

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 9.15 am

Present

Members:

Deputy Tom Sleight (Chair)	Alderwoman Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP
Shravan Joshi MBE (Deputy Chair)	Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP
Tana Adkin	Sophia Mooney
Samapti Bagchi	Deborah Oliver
Matthew Bell	Deputy Henry Pollard
Deputy John Edwards	Alderman Simon Pryke
Deputy Marianne Fredericks	Deputy Nighat Qureishi
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE	Robertshaw
Alderman Prem Goyal CBE	Hugh Selka
Deputy Madush Gupta	Naresh Hari Sonpar
Josephine Hayes	Matthew Waters
Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson	Jacqui Webster
Philip Kelvin	

Officers:

Kate Alexander Newton	- Environment Department
Chris Elliot	- Environment Department
Michael Folayan	- Environment Department
Fleur Francis	- Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Joanne Grimley	- Environment Department
David Horkan	- Environment Department
Samuel James	- Environment Department
Georgina McBirney	- Environment Department
Kieran McCallum	- Environment Department
Rob McNicol	- Environment Department
Rachel Pye	- Environment Department
Gwyn Richards	- Planning and Development Director, Environment Department
Fiona Williams	- Environment Department
Peter Wilson	- Environment Department
Callum Southern	- Town Clerk's Department
Judith Dignum	- Town Clerk's Department

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Members back from the recess and expressed thanks to those who had attended the site visits relating to items on this agenda and the first in a series of Member training sessions. He highlighted that invitations would soon be sent for future sessions and he encouraged Members to attend if possible.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Anthony Fitzpatrick, Amy Horscroft, Anthony Manchester, Tim McNally and William Upton.

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

Marianne Fredericks declared an interest in Agenda Item 7 (Review of Public Parking Provision at Minorities Car Park) in that she was a user of the Car Park – Minute 7 below refers. The item was considered during the non-public part of the meeting.

3. CITY FUND HIGHWAY DECLARATION: 60 QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, EC4N 4TR

The Committee received a report of the City Surveyor and Executive Director Property seeking approval to declare as surplus to highway requirements a parcel of airspace City Fund highway land located at the entrance of 60 Queen Victoria Street, EC4N 4TR. The land measured approximately 187.7 sq ft (17.44 sq m). The declaration would enable disposal of the land in support of the permitted development at the site. This involved the expansion of the building's entrance at ground and first floor levels on the south-western corner of 60 Queen Victoria Street, for which planning permission was granted on 27 December 2023.

A Member asked whether the proposed changes to the building's entrance took sufficient account of public access issues. Officers advised that such matters would have been considered during the granting of planning permission in 2023 and were not a valid concern in relation to the issue currently before the Committee. However, a fairly large proportion of the land would remain available for access upon completion of the development.

Resolved: That Members-

1. Declare a parcel of City Fund highway land, measuring 187/7 sq ft (17.44 sq m) and situated at the entrance of 60 Queen Victoria Street, EC4N 4TR, surplus to highway requirements to facilitate its disposal on terms to be approved under the City Surveyor's Delegated Authority.

4. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Alderman Alison Gowman had given notice of the following two questions, in the context of the aspiration within the City Transport Strategy, echoed within the emerging City Plan 2040, to increase the use of the River Thames for freight.

1. As the PLA's net zero vision for the Thames is driving towards electric only vessels, the City is lacking any electrical infrastructure to which to connect. ... We need to have this capacity if we are to make full use of the River. What steps are we taking to build this and the related grid capacity?
2. Like many rivers the oversight is complicated and confusing (maybe even conflicting) and our own Corporation structure does not help. Oversight is split between committees and separate departments. Should we not now bring these strands together in some internal working group or oversight panel in order to ensure that the River frontage is properly used and enhanced? For example, the works at Bazalgette Pier, Walbrook Wharf future use, upgrading Blackfriars Pier and the reinstatement of Swan Lane that will happen now or in the future. All these need to be driven through with cohesion, purpose and impact. An oversight panel is essential.

Officers responded as follows:

- Officers confirmed the aspiration within the Transport Strategy to increase the use of the River for freight. It was noted that the Corporation was a member of the Thames Estuary Growth Board, which formed part of the structure designed to manage the diverse interests involved with the River.

A description was given of the ongoing discussions taking place in the context of the Transport Strategy on both the potential to increase use of the River for light freight and the provision of charging facilities. Effective relationships had been built with key River users, including Thames Clipper, and engagement on both sides was facilitating progress, for example concerning opportunities for developing light freight coming into the Square Mile. Additionally, Thames Clipper, having a current agreement to use the piers and wharves to the south of the River, were keen to expand this to the north. The Corporation would welcome discussions with Thames Clipper and TfL on this, noting the involvement of TfL with commercial partners, suggesting that the project was seen as viable.

Concerning charging facilities, the complexity of the issue was acknowledged. However, departments within the Corporation were united in their willingness to see progress and the Environment and City

Surveyors departments were investigating opportunities for charging facilities along the riverside. Ongoing discussions were taking place with Thames Clipper, from whom further information on specifications had been requested, and a meeting was due to take place soon.

Finally, when opportunities arose, work was being done to identify opportunities which may arise in the medium term. Officers referred to a detailed piece of work carried out recently to assess the suitability of Walbrook Wharf Waste Transfer Station for additional use. Although the possibility of using the Wharf to land light freight had proved to be commercially unviable at present, the position was likely to change in future as the technology matured. It had therefore been agreed to review the position in five years.

Commenting on the planning aspect of the question, Officers referred to the policies relevant to the River which existed in the emerging City Plan, and to a Supplementary Planning Document and Planning Advice Note in the course of development. All of these were designed to encourage use of the River for freight purposes and would be used as part of the process to determine relevant planning applications.

In response to two further questions, Officers advised that they had confidence in the adequacy of riverside safety provision following a recent audit carried out in conjunction with the City Bridge Foundation and a wider review of the arrangements for inspection and maintenance. The equipment was inspected regularly and the Corporation continued to engage with charities, including the RNLI and the Samaritans, to ensure that the type of provision matched current requirements.

Concerning the need to address the pollution of the River caused by food and beverage detritus, Officers undertook to raise this with Cleansing and seek engagement with the businesses located on the riverside. The situation may also be alleviated in future due to the existence of a longer-term plan to review the height of the river wall for reasons of flood defence.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There were no items of urgent business.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business 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.

7. REVIEW OF PUBLIC PARKING PROVISION AT MINORIES CAR PARK

8. The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director Environment and the City Surveyor concerning Minories car park.

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

Questions were raised concerning two issues.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 10.06am.

Chairman

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