



# KING, MAYOR

## COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

24th July 2025  
MEMBERS PRESENT

### ALDERMEN

Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)	Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)	Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Professor Emma Edhem (Alderman)	Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)	Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)
Sir Peter Estlin (Alderman)	Gregory Jones KC (Alderman & Sheriff)	Simon Pryke (Alderman)
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)	Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)	Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell (Alderman)
Prem Goyal CBE (Alderman)	The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)	Kawsar Zaman (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)	Professor Michael Raymond Mainelli (Alderman)	

### COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams	Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy	Amy Horscroft	Nighat Qureishi, Deputy
Tana Adkin KC	John Ernest Edwards, Deputy	Sandra Jenner	Anett Rideg
Munsur Ali	Susan Farrington	Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, MBE	Gaby Robertshaw
Samapti Bagchi	Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP, Deputy	Florence Keelson-Anfu	Sushil Kumar Saluja
Shahnan Bakth	John William Fletcher, Deputy	Philip Kelvin	Hugh Selka
Jamel Banda	John Foley	Vasiliki Manta	Tom Sleigh, Deputy
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn, Deputy	Dawn Frampton	Tessa Marchington	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy	Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy	Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy	James St John Davis
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Deputy	Sarah Helen Gillinson	Tim McNally	Stephanie Steeden
Leyla Boulton	Steve Goodman OBE	Wendy Mead OBE	Stuart Peter James Thompson
Tijs Broeke	Jason Groves	Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy	James Michael Douglas
Simon Burrows	Madush Gupta, Deputy	Sophia Mooney	Thomson CBE, Deputy
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy	Caroline Wilma Haines, Deputy	Benjamin Daniel Murphy, Deputy	James Richard Tumbridge
Lesley Cole	Josephine Hayes	Deborah Oliver TD	William Upton KC
Melissa Rachel Collett	Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy	Suzanne Ornsby KC	Jacqueline Roberts Webster
Henry Nicholas Almroth	Jaspreet Hodgson, Deputy	Leyla Ostovar	Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
Colthurst, Deputy	Stephen Hodgson	Fraser Stuart Peck	Philip Woodhouse
Elizabeth Corrin	Adam Michael Hogg	Chief Commoner James Henry	Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy
Karina Dostalova	Ann Holmes, Deputy	George Pollard, Deputy	Irem Yerdelen
Simon Duckworth, OBE DL		Jason Paul Pritchard	

1. Apologies      The apologies of those Members unable to attend this meeting of the Court were noted.
2. Declarations      There were none.
3. Minutes      *Resolved* – That the public minutes and non-public summary of the Court meeting on 26 June 2025 are correctly recorded.

#### 4. Mayoral Engagements

The Lord Mayor welcomed visiting students from Arizona who were observing today's meeting of the Court on behalf of the London Bridge Rotary Education Foundation.

The Lord Mayor commented on the City welcoming the Lord Chancellor, The Rt Honourable Shabana Mahmood MP, the Lady Chief Justice, The Rt Honourable The Baroness Carr of Walton-on-the-Hill, and many of His Majesty's judges to the Mansion House where discussions focussed on the importance of the rule of law, and the value of legal services and expertise as one the United Kingdom's greatest exports.

The City had the honour of welcoming the President of France, His Excellency Emmanuel Macron, to a State Banquet at the Guildhall where the strength and importance of the current and historic alliance between France and the United Kingdom was celebrated.

The City hosted the Financial and Professional Services Dinner where the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave her Mansion House Speech with commitments to further reforms to regulations to savings and on how the UK welcomed international investors. The Lord Mayor highlighted the launch of the Employer's Pensions Pledge.

This week, the Lord Mayor hosted a roundtable with the Secretary of State for Defence and businesses to discuss how the financial services sector could do more to support investment in UK defence.

The Lord Mayor reported that, after the conclusion of the Court meeting, he would be travelling to South Yorkshire to visit the Homewards homelessness project of The Royal Foundation, supported by The Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Wentworth Woodhouse Restoration Project, and the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire.

#### 5. Policy Statement

The Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee took the opportunity to reflect on the extensive and productive activity undertaken by the City Corporation since the March City-wide elections and welcomed the positive impact of newly elected and returning Members. Notable recent activities had included hosting the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the Financial and Professional Services Dinner, at which His Majesty's Government confirmed the establishment of the new Office for Investment.

Separately, the City Corporation's Open Spaces have recently won global recognition, securing 15 Green Flags and 14 heritage awards for the quality of their biodiversity, cleanliness, conservation, and visitor experience. The Chairman expressed his congratulations to all those concerned.

In June, the City Corporation launched the Revealing the City's Past Project; a landmark project to reinterpret the statues of slave traders - former Lord Mayor Sir William Beckford and former Sheriff of the City and Member of Parliament, Sir John Cass in particular; a demonstration of the Court's commitment to historical accountability.

Whilst emphasising that much more hard work lay ahead across the remainder of 2025, the Chairman concluded by wishing Members a restful and enjoyable summer recess.

## Appointments

(A) **Finance Committee** (One vacancy)**Nominations received:-**

Sushil Saluja

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Sushil Saluja to be appointed to the Finance Committee.

(B) **Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School** (Six vacancies)**Nominations received:-**

Jamel Banda

Philip Woodhouse

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Jamel Banda and Philip Woodhouse to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School.

(C) **Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls** (Four vacancies)**Nominations received:-**

Deputy Emily Benn

Alderman Robert Howard

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Deputy Emily Benn and Alderman Robert Howard to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls.

(D) **Board of Governors of the City of London School** (Three vacancies)**Nominations received:-**

Shahnan Bakth

Deputy Keith Bottomley

Alderman Tim Levene

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Shahnan Bakth, Deputy Keith Bottomley, and Alderman Tim Levene to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School.

## 7. **PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Tom Sleigh)**

8 July 2025

### **Gateway 4b Proposal: Leadenhall Street Improvements – City Cluster Programme.**

The Court considered a report setting out the scheme design for improvements to Leadenhall Street, the progression of the related and required Traffic Management Orders, and the progression of the proposals, in accordance with the City Corporation's Project Procedure.

*Resolved-* that the Court:

- i. Notes the Public Consultation results, summarised in Section 4 of this Report and contained in full in the background papers.
- ii. Approves the scheme design for Leadenhall Street shown in Appendix 1 of the background papers.
- iii. Approves the progressions of the required Traffic Management Orders required for the scheme up to the end of the 'Notice of Intent' stage; and
- iv. Approves the progression of the proposals, in accordance with the Projects Procedure, noting the total estimated cost of the project (excluding risk) was Projected to be £7-8.5 million.

## 8. **POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)**

3 July 2025

### **Proposed Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Fraud and Cyber Crime Analysis Service Procurement Committee**

The Court considered a Report setting out an amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Procurement Committee.

*Resolved* – that the Court approved the changes to the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service Procurement Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in the Appendix.

## 9. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst)**

1 July 2025

### **Project Procedure/ Project, Programme, Portfolio (P3) Framework**

The Court considered a Report related to the Project, Programme, Portfolio (P3) Framework.

Introducing the Report, the Chairman of the Finance Committee welcomed the proposals and commended the work of the officers involved in delivering it. The proposals presented an opportunity to establish a simplified and proportionate governance model which engages Members at strategic points of decision-making. The Chairman emphasised the six key recommendations on page 40 but noted that

the current proposal to establish a descending tiering system (i.e. tier 0 and tier 1 considered the highest risk with the risk profile then progressively diminishing with tier 2 and tier 3) as counterintuitive.

During debate, the Chairman of the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee (PPSC) asked whether the Chairman of the Finance Committee could, in line with his introductory comments, provide assurance to the Court that the tiering system could be revised, in order that the highest risk items were assigned as the highest tier number and, conversely, the lowest risk items in the Member domain were assigned as Tier 0 and then ascend according to growing risk profile.

Given his Sub-Committee's close involvement with this work, the Chairman of PPSC also expressed his thanks to the officers involved and commended the proposals to the Court.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee indicated that he would request that the revision was made to the tiering system in advance of the formal launch of P3 in November 2025.

*Resolved* – that:

1. Approval be granted for the new P3 Framework (Appendix A), including:
  - a) Approval of the new project gateways;
  - b) Approval of the increase of delegated authority to £5m for Chief Officers;
  - c) Approval of the increase of the threshold for Court of Common Council to receive gateway submissions to £20m;
  - d) Note the increase to £250k threshold for entering the gateway process;
  - e) Approval that once a “Red” project approves a re-baselined plan with the Service Committee and Project and Procurement Sub-Committee, it can then proceed as a “Green” project;
  - f) Approval of the SRO of a project or programme to have delegated authority to draw down against the agreed costed risk profile;
2. The expansion of the use of optimism bias with the established ‘optimism bias’ reserve to be authorised by the relevant Service Committee and Finance Committee;
3. Note that the new P3 Framework will take effect at a launch event on 25th November 2025
4. Approval that further updates can be made to the P3 Framework with approval from CoL Portfolio Board with Members approving changes to the delegation levels.
5. Authorised the Chamberlain to make the necessary amendments to other documentation i.e. the City Corporation's Financial Regulations and the Procurement Code in order to align these documents with the Framework.
6. Authorised the Town Clerk to make any necessary amendments to any further City Corporation governance documents to enable the implementation of the new Projects Procedure.

## 10. Motions

**(A) By Deputy Ann Holmes**

*Holmes, A.  
Deputy; Pollard,  
J.H.G., Deputy;*

Motion – “That this Honourable Court doth hereby assent to Deputy Ann Holmes to be appointed to the Finance Committee in the room of Brendan Barns for the Ward of Farringdon Within”.

*Resolved* – That this Honourable Court resolves that Deputy Anne Holmes be appointed to the Finance Committee in the room of Brendan Barns for the Ward of Farringdon-Within.

## 11. 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>Edward Addison</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy Jones KC</i>	a Drag Performer  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Leatherseller</i>	Haringey, London
<b>Salman Shahid Ali</b> <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes JP James St John Davis, CC</i>	a Banker <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Gardener</i>	Harrow, London
<b>Gonzalo José Balta Sabogal</b>  <i>Simon Noel Ovens John Francis Purnell</i>	a Police Detective Sergeant  <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Security Professional</i>	Haywards Heath, West Sussex
<b>Md Halim Bepari</b> <i>Shahnan Bakth, CC Ald. Prem Babu Goyal CBE</i>	a Community Lawyer <i>Citizen and Draper Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Newham, London
<b>Emmanouil Bitzaros</b>  <i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa Fraser Stuart Peck, CC</i>	a Governance, Risk & Compliance Manager <i>Citizen and International Banker Citizen and Apothecary</i>	Tower Hamlets, London
<b>Mafalda Sofia Borea</b>  <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy Jones KC</i>	a U.N. Organisation Head of Partnerships <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Leatherseller</i>	Westminster, London
<b>Giulia Maria Bragagni</b>  <i>Wendy Mead OBE, CC Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy</i>	a Student  <i>Citizen and Glover Citizen and Butcher</i>	Farringdon Without, City of London
<b>Alessandro Castellan</b>  <i>Alessandro D'Amico Adeline Roche</i>	an Assistant Restaurant Manager <i>Citizen and Marketor Citizen and Marketor</i>	Haringey, London

<b>Brian Edward Conroy</b> <i>Christopher Paul Grant</i> <i>Russell Chweidan</i>	an Engineer <i>Citizen and Baker</i> <i>Citizen and Baker</i>	Kent
<b>Ekaterina Cunningham</b> <i>Jamel Banda, CC</i> <i>Ald. Robert Picton Seymour Howard</i>	a Strategy Director <i>Citizen and Poulter</i> <i>Citizen and Gardener</i>	Brent, London
<b>Jason James Dervin</b> <i>Sir Michael Bear</i> <i>Lady Barbara Anne Bear</i>	an Estate Director <i>Citizen and Pavior</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Chelmsford, Essex
<b>Tanya Du Plessis</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Dame Catherine Fiona Woolf DBE</i>	a Reception Manager <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Basildon, Essex
<b>Keith Peter Duffy</b> <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny CBE</i>	an Entertainer & Charity Fundraiser <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	County Dublin, Ireland
<b>James Paul Edwards</b> <i>Simon D'Olier Duckworth OBE, DL, CC</i> <i>Dame Catherine Fiona Woolf DBE</i>	a Local Government Official <i>Citizen and Skinner</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Waltham Forest, London
<b>Dr Giulio Garaffa</b> <i>Dr Shirin Parsno</i> <i>John Alexander Smail</i>	a Consultant Urological Surgeon <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i> <i>Citizen and Distiller</i>	Barnet, London
<b>Caroline Islay Gregory</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i>	a Hotel Owner <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i>	Inverness-Shire, Scotland
<b>Charlotte Kate Harries</b> <i>Jeffrey Peter Mallam Kelly</i> <i>David Alun Hughes</i>	a Chartered Accountant <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Bromley, London
<b>Richard John Hatton, MBE</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Robert Picton Seymour Howard</i>	a Boxing Coach <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Gardener</i>	Hyde, Greater Manchester
<b>Raphaël Herzog</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i>	a Hotel General Manager <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i>	Bristol
<b>James Richard Hiley-Jones</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i>	a Hotelier <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i>	Lymington, Hampshire

<b>Lee Antony Hodgkinson</b> <i>Ald. Michael Raymond Mainelli</i> <i>Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny</i> <i>CBE</i>	a Financial Services Executive <i>Citizen and World Trader</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Tunbridge Wells, Kent
<b>Terence Henry Holland</b> <i>Stephen David Willis</i> <i>Dr Millan Sachania</i>	an Asset Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Musician</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Bromley, London
<b>David Michael Jeyes</b> <i>Richard George Turk</i> <i>Claude Andrew Robert</i> <i>Fenemore-Jones</i>	a Building Surveyor, retired <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Daventry, Northamptonshire
<b>Thomas Patrick Lee</b> <i>Sir Michael Bear</i> <i>Lady Barbara Anne Bear</i>	a Haulage & Civil Engineering Company Director <i>Citizen and Pavior</i> <i>Citizen and Musician</i>	Watford, Hertfordshire
<b>Christopher Patrick Leonard</b> <i>Peter David Mason CBE</i> <i>Richard George Turk</i>	a Human Resources Director <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Shipwright</i>	Weybridge, Surrey
<b>Simon Eric Lester</b> <i>James Richard Tumbridge, CC</i> <i>Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy</i>	a Local Government Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Clothworker</i> <i>Citizen and Information</i> <i>Technologist</i>	Hertfordshire
<b>Daniel Philip Levy</b> <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy</i> <i>Jones KC</i>	a Football Club Chairman <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Leatherseller</i>	Hertfordshire
<b>David Charles Lowe</b> <i>Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy</i> <i>Jonathan Martin Averbs</i>	a Food Standards Agency Imports Strategy Director <i>Citizen and Draper</i> <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i>	Warwickshire
<b>Philip Anthony Enright Luce</b> <i>Dr Mahmoud Saleh Barbir</i> <i>Farid Youssef Barakat</i>	a Hospital Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i> <i>Citizen and Loriner</i>	Buckinghamshire
<b>Sidney Stanley William Machin</b> <i>Marianne Bernadette</i> <i>Fredericks, Deputy</i> <i>Simon D'Olier Duckworth OBE,</i> <i>DL, CC</i>	a Post Office Engineer, retired <i>Citizen and Baker</i> <i>Citizen and Skinner</i>	Dorset
<b>Kathryn Teresa Maile</b> <i>Rae Anthony Maile</i> <i>Michael Charles Terrell</i> <i>Prideaux</i>	a Reiki Master <i>Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker &amp;</i> <i>Tobacco Blender</i> <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i>	Wandsworth, London



<b>Gary Douglas McClarty</b> <i>Vincent Dignam</i> <i>Jacqueline O'Donovan OBE</i>	an Insurance and I.T. Company Director <i>Citizen and Carman</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Coleraine, Londonderry	County
<b>Andrew McStravick</b> <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i>	a Business Management Consultant <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i>	Burgess Hill, Sussex	West
<b>Callum Robert Newton</b> <i>Andrew Whitton</i> <i>Patrick John Marsland-Roberts, TD</i>	a Senior Research & Consultancy Associate <i>Citizen and Needlemaker</i> <i>Citizen and Carman</i>	Lambeth, London	
<b>Shaun Phillip Orton</b> <i>David James Sales, CC</i> <i>Nicholas Maxwell Lloyd Hughes</i>	an Insurance Broker <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Solicitor</i>	Leigh On Sea, Essex	
<b>Anfisa Polyushkevych</b> <i>John Alexander Smail</i> <i>Ald. Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman</i>	a Photographer <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Grocer</i>	Lambeth, London	
<b>Reverend James Scotson Radcliffe</b> <i>Ald. Sir Peter Kenneth Estlin</i> <i>Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy Jones KC</i>	a School Chaplain <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and Leatherseller</i>	Godalming, Surrey	
<b>Nitin Ramtri</b> <i>David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt</i> <i>Philippe Roland Rossiter</i>	a Hotel General Manager <i>Citizen and Innholder</i> <i>Citizen and Innholder</i>	Edinburgh, Scotland	
<b>Alessandra Romeo</b> <i>Wendy Mead OBE, CC</i> <i>Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy</i>	a Charity Co-Founder and Trustee <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Butcher</i>	Farringdon Without, City of London	
<b>Rebecca Margaret Salter</b> <i>HHJ Mark Lucraft</i> <i>Fiona Josephine Adler</i>	an Artist <i>Citizen and Founder</i> <i>Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker &amp; Tobacco Blender</i>	Haringey, London	
<b>Paul David Scutt</b> <i>Barry John Frederick Theobald-Hicks of Danbury</i> <i>John James Tunesi of Liongam, The Younger</i>	an Export Courier, retired <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i>	Kensington & Chelsea, London	

<b>Tariq Latif Sheikh</b> <i>Geoffrey Dawson</i> <i>Dr Hilary Spencer</i>	a Halal Meat Business Owner <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i>	Brent, London
<b>Paul John Sims</b> <i>Geraldine Amy Norris</i> <i>Mark Hill Abraham</i>	a Construction Company Operations Director <i>Citizen and Farrier</i> <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i>	Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire
<b>Squadron Leader Douglas Gordon Smith</b> <i>Mark Sutherland Johnson</i> <i>Wing Commander Simon Charles Meade, OBE</i>	a Royal Air Force Officer <i>Citizen and Woolman</i> <i>Citizen and Woolman</i>	Lincoln, Lincolnshire
<b>Major Alexander David James Stewart</b> <i>Christopher Desmond William McCorkell</i> <i>Edmund John Stephenson Clarke</i>	A Regular Army Officer <i>Citizen and Chartered Surveyor</i> <i>Citizen and Clothworker</i>	Easter Ross, Scotland
<b>Shruti Tripathi Chopra</b> <i>Madush Gupta, Deputy</i> <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes JP</i>	a Journalist <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i>	Chertsey, Surrey
<b>Robin Adrian Whitehouse</b> <i>Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy</i> <i>Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy</i>	an Environmental Health Manager <i>Citizen and Draper</i> <i>Citizen and Baker</i>	Enfield, London
<b>Andrew William Wilce</b> <i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa</i> <i>Jago Toner</i>	a Sacristan <i>Citizen and International Banker</i> <i>Citizen and International Banker</i>	Harrow, London
<b>Dr Linda Yi-Chuang Yueh</b> <i>Ald. Dame Susan Carol Langley OBE</i> <i>Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i>	an Economist <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> <i>Citizen and Haberdasher</i>	Wandsworth, London

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.

### The City Corporation's US Office

Deputy Nighat Qureishi asked the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee to provide an update on whether the success of the City's United States (US) office has been achieved, the plans which have been delayed, and the costs of the office? Furthermore, will the US office be providing an annual statement to the

Court?

The Chairman thanked the Member for their question and emphasised the importance and value derived from the City Corporation's permanent overseas presence which provides in-market intelligence, expertise, and advocacy for the UK's financial and professional services sector worldwide.

Turning to the US specifically, the UK's largest global trading partner, though initially focussed on New York, it was felt that the City Corporation would be best served with a presence in Washington DC, with the Managing Director's role primarily regulatory and policy orientated. This did not mean that the Managing Director would not support the trade and promotional side of the City's work in the US, it recognised that considering the evolving geo-political situation, the weight of the role will lead to Washington. The City Corporation hoped to appoint a new Director in October following a Member-led recruitment process. Given how much work remained to establish the office in the coming months, determination of its success was felt to be premature. The Chairman committed to update the Court as the appointment was made.

The activities of the international offices were reported on a quarterly basis to the Policy & Resources Committee.

As a supplementary question, Deputy Qureishi asked whether it was appropriate for the Chairman to engage with Members of the Court who had entrenched relationships both in the US and with US companies based in the Square Mile that may want to be involved in supporting the City Corporation's activities.

The Chairman affirmed that the City Corporation was always eager to use the expertise and knowledge of every Member of the Court that might want to engage on matters for which they have experience and connections. In addition, the Chairman stressed that he had no objection, in principle, for the Policy & Resources quarterly updates to be circulated to the entire Court, especially if it helped Members to better understand the opportunities in all of these locations and what we were doing to realise them for the benefit of the City of London.

Gregory Lawrence asked the Chairman whether the City Corporation would be hosting President Donald Trump during his State Visit to the United Kingdom in September.

The Chairman thanked Mr Lawrence for his question and informed him that, currently, the full details for the President's State Visit in September had yet to be decided upon.

*Collett, M. to the  
Chairman of the  
Policy &  
Resources  
Committee*

### **Tech Sector Investment – US Office**

Melissa Collett, noting that her ward of Billingsgate was now home to a growing tech sector that is continually seeking investment, especially from the US, asked the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee to explain how the City Corporation's US office would help the City's tech, innovation and space sectors get much needed access to US investors so they can grow and scale to their full potential.

The Chairman stressed the importance of technology as an integral part of the financial and professional services sector offering, both in the City and in the United States, so he would expect the Managing Director of the US office to provide that

support and resource to overseas and US investors in the tech sector.

*Fletcher, J.  
Deputy to the  
Chair of the  
Community and  
Children's  
Services  
Committee*

### **Funding for Social Housing stock**

Given that at the last meeting of this Honourable Court, a Motion debated may have inadvertently left the impression that nothing was currently being done to improve the state of some the City Corporation's social housing stock, Deputy John Fletcher asked the Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, to correct this impression for the benefit of the public, including our tenants and constituents?

He also asked whether the Committee was dealing with the problem now rather than waiting for full funding to be confirmed.

The Chair noted the significant debate at the last Court about the funding for the Ten-Year Major Works Funding for the City Corporation's housing estates; the cost estimate for the Works is £205m. For some months, the Chamberlain and colleagues in the Department for Community and Children's Services have been working incredibly hard in identifying the sources for the funding required, but at the time of last month's Court debate, Members were made aware that whilst a significant amount had been identified, there remained a shortfall of around £84m in the Housing Investment Programme.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Chair and the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee had been clear that they are committed to the delivery of this Programme and will absolutely make sure that it happens. Both the Chair and the Chairman received regular updates on the funding options to ensure that swift progress was being made and as a result she was confident that this Programme would be fully funded. Through this Programme, the City would need to fulfil its responsibility to residents and leaseholders so that they could live in decent, warm, and safe homes and restore their trust in the City of London as their landlord.

The Chair stated that she was grateful for the ongoing dialogue with the Residents' Associations and welcome their interest and involvement, specifically for Golden Lane Estate. The Chair would continue to work with members of the team and Members of the Court to address the challenge of delivering this ambitious programme. The Chair reiterated that her commitment to the Programme, that work had started and that she was confident that over the ten years of the Programme it would be funded. Additionally, she anticipated that more detail will be shared with the Court by the end of this year.

Susan Farrington asked the Chair, given what had been seen and heard from residents over the past couple of days which showed that the state of the Corporation's Social Housing, whether she agreed that the Residential Reset was a failed public relations exercise.

The Chair reiterated that it had been highlighted previously in Court and Committees that the condition of some of the City's Social Housing Estates was very poor and residents had quite legitimately made that clear to the City Corporation. Feedback had been listened to and the organisation had recognised the state of those homes and that is exactly why a £205m Programme for improvements to those homes had been secured. She would not accept that the Residential Reset was a failed public relations exercise; it was much broader than housing with a dedicated lead Member doing an enormous amount of work the to

involve residents much more broadly in the business of living in the City as well as the specific work and activities overseen by the Court of Common Council. The Chair could see significant and tangible benefits from the Reset and she proposed that briefing note on the scope and breadth of that work and resident involvement was circulated to Members of the Court for their information.

The Chairman of the Finance Committee, Deputy Henry Colthurst, asked whether the Chair was aware of the huge amount of work going on in the background in the Chamberlain's Department on these matters and that there is full confidence that we will produce a fully funded proposal by the end of this year.

The Chair responded that she was fully aware and appreciated of the hard work going on in the Chamberlain's Department and the Department for Community and Children's Services to progress this Programme which was rightly a major priority for the Members of the Court and which the City Corporation absolutely has to deliver.

Jason Pritchard asked the Chair, given her support for a Motion in 2022 to use City Estate funds to accelerate the renovation of our housing estates and her absence for a similar Motion at last month's Court, whether she still supports the principle of using City Estate funds, and whether she would still support that Motion when it returns to the Court of Common Council next year.

The Chair thanked the Member for his question. She responded that as she has served as Deputy Chair and now Chair of the Committee, she is now far more aware of the scale of the problems that we have to tackle, she is also, as a now longer serving Member of the Court more cognisant of how the City of London's finances operate and the current state of those finances. She regretted her absence from last month's Court meeting, however, had she been in attendance, she would have said and supported the amendment that all options should be considered. She reiterated that she was determined to secure the full funding envelope for this Programme.

Gregory Lawrence asked the Chair to clarify what the percentage was for the City's housing stock that was privately owned.

The Chair thanked the Member for his question and clarified that each Estate had a slightly different proportion of tenants and leaseholders but on an average basis across the entire housing stock it was roughly 50-50.

Leyla Ostovar asked the Chair whether, given the Residents' Associations for the housing estates in the City have told Members that they do not accept assurances from the City Corporation that housing renovations are in hand and that they have no confidence that it can be funded without tapping the City's Estate, she will listen to what they say.

The Chair reiterated that she fully understood that residents needed to see evidence of progress. The City Corporation was working with residents where it had major programmes of work, either in planning or in train (including the works for Golden Lane Estate, Middlesex Street Estate and Sydenham Hill Estate). In respect of Golden Lane, extensive work was already underway, at a pre-procurement stage, which was scheduled to go out formally in the spring, with building works on site in early 2027. When the contractors are in place greater detail will be visible and the plans will be made accessible to all stakeholders.

Gaby Robertshaw asked the Chair whether, given the delays produced by the

Housing Act 2024, the City Corporation could circumnavigate the Building Safety Executive and its chronic under resourcing to ensure faster delivery.

The Chair stressed that whilst she is very eager to pick the pace up across an array of housing works and officers were working hard on delivering, unfortunately, the City Corporation has no remit over, or workaround for, the delays with the processes of the Building Safety Executive.

### **City of London Police's recent inspection by HM Inspectorate**

*Gupta, M.  
Deputy to the  
Chair of the City  
of London Police  
Authority Board*

Deputy Madush Gupta highlighted that a key asset to the City of London for residents, businesses and visitors is that it had its own police service dedicated to keeping the Square Mile safe and leading the UK's fight against fraud, economic and cybercrime, and asked for an update on the outcome of the recent PEEL inspection by HM inspectorate?

The Chair was pleased to update Members of the results from the Inspection which had been published earlier in the day. The 2025 results are amongst the strongest the City of London Police had ever achieved, putting the Service amongst the top Forces across the country. It was graded outstanding for crime data integrity and received specific recognition for its work with victims of rape and serious sexual assault demonstrating an unwavering commitment to ethical crime recording and victim care. The City Police's positive outcome rate for violence against women and girls offences is now four times the national average. It is also encouraging that the City Police had been rated good for both how it investigated crime and how it responded to the public, up from an adequate rating in 2023.

This reflects clear leadership, service improvements, and targeted investments. The Chair was convinced that the results demonstrated the City Police is well on track to meet their priorities as set out in the new Policing Plan, including becoming one of the most inclusive and trusted police services in the UK; improving victim services and outcomes; delivering national leadership on fraud, economic and cybercrime; and, ultimately, making the Square Mile safer for all those who live, work, study, and visit here. The Police Authority Board would continue to support and scrutinise the City Police to ensure continued progress, and the Chair was committed to driving further improvements in City Policing. For now, the Chair expressed his congratulations to the Commissioner and all the members of the City of London Police family; this inspection truly reflects meaningful improvements and a strong foundation for future success.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks commended the successful results and asked the Chair that, given the recent spate of violent acts against persons and property in eastern areas of the City, what assurance could he give that the Police were being visible and proactive in tackling this type of crime in the eastern wards.

The Chair stressed that the City Police and the City of London's Community Safety Team were working far more closely than they had in the past to address, in particular, some of the issues around anti-social behaviour, he would however, share the feedback she had provided about her ward and speak to the dedicated ward team to see what else could be done. With phone snatching, the Chair acknowledged that this was, unfortunately, a growing trend across London, but that the Police were taking action with partners in across the City Corporation and were now providing advice to other Forces across the country on how we were taking a proactive approach in the Square Mile and the successes we were having.

13. **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****(Alderman Prem Goyal)**

14 July 2025

**Annual Report**

The Court received the Audit and Risk Management Committee's 2024/25 Annual Report.

*Resolved* – that the Court noted the Report.

14. **REPORT FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

19 June 2025

**Finding of Maladministration (Ombudsman Case ID – 24001090) - Emergency Support Scheme**

The Court received a Report of the City Corporation's Monitoring Officer concerning a finding of Maladministration by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.

A Member challenged why the City Corporation was not reviewing whether the London Borough that oversaw the Emergency Support Scheme (ESS) on behalf of the City, was still the right provider, given the serious nature of the contents of the Report.

As the ESS fell under the remit of the Finance Committee, the Chairman of the Finance Committee responded confirming that he would respond to the Member in writing after the meeting.

*Resolved* – that the Court noted the Report.

15. 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:-

**Parliamentary Acts****In Force****Data (Use and Access) Act 2024**19<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Clarifies and updates existing data protection regulations in the UK so as to provide a more consistent approach with current EU legislation, while also giving organisations the ability to automate certain decision making processes. Updates the keeping and maintenance of registers of births and deaths; establishes the Information Commission.

**Statutory Instruments****In Force****The Companies Authorised to Register, Unregistered Companies and Overseas Companies (Application of Company Law) Regulations 2025**30<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Requires that directors and people with significant control of UK companies verify their identities with the registrar of companies before they can be registered, so as to reduce the potential for economic crime through UK corporate structures. The Regulations come into force only when sections of the sections of the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency Act 2023 come fully into force (no date announced).

**The Marking of Retail Goods Regulations 2025**1<sup>st</sup> July 2025

Provides the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs the power to require by notice that 'not for EU' labelling be placed on certain retail goods in Great Britain, in order to safeguard the supply of goods to Northern Ireland. If labelling is required, then the goods within the scope of the notice must be individually labelled as 'not for EU' – and local authorities (including the City of London) are granted the power to enforce this through means of inspection, seizure, and the issuance of penalties up to £2,500.

**The Licensing Act 2003 (UEFA Women's European Football Championship Licensing Hours) Order 2025**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Enables licenced premises to have the option of staying open an additional 2 hours (until 1am) on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> of July, but only if England or Wales women's football team are playing in the semi-finals of the Women's Euro 2025 tournament of that day.

**The Terrorism Act 2000 (Proscribed Organisations) (Amendment) Order 2025**5<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Classifies three new organisations, including the group known as Palestine Action, as proscribed terror organisations under the Terrorism Act 2000. Creates a criminal offence to belong or profess to belong to such a group.

**The Health and Care Act 2022 (Commencement No. 10 and Transitional and Saving Provision) Regulations 2025**7<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Authorises the Secretary of State or NHS England to issue information standards to individual public bodies which provide certain healthcare services (including the City of London in its capacity as a provider of adult social care or of health care



relating to physical or mental health). Also enables the Secretary of State to require such bodies to provide evidence of compliance with such standards.

**The Allocation of Housing (Qualification Criteria for Victims of Domestic Abuse and Care Leavers) (England) Regulations 2025** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Enables local housing authorities to move victims of domestic abuse into alternative accommodation.

**The Criminal Justice Act 1988 (Offensive Weapons) (Amendment, Surrender and Compensation) (England and Wales) Order 2025** 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025

Amends the list of offensive weapons in the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to include the type of blade often referred to as a 'ninja sword' as an offensive weapon. It will be illegal to import, manufacture, sell or possess such a weapon – and provides that a surrender scheme is available to those who currently possess such blades.

Read.

16. Ballot  
Results

There were no ballots taken at the last Court.

17.  
Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

18. Awards  
and Prizes

There was no Report.

19. Hospital  
Seal

There were no docquets to be sealed.

20. Exclusion  
of the public

*Pollard, J.H.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 2 and 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.

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

21. Non-Public  
Minutes

*Resolved* – That the non-public minutes of the Court held on 26 June 2025 are correctly recorded.

22.

**Policy & Resources Committee**

The Court considered a joint report of the Policy & Resources and Finance Committee relating to works at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

**The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.05 pm.**

**THOMAS.**