

## **PORT HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 22 July 2025**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Port Health & Environmental Services Committee  
held at the Guildhall EC2 at 11.00 am**

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Deputy Peter Dunphy (Chairman)	Helen Ladele
George Abrahams (Deputy Chairman)	Antony Manchester
Deputy Timothy Butcher	Vasiliki Manta
Simon Burrows	Deborah Oliver
Deputy John Edwards	Fraser Peck
John Foley	Deputy Henry Pollard
Dawn Frampton	Jason Pritchard
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	Sushil Saluja
Mercy Haggerty	Stuart Thompson
Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson	Alderman Kawsar Zaman
Alderman Robert Hughes-Penney	

#### **Officers:**

Jenny Pitcairn	- Chamberlain's Department
Frank Marchione	- Principal Lawyer
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department
Ian Hughes	- Environment
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director, Environment
Joanne Hill	- Environment Department
Alexander Anrude	- Environment Department
Joanne Purkiss	- Environment Department
Steve Playle	- Environment Department
Graham Holmes	- Environment Department
Susie Pritchard	- Environment Department
Ellie Robles	- Chamberlain's
Joanna Leyden	- Environment Department
Thomas Hodgkiss	- City Surveyor's
Joseph Smith	- Corporate Strategy & Performance
Joe Kingston	- Environment Department
Blair Stringman	- Town Clerk's Department

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Caroline Haines, Deputy Christopher Boden and Hugh Selka.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That, subject to a correction concerning Deputy Marianne Fredericks appointment to Thames21, the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

4. **APPOINTMENTS TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Committee heard the Town Clerk concerning the various appointments that were outstanding from the last Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That Members,

- a) Appoint Mercy Haggerty to the Local Plans Sub-Committee
- b) Appoint Deputy Timothy Butcher to the Projects & Procurement Sub-Committee
- c) Appoint a Member to the Cross River Partnership at its next meeting
- d) Confirmed Deputy Marianne Fredericks appointment to Thames21
- e) Appoint the Deputy Chairman, George Abrahams, to the Crime & Disorder Scrutiny Committee

5. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2024/25**

The Committee received a joint report of The Chamberlain and Executive Director, Environment concerning the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Committee in 2024/25 with the budget for the year.

The Committee noted an overall overspend of £2.605 million. Of this, £1.27 million was under the Executive Director of Environment's local risk budget. This included a £246,000 operational underspend and a reduced drawdown from reserves, which contributed to the overspend. Remaining overspends were due to recharges offset by Finance Committee underspends.

Questions were raised on waste income (from Veolia), third-party waste disposal (sent to Belvedere), and cemetery income, which varies based on the type of grave purchased. Public convenience overspends were due to business rates on mothballed facilities, no longer exempt. A detailed report on this will follow in October.

Clarification was given on capital overspends being technical accounting entries with no cash impact. Grave vault construction costs are being recovered through sales, with strong early uptake.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

6. **TRADING STANDARDS TEAM UPDATE**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning an update from the Trading Standards Team.

Members were provided an overview of the team's work over the past six months. Officers highlighted several key initiatives:

- **Operation Broadway:** This initiative targets investment fraud and involves collaboration with agencies such as the City of London Police, the Financial Conduct Authority, HMRC, and others. Meetings are held fortnightly, and the relationship with the City of London Police is strong, with officers now seeking advice from Trading Standards. The team uses its powers of entry to disrupt fraudulent operations, particularly boiler rooms targeting vulnerable consumers. A current trend in investment fraud involves the sale of art.
- **Vape Legislation Enforcement:** Following the single-use vape ban effective from 1 June, the team has conducted inspections across the city. While most traders comply, some illegal products have been found and dealt with. Upcoming legislation will ban child-appealing flavours and designs and introduce a licensing regime for premises selling tobacco and vapes.
- **Online Platform Monitoring:** The team has been active in monitoring third-party sellers on platforms such as Temu, TikTok, and Amazon. Issues have arisen around product safety, especially concerning cosmetics, electrical goods, toys, and PPE. Many businesses involved are based in the city. Current legislation is inadequate, but a bill is progressing through Parliament. The team is working with the Office of Product Safety and Standards to advocate for consumer protection.

The Chairman asked about contraband tobacco and cigarettes being sold through fronts such as barber shops. Officers responded that while this is a known issue elsewhere, it has not been prevalent in the City of London. Previous operations using sniffer dogs have not uncovered such activity, likely due to the unique nature of the city.

A Member thanked the team for their report, noting their effectiveness despite being small in size. They raised concerns about scam texts targeting vulnerable individuals, particularly regarding winter fuel payments. They asked whether the department issues warnings on the city's website. Officers acknowledged the importance of this and mentioned the national scams team's efforts. They agreed that further collaboration with the communications team could enhance public awareness.

A Member raised two issues:

- **Snus Products:** These nicotine patches have reportedly caused harm to children. They asked whether Trading Standards could take action. Officers replied that inspections are conducted quarterly with experts from Hackney Trading Standards. Snus products have not been found in the city, possibly due to the lack of nearby educational establishments. The team remains vigilant during inspections.
- **Food Hygiene Ratings:** They also questioned why establishments are not legally required to display their ratings. Officers explained that while it is not mandatory, the team is lobbying the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to change this. A recent survey conducted by a Trading Standards apprentice has been

submitted to the FSA as evidence. The issue is being raised with London food groups to push for mandatory display across the UK.

The Chairman agreed that the lack of mandatory display is problematic, allowing substandard establishments to avoid scrutiny.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

7. **AIR QUALITY ANNUAL STATUS REPORT FOR 2024**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning the Air Quality Annual Status Report for 2024.

The following points were noted:

- **Engine Idling Concerns:** A Member raised concerns about idling engines near hotels, particularly affecting residents at night. Officers acknowledged the issue and explained that while 24/7 enforcement is limited, Street Environment Officers (SEOs) are trained to engage directly with drivers and businesses.
- **Beech Street Pollution Levels:** A Member highlighted that although pollution levels have decreased, Beech Street still shows high readings. Officers clarified that while national targets are met, the City aims to align with stricter WHO guidelines. The Committee also noted the need for better promotion of the new air quality web tool at the Barbican Library.
- **Idling Enforcement and Signage:** A Member suggested improved coordination of road closures, clearer signage for idling offences, and reviewing enforcement incentives. Officers responded that while enforcement is challenging, efforts are ongoing to improve engagement and signage visibility. Temporary signage campaigns, such as those used outside Guildhall, were cited as effective.
- **Monitoring and Short-Term Spikes:** A Member commended improvements near Aldgate School and requested targeted monitoring in other areas like Mansell Street. Officers confirmed that monitoring locations are reviewed annually and explained the difference between high-resolution and monthly average monitoring. They noted that short-term spikes are considered when planning mitigation.
- **Red Routes and Public Realm Impact:** A Member queried the City's influence over pollution on TfL-managed red routes and the impact of public realm schemes like Old Bailey. Officers confirmed ongoing dialogue with TfL and that before-and-after monitoring is in place for such projects. They also addressed concerns about tube vent emissions, noting that recent monitoring did not detect significant particulate matter.
- **Air Quality Targets and Indoor Monitoring:** Officers stated that the City aims to reduce nitrogen dioxide levels to 30 µg/m<sup>3</sup> by 2030, below the national standard of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. In response to A Members question, Officers outlined a joint project with Hackney to educate residents on indoor air quality, focusing on everyday activities that may contribute to indoor pollution.

- **Community Heating Potential:** A Member briefly mentioned the potential of using underground air shafts for communal heating, referencing past exploration in Gibson Square and the ongoing fossil fuel use in the Citigen project.

**RESOLVED** – That, the report be noted.

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

There were no questions.

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

There was no urgent business.

**10. 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.

**11. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** – That, the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2025 be agreed as a correct record.

**12. DISPOSAL OF FORMER PORT HEALTH DOCK OFFICES AT TILBURY DOCKS**

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment in relation to the disposal of the former Port Health Dock Offices at Tilbury Docks.

**13. EXTENSION OF WASTE COLLECTION, STREET CLEANSING AND ANCILLARY SERVICES CONTRACT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment in relation to the extension of waste collection, street cleansing and ancillary services contract.

**14. CONTINUATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE CONTRACT**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning continuation of waste management service contract, Cory.

**15. NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no non-public questions.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERED URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

There was no urgent business.

**The meeting closed at 12.07 pm**

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Chairman

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