

## **BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD**

**Thursday, 8 May 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Barbican Centre Board held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 8 May 2025 at 10.30 am

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Alderman Sir William Russell (Chair)	Zulum Elumogo (External Member)
Tobi Ruth Adebekun (Deputy Chair)	Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons
Tijs Broeke (Deputy Chair)	Mark Page (External Member)
Munsur Ali	Anett Rideg
Stephen Bediako (External Member)	Jens Riegelsberger (External Member)
Farmida Bi (Ex-Officio Member)	Jane Roscoe (External Member)
Aaron Anthony Jose Hasan D'Souza	Irem Yerdelen

#### **Observers**

Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson  
Despina Tsatsas

#### **Officers:**

David Farnsworth	- Interim CEO, Barbican Centre
Ali Mirza	- Interim Deputy CEO & Director of People, Culture and Inclusion
Jackie Boughton	- Barbican Centre
Cornell Farrell	- Barbican Centre
Emma Green	- Barbican Centre
Toni Racklin	- Barbican Centre
Devyani Saltzman	- Barbican Centre
Eve Scott	- Barbican Centre
Philippa Simpson	- Barbican Centre
James Tringham	- Barbican Centre
Beau Vigushin	- Barbican Centre
Sarah Wall	- Barbican Centre
John Cater	- Clerk to the Board

### **1. APOLOGIES**

At the outset of the meeting, Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons was moved into the Chair for the first three Items on the Agenda.

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Asante.

### **2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

3. **ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL**

The Board received the Order of the Court of Common Council dated 25 April 2025.

4. **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**

The Board proceeded to elect a Chair in accordance with Standing Order No. 28.

Alderman Sir William Russell, as the only Member expressing their willingness to serve, was duly elected as Chair for the ensuing year.

The Chairman thanked the Board for its ongoing support, and took the opportunity to thank Deputy Randall Anderson, who had departed the Court of Common Council at the March elections. He welcomed Aaron D'Souza who had joined the Board at the April Court of Common Council.

**RESOLVED**, that – Alderman Sir William Russell be elected Chair of the Board for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRS**

The Board proceeded to elect two Deputy Chairs (elected and external) in accordance with Standing Order No. 29.

Tijs Broeke and Tobi Ruth Adebekun, as the only two Members expressing their willingness to serve, were duly elected as Deputy Chairs (elected and external) for the ensuing year.

6. **BOARD MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

7. **APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED**, that - the Board approved the compositions and Terms of References for the Finance and Risk Committee of the Barbican Centre Board and the

People, Culture and Inclusion Committee of the Barbican Centre Board and, after requesting expressions of interest, the following appointments were approved:

Finance and Risk Committee of the Barbican Centre Board for 2025/26:-

- Tijs Broeke (Chair)
- Mark Page (Deputy Chair)
- Aaron D'Souza
- Robert Glick (Barbican Trust representative)
- Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons
- Anet Rideg
- Alderman Sir William Russell

People, Culture and Inclusion Committee of the Barbican Centre Board for 2025/26:-

- Tobi Ruth Adebekun (Chair)
- Alderman Sir William Russell (Deputy Chair)
- Zulum Elumogo
- Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson (subject to Deputy Hodgson's appointment to the Board at Policy & Resources Committee on 8<sup>th</sup> May)
- Jens Riegelsberger
- Jane Roscoe
- Irem Yerdelen

In addition, the Committee noted the other appointments to the Senior Remuneration Sub-Committee for 2025/26:

- Policy & Resources Committee Chairman: Deputy Christopher Hayward
- Policy & Resources Committee Deputy Chair: Deputy James Thomson
- Finance Committee Chairman: Deputy Henry Colthurst
- General Purposes Committee of Aldermen Chairman: Alderman Sir William Russell

The Board noted that the Chair of the Board (or their nominee) will be appointed to the Digital Services Committee for the year ensuing.

The Board also approved that the frequency of Barbican Centre Board meetings, namely, a minimum of four formal meetings across the civic year, be maintained for the year ensuing.

## 8. **BARBICAN RENEWAL GOVERNANCE**

The Board considered a Joint Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre and the City Surveyor concerning the proposed governance arrangements for the

Members and officers stressed the importance of ensuring that those with the right skill sets were recruited to the Working Group and that a strong broad layer of project management expertise was built into the programme team to ensure effective delivery of Renewal. It was highlighted that the in-house project management team had been strengthened and that this team worked closely with the Corporation's PMO and the Programme's external project and cost management consultant's Gardiner & Theobald.

Officers confirmed that the proposed names of the external Members of the Working Group would be submitted to the Board to endorse.

It was clarified that whilst the Working Group would be the initial forum for discussion, in the event a major issue on the Programme arises (e.g. a contractor becoming insolvent), escalation would follow to the Board.

It was clarified that the Deputy Chair of the Board that would sit on the Group would be the elected Deputy Chair; the external Deputy Chair of the Board would be kept regularly updated as the Programme progressed.

A Member asked that the reserved areas for Policy & Resources Committee and Finance Committee were made clearer. Some issues would rest solely under the remit of Policy & Resources, and it was important that this was flagged going forward in order to avoid confusion about governance responsibilities.

It was confirmed that the Corporation's PMO office would administer the work of the Group.

**RESOLVED**, - that Noting the Court of Common Council's decision on 5 December 2024 to grant oversight of the BRP to the Barbican Centre Board (in place of the Capital Buildings Board) that the Barbican Centre Board (in its capacity as the service committee) and the Policy and Resources Committee (with responsibility for matters of significant strategic or policy implications and governance including matters relating to the creation of sub-committees), be invited to consider and approve:

1. The appointment of the City Surveyor and CEO of the Barbican Centre as joint SROs for the undertaking of the BRP.
2. That the joint SROs be granted the authority to make decisions with a cost implication of up to £5m, noting that the City Surveyor already holds signatory authority up to £15m, for the approval and signature of contracts only (in consultation with the Commercial Director), as detailed in paragraph 15.
3. The creation of a Barbican Renewal Working Group (BRWG) that will be consulted monthly, or as needed, by the SROs for scrutiny and council over the exercising of decisions within these delegations, noting that the Working Group itself would have no decision-making authority over the programme.
4. That the CEO of the Barbican Centre be authorised to confirm the role of Director of Building and Renewal as Delivery Director for the Barbican Renewal Programme. In doing so, Members are invited to note the intention to appoint the Barbican Centre's Director for Buildings and Renewal, and to agree the delegations to the Director, also outlined in paragraph 15.
5. Note that, in keeping with the decision taken by the Court of Common Council in December 2024, funds required beyond the agreed budget envelope of £231m, but within the Optimism Bias contingency of £57m, must be brought to the Policy and Resource Committee and Finance Committee for their consideration and approval before any part of it is utilised.
6. Note that, subject to approval this day, an Options Analysis on use of the Exhibition Halls is to be reviewed by Resource Allocation Sub-Committee, and Barbican Centre Board to note, before presentation to Policy and Resources Committee, and therefore excluded from the remit of the proposed BRWG.

7. Note that a 10-year business plan (in conjunction with the City of London Corporation's wider approach to culture and service provision) has been commissioned, setting out options for a sustainably funded arts and cultural offering at the Barbican Centre, supported by the tax-payer, commercial income generation, and support from the corporate sector, to be developed by no later than the 2026/27 tax year. The 10-Year Business Plan will be managed as a separate programme, and updates will not be provided through the governance arrangements outlined in this paper.

9. **CEO REPORT BY THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre comprising updates from across the Centre.

In response to a query, officers confirmed that when it came to ensuring diverse audiences were being engaged, the Centre was currently examining its data and metrics to see how these can be aligned this with the Corporation's corporate objectives.

**RESOLVED**, that – the Board noted the Report.

10. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were not questions.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other urgent public business.

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** – That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

13. **NON-PUBLIC BOARD MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

14. **NON-PUBLIC CEO REPORT OF THE BARBICAN'S DIRECTORS**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre comprising non-public updates from across the Centre.

15. **BARBICAN FIRE SAFETY PROJECT - DELEGATED AUTHORITY REQUEST**

The Board considered a Report of the City Surveyor concerning the Fire Safety Works Project.

16. **FINANCE UPDATE**

The Board received a verbal update concerning the Centre's finances.

**17. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning Development.

**18. DIRECTOR FOR ARTS AND PARTICIPATION VERBAL UPDATE**

The Board received a verbal updated from the Director for Arts and Participation.

**19. THEATRE AND DANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning Theatre and Dance programming.

**20. PROGRAMMING RISK REGISTER**

The Board received a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning Arts Programming & Business Events Risk and Ethics Registers

**21. QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

There were no non-public questions.

**22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

There was no other urgent non-public business.

**23. PEOPLE, CULTURE & INCLUSION STRATEGY**

The Board considered a Report of the Interim CEO, Barbican Centre concerning the Barbican's People, Culture & Inclusion (PCI) Strategy.

**The meeting ended at 12.50 pm**

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Chairman

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