



## KING, MAYOR

# COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

25th April 2025  
MEMBERS PRESENT

### ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)  
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)  
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)  
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)  
Prem Goyal OBE (Alderman)  
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)  
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)  
Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)

Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman)  
Gregory Jones KC (Alderman & Sheriff)  
Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)  
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)  
Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)  
Dame Susan Langley, DBE (Alderwoman)  
Tim Levene (Alderman)  
Sir Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)

Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)  
Christopher Makin (Alderman)  
Bronek Masojada (Alderman)  
Sir Andrew Charles Parmley (Alderman)  
Simon Pryke (Alderman)  
Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Alderman)  
Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)

### COMMONERS

Dr. Joanna Tufuo Abeyie MBE  
Tana Adkin KC  
Munsur Ali  
Samapti Bagchi  
Shahnan Bakth  
Jamel Banda  
Brendan Barns  
Matthew Bell  
The Hon. Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn, Deputy  
Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith JP  
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy  
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy  
Leyla Boulton  
Tijs Broeke  
Simon Burrows  
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy  
Lesley Cole  
Melissa Rachel Collett  
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst, Deputy  
Bethany Coombs, Deputy  
Anne Corbett, Deputy  
Elizabeth Corrin  
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza

Karina Dostalova  
Simon Duckworth, OBE DL  
Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy  
John Ernest Edwards, Deputy  
Susan Farrington  
Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP, Deputy  
Anthony David Fitzpatrick  
John William Fletcher, Deputy  
John Foley  
Dawn Frampton  
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy  
Sarah Helen Gillinson  
Steve Goodman OBE  
Madush Gupta, Deputy  
Mercy Haggerty  
Caroline Wilma Haines, Deputy  
Josephine Hayes  
Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy  
Jaspreet Hodgson, Deputy  
Stephen Hodgson  
Adam Michael Hogg  
Ann Holmes, Deputy  
Amy Horscroft

Sandra Jenner  
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, MBE  
Florence Keelson-Anfu  
Philip Kelvin  
Helen Ladele  
Gregory Alfred Lawrence  
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP  
Vasiliki Manta  
Tessa Marchington  
Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy  
Timothy James McNally  
Wendy Mead OBE  
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy  
Sophia Mooney  
Alastair Michael Moss, Deputy  
Benjamin Daniel Murphy, Deputy  
Suzanne Ormsby KC  
Leyla Ostovar  
Fraser Stuart Peck  
Chief Commoner James Henry  
George Pollard, Deputy  
Jason Paul Pritchard  
Anett Rideg  
Gaby Robertshaw

Sushil Kumar Saluja  
Ruby Sayed  
Hugh Selka  
Oliver Sells KC, Deputy  
Dr Giles Robert Evelyn Shilson  
Alethea Silk  
Tom Sleight, Deputy  
Sir Michael Snyder, Deputy  
Naresh Hari Sonpar  
James St John Davis  
Stephanie Steeden  
Stuart Peter James Thompson  
James Michael Douglas Thomson CBE, Deputy  
James Richard Tumbridge  
William Upton KC  
Matthew Waters  
Jacqueline Roberts Webster  
Mark Raymond Peter Henry  
Delano Wheatley  
Ceri Wilkins, Deputy  
David Williams  
Philip Woodhouse  
Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy

#### 1. Introduction of Newly Elected Members

The following Members, lately elected to be of the Common Council, for the Wards mentioned, were introduced to the Court and having previously made the declaration prescribed by the Promissory Oaths Act, 1868, took their seats, viz:-

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ward</b>
Sandra Jenner	Aldersgate
Lesley Cole	Aldgate
Leyla Boulton	Bassishaw
Melissa Collett	Billingsgate
Simon Burrows	Bishopsgate
Karina Dostalova	Bishopsgate
Elizabeth Corrin	Broad Street
Tana Adkin	Castle Baynard
Deputy Bethany Coombs	Castle Baynard
Susan Farrington	Castle Baynard
Josephine Hayes	Castle Baynard
Helen Ladele	Castle Baynard
Vasiliki Manta	Castle Baynard
Leyla Ostovar	Castle Baynard
Stephanie Steeden	Castle Baynard
Philip Kelvin	Coleman Street
Sushil Saluja	Coleman Street
Tessa Marchington	Cornhill
Sarah Gillinson	Cripplegate
Mercy Haggerty	Cripplegate
Adam Hogg	Cripplegate
Gaby Robertshaw	Cripplegate
Fraser Peck	Farringdon Within
Stuart Thompson	Farringdon Without
Matthew Waters	Langbourn
Samapti Bagchi	Portsoken
Sophia Mooney	Queenhithe
Stephen Hodgson	Vintry

2. Chief  
Commoner

Pursuant to the decision of the Court of 10 October 2024, the Lord Mayor invited Deputy James Henry Pollard to take up the office of Chief Commoner for the ensuing year.

Pollard, H. J.,  
Deputy;  
Colthurst, H. N.  
A., Deputy

*Resolved unanimously* – ‘That this Honourable Court wishes to extend to

Deputy Peter Gerard Dunphy

Its sincere gratitude for the approachable, diligent and reliable manner in which he has undertaken the role of Chief Commoner for 2024/25.

Peter’s year in office has been defined by the energy and determination he has demonstrated in tackling a number of the more challenging matters faced by this Honourable Court. Peter has overseen consultation on, and the eventual implementation of, a new Members’ Code of Conduct which, for the first time, mandates training on the Code. This will be an important step towards changing culture and ways of working for the better, enhancing standards across the Corporation. This is a significant legacy which will undoubtedly benefit all Members of this Honourable Court and, indeed, future Courts. Peter has also successfully implemented a more formal approach to setting out behavioural expectations

around behaviours at City-hosted hospitality events, thereby ensuring that those on the Court can confidently lead by example. Having said all of that, the kind of example that his mini-campaign for Westmalle Dubbel beer to be served at all events sets, I'll leave to others to decide!

One of the most important functions of the Chief Commoner is to act as the foremost representative of Members in respect of their rights and privileges – i.e., ensuring that Members are supported effectively in undertaking their roles and have access to the right tools to serve their constituents and the City. We are, therefore, particularly indebted to Peter for his enthusiastic oversight and promotion of the development and launch of a comprehensive Member Induction and Refresher Plan. This has seen the delivery of significantly enhanced training opportunities for both new and returning Members, and the programme will continue to run from now until the Summer Recess in July. This programme far exceeds what we have had in place for previous years and has benefitted immensely from his own experience as a Common Councillor, his energy, and his collaborative approach.

Throughout his year, despite the many and varied commitments associated with the Chief Commoner role, Peter has not foregone his extensive committee responsibilities, regularly attending meetings not only of his own Committees, but of others, keeping his finger firmly on the pulse of the wider Court and areas of burgeoning interest, ensuring he is able to offer advice or support to colleagues as needed. The pastoral support role of the Chief Commoner is often overlooked as it's done "behind the scenes", but I know that many of us are personally deeply grateful to Peter for the many hours and thoughtful consideration he has put in to assisting individual Members with personal matters, playing a huge role in supporting the wellbeing of his colleagues on the Court. Equally, he has been robust in dealing with standards matters or disagreements between colleagues, acting firmly and fairly to resolve issues quickly, as part of his ongoing and successful efforts to drive forward ever improved standards and behaviours.

As well as work supporting colleagues, Peter has of course been involved in many high profile civic and ceremonial engagements of national importance over the past twelve months. He played an integral role in the arrangements for the State Banquet for Japan - the first Spring Banquet in a number of years at Guildhall - as well as for the Lord Mayor's Banquet and the State Banquet for Qatar held at the Mansion House.

Other highlights marking the Chief Commoner's tenure include the Holocaust Memorial Day reception, the Pikemen & Musketeers Centenary service at St Paul's and subsequent Guildhall reception with Prince Michael of Kent, and also his very own Civic Dinner Programme, through which Peter embodied the City Corporation's unique convening power by ensuring that diverse and eclectic groups of people were brought together. These themed sessions were very much inspired by the Chief's contacts and I know that he was particularly proud of his film and media themed dinner.

In taking their leave of the Chief Commoner and in thanking him formally and sincerely, his colleagues wish to express their appreciation not only to Peter, but also to his wife Jennifer, who has supported the Chief Commoner over this past

year. We thank them both for their hospitality, approachability and drive for improvement, and wish them both and their young family all good health and happiness for many years to come.

Deputy Peter Dunphy was heard in reply, expressing his thanks to the Court.

3. Apologies

The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.

4.  
Declarations

There were none.

5. Minutes

*Resolved* - That the Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

6. White  
Paper:  
Appointment of  
Committees

The Court proceeded to make the annual appointment of Committees.

Deputy Henry Colthurst asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee if that Committee would consider a change the terms of reference of the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Procurement Committee, with the effect of granting nomination rights to those Chairs appointed to the Committee. The Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee undertook to consult the Policy and Resources Committee.

*Resolved* – That the several Committees, as listed and amended, be appointed until the first meeting of the Court in April, 2026; and that the terms of reference and constitutions, with the various amendments highlighted, be also approved.

The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments:-

*Where appropriate:*

*\* Denotes a Member standing for re-appointment by the Court of Common Council.*

*#Denotes a Member who has fewer than five years' service on the Court at the time of the appointment*

*^ Denotes a Member who currently serves on the Committee as either a co-opted or external member, or in an an ex-officio capacity or as a representative of another Committee with appointment rights.*

*† denotes a Member whose primary residence is in the City.*

**(A) Policy & Resources Committee (six vacancies)**  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Deputy Emily Benn

\*Deputy Keith Bottomley

Deputy Timothy Butcher

Karina Dostalova

Simon Duckworth OBE DL

Sue Farrington

Deputy Marianne Fredericks

\*Deputy Caroline Haines

Josephine Hayes

\*Deputy Christopher Hayward

Amy Horscroft

Gregory Lawrence  
Deputy Nighat Qureshi  
\*Philip Woodhouse  
Mark Wheatley  
Irem Yerdelen

Read.

**(B) Investment Committee** (four vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

#^Shahnan Bakth  
#Deputy Timothy Butcher  
\*Simon Duckworth OBE DL  
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE  
Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP  
#^Deputy Madush Gupta  
#Stephen Hodgson  
^Deputy Henry Pollard

Read.

**(C) City of London Police Authority Board** (three vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

†^Melissa Collett  
† Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP  
Deputy Benjamin Murphy  
Sushil Saluja  
James Tumbridge

Read.

**(D) Board of Governors of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama** (five vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

†^Melissa Collett  
† Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP  
Deputy Benjamin Murphy  
Sushil Saluja  
James Tumbridge

Read.

**(E) Education Board** (four vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Deputy Anne Corbett

\*Deputy Caroline Haines

\*Alderman Robert Howard

Timothy McNally

\*Naresh Sonpar

Read.

(F) **Gresham Committee** (two vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

#Jason Groves

Shravan Joshi MBE

#Timothy McNally

#Fraser Peck

#\*Deputy Nighat Qureishi

#Sushil Saluja

Read.

(G) **Corporate Services Committee** (seven vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Simon Burrows

Lesley Cole

^Steve Goodman OBE

\*Deputy Christopher Hayward

Stephen Hodgson

Adam Hogg

Sandra Jenner

\*Timothy McNally

David Sales

\*James Tumbridge

Read.

(H) **Barbican Centre Board** (three vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Aaron D'Souza

Karina Dostalova

\*Alderman Sir William Russell

\*Irem Yerdelen

Read.

**(I) City Bridge Foundation Board** (five vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

\*Deputy Henry Colthurst  
\*Simon Duckworth OBE DL  
Deputy Henry Pollard  
Ruby Sayed  
\*Dr Giles Shilson  
\*Deputy James Thomson CBE

Read.

**(J) Livery Committee** (three vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Nick Bensted-Smith JP  
\*Deputy Keith Bottomley  
Deputy Madush Gupta  
Timothy McNally  
Deputy Henry Pollard  
Fraser Peck  
David Sales  
\*Irem Yerdelen

Read.

**(K) Audit and Risk Management Committee** (seven vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Simon Burrows  
Deputy Timothy Butcher  
Stephen Hodgson  
\*Alderwoman Elizabeth King BEM JP  
David Sales  
\*Ruby Sayed  
\*Naresh Sonpar

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Simon Burrows, Deputy Timothy Butcher, Stephen Hodgson, Alderwoman Elizabeth King BEM JP, David Sales, Ruby Sayed and Naresh Sonpar to be appointed to the Audit and Risk Management Committee.

**(L) Markets Board** (eight vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Deputy Marianne Fredericks  
\*Charles Edward Lord OBE JP  
\*Wendy Mead OBE  
\*Deputy Henry Pollard  
Jason Pritchard  
Deputy Nighat Qureishi  
Mark Wheatley

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Marianne Fredericks, Charles Edward Lord OBE JP, Wendy Mead OBE, Deputy Henry Pollard, Jason Pritchard, Deputy Nighat Qureishi and Mark Wheatley to be appointed to the Markets Board.

**(M) Digital Services Committee** (seven vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

#Simon Burrows  
#Lesley Cole  
\*James Tumbridge  
\*Deputy Dawn Wright

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Simon Burrows, Lesley Cole, James Tumbridge and Deputy Dawn Wright to be appointed to the Digital Services Committee.

**(N) Board of Governors of the City of London School** (one vacancy)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

David Sales

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared David Sales to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School.

**(O) Natural Environment Board and West Ham Park Committee** (three vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Charles Edward Lord OBE JP  
William Upton KC

Read.



Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Charles Edward Lord OBE JP and William Upton KC to be appointed to the Natural Environment Board and West Ham Park Committee.

**(P) Epping Forest & Commons Committee** (three vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Elizabeth Corrin

\*Gregory Lawrence

\*Deputy Benjamin Murphy

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Elizabeth Corrin, Gregory Lawrence and Deputy Benjamin Murphy to be appointed to the Epping Forest & Commons Committee.

Read.

**(Q) Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee** (six vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Simon Burrows

\*Wendy Mead OBE

\*William Upton KC

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Simon Burrows, Wendy Mead OBE and William Upton KC to be appointed to the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committee.

**(R) Barbican Residential Committee** (four vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

^Dawn Frampton

^Deputy Ceri Wilkins

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Dawn Frampton and Deputy Ceri Wilkins to be appointed to the Barbican Residential Committee.

**(S) Licensing Committee** (eight vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

\*Deputy Peter Dunphy  
\*Jason Pritchard  
Sushil Saluja  
\*Deputy Ceri Wilkins

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Peter Dunphy, Jason Pritchard, Sushil Saluja and Deputy Ceri Wilkins to be appointed to the Licensing Committee.

**(T) Health and Wellbeing Board** (two vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**  
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP  
Sarah Gillinson

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP and Sarah Gillinson to be appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**(U) Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee** (four vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**  
Mercy Haggerty  
\*David Sales  
Ruby Sayed

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Mercy Haggerty, David Sales and Ruby Sayed to be appointed to the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee.

**(V) Local Government Pensions Board** (one vacancy)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**  
Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderman Prem Goyal OBE JP to be appointed to the Local Government Pensions Board.

**(X) Freedom Applications Sub-Committee** (two vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Deputy Madush Gupta  
Charles Edward Lord OBE JP

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Madush Gupta and Charles Edward Lord OBE JP to be appointed to the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee.

**(Y) Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee** (two vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

#Timothy McNally  
#Sandra Jenner

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Timothy McNally and Sandra Jenner to be appointed to the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee.

Read.

**(Z) Capital Buildings Board** (three vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

\*Charles Edward Lord OBE JP  
Deputy Madush Gupta

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Charles Edward Lord OBE JP and Deputy Madush Gupta to be appointed to the Capital Buildings Board.

The Court proceeded, in accordance with Standing Order No.10, to ballot on each of the contested vacancies, including those listed at Item 7(A) and (B) on the agenda. The Lord Mayor appointed the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, or their representatives, to be the scrutineers of the ballots.

*Resolved* – That the votes be counted at the conclusion of the Court and the results printed in the Summons for the next meeting.

**7.**  
Appointments  
to Vacancies  
on Ward  
Committees

The Court proceeded to consider appointments to vacancies on Ward Committees.

**(A) Community & Children's Services Committee** (Four vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Samapti Bagchi  
Deputy Anne Corbett  
Dawn Frampton

Steve Goodman OBE  
Adam Hogg  
Jason Pritchard

Read.

**(B Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee** (Two vacancies)  
(Contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Matthew Bell  
John Foley  
Sophia Mooney

Read.

**(C) Port Health & Environment Services Committee** (Two vacancies)  
(No contest)

**Nominations received:-**

Deputy John Edwards  
Stuart Thompson

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy John Edwards and Stuart Thompson to be appointed to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee.

**8. Mayoral  
Engagements**

The Lord Mayor took the opportunity to welcome new Members to the Court and congratulate the new Chief Commoner. On behalf of the City of London Corporation, he also expressed his condolences on the news of the death of Pope Francis.

He continued to inform the Court of his recent international and domestic engagements, including visits to China and North America, hosting senior ministers at Mansion House and various civic functions.

**9. Policy  
Statement**

The Chairman of the Policy and Resources congratulated new Members and thanked the outgoing Chief Commoner. He proceeded to provide the Court with a statement on his recent and upcoming work on the City Corporation's Unique Selling Point, supporting the UK's Financial and Professional Services industries.

**10.**

**PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**(Shravan Joshi MBE)**

21 January 2025

**36 Carter Lane & 34 – 37 Bartholomew Close**

The Court considered a report proposing that two properties, 36 Carter Lane and

34-37 Bartholomew Close, be determined as no longer required to be held for the planning purposes and that they be appropriated to be held for investment purposes.

*Resolved* – That the Court:

- i) Determines that 36 Carter Lane and 34 - 37 Bartholomew Close are no longer required for the planning purposes for which they were acquired; and
- ii) Approves the appropriation of 36 Carter Lane and 34 – 37 Bartholomew Close for investment purposes.

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:

<b>Nivek Amichund</b>	a Chief Exhibitor and Chief Warden	Tower Hamlets, London
<i>David Arnold Raines</i>	<i>Citizen and Distiller</i>	
<i>Robert Stuart Alexander, OBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Distiller</i>	
<b>Hannah Mirren Anderson</b>	an Underwriter	Emlbridge, Surrey
<i>Timothy James McNally, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	
<i>David James Sales, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<b>Mayor Chimezie Anele</b>	an Arts Academy Director	Barnet, London
<i>Timothy James McNally, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Glazier</i>	
<i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i>	<i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	
<b>Tamzin Charmaine Archer</b>	a Chief Information Security Officer	Swindon, Wiltshire
<i>Ian Bishop-Laggett</i>	<i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i>	
<i>Shailendra Kumar Kantilal Umradia</i>	<i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i>	
<b>Emmanuel Andrés Artusa</b>	an Advisory Services Manager	Weybridge, Surrey
<i>Dep. James Henry George Pollard</i>	<i>Citizen and Skinner</i>	
<i>John Garbutt, JP</i>	<i>Citizen and Weaver</i>	
<b>Zoë Austin</b>	a Brand Design Lead	Islington, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy Jones, KC</i>	<i>Citizen and Leatherseller</i>	
<b>Samantha Louise Ball</b>	a Livery Company Assistant Clerk	Chelmsford, Essex
<i>Colin Anthony Hart</i>	<i>Citizen and Broderer</i>	
<i>Ajay Gupta</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<b>Alan Arthur Beacock</b>	a Reinsurance Company Managing	Wil, Switzerland

<i>David James Sales, CC</i> <i>Nicholas James Redgrove</i>	Director, retired <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<b>Michael Thomas Bowman</b> <i>Timothy Richard Coleridge</i> <i>Julian George Trecaoning</i>	a Facilities Manager <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i>	Morden, Surrey
<b>David Ronald Breakspear</b> <i>Deputy Paul Nicholas Martinelli</i> <i>Deputy Nighat Qureishi</i>	a Carer <i>Citizen and Butcher</i> <i>Citizen and Common Councilman</i>	Sevenoaks, Kent
<b>Alistair Jeremy Brew</b>  <i>Ald. Simon Tony Pryke</i> <i>Nicholas Howard Woellwarth</i>	a Fund Manager  <i>Citizen and Painter-Stainer</i> <i>Citizen and Mason</i>	Guildford, Surrey
<b>Jake Ethan Zackary Brown</b> <i>Richard Evans</i> <i>Thomas Frederick Robinson</i>	a Tutor <i>Citizen and Educator</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	Camden, London
<b>Brian Raymond Capon</b>  <i>Angela Ann Knight, CBE</i> <i>Simon Mark Hills</i>	a Banking Media Relations Assistant Director, retired <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	Bromley, London
<b>Audrius Cecetas</b> <i>Graham John Peacock</i> <i>David Ernest Bullock</i>	a Transport Manager <i>Citizen and Loriner</i> <i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	Thurrock, Essex
<b>Alesja Cohen</b>  <i>Emmanuel Isaac Hayeem Cohen</i> <i>Sasho Zahariev Kamburov</i>	an Onboarding and Compliance Manager <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	Hertfordshire
<b>Aurora Luisa Thornton Crain</b>  <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Christopher Michael</i> <i>Hayward</i>	a City Scholar  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Bloomsbury, London
<b>Paul Andrew Craycraft</b>  <i>Paul Lavery</i> <i>Wesley Gavin Harper</i>	a City of London Beadle & Toastmaster <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i> <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	Sittingbourne, Kent
<b>Duncan Gerard Edward Crole</b>  <i>Emmanuel Isaac Hayeem Cohen</i> <i>David Arthur Hopkin</i>	a Livery Company Clerk  <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	Wandsworth, London
<b>Joaquín Jesús Cruz Lamas</b>  <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Deputy Christopher Michael</i> <i>Hayward</i>	a City Scholar  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	Bloomsbury, London

<b>Hugh Owen David Cullimore</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Andrew Cumming</b>	a Systems Compliance Manager	Chislehurst, Kent
<i>Nicholas John Stretton</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<i>Patrick Edward Smith</i>	<i>Citizen and Insurer</i>	
<b>Joseph Adam Harman Dromey</b>	a Political Organisation General Secretary	Lewisham, London
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Jacqueline Dawn Eggleston</b>	Superintendent of Epping Forest	Brentwood, Essex
<i>Deputy Benjamin Daniel Murphy</i>	<i>Citizen and Common Councillor</i>	
<i>Deputy Caroline Wilma Haines</i>	<i>Citizen and Educator</i>	
<b>Scott Alexander Ewing</b>	a Solicitor	Hertfordshire
<i>Robert Brian Linton</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Michael Osborne</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
<b>Jamie Munashe Wallie Handitye</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Michael Harland</b>	a Healthcare Consultant and Patient Advocate	Berkeley, California, United States of America
<i>Kevin Malcolm Everett</i>	<i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	
<i>Richard Evans</i>	<i>Citizen and Educator</i>	
<b>Inspector Luke Nathan Harley</b>	a City of London Police Officer	Redhill, Surrey
<i>Deputy Keith David Forbes Bottomley</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Zosia Mariquita Herlihy-O'brien</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Matthew John Holland</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Kathryn Elizabeth James**

a Lived Experience Influencer

Hemel  
 Hempstead,  
 Hertfordshire

*Deputy Paul Nicholas Martinelli*  
*Deputy Nighat Qureishi*

*Citizen and Butcher*  
*Citizen and Common Councillor*

**Cassandra Tolulope Johnson**

an Accountant

Bishops  
 Stortford,  
 Hertfordshire

*Ann-Marie Jefferys*  
*Anne Elizabeth Holden*

*Citizen and Glover*  
*Citizen and Basketmaker*

**Laurence Richard Kavanagh**

a Firefighter, retired

Witham, Essex

*David James Sales, CC*  
*Timothy James McNally, CC*

*Citizen and Insurer*  
*Citizen and Glazier*

**Khin Khin Kyaw Kyee**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Georghios Kyriacou**

a Property Developer

Harpenden,  
 Hertfordshire

*Tijs Broeke, CC*  
*Nicholas Michael Bensted-Smith,*  
*JP, CC*

*Citizen and Goldsmith*  
*Citizen and Loriner*

**Jakob Manuel Langer**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Professor Deborah Anne Lawlor, CBE**

a Professor of Epidemiology

Westminster,  
 London

*Ann-Marie Jefferys*  
*Anne Elizabeth Holden*

*Citizen and Glover*  
*Citizen and Basketmaker*

**Charley Liam Light**

a Programme and Events Coordinator

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Andrew James McGowan**

a Director of Philanthropy & Alumni Relations

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Afifa Ghani McGregor**

an Entertainment Company Director

Kensington &  
 Chelsea, London



*Jonathan Martin Avern*  
*Kevin Malcolm Everett*

*Citizen and Fletcher*  
*Citizen and Fletcher*

**Kamini Harshadbhai Mehta**

a Professional Services Network Chair

Twickenham,  
 Richmond Upon  
 Thames

*Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, OBE JP*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Goldsmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Robert Steven Milne**

a Headmaster

Kingston Upon  
 Thames, London

*Ald. Robert Picton Seymour*  
*Howard*  
*Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater*  
*Russell*

*Citizen and Gardener*  
*Citizen and Haberdasher*

**Nor Shafina Mohamed Nazari**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Karen Lynn Gregg Neilinger**

a Golf Course Owner

Westminster,  
 London

*Deputy James Henry George*  
*Pollard*  
*Andrew Neil Golding*

*Citizen and Skinner*  
*Citizen and Tobacco Pipemaker*

**Alexander Alois Erich  
 Niederklapfer**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Lázaro Yendry Núñez  
 Rodríguez**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Sarala Anouk Obeyesekere**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Raj Parekh**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

**Da in Park**

a City Scholar

Bloomsbury,  
 London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor*  
*Deputy Christopher Michael*  
*Hayward*

*Citizen and Blacksmith*  
*Citizen and Pattenmaker*

<b>Erica Ellen Paterson</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Chandon Paul</b>	a Trading and Investing Entrepreneur	Tower Hamlets, London
<i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>John Donald Lunn</i>	<i>Citizen and Fan Maker</i>	
<b>Caroline Ann Persaud</b>	a College Registrar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Emma Jane Phillips</b>	a Chartered Tax Adviser	Rutland
<i>Mark John Herbage</i>	<i>Citizen and Cook</i>	
<i>Fraser Stuart Peck, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Apothecary</i>	
<b>Michael George Pinchen</b>	a House of Lords Usher, retired	Chislehurst, Kent
<i>Maxim Tudor Denzil Dissanayake</i>	<i>Citizen and Firefighter</i>	
<i>David Samuel Rogers</i>	<i>Citizen and Firefighter</i>	
<b>Thomas Benjamin Rastrick</b>	a Livery Company Beadle	Farringdon Within, City of London
<i>Howard Ian Sabin</i>	<i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	
<i>Christine Brown</i>	<i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	
<b>Duncan Richardson</b>	a Policy and Market Assistant Director	Bromley, London
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<i>Catherine Sidony McGuinness, CBE</i>	<i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	
<b>Laura Linnea Kareniina Riekkola</b>	an Events Coordinator	Redbridge, London
<i>Howard Ian Sabin</i>	<i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	
<i>Christine Brown</i>	<i>Citizen and Cutler</i>	
<b>Rachel Annabelle Riley</b>	a Television Presenter	Ealing, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Ald. The Hon. Timothy Charles Levene</i>	<i>Citizen and Carmen</i>	
<b>Mario Rizzardi</b>	a Civil Servant, retired	Ilkeston, Derbyshire
<i>Glynn Jones</i>	<i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	
<i>Joanna Mary Cadman</i>	<i>Citizen and Plaisterer</i>	
<b>Trevor James Roberts</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury,

<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	London
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Jayne Belinda Robertson-King</b>	a Hospital Trust Head of Security	Bromley, London
<i>Graham Bassett</i>	<i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	
<i>Timothy Arthur John Molden</i>	<i>Citizen and Security Professional</i>	
<b>David Michael Rodigan, MBE, OD</b>	a Broadcaster & DJ	Ealing, London
<i>Joanna Tufuo Abeyie, MBE, CC</i>	<i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i>	
<i>Deputy Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers</i>	<i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	
<b>Daniel Salnikov Botello</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Ruvani Tara Madawela Senanayake</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Jasjeet Singh Sidhu</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Jack Henry Stockdale</b>	an Investment Manager	Hammersmith & Fulham, London
<i>Piers Michael Mizen</i>	<i>Citizen and Plumber</i>	
<i>Simon James Staughton, OBE DL</i>	<i>Citizen and Brewer</i>	
<b>Noah Werner Sutter</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	
<i>Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward</i>	<i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i>	
<b>Charles Oliver Thornton</b>	a Creative Director	Lewisham, London
<i>Daphne Edwina Cave</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<i>Revd William Jeremy Hugh Crossley</i>	<i>Citizen and Glover</i>	
<b>Robert Lionel Timms</b>	a Human Resources Director, retired	West Sussex
<i>Audrey Jean Smith</i>	<i>Citizen and Glass Seller</i>	
<i>Rowena Dorothy Patrick</i>	<i>Citizen and Glass Seller</i>	
<b>James Michael Tooth</b>	a City Scholar	Bloomsbury, London
<i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i>	<i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	

*Deputy Christopher Michael Citizen and Pattenmaker  
Hayward*

**James Matthew Tudball** a City Scholar Bloomsbury,  
London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Citizen and Blacksmith  
Deputy Christopher Michael Citizen and Pattenmaker  
Hayward*

**Henk Marcel Cecile Van Hulle** a Financial Services Company Chief Executive Lambeth,  
London

*Deputy Madush Gupta Citizen and Pewterer  
Ald. Michael Raymond Mainelli Citizen and World Trader*

**Kishor Harji Vekaria** a Chartered Architect Harrow, London

*Barry Spencer Laden, MBE Citizen and Draper  
Michael Hudson Citizen and Painter Stainer*

**David John Watling** a Pension Trustee Client Services Director Surrey

*Peter Hubert William Ruddy Citizen and Bowyer  
Melvyn Stuart Davis Citizen and Bowyer*

**Michael Alexander Watson, MBE** a Boxer, retired Waltham Forest,  
London

*Deputy Marianne Bernadette Citizen and Baker  
Fredericks  
Deputy James Henry George Citizen and Skinner  
Pollard*

**Michael Trevor White** an N.H.S General Manager Buckinghamshire

*Mahmoud Saleh Barbir Citizen and Apothecary  
Farid Barakat Citizen and Loriner*

**Douglas Matthew James Wyllie** a City Scholar Bloomsbury,  
London

*The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Citizen and Blacksmith  
Deputy Christopher Michael Citizen and Pattenmaker  
Hayward*

**Henry Yu Zhang** a University Graduate Harrow,  
Middlesex

*Deputy Paul Nicholas Martinelli Citizen and Butcher  
Deputy Nighat Qureishi Citizen and Common Councilman*

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. Elections

Question  
s Alderwoman Elizabeth King, while thanking the Elections Team and all candidates for

King, E.,  
Alderman  
to the  
Chairman  
of the  
Policy  
and  
Resource  
Committee

their endeavours, noted that despite the Speak for the City campaign, the recent City-wide Common Council elections had not seen an increase in the number of candidates or in the number of contested wards, and asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to set out his plans to enhance the City Corporation's democratic legitimacy.

In reply, the Chairman joined Alderman King in thanking officers for all their hard work delivering the elections. He advised that it was usual practice to conduct a review post-Election to identify areas for improvement and confirmed that all Members would have a chance to feed into this.

The Speak for the City campaign had aimed to boost registration, complementing initiatives to engage the City's business and worker communities, including the City Belonging Project. The ward list grew by 1,416 registered voters between 2022 and 2025 – from 19,595 people to 21,011 – representing a 7.2 per cent city-wide increase, driven largely by business voters. This engagement had also sparked considerable interest in standing for election. More than 130 potential candidates attended the Speak for the City reception and 118 attended candidate briefings.

While the final number of candidates had not dropped compared to the last election, the Chairman acknowledged that the City Corporation did appear to face difficulty in converting high levels of initial interest into candidature. He felt all Members could acknowledge that seeking elected office and being an elected Member took up substantial time and work and that for many, at certain points in their lives, they reflected that it was not necessarily desirable for them to do so at that point in time. He added that, whilst the Court's non-partisan nature unquestionably brought strengths, it did mean that there was no party-political machinery directing candidates to specific wards, or ensuring candidates are fielded in every ward.

The Chairman felt that it was incumbent on all Members of the Court to make the case persuasively to the talented people they met, encouraging them to vote, to stand for election, and demonstrating to them and all the City Corporation's stakeholders the difference that they could make as a Member.

As a supplementary question, Alderman King asked the Chairman if he would commit to considering the following factors in the post-Election review: the scheduling of Committee meetings, the resources spent by businesses in registering voters, a reduction in the number of Wards or councillors, and a Citizens Assembly. The Chairman expressed his sympathy with the Alderman's position.

James St John Davis asked the Chairman if he agreed that investing in and expanding the City Belonging project and its networks would help with engagement. The Chairman said he believed engagement was a key factor in attracting more candidates.

Responding to a question from Deputy Peter Dunphy, the Chairman agreed that it would be helpful to consult those individuals who had expressed an interest in standing for election but who had, ultimately, decided not to stand..

Replying to a further question from Deputy Henry Colthurst as to whether consideration of the introduction of rolling registration could be fed in to the review. The Chairman confirmed that he would be happy for this to be included, although was unsure whether there might be additional costs associated with this.

Gaby Robertshaw asked if the Chairman agreed that there had been fantastic representation at the Speak for the City event. The Chairman agreed that it had been a

worthwhile campaign.

In response to a further supplementary question from Mark Wheatley, the Chairman agreed that it was worth considering the re-introduction of hard copy ward newsletters.

### **Cheapside Tree**

*Broeke, T., to the Chair of the Natural Environment Board*

Tijs Broeke asked the Chair of the Natural Environment Board if she could provide an update on plans to preserve the 'Cheapside Tree' and upgrade the surrounding garden.

In reply, the Chair said that preservation, conservation, sustainability and public access were key drivers in the City Corporation's Natural Environment Strategy. The tree, a London Plane on the corner of Cheapside and Wood Street in the grounds of a destroyed church (St Peter Westcheap), was believed to be the City's oldest living tree. The City Corporation looked after around 60,000 veteran and ancient trees of between 300 and 1,000 years of age across London and the Home Counties. Alongside these, the City Corporation also maintained upwards of 200 City gardens, churchyards and plazas. The St Peter Westcheap Relandscaping Project was part of the Cool Streets and Greening Programme, which aimed to create a more climate resilient and greener public realm while encouraging greater public use and accessibility. The protection of the historic Cheapside Tree was paramount alongside improving the surrounding churchyard's aesthetics and the project team had carefully considered how best to improve conditions for the tree through decreasing the amount of paving, improving the quality of the soil, introducing new planting beds and installing new fences to allow the roots more space. The project formed part of a citywide programme to ensure longevity and sustainability by developing appropriate conditions to cope with extreme climate fluctuations. Detailed designs had been approved at the end of 2024 and would be submitted to the diocese for faculty approval in Summer 2025. The Chair said that renovating heritage landscapes where faculty permissions from the Church of England were needed was complex, but construction was expected to begin in early 2026.

As a supplementary question, Mr Broeke asked if there was scope to explore funding a small research project and exhibition on history of the tree and its site. The Chair replied to say that heritage conservation and learning were vital elements of the Natural Environment strategies. The City Corporation was organizing the first International Veteran Tree Conference in three decades in June 2025, and officers were constantly developing and building their knowledge bank to explore all options to encourage and build public awareness of sustainable natural and heritage environments. Work had already taken place with the London Archives to host several successful outdoor exhibitions across the City Corporation's open spaces, and the Chair would support exploration of any project promoting the Cheapside Tree, the St Peter West Churchyard and the work of the City Gardens team.

### **English Devolution Bill**

Deputy Andrien Meyers asked the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee if he could provide the Court with further information on the impact of the English Devolution Bill on the City of Corporation.

In reply, the Chairman said that an English Devolution Bill was expected during this Parliament, but that the City Corporation would need to wait until it was published to fully understand the potential impact. The Chairman did not expect any sort of local government reorganisation within London but said that the City Corporation through its position in London Councils, of which he was a Vice Chairman, was supportive of

Meyers,  
A. Deputy,  
to the  
Chairman  
of the  
Policy &  
Resource  
s  
Committee

greater powers and responsibilities being given to London with the aim of driving growth. It was vital that this was done in a way that protected the things that were unique and special about the City of London and that any new governance arrangements were developed in agreement and partnership between London boroughs, the City Corporation and the Mayor of London.

As a supplementary question, Deputy Meyers asked what the City Corporation could do to support deprived areas of London and the United Kingdom. The Chairman said that the main way in which the City Corporation could do this was through creating the conditions for growth that provided the tax revenues to fund public services, adding that he was pleased to note that the annual economic output of the Square Mile had exceeded £100bn for the first time. As the City Corporation's annual Total Tax report set out, the wider Financial & Professional Services industries contributed more than £110bn in tax; around half of the total annual UK health expenditure. Beyond this, the City Corporation also made a major contribution to Londoners through the City Bridge Foundation, through City of London Academies Trust, the London Careers Festival, its open spaces, and through its many other activities and services.

Deputy Benjamin Murphy noted the impact of the Bill on those counties in which the City Corporation's open spaces were located, and asked the Chairman if he would join the Natural Environment Board and the City Remembrancer in following this closely and applying pressure to political colleagues across the Home Counties where necessary. The Chairman thanked Deputy Murphy for reminding the Court there would be implications for the City Corporation's open spaces and other aspects of its provisions in these areas. Noting his own experience in county council government, he undertook to liaise with the City Remembrancer to bring the necessary political pressure in the right way to protect the City Corporation and its activities beyond the Square Mile.

### **City Child and Family Centre at the Aldgate School**

Jason Pritchard asked the Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee if she would commit to retaining the City Child and Family Centre at the Aldgate School.

Pritchard,  
J., to the  
Chairman  
of the  
Community  
&  
Children's  
Services  
Committee

In reply, the Chairman said that she was extremely conscious of the local community's strength of feeling on this issue and the Community and Children's Services Committee had discussed the topic on several occasions. She continued by providing Members with further context on the Centre. The City Corporation had started to review the services it provided within the Square Mile in response to the governments launch of Family Hubs and the Start for Life programme in 2021. During 2023-24, the Committee reviewed reports on the development of a Family Hub within the City, and specifically on how it could deliver equitable and fair service across the whole of the City for all resident children. Concurrently, the Committee looked at an independently commissioned review of the services, which included consultation with relevant stakeholders. The consultees included parents at the Aldgate School. The review found that parents wanted schools across a range of geographically spread venues to ensure equity of accessibility and convenience to a greater number of families across the City. The Committee was conscious of the need to ensure a fair and equitable approach to accessing services and consequently agreed to restore the management of the Centre into an in-house provision. The Chairman emphasised that this did not mean that services would not be in a variety of locations across the City, including Aldgate School. Additionally, Members of the Committee decided in January 2025 to sustain the subsidy

of the 0-2 years childcare provision at the Aldgate School until 31 August 2026. This was done to ensure the subsidy was available to all children across the City. The Committee would consider this again at its June meeting, with the benefit of responses from an ongoing consultation concluding in May 2025.

As a supplementary question, Mr Pritchard said that while Family Hubs might make sense in larger borough, the City was small. The Centre at the Aldgate School was purpose-built and had operated successfully for over 20 years. He asked the Chairman why the City Corporation was trying to replace it with something designed for different needs. The Chairman replied to say that the proposals did not necessarily remove services from the Aldgate School and added that services were already provided in five other locations across city, including a second location, the Artizan Street Library, in Portsoken. These services were important to all families and all children across the City, and the Chairman acknowledged the high regard and respect of residents for these services. However, she also knew that families in other parts of the City could not access these services. The City Corporation was responsible for all 700 children in the Square Mile, and had to ensure services were fair and could be accessed equitably. She reiterated that there were no plans to remove services from the Aldgate School where it was appropriate for them to continue to be delivered from that location.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks noted that many services for residents in the City were located in the north of the City, and asked when similar services might be provided in the east side of the City.

*At this point in proceedings, the time limit for the putting and answering of questions, including supplementary questions, by Standing Order 13(9) was reached.*

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**

**Sanctions (EU Exit) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2025** 18 April 2025

Regulations made under the Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018 and in consequence of the Economic Crime (Transparency and Enforcement) Act 2022, to update the procedure that applies when sanctions require urgent updating. The regulations apply to all countries subject to sanctions.

**Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2025** 23 April 2025

Is retrospective and provides that, in relation to financial years falling within the period beginning on 1st April 2018 and ending on 31st March 2025, a local authority must not charge an amount to its revenue account to reflect any fluctuation in the fair value of a local authority's investment in a pooled investment fund. Instead, such amounts must be recorded in a separate account established and usable solely for that purpose. Provides additional flexibility for the accounting treatment of infrastructure



assets within a local authority's statement of accounts for financial years beginning on or before 1st April 2024.

**Environment Act 2021 (Commencement No. 10) Regulations 2025** 1 May 2025

Makes provision for a statutory condition to apply to all planning permissions granted in England, subject to a power to grant exceptions. The statutory condition is intended to ensure the biodiversity gain objective is met.

**The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment etc.) (England) Regulations 2025** 1 May 2025

Clarifies that the Community Infrastructure levy is payable consequent on planning determinations made by the Secretary of State (or appointed person). The Community Infrastructure Levy is charged on new developments and is intended to fund local infrastructure.

**Companies Act 2006 (Recognition of Third Country Qualifications and Practical Training) (Amendment) Regulations 2025** 14 May 2025

Makes numerous changes to the recognition in England of overseas auditing qualifications, including the skills and qualification of an individual, that the skills are covered by a recognised professional qualification, that the law and practice of the country or territory with respect to the audit of accounts is similar to that in the United Kingdom, and that a person seeking recognition must be approved by the body or organisation which is responsible for approving a person as being eligible under the law of that country or territory for appointment as an auditor.

The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.

Read.

**15. Ballot Results**

There were no ballots at the last Court.

**16. Resolutions**

*Pollard, J. H.,  
Deputy;  
Colthurst, H. N.  
A. Deputy*

The Chief Commoner moved that the Court express its gratitude to the following Members, who had been unsuccessful in achieving re-election, for their service:

- Randall Anderson
- Ian Bishop-Laggett
- Mary Durcan
- John Griffiths
- Michael Hudson
- Graham Packham

- Judith Pleasance
- Henrika Priest
- Alpa Raja
- Paul Singh
- Luis Tilleria

*Resolved unanimously* – That the thanks of the Court be noted for the aforementioned Members.

17. Awards  
and Prizes

There was no report.

18. Hospital  
Seal

There were no docquets to be sealed.

19. Exclusion  
of the Public

*Pollard, J. H.,  
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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, or they otherwise relate to functions of the Court of Common Council which are not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Summary of exempt items considered whilst the public were excluded:-**

20. Non-  
public minutes

The Town Clerk noted that the non-public minutes from the Court of Common Council's meeting in January had been omitted from the pack in error. The minutes would therefore be brought forward to the next meeting.

21. **CIVIC AFFAIRS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**(A) City Events programme for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29**

Members considered and approved a report concerning the programme of recurring City-hosted events.

**(B) Report of Urgent Action Taken: Applications for Hospitality**

Members received a report in respect of action taken under urgency procedures for the provision of hospitality.

22. **CITY BRIDGE FOUNDATION BOARD**

Members received a report setting out action taken under urgency procedures concerning a headlease variation.

23. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Members received a report setting out action taken under urgency procedures concerning the expansion of the City of London Academies Trust.

24. **CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
Members received a report setting out action taken under urgency procedures concerning the creation of Grade I posts.

**The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 2.39pm.**

**THOMAS.**