Charity No. 1035628) and solely in the charity's best interests:

1. Approves the draft Future Funding Policy 2025-2035 for City Bridge Foundation to succeed Bridging Divides; and
2. Delegates authority to the City Bridge Foundation Board to adapt and enhance the draft policy in response to any lessons learned and user feedback ahead of the formal launch of the policy later this year.

9. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

25 January 2025

(A) Standing Order Review

The Court considered a report proposing various amendments to Standing Orders.

A Member, thanking officers for their support in drafting the proposed new Standing Orders following extensive Member consultation and input, felt that the reasoning for the proposed revisions to Standing Order 30.4(c) on electing External Members as Deputy Chairs could be clarified, and accordingly moved an amendment to this effect.

*Tumbridge, J.
R.; Bottomley,
K. D. F., Deputy*

Amendment - To amend Standing Order 30(4)(c), as set out in Appendix 1 on page 27 of the Appendices Pack, with the effect of clarifying that an External Member may only stand for the role of Deputy Chair of a Grand Committee in instances where there is provision for two Deputies, one of which must be a Common Councillor:

30.(4)(c) External Members may stand as Deputy Chairs of Committees, if set out explicitly in the Court Order (i.e. where there is express provision for two Deputy Chairs, one External and one Common Councillor ~~an External Deputy Chair~~).

It was noted that this was the current arrangement for Committees such as the Audit & Risk Management Committee and Barbican Centre Board.

Upon the amendment being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be carried.

During debate on the substantive Motion, as amended, Members discussed the areas for further consideration raised at paragraph 21 of the report. Several Members said that it would be beneficial to review the role and appointment process for the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, including consideration of the position being elected by the entire Court, and asked the Chairman for assurance that this would be brought forward in the new civic year. A Member, commenting on that matter specifically, expressed their hope that this would allow the City Corporation to introduce greater transparency into its leadership and decision-making processes. It was noted that a further review into this area would be a substantial piece of work, akin to that undertaken for the overarching Standing Orders review, and Members congratulated the Assistant Town Clerk for her work on the present review which had allowed the report to be presented with a complete consensus around the recommendations. The review into the role of Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee would need to be undertaken with a similar amount of due diligence.

Members also suggested that a review of the layout of Court, including the possibility of a dedicated Common Council Chamber, should be considered to allow for meetings to take place in a more inclusive space.

Closing the debate, the Chairman agreed with the need for maximum transparency. He understood the point made around the seating at Court, though noted his preference for the current arrangements, and thought it was unlikely that the City Corporation would be able to commit to a new and dedicated Chamber in the foreseeable future. Regarding the role of, and process for electing, the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, he agreed that a review into this would need to be done properly, and he echoed the thanks of Members to the Assistant Town Clerk for her work on the Standing Orders Review. The Town Clerk's Department had committed to putting forward an options report, which would be subject to wide consultation and, given this, the Chairman expressed his cognisance that it would be inappropriate to commit to a timeframe at this point in time.

Resolved – That Members:

1. Approve the Standing Order revisions set out in Appendix 1 (and Addendums), summarised in Appendix 2, for adoption from 25 April 2025;
2. Note that, upon adoption by the Court of Common Council, the Town Clerk will develop a suite of supplementary guidance documents to the Standing Orders (e.g. Frequently Asked Questions, Glossary of Terms etc.);
3. Note that any consequential formatting changes (e.g. numbering) will be overseen by the Town Clerk, upon final approval; and
4. Note the matters where further review is required.

16 January 2025

(B) City of London Corporation: Members' Code of Conduct

The Court considered a report relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.

Resolved – That Members adopt the Members' Code of Conduct set out at Appendix 1 with effect from 19 March 2025.

(C) Strategic Branding Review outcome and proposals

The Court considered a report concerning a Strategic Branding Review.

The Chairman observed that this was an important and complicated piece of work and, whilst significant activity had taken place to-date on it, a Member had drawn his attention to several elements that had not been considered as fully as might be optimal thus far and he accordingly moved that the item be withdrawn and referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee for further work and consideration.

A Member thanked the Chairman for taking their views into account. They provided the Court with further information as to why they had spoken to the Chairman before the meeting, highlighting their concern that the proposals for the logos risked diluting the City Corporation's branding.

*Hayward, C.
M., Deputy; Lord,
C. E., O.B.E., J.P.*

Amendment - That the report be withdrawn and referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Upon the amendment being put, the Lord Mayor declared it to be carried.

Resolved – That the report be withdrawn and referred back to the Policy and Resources Committee.

10 CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Alastair Michael Moss)

12 February 2025

Pay Policy Statement

The Court considered a report proposing the adoption of the Pay Policy Statement for the coming year.

Resolved – That the Court of Common Council agrees the draft Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26 as set out in Appendix C to the Report to ensure that the City Corporation meets its requirements under the Localism Act 2011.

11. Motions There were no Motions.

12. 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:

Revd Matthew Robert George Austen	a Clerk in Holy Orders	Horsham, West Sussex
<i>Jonathan Mark Lee</i>	<i>Citizen and Currier</i>	
<i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	

Asif Nisar Bajwa	a Hotelier	Barking, London
<i>Deputy Rehana Banu Ameer</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	

<i>Deputy Alpa Raja</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
Aman Bakshi <i>Dhruv Patel</i> <i>Bivas Ambasada</i>	a Finance and Accounting Assistant <i>Citizen and Clothworker</i> <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker</i>	Redbridge, London
Simon Adam Banfield <i>Christopher Nigel Bilsland</i> <i>Jeremy George Kean</i>	a Structural Engineer <i>Citizen and Farrier</i> <i>Citizen and Currier</i>	Lambeth, London
Rosalyn Antonia Breedy <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i> <i>CC Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza</i>	a Solicitor <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Camden, London
Lauran Paula Bush <i>Deputy Rehana Banu Ameer</i> <i>Deputy Alpa Raja</i>	a Tea Company Chief of Staff <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Helen Catherine Cale <i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i> <i>Paul Gobey</i>	a Trade Union Administrator <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Hertford, Hertfordshire
Dr Billy Chun-Wing Chan <i>Deputy Rehana Banu Ameer</i> <i>Deputy Alpa Raja</i>	a Chamber of Commerce Chairman <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Ilford, London
Pierre-Jean Clausse <i>Jacqueline Chan</i> <i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa</i>	an E.U. Climate Pact Ambassador <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	Westminster, London
Andrew James Cole, OBE <i>Timothy Nicholas Tyler, CB</i> <i>Edward David John Goodchild</i>	a Charity Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Turner</i> <i>Citizen and Skinner</i>	Richmond upon Thames, London
Rebecca Elizabeth Constable <i>Lucy Maria Atherton</i> <i>Martin John Wainwright</i>	a Wealth Manager <i>Citizen and Saddler</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Newbury, Berkshire
Dean Culpan <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> <i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i>	a Hotel General Manager <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Westminster, London
Clare Victoria Solt Dennis <i>Alan Stanley Cook</i> <i>Deborah Rebecca Jane Black</i>	a Medical Education Administrator, retired <i>Citizen and Gunmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Educator</i>	Gillingham, Kent
Lieutenant Commander Ian Dorward, VR <i>James Nisbet</i> <i>Richard Myall Davies</i>	a Procurement Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and Chartered Surveyor</i>	Warwickshire
Christopher John Duddell <i>Michael Osborne</i>	a Heavy Goods Vehicle Driver <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Waltham Forest, London

Antonio Masella

Citizen and Mason

Jeffrey Richard Duddell

Michael Osborne

Antonio Masella

an Insurance Assessor

Citizen and Basketmaker

Citizen and Mason

Redbridge, London

Afshin Eftekhari-Mofrad

Abdul Latif

Robert Brian Linton

a Lawyer

Citizen and Poulter

Citizen and Blacksmith

Hackney, London

Richard Aspinall Farmery, MBE

Richard Edward Robert King

Phillip Edward Powell

A Civil Servant, retired

Citizen and Security Professional

Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker

Northwood, Middlesex

Guy Antony Douglas Peter Fennell

Deputy Rehana Banu Ameer

Deputy Alpa Raja

a Retail Company Founder

Citizen and Common Councillor

Citizen and Common Councillor

Cheshire

Dr Manson Fok

Deputy Rehana Banu Ameer

Deputy Alpa Raja

a Faculty of Medicine Dean

Citizen and Common Councillor

Citizen and Common Councillor

Tower Hamlets, London

Abida Rehman Ghafoor

Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE

CC Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan

D'Souza

a Marketing Company Chief Executive

Citizen and Goldsmith

Citizen and Common Councillor

Redbridge, Essex

His Excellency The Honourable Ralph Edward Goodale, PC

The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor

Deputy Christopher Michael

Hayward

High Commissioner For Canada

Citizen and Blacksmith

Citizen and Pattenmaker

Westminster, London

William John Hastie

Deputy James Michael Douglas

Thomson, CBE

Ian Dyson, QPM, DL

a Police Force Master Taylor

Citizen and Grocer

Citizen and Glover

Oxfordshire

Dr Laurence Lee Hemming

Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE

CC Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan

D'Souza

a Professor of Philosophy

Citizen and Goldsmith

Citizen and Common Councillor

Westminster, London

Eimear Catriona Herlihy

Rafael Steinmetz Leffa

Dr Fraser Stuart Peck

a Dentist

Citizen and International Banker

Citizen and Apothecary

Hove, East Sussex

David Charles Hunt

George Alexander Bastin

Clive Anthony Hunt

a Chartered Accountant, retired

Citizen and Ironmonger

Citizen and Brewer

Guildford, Surrey

Lt Col James Peter Johnston

a Financial Services Manager, retired

Belfast, Northern Ireland

<i>Sir David Roche</i>	<i>Citizen and Saddler</i>	
<i>John James Tunesi of Liongam, The Younger</i>	<i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	
Philip Andrew Jordan <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i>	a City Marshal, retired <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i>	Barnet, Hertfordshire
Sean Henry Kiernan <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i> <i>CC Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza</i>	an Entrepreneur <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Westminster, London
Jacqueline Cecilia Kilgour <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sir Peter Kenneth Estlin</i>	a Financial Services Company Director <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	Westminster, London
Harshad Umedlal Kothari <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE</i> <i>CC Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza</i>	a Chartered Accountant <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	Redbridge, London
John Ernest Charles Leggett <i>John Charles Jordan</i> <i>Norman Edward Chapman</i>	a Police Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i>	Spelthorne, Middlesex
Malcolm Raymond Linscott <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Corn Merchant, retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Suffolk
Orlando Alberto Mardner <i>Stephan Urs Breu</i> <i>Peter Michael</i>	a Security Risk Consultant <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Basildon, Essex
Ashley David Martin <i>Colin Michael Brown</i> <i>Mark Kennedy Wheeler</i>	a Plumbing and Heating Engineer <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Stanmore, Middlesex
James Victor May <i>Graham Leslie Flight</i> <i>Daniel Mark Heath</i>	a Pharmaceutical Customer Operations Manager <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Hackney Carriage Driver</i>	Burgess Hill, West Sussex
Joanne Marie McCullagh <i>CC Jamel Banda</i> <i>CC Philip John Woodhouse</i>	a Drama Teacher <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	Horley, Surrey
Brendan Andrew Molloy <i>Christopher Nigel Bilsland</i> <i>Jeremy George Kean</i>	a Solicitor Advocate <i>Citizen and Farrier</i> <i>Citizen and Currier</i>	Hayes, Middlesex
Zameer Muhammad <i>Matthew David Johnson</i> <i>Sean Canty</i>	a Facilities Manager <i>Citizen and Environmental Cleaner</i> <i>Citizen and Environmental Cleaner</i>	Newham, London
Sean Martin Mulryan <i>Vincent Dignam</i>	a Property Developer <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Kildare, Ireland

Jacqueline O'Donovan, OBE

Citizen and Carman

Dr James Njuguna Mwangi
The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE

a Banker and Philanthropist
Citizen and Blacksmith
Citizen and Goldsmith

Nairobi, Kenya

Andrew Howard Martin Nebel, MBE
Morris David Albert Bentata
Graham George Cooke

a Charity Director, retired
Citizen and Feltmaker
Citizen and Painter-Stainer

Stamford, Lincolnshire

John Anthony Nugent
Vincent Dignam
John Paul Tobin

a Hospitality Company Chief Executive
Citizen and Carman
Citizen and Carman

Islington, London

James Jim Ovia
The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor
Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE

a Bank Founder & Chairman
Citizen and Blacksmith
Citizen and Goldsmith

Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria

Professor Neil Edward Pearce
Ann-Marie Jefferys
Anne Elizabeth Holden

a University Professor
Citizen and Glover
Citizen and Basketmaker

Westminster, London

Jeffery Raymond Phillips
Keith Richard Stevens
Dmytro Tupchiienko

an Accountant
Citizen and Management Consultant
Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker

Port Moody, British Columbia, Canada

Mohammed Aziz-Ur Rahman
Deputy Rehana Banu Ameer
Deputy Alpa Raja

a Restaurateur
Citizen and Common Councillor
Citizen and Common Councillor

Oxford, Oxfordshire

Mark Douglas Randall
Stanley Brown
Derek Martin Morley

an Airline Company Team Manager
Citizen and Loriner
Citizen and Furniture Maker

Hillingdon, London

Fiona Jennie Rawes
Deputy Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson
Deputy Paul Nicholas Martinelli

a Philanthropy Director, retired
Citizen and Ironmonger
Citizen and Butcher

Tower Hamlets, London

Lorraine Janis Reach
Lady Wendy Davina Calder Parmley
Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley

a Housekeeper
Citizen and Information Technologist
Citizen and Musician

Southwark, London

Dr Fabian Felix Richter
Ald. Robert Charles Hughes-Penney
Deputy James Henry George Pollard

a Heritage Charity Chair
Citizen and Haberdasher
Citizen and Skinner

Lambeth, London

Lewis George Riley

a Trainee Accountant

Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire

<i>David Lee McLernon</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
<i>Gareth Robert Ledsham</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
Janice Evelyn Scott	a Royal Navy Warrant Officer, retired	Newbury, Berkshire
<i>Ald. Alexander Robertson Martin Barr</i>	<i>Citizen and Ironmonger</i>	
<i>Catherine Mary Rose Carr</i>	<i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer</i>	
John David Sowerby	a Senior Bank Official, retired	Kettering, Northamptonshire
<i>Antony Charles Greene</i>	<i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	
<i>Derek Martin Morley</i>	<i>Citizen and Furniture Maker</i>	
Eva Isobel Chantal Strasburger	a Software Company Chief Executive	Austin, Texas, United States of America
<i>John Michael Allen-Petrie, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Draper</i>	
<i>Brady Daine Brim-Deforest of Balvairst Castle</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
Roy Thomas Strasburger	a Retail Consultant	Austin, Texas, United States of America
<i>John Michael Allen-Petrie, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Draper</i>	
<i>Brady Daine Brim-Deforest of Balvairst Castle</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
Seth Orion Thomas	a Banker	Westminster, London
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>CC Antony Geoffrey Manchester</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
Dr Norman Jan Piet Walker, OBE, TD, DL	a Medical Practitioner, retired	Carrickfergus, County Antrim, Northern Ireland
<i>Sir David Roche</i>	<i>Citizen and Saddler</i>	
<i>John James Tunesi of Liongam, The Younger</i>	<i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	
Graham Nicholas Webb	an Operations Consultancy Director	Westminster, London
<i>Deputy Madush Gupta</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
<i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
David James Webster	a Trade Union Official	Enfield, London
<i>Ald. Sir Andrew Charles Parmley</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
<i>Paul Gobey</i>	<i>Citizen and Musician</i>	
Adam Michael Andrew Whittle	a Marketing Manager	Wirral, Merseyside
<i>Adrian Scales</i>	<i>Citizen and Master Mariner</i>	
<i>Geoffrey Roger Cowap</i>	<i>Citizen and Master Mariner</i>	
Carolyn Wright	a Research Scientist	Hillingdon, London
<i>Steven Leslie Wright</i>	<i>Citizen and Hackney Carriage Driver</i>	
<i>Alan Leslie Roughan</i>	<i>Citizen and Hackney Carriage Driver</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.

13. Questions

Hailes, T,
Alderman, to
the Chairman
of the Planning
and
Transportation
Committee

Bank Junction

Alderman Timothy Hailes asked the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee for an update on the proposals for a temporary traffic order at Bank Junction.

In reply, the Chair said that the Planning and Transportation Committee had at its February 2025 meeting agreed to amend the restrictions at Bank to allow taxis to travel through the junction between Poultry and Cornhill. The Committee had also agreed the success criteria for the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) and discussed the wider approach to monitoring and public consultation. The Chairman reminded the Court that final approval rested with Transport for London (TfL) and that a statutory process needed to be followed. Along with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, he had brought up Bank Junction at each of their regular meetings with TfL to ensure the best chance of success. TfL had been supporting City Corporation officers as they had developed the ETRO and prepared for the Traffic Management Act application.

The Chairman highlighted the cyber-attack suffered by TfL in autumn 2024 which had impacted its ability to undertake the necessary audit of the City Corporation's proposed traffic model for the experiment. TfL were showing flexibility and had agreed to waive the need to validate the traffic model before considering the application. Officers within the Environment Department were working to finalise the monitoring and engagement strategy, commission the baseline data collection, commission the traffic signal infrastructure and CCTV enforcement changes, and prepare the final submission for TfL's road space performance group. The latter would consider the ETRO request prior to the statutory Traffic Management Act application. Officers were working closely with TfL to complete these final steps and implement the experiment as soon as possible. Now that the issue with the traffic model validation had been resolved, it was expected that the experiment would go live within the next few months. Progress would be monitored by the Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee, and the City Corporation's Communications team would keep stakeholders informed of the changes in the new regulations.

Window replacement programme at the Golden Lane Estate

Frampton, D, to
the Chairman
of the Policy
and Resources
Committee

Dawn Frampton asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee if he would propose to the Committee that it make available the necessary funds to expedite the work on the window replacement programme at the Golden Lane Estate.

In reply, the Chairman agreed that the Golden Lane Estate had suffered from decades of underinvestment, as had all the City's housing estates. Residents had been let down, and for this the Chairman apologised.

He informed the Court that he had been given a tour of the Golden Lane Estate by Dawn Frampton. He saw then both the amount of work that needed doing and, in the 'pilot flat' in Crescent House, an example of what accommodation in Golden Lane could and should look like. The Chairman had consistently supported proper investment in Golden Lane to bring it to that standard, as quickly as possible, and acknowledged that the constant delays and increased costs were not good enough.

The delays had occurred because the City Corporation had mistakenly failed to register Crescent House and six additional blocks on the Golden Lane Estate as Higher Risk Buildings, and they could not be expedited even with additional resource. However, officers had already drawn up a new, wider, programme of improvement for the Estate. The revised scope for the blocks included essential fire safety works, alongside other high priority planned maintenance and improvements to thermal efficiency, redecorations and more.

The Chairman emphasised that the programme was no longer just a project to refurbish windows, it was a complete, holistic investment plan for the Estate. This programme was being developed with two different timescale options, one to end in 2035 and another to end a decade later. The Chairman had met with senior officers and Members on Monday 3 March and had made clear that the City Corporation must show the residents of Golden Lane its commitment to them, including through the immediate appointment of sustained staffing on Golden Lane Estate.

Secondly and more importantly, the City Corporation had to commit to the earliest of timescales. The City was a business city, but also had a responsibility to its residents. They could not be made to feel like second class citizens. The Chairman said that the City Corporation needed to improve how it communicated with residents at every stage of the project.

Noting that queries had been raised regarding the appointment of a communications agency, the Chairman said he would be seeking reassurance from officers that any appointed communications agency was able to perform and retain the confidence of residents – both tenants and leaseholders. It was a six-month contract and he had received assurance from officers that a full, competitive tender process would take place after that period and that residents will be involved in that tender.

Successful delivery of the programme and the City Corporation doing what it said it would, on time and on budget, would be key components of the new approach. This was what residents deserved and was vital in building back the trust that had no doubt been lost.

As a supplementary question, Ms Frampton sought clarity from the Chairman that he would be proposing additional funding. In reply, the Chairman said he did not have the necessary executive power to commit this funding, but would be supportive of proposals presented to that end. Along with the Town Clerk, and in the presence of the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee and the Chairman of the Housing and Almshouses Sub-Committee, he made it clear to the Chamberlain that this was something that this had to be done. He could not at this point in time say how it would be funded, but committed to exploring the options.

Aldерwoman Liz King thanked the Chairman for agreeing to address the situation, asking if he would commit to using City's Estate Funds to mitigate the increasing pressures on the Housing Revenue Account, and if he would commit to setting out a timeline on how this would be achieved, with an update at the next Court meeting. In reply, the Chairman agreed with the need to find more innovative funding methods and that City's Estate was probably the only likely route. With regard to a timeline, he said that progress had been made through meetings and that he would report back to the Court when able.

Deputy Anne Corbett welcomed the Chairman's commitments but suggest that Members had heard this before, such as in the City Housing Strategy in 2002. She asked the Chairman how he would ensure that successors in 20 years' time would not be asking the same questions. She also reflected on the success of the focussed and clear leadership on the Barbican Estate and the subsequent review of the Barbican Estate Office which demonstrated the positive steps that the City was taking to improve its services and what it was able to achieve, asking if this model could also be applied to the City's social housing estates. She also queried whether the Chairman agreed that now was the time to set up a proper housing scrutiny committee.

Reflecting on the comment that this had all been heard before, the Chairman agreed and noted his embarrassment at being in this position. He emphasised that it would take the collective will of the Court and support from all Members to ensure that change happened this time, and confirmed that he had made clear to officers that Members wanted to ensure a robust and dedicated staffing model to support the social housing estates' needs.

With reference to the query around a dedicated Housing Committee, the Chairman noted that this had been considered as part of the Lisvane Governance Review and that any decision to re-explore this would constitute another significant piece of work. In response to a follow-up question on this issue from Mark Wheatley, seeking a commitment to bringing back a review of proposals for a Housing Committee in the next 12 months, the Chairman said that he would ask officers to explore preparing something in the next civic year.

As part of a supplementary question, Helen Fentimen, also Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, provided further context on the status of the Golden Lane Estate. She thanked the Policy Chairman for his support and commitment given to the residents on the Golden Lane Estate and more widely on the City Corporation's housing estates. There was no doubt that all these housing estates had suffered from a lack of investment, but there were very particular and difficult problems at the Golden Lane Estate which she felt were more significant and severe than those seen at some of the other estates. She confirmed her commitment and focus to provide support to the residents, and apologised for the delays, and the impact of the failure to do the high-rise registration. All buildings had now been appropriately registered. While the delay was deeply regrettable, the time had not been wasted. The original plan from March 2023 had largely focused on windows; it was now known that the Estate needed a much more comprehensive plan for investment. The programme had been revised to bring everything together into an extensive, coordinated and inclusive programme of works. Along with the Policy Chairman, she was pushing officers to produce the shortest possible timeline. She had been involved in discussions about the funding needed to deliver the programme, but this would not materialise immediately. £30m had already been allocated and was available, and the commitment to support the programme was there. Communication was key to rebuild trust and deliver the promises. Interim measures were being explored to support any urgent repairs. An Improvement Board would be established and something similar to the Barbican Residential Committee for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) tenants. She asked if the Chairman would

confirm the resources to support this activity at the soonest possible date so that the City Corporation could absolutely commit to the expedited programme.

In reply, the Chairman said that the City Corporation needed to focus on ensuring the residential reset was more than just words, through honesty, investment and delivery. In so far as the Community and Children's Services Committee was responsible for housing, the Chairman gave his absolute support. He hoped that the Committee would support the expedited 10-year programme and he would work with officers to ensure that the programme would be properly resourced. He acknowledged that the Golden Lane Estate was not the only estate requiring investment and he committed to work with the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee to provide the necessary support to deliver housing quality that the City Corporation and its residents could be proud of.

Representation in City Corporation questionnaires

Deputy John Fletcher, reflecting on the contribution of people from South and Central America and the Caribbean to the City, asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee if he would mandate the inclusion of 'Hispanic' as an option in all questionnaires generated by City Corporation departments.

Fletcher, J.,
Deputy, to the
Chairman of
the Policy and
Resources
Committee

In reply, the Chairman said he sympathised with the question, acknowledging that no-one wanted to be categorised as 'other'. The Greater London Authority (GLA) had recognised "Latin American" as an ethnic group since 2015, while the Bank of England had also added "LatinX" as an option on their questionnaires. The Chairman felt that if these organisations were able to include this community, there was no reason that the City Corporation could not. However, he noted that making this change was not a matter he could unilaterally determine. He had, therefore, asked officers to present a paper with a recommendation to the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee to pursue this option, both for outward facing surveys and internal questionnaires. This course of action would present an opportunity to consider whether there are any other groups that should also be recognised and included. The Chairman was committed to recognising the vital role that the Latin American community played in the Square Mile. The first of the City Belonging Networks, convened as part of Lord Mayor Alastair King's Mayoralty, was "Latinos in the City" - which had its launch event in partnership with London Stock Exchange Group late last year - and officers were working with them to put together a steering group and programme of events of interest to their community.

As a supplementary question, Deputy Fletcher invited the Chairman to a Latino picnic being hosted in the Ward of Portsoken. In reply, the Chairman regretted that he would be unable to attend due to being on a family holiday, but wished all attendees a wonderful time.

Munsur Ali asked the Chairman if he thought that the City Corporation needed to be more inclusive of those marking Ramadan and similar festivals. The Chairman replied to say that while he thought the City Corporation had come a long way, there might need to be some more recognition. The City Belonging networks were a good opportunity for this.

Alderman Gregory Jones asked the Chairman if he would also support the festival of Lent. The Chairman said he would seek to support all faiths.

Standing and voting in City Corporation elections

John Foley asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee why some groups of residents and workers in the Square Mile did not have the same voting rights as others.

Foley, J. to the
Chairman of
the Policy and
Resources
Committee

In reply, the Chairman said that voting rights were a matter for national government and – like all other local areas in the country – the City Corporation was bound by legislation. The law precluded the City Corporation from being allowed to give the right to stand or to vote in Common Council elections to any person who was not a British citizen, an eligible Commonwealth citizen, a citizen of the Republic of Ireland, a qualifying EU citizen or an EU citizen with retained rights.

The Chairman added, however, that the City Corporation and its Members should make sure to continue to include citizens from countries across the world who were based in the City, in the Freedom, the Livery and with the City Corporation in all their other activities.

14.

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)

(A) Markets Food Study

The Court received a report relating to the independent research into the wholesale food markets.

Resolved – That Members note the content of the report and the Markets Food Study at Appendix A.

(B) Report of Urgent Action Taken: London Councils Grant Scheme 2025/26 Levy

The Court received a report concerning action taken under urgency procedures relative to the London Councils Grant Scheme Levy.

Resolved – That the report be received and its contents noted.

15. 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:-

Legislation

Act

Enacted

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and International Committee of the Red Cross (Status) Act 2025

16 January
2025

The CPA is an unincorporated association established by Parliamentarians. The Act defines the CPA as an international organisation, a change which will facilitate the CPA to continue to operate fully across the Commonwealth and international fora. For the Red Cross, the Act confers at a UK level the privileges

and immunities applicable at an international level. This is in line with the Government's policy of assisting the Red Cross to operate in the UK in accordance with its international mandate.

Statutory Instruments

In Force

Police Act 1997 (Authorisations to Interfere with Property: Relevant Offence) Regulations 2025

23 January 2025

The amendments made by these Regulations will ensure that police and other authorised officials have the power to interfere with or use counter-unmanned aircraft equipment against an unmanned aircraft that is being used in the commission of an offence.

Deposit Scheme for Drinks Containers (England and Northern Ireland) Regulations 2025

23 January 2025

These Regulations are the first to be made under powers in the Environment Act 2021. The Regulations establish, in England and Northern Ireland, a deposit scheme for container drinks which are supplied for consumption in England or Northern Ireland. The relevant containers are single-use closed bottles and cans made from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic, steel or aluminium which contain between 150 millilitres and 3 litres of liquid. Monitoring and enforcement activities will be carried out by the Environment Agency and local authority trading standards departments, including in the City.

Retained EU Law (Revocation and Reform) Act 2023 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2025

27 February 2025

This instrument amends secondary legislation to remove references to "retained EU law" ("REUL") and replace them with "assimilated law".

The Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 (Digital Securities Sandbox) (Amendment) Regulations 2025

3 March 2025

Amends the Financial Services and Markets Act 2023 (Digital Securities Sandbox) Regulations 2023 so that the FCA and the Bank of England are the regulators of activities that are ancillary to the entities within the Digital Securities Sandbox, insofar as that ancillary activity relates to Financial Market Infrastructure (FMI). Examples of FMI include maintaining or operating a trading venue, settlement services, providing services to a business within the sandbox.

17. Resolutions The Chief Commoner spoke to express the gratitude of the Court to the following Members, who would not be seeking re-election at the forthcoming Common Council elections:

- John Absalom
- Deputy Rehana Ameer
- Sophie Fernandes
- Wendy Hyde
- Henry Jones MBE
- Frances Leach
- Deputy Natasha Lloyd-Owen
- Andrew Mayer
- Catherine McGuinness CBE
- Andrew McMurtrie JP
- Deputy Brian Mooney BEM
- Eamonn Mullally
- Ian Seaton MBE
- Shailendra Umradia
- Glen Witney

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

Resolved unanimously – that the sincere gratitude of this Court be recorded for all the colleagues mentioned.

18. Docquets for the Hospital Seal.

There were no docquets for the Hospital Seal.

19. Awards and Prizes

There was no report.

20. Exclusion of the public

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

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.

The Town Clerk informed the Court that, in accordance with Standing Order 7(3), it was the opinion of the Lord Mayor that a quorum had ceased to exist. The meeting was adjourned while the number of Members present was counted.

Having counted the number of Members present, the Town Clerk confirmed that the meeting had now become inquorate and that it would therefore be dissolved, with all remaining business adjourned to the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 3.30pm

THOMAS.