

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Policy & Resources	Dated: 12 th June 2025
Subject: Appointment of Lead Members (2025/26)	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes 	All Corporate Plan outcomes
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Deputy Town Clerk
Report author:	David Mendoza-Wolfson,

Summary

At its May 2025 meeting, the Policy and Resources Committee agreed to continue to the Lead Member programme for the 2025/26 year and endorsed an approach in respect of advertising and appointing to these roles.

Following advertisement for the Climate Action, Innovation & Technology, Resident Engagement, SME, Sport and Sustainable Finance Lead Member roles, Expressions of Interest (Eols) were received from 12 candidates.

These Eols were assessed by officers and subsequently reviewed by the Policy Leadership Team (the Chairman, Deputy Chair and Vice Chairs of Policy and Resources Committee), in line with the process agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee. This report sets out the recommended appointments to the Lead Member roles, in accordance with the outcomes of this process.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee endorses the appointment of the following Members for the Lead Member roles:

- Alderman Alison Gowman is appointed Lead Member for Climate Action
- Sushil Saluja is appointed Lead Member for Innovation and Technology
- Jacqui Webster is appointed Lead Member for Resident Engagement
- Shravan Joshi is appointed Lead Member for SMEs
- Edward Lord is appointed Lead Member for Sport
- Irem Yerdelen is appointed Lead Member for Sustainable Finance

and notes the changes to proposed delegations to CFIT and Innovate Finance set out in paragraph 14.

Main Report

Background

1. Lead Members were formed by the Policy and Resources Committee to support the work of the Policy Chairman, making best use of the talent available across the Court of Common Council, in July 2022.
2. In April 2024, the Policy & Resources Committee agreed to rename the roles *Lead Members* from Policy Leads and merged the Advanced Markets and High Growth Markets roles into one International Markets Lead Member position. Due to their recent appointment, a call for applications was not made for the Sustainable Finance and Climate Action Lead Member roles.
3. The Lead Members have no legal executive or decision-making power. Rather, the roles are intended to act in an advisory and facilitative capacity, strengthening collaboration between Members and Officers.

Current Position

4. As referenced above, at the May 2025 meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee, the Committee agreed:
 - a. To sunset the role of Lead Member for International Markets
 - b. to invite all Members to make an Expression of Interest for the following six Lead Members for 2025/26:
 - i. Innovation & Technology, Sport, Resident Engagement, SMEs, Climate Action and Sustainable Finance.
5. A call for Expressions of Interest was sent on 9th May, with an application deadline of 16th May.
6. Expressions of Interest were received from:
 - a. Climate Action
 - i. Alderman Alison Gowman
 - b. Innovation and Technology
 - i. Simon Burrows
 - ii. Philip Kelvin
 - iii. Melissa Collett
 - iv. Sushil Saluja
 - v. Alderman Prem Goyal
 - vi. Fraser Peck
 - c. Resident Engagement
 - i. Jacqui Webster
 - d. SMEs
 - i. Shravan Joshi
 - e. Sport
 - i. Edward Lord
 - ii. Philip Woodhouse
 - f. Sustainable Finance
 - i. Irem Yerdelen

7. Whereas the report that was agreed at the May meeting of Policy and Resources (*Lead Member Renewal (2025/26)*) stated that the previous Lead Member for Innovation and Technology would continue to represent the Policy Chairman on the Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology's (CFIT) board for the time being, this is no longer the case. Instead, Sushil Saluja has been asked to represent the Policy Chairman on the CFIT Board for the time being, in his role as Lead Member for Innovation & Technology.
8. Philip Kelvin, who applied for the role of Lead Member for Innovation & Technology has been asked to represent the Policy Chairman on the Innovate Finance Board.
9. Officers within the relevant subject departments, carried out an initial assessment of the Expressions of Interest for each Lead Member role against the criteria identified.
10. Officers that carried out the initial assessments included:
 - a. Mark Gettleson, Director of Campaigns and Engagement (Interim)
 - b. Sam Hutchings, Head of Sport Strategy & Engagement
 - c. Alexandra Leader, Head of SME Delivery
 - d. Kerstin Mathias, Regulatory Affairs Director
 - e. David Mendoza-Wolfson, Policy Advisor
 - f. Adam Summerfield, Assistant Director, UK Policy (Interim)
11. All the candidates were qualified, with at least one for each role demonstrating excellent suitability, reflecting the talent and expertise of the Court.
12. The assessments and Expressions of Interest were agreed by the Policy Leadership Team, including the Chair, Deputy Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who made the final selection.

Proposals

13. That the proposed appointments are endorsed by the Policy and Resources Committee for the Lead Member roles:
 - a. Alderman Alison Gowman is appointed Lead Member for Climate Action
 - b. Sushil Saluja is appointed Lead Member for Innovation and Technology
 - c. Jacqui Webster is appointed Lead Member for Resident Engagement
 - d. Shravan Joshi is appointed Lead Member for SMEs
 - e. Edward Lord is appointed Lead Member for Sport
 - f. Irem Yerdelen is appointed Lead Member for Sustainable Finance
14. That Sushil Saluja is asked to represent the Policy Chairman on the board of CFIT, and Philip Kelvin is asked to represent the Policy Chairman on the Innovate Finance board.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

- Strategic implications – The roles provide additional senior political representation to progress the City Corporation's Corporate Plan and strategies, particularly the Competitiveness Strategy.
- Financial implications – None

- Resource implications – None
- Legal implications - None
- Risk implications - There is always an inherent risk that, despite the individual Lead Member's best intentions, their interpretation of the Committee's wishes might not reflect accurately the majority view. However, the absence of any executive decision-making powers and the requirement for any and all Member decisions to continue to come to Committee in the usual way will mitigate against this risk and provide no greater risk than officers operating with lesser Member guidance or advice.
- Equalities implications – Under the Equality Act 2010, all public bodies have a duty to ensure that when exercising their functions they have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and to take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people and encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low. The proposals contained in this report do not have any potential negative impact on a particular group of people based on their protected characteristics and could further improve the diversity of Members in external-facing roles.
- Climate implications - The proposals included in this paper would support the delivery of the Climate Action and Sustainability programme, by keeping those Lead Member roles, through additional strategic support and focus helping to drive positive outcomes.
- Security implications - None

Conclusion

15. Members are asked to endorse the appointment of the Lead Members set out in the recommendations.

Background Paper

[Lead Member Renewal \(2025/26\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Lead Member Expressions of Interest (2025/26)

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