GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF ALDERMEN
Tuesday, 14 October 2025

Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Tuesday, 14 October 2025 at 10.00 am

Present

Members:
Alderman Sir Charles Bowman (Deputy Chairman, in the Chair)
Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley
Alderman Sir Peter Estlin
Alderman Vincent Keaveny CBE
Alderman Alison Gowman CBE
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Alderman Robert Howard
Alderman Gregory Jones KC
Alderman Prem Goyal CBE
Alderman Professor Emma Edhem
Alderman & Sheriff Robert Hughes-Penney
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Alderman Alexander Barr
Alderman Tim Levene
Alderwoman Martha Grekos
Alderman Simon Pryke
Alderwoman Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE	-	Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Greg Moore	-	Deputy Town Clerk
Polly Dunn	-	Assistant Town Clerk
Gemma Stokley	-	Town Clerk's Department
Rhiannon Leary	-	Executive Officer to the Court of Aldermen
Caroline Al-Beyerty	-	The Chamberlain
Victoria Nelson	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Wright	-	Remembrancer
James Edwards	-	Remembrancer’s Department
Caroline Jack	-	Executive Director, Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor
Damian Nussbaum	-	Executive Director of Innovation & Growth
Daniel O'Byrne	-	Innovation Director
Tim Rolph	-	The Swordbearer and Programme Manager

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Sir William Russell (Chairman), Alderman Sir Nicholas Lyons, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, Alderwoman Dame Susan Langley, DBE, Alderman Christopher Makin, Alderwoman Jennette Newman and Alderman Kawsar Zaman.

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

There were no declarations.

3. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR**

Following the resignation of Alderman Sir Charles Bowman as Deputy Chairman as announced at the last meeting and, in accordance with Standing Orders No.14 and 16, the Committee elected a Deputy Chairman for the remainder of the 2025/26mc civic year.

RESOLVED: – That, as the only Alderman in nomination, Alderman Vincent Keaveny, CBE be elected as Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen for the remainder of the 2025/26 civic year.

Alderman Sir Charles Bowman reported that, in the absence of the Chairman, he would continue in this capacity for the remainder of the public agenda before handing over to the new Deputy Chairman to preside over the non-public and confidential items of business.

4. **MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 16 September 2025.

RESOLVED: - That the minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 16 September 2025 be approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Chairman’s Congratulatory Remarks

The Committee were informed that Alderman Vincent Keaveny had recently received a special award for ‘outstanding contribution to social mobility’ at the UK Social Mobility Awards held just a fortnight ago and, later this week, would be in Ireland to receive one of this year’s Tip O’Neill Awards for the Irish diaspora. The Chairman reported that the awards are named in honour of the Irish-American politician who served as Speaker of the US House of Representatives from 1977 to 1987 and honour members of the Irish diaspora who have made a significant contribution to their community. Huge congratulations on both very well-deserved accolades Vincent!

The Chairman went on to offer congratulations to Alderman Emma Edhem on her appointment as a Judge and Advisor to the Board of the Global Space Awards.

5. **APPOINTMENTS:**
RESOLVED: - That the Committee:

(1) approve the appointment of Alderman Christopher Makin to The Committee of Aldermen to administer the Sir William Coxen Trust Fund for a second three-year term expiring in September 2028; and

(2) note the request for an Alderman to stand for the vacancy as Governor of the City of London Freemen's School Board which will arise in February 2026 in the room of Alderman Christopher Makin.

6. **SUPPORT FOR UK-BASED FINANCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE - INNOVATION AND GROWTH QUARTERLY REPORT**
The Committee received a report of the Executive Director for Innovation and Growth presenting the impact of the City of London Corporation's work in support of UK-based Financial and Professional Services between July 2025 and September 2025 and providing Members with visibility of the outcomes of workstreams in the last quarter in the Innovation and Growth Department, working in close collaboration with Corporate Affairs, Media, the Remembrancer's Office, the Office of the Policy Chairman and Mansion House.

The Executive Director spoke to highlight some of the key points within the report. He highlighted that the work that his department had been focusing on had emerged from the Vision for Economic Growth document and that this Summer's Mansion House speech had drawn out a number of the areas that had been announced and delivered in partnership with government over the past few years. Such areas of work included the Investment Hub, further work around the Mansion House Accord, the Employers Pension Pledge, FinTech scale up and a Skills Compact with a particular focus on AI.

Speaking further on the Investment Hub, it was highlighted that this would be a public/private partnership, looking to ensure not only resource from government but also the presence of regulators and legal firms/consultancies in order to target the correct kind of investment and ensure a seamless, professional and globally competitive process for those seeking to invest here. This would be formally launched imminently and office space within the Guildhall had now been made for the staff supporting this service.

The Chair suggested that there would be benefit in inviting the new Investment Hub leadership team to attend a future meeting of this Committee following its launch.

An Alderman queried progress around recruitment for a Managing Director for the US Office. The Executive Director reported that a Member-led recruitment process was already underway and it was hoped that a final appointment would be made in the coming months.

Another Alderman spoke on the Mansion House Compact and the Mansion House Accord and queried what further engagement around these was planned for the new Lady Mayor and others. The Executive Director reported that they were monitoring from a baseline alongside the ABI to review progress and that the second update on the Compact was due to be published in a few weeks' time. Close work was also being undertaken alongside Government, particularly on pension funds. A whole programme of work with the British Business Bank was also planned around bringing together institutional investors with various opportunities. It was reported that the incoming Lady Mayor was keen to push this further and faster.

The Deputy Chairman spoke on Sustainable Finance and asked the Director to comment further on this. The Director commented that the level of ambition and flow of capital in this space was very high. He spoke on the Transition Finance Council, a service which I&G provided the secretariat for and reported that they had been working at pace to put in place a series of building blocks to provide an indication of what the framework in this space should look like. This important policy work would ensure that the UK and the City could benefit from this from the outset.

In response to a question, Officers stated that they were soon set to review the Competitiveness Strategy

The Chairman spoke on the importance of the strategic communications around this work. The Director agreed on this point and underlined that more work was being done in this respect.

RESOLVED: - That Members note the update on key pieces of work that have taken place between July 2025 and September 2025, and their outputs

7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
   There were no questions.

8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
   There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration.

9. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
   RESOLVED - That, in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Disclosure Arrangement (Standing Order 25), the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen have determined, having had due regard to the Disclosure Arrangement, that disclosure should not be permitted.

10. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES**
    The Committee considered and approved the non-public minutes of the last meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen held on 16 September 2025.

11. **BUDGET REVIEW UPDATE 2025-26**
The Committee considered and approved a report of the Chamberlain updating Members on the work carried out in 2025-26 to review and reset the budgets relevant to the Mayoralty, Shrievalty and Mansion House.

12. **THE MAYORAL AND SHRIEVAL FLEET**
The Committee considered a joint report of the Town Clerk and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor & Executive Director Mansion House relative to the future of the fleet of vehicles used in support of the Mayoralty and Shrievalty.

13. **LIVERY LIASION SCHEME**
At the request of the Magistracy & Livery Sub-Committee, the Committee took the opportunity to discuss the operation of and current allocations under the existing Livery Liaison Scheme.

14. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no questions in non-public session.

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
Items concerning the new Mayoral logo and Lord Mayor's Show Merchandise were discussed.

16. **APPOINTMENT OF A SENIOR PRIVATE SECRETARY & CITY MARSHAL**
The Committee considered and approved a confidential report of the Executive Director and Private Secretary to the Lord Mayor summarising the process for recruiting and appointing a new Senior Private Secretary & City Marshal at Mansion House and proposing a preferred candidate to be presented to the General Purposes Committee for formal approval.

The meeting ended at 11.52 am

Chairman

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