

Motion – by Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano Wheatley

To be presented on Thursday 11th September 2025

*To the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Commons
of the City of London in Common Council assembled.*

Motion:-

1. “This Honourable Court notes that:-
 - a. The City of London Corporation has a unique and complex role in the provision, management, and oversight of housing within and beyond the Square Mile. We own and manage several housing estates both within and outside the City boundaries, and it engages with residents, stakeholders, and external agencies on a wide range of housing-related issues, including affordability, quality, and safety.
 - b. At present, these functions are divided between a number of our various Committees and Sub-Committees.
 - c. In light of the evolving nature of housing policy, the growing strategic importance of housing in the Corporation’s service delivery and reputation, and in recognition of feedback from residents and Members alike, there is increasing interest in reviewing whether a dedicated Housing Committee of the Court of Common Council should be established.
 - d. Such a committee could provide more focused oversight, strategic leadership, and accountability for the Corporation’s housing responsibilities. However, given the implications of such a structural change, this Court affirms that a period of careful consideration, consultation, and evidence-gathering is essential.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Standing Order 26(1), which requires that any new Sub-Committee or Working Party shall be subject to the approval of the Policy & Resources Committee, and Standing Order 26(2) which sets out the process of appointment for Chairs and Deputy Chairs of Sub-Committees¹ this Honourable Court consequently agrees:
 - a. To establish a task and finish Working Party to consider whether or not the Court of Common Council should create a dedicated Committee that

¹ Standing Order 1(4) states that “Working Parties of the Court and its committees are, by definition, non-decision making bodies, appointed to study and report on a particular question, making recommendations based on its findings. Whilst informal in nature, where appropriate, the conduct of business of Working Parties should be managed in accordance with these Standing Orders”

would oversee the City Corporation's housing functions that are currently under the auspices of the Community & Children's Services Committee and Barbican Residential Committee.

- b. That such a Working Party shall be composed of no more than twelve Members, to be elected by the full Common Council at the next formal meeting of the Court.
- c. That no fewer than six Members of the Working Party, shall be residents within the City of London.
- d. That the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Working Party be elected by the Working Party's membership, at its first meeting.
- e. The Working Party shall be expected to:
 - i. Call upon internal and external experts to provide evidence or advice as required.
 - ii. Use existing resource, or make resource bids (as required) via its parent committee to seek resident opinion to ensure that the voices of tenants, leaseholders, and other housing stakeholders are heard and considered diligently.
 - iii. Examine governance models in other local authorities or relevant bodies for comparative purposes.
- f. The Working Party shall report into the Policy & Resources Committee that will be required to make a recommendation back to the Court with its findings and recommendations within twelve months of first convening. The report should include:
 - i. An assessment of the current governance arrangements for all housing functions within scope.
 - ii. Analysis of the benefits and risks of creating a single dedicated Housing Committee.
 - iii. A summary of all stakeholder engagement.
 - iv. A recommendation on whether to proceed with the establishment of such a committee, and if so, proposals for its remit and structure."

Signatories to the Motion, pursuant to Standing Order 12(2) and 12(3):-

Mark Raymond Peter Henry Delano Wheatley (*Mover*)
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP (*Seconder*)
Leyla Boulton
Deputy Anne Corbett
Deputy Ann Holmes

Tessa Marchington
Timothy McNally
Gaby Robertshaw
David Sales
Deputy Ceri Wilkins