

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Thursday, 3 July 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 3 July 2025 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)
Deputy James Thomson CBE (Deputy Chair)
Tijs Broeke (Vice-Chair)
Deputy Caroline Haines (Vice-Chair)
Munsur Ali
Shahnan Bakth (Ex-Officio Member)
Brendan Barns (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Emily Benn
Deputy Keith Bottomley
Deputy Peter Dunphy (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP
Steve Goodman OBE
Jason Groves
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson
Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE
Florence Keelson-Anfu (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Paul Martinelli
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Deputy Benjamin Murphy
Deputy Henry Pollard (Ex-Officio Member)
Alderman Sir William Russell
James Tumbridge
Irem Yerdelen

In Attendance

Members:

Deputy Madush Gupta

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE	-	Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Gregory Moore	-	Deputy Town Clerk
Caroline Al-Beyerty	-	The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Wilkinson	-	City Surveyor
Paul Wright	-	Remembrancer
Damian Nussbaum	-	Director of Innovation & Growth
Judith Finlay	-	Executive Director, Community and Children's Services

Phil Black	- Chamberlain's Department
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Chris Bonner	- City Surveyor's Department
Peta Caine	- Community and Children's Services Department
Bridget O'Dwyer	- Community and Children's Services Department
Andrew Impey	- Environment Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Emily Benn, Deputy Henry Colthurst, Deputy Ann Holmes, Deputy Tom Sleight and Philip Woodhouse.

Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson observed the meeting virtually

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

There were no additional declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

a) To agree the public minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 12 June 2025 were approved as a correct record.

Matters arising

The Chairman noted the Committee's appointment to the Audit and Risk Management Committee had been advertised twice without attracting any interest from Members. After confirming that no Members wished to represent the Committee on the Committee, he said that the appointment would be left vacant and suggested that it would be helpful for the Audit and Risk Management Committee to consider this element of its composition as part of its annual Terms of Reference review. At a Member's suggestion, he undertook whether to consider if the vacancy could be advertised to the wider Court.

b) To note the draft public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025

The public minutes and non-public summary of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025 were noted.

4. **FRAUD AND CYBER CRIME REPORTING AND ANALYSIS SERVICE PROCUREMENT COMMITTEE - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning Committee composition.

RESOLVED: That Members agree to recommend to the Court of Common Council to alter the Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service

Procurement Committee's Terms of Reference to include the addition of a nominee for each Committee that is represented in the membership.

5. PAN LONDON SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director for Community and Children's Services concerning a commissioning role for the City of London Corporation.

A Member noted that there were specific areas in the City where substance misuse was more of a problem and asked what the most effective way to communicate with these areas. In reply, officers said that this could be done through the Director of Public Health and their team and undertook to share further information outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the City of London Corporation to continue a lead commissioner role of the Pan London Substance Misuse Programme which will include commissioning of an Inpatient Detoxification and Stabilisation (IPD) Framework (via one lead provider) to support a wider cohort of those needing help with substance misuse post 2025/26.

6. CAPITAL FUNDING UPDATE

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning funding for capital projects.

RESOLVED: That Members

- i. After reviewing the schemes summarised in Table 1 and, particularly in the context of the current financial climate, confirm their continued essential priority for release of funding at this time and accordingly:
- ii. Agree the release of up to £2.05m for the schemes progressing to the next Gateway in Table 1 from City Fund £1.91m (£0.75m from OSPR and £0.78m from CIL) and £0.14m for City Estate.

7. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director for Community and Children's Services concerning the Housing Investment Programme.

Introducing the report, the Chairman repeated his comments made at the Court of Common Council meeting on 26 June 2025 that the Housing Investment Programme was a priority for the City Corporation.

The Chairman acknowledged that, at £205million over a 10-year window, the Housing Investment Programme came at a considerable financial cost. However, he said that it was only this large because the City Corporation had historically underinvested in these estates; he felt it was long-past time to make these commitments for residents. He assured Members that the financial outlay would not be immediate or required in one tranche, but phased along with the programme. The commitment for the first five-years of the programme had been made, and the Chairman and other senior Members had recently met with officers to discuss how to procure the remaining funds.

Looking forward, the Chairman informed the Committee that he had asked the Town Clerk to commission a viability assessment of the City Corporation's current estates, identifying the scope for intensification and delivery of new

units. He would continue to chair regular update meetings with officers, which would also include the Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Chair of the Investment Committee, the Deputy Chair of the Police & Resources Committee and the Lead Member for Resident Engagement.

During discussion, Members noted that it was important to also consider the needs of residents who lived in non-City Corporation housing, such as the Mansell Street Estate which was administered by the Guinness Trust. The Chairman agreed with these comments and said he felt there was scope to develop these sites, in partnership with the Guinness Trust and third-party stakeholders.

A Member, also the Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee, emphasised the importance of improved communications with residents to strengthen the relationship with the City Corporation. She had not been present for the motion on housing at the June Court of Common Council meeting, but, having reviewed the meeting, thought that there was some confusion amongst Members on the scope and legal framework of the Housing Revenue Account. She had accordingly arranged an all-Member briefing on this topic to help Members understand the possibilities. She also said that the Community and Children's Services department was focusing on the compliance issue and had a clear action plan. She also drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 22 of the report, which demonstrated that the size and scale of the improvement programme required substantial additional resources in management capacity.

A Member asked if it would be possible to establish a Working Party to develop communications with residents. The Chairman said he would discuss the topic with the Housing Group.

Several Members discussed methods to expedite the Programme, with one Member noting the complexities caused by the Golden Lane Estate's listed status and asking if it was worth considering de-listing the Estate so that the improvements could be progressed more quickly and efficiently. While supportive of this proposal, others said that even working within the listed status a more pragmatic approach was required. The Executive Director of Community and Children's Services said she could explore delisting but warned that it might cause challenges leading to further delays.

A Member noted that paragraph 14 of the report set out the funding sources. While the information presented was factually correct, there were several funding options being explored. This was confirmed by the Executive Director of Community and Children's Services. The Deputy Chairman also requested that officers return with a timeline on initial views of funding following the summer recess. In terms of financial modelling, the Chamberlain said that she would get the first indication on the outcomes of the Fair Funding Review and transitional relief around September. The final local government settlement would be available in November.

Members asked that the terminology in reports clarify that the focus was on social housing, as the City Corporation was involved in housing in several other areas. They asked that officers return with a paper providing a holistic look at the role the City Corporation played in social housing beyond the HRA. and that

the required fund was expenditure rather than investment. The Chamberlain confirmed that the programme did not count as an investment as would be handled by the Investment Committee.

The Chairman concluded the discussion by saying that the Programme required a commitment going well into the future.

RESOLVED: That Members:

- Note the identified shortfall in capital and revenue funding
- Note the progress on the Golden Lane investment Programme and the establishment of a Golden Lane Advisory Board to support that work.

8. **FINDING OF MALADMINISTRATION (OMBUDSMAN CASE ID - 24001090) - EMERGENCY SUPPORT SCHEME**

The Committee received a joint report of the Chamberlain and the City Solicitor concerning the delivery of the Emergency Support Scheme.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

9. **RESIDENTIAL RESET UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Chief Strategy Officer concerning the City Corporation's residential engagement programme.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

10. **SUPPORT FOR UK-BASED FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - INNOVATION AND GROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth providing an update on the impact of work done to support the UK-based Financial and Professional Services between April 2025 and June 2025.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

11. **REVENUE OUTTURN - 2024/25**

The Committee received a joint report of the Deputy Town Clerk, the Executive Director of Innovation & Growth, the City Remembrancer, the Chief Strategy Officer, the Executive Director of Environment and the Chamberlain concerning the revenue outturn for services overseen by the Committee.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

12. **NEW PROJECT PROCEDURE / P3 FRAMEWORK**

The Committee received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the City Corporation's Project Procedure.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

13. **POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

Members received a report of the Chamberlain concerning the Committees funds.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and its contents noted.

14. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions.

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

There was no other business.

16. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(A) 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 I of the Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

17. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

a) To agree the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 12 June were approved as a correct record.

b) To note the draft non-public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025

The draft non-public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025 were noted.

18. **FINANCIAL SERVICES INVESTMENT HUB/CONCIERGE SERVICE**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Innovation & Growth, concerning proposals to establish an Investment Hub.

19. **THE ANNEXE, SMITHFIELD, EC1 – DISPOSAL**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning the disposal of a leasehold interest.

20. **BASTION HOUSE STRIP OUT**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning Bastion House.

21. **GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DRAMA CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2025 - 2030**

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning the progression of the Guildhall School of Music & Drama's Cyclical Works Programme.

22. **GLOBAL RISK SUMMIT 2026**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Innovation & Growth providing information on the City of London Corporation's planned approach to the Global Risk Summit 2026.

23. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no questions in the non-public session.

24. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.**

There was one item of urgent business in the non-public session.

25. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES**

a) To agree the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2025 were approved as a correct record in the non-public section.

b) To note the confidential minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025

The draft confidential minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 29 May 2025 were noted in the non-public session.

The meeting ended at 3.26 pm

Chairman

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