



KING, MAYOR COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

9th October 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT

ALDERMEN

Alexander Robertson Martin Barr (Alderman)
Sir Charles Edward Beck Bowman (Alderman)
Alison Gowman CBE (Alderman)
Prem Goyal CBE (Alderman)
Martha Grekos (Alderwoman)
Timothy Russell Hailes (Alderman)

Robert Picton Seymour Howard (Alderman)
Robert Charles Hughes-Penney (Alderman & Sheriff)
Gregory Jones KC (Alderman)
Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)
The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)
Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)

Sir Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons (Alderman)
Tim Levene (Alderman)
Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Jennette Rachel Newman (Alderwoman)
Simon Pryke (Alderman)

COMMONERS

Tana Adkin KC
Munsur Ali
Shahnah Bakth
Brendan Barns
Matthew Bell
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn, Deputy
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Sheriff & Deputy
Leyla Boulton
Tijs Broeke
Simon Burrows
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy
Dominic Gerard Christian
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst, Deputy
Bethany Coombs, Deputy
Anne Corbett, Deputy
Karina Dostalova

Simon Duckworth, OBE DL
Peter Gerard Dunphy, Deputy
John Ernest Edwards, Deputy
Susan Farrington
Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP, Deputy
Anthony David Fitzpatrick
John Foley
Dawn Frampton
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy
Sarah Helen Gillinson
Steve Goodman OBE
Jason Groves
Madush Gupta, Deputy
Mercy Haggerty
Caroline Wilma Haines, Deputy
Josephine Hayes
Jaspreet Hodgson, Deputy

Stephen Hodgson
Adam Hogg
Ann Holmes, Deputy
Amy Horscroft
Sandra Jenner
Shravan Jashvantrai Joshi, MBE
Gregory Alfred Lawrence
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP
Antony Geoffrey Manchester
Vasiliki Manta
Tessa Marchington
Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy
Tim McNally
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy
Sophia Mooney
Deborah Oliver TD, Deputy
Suzanne Ornsby KC
Leyla Ostovar

Fraser Stuart Peck
Chief Commoner James Henry
George Pollard, Deputy
Nighat Qureishi, Deputy
Anett Rideg
Sushil Kumar Saluja
Hugh Selka
Tom Sleigh, Deputy
James St John Davis
Stephanie Steeden
James Michael Douglas Thomson CBE, Deputy
James Richard Tumbridge
William Upton KC
Matthew Waters
Jacqueline Webster
Mark Raymond Peter Henry
Delano Wheatley
Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
Philip Woodhouse
Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy

Sheriff
Pollard, J. H. G,
Deputy; Colthurst,
H. N. A., Deputy.

Resolved unanimously – That Deputy Keith Bottomley, one of the Sheriffs of the City, be invited to take his seat on the Dais.

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 11th September 2025 are correctly recorded.

4. Election of
Chief Commoner
for 2026/27
The Court proceeded to elect a Chief Commoner for 2026/27.
Two valid nominations had been received in accordance with Standing Order No. 18, namely, those of Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP and Philip Woodhouse.

The Court therefore proceeded, in accordance with Standing Order No.10, to ballot.

The Lord Mayor requested the Chief Commoner and the Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee, to be the scrutineers of the ballot.

After the votes had been counted, the results were as follows:-

Lord, C.E. - 39 votes
Woodhouse, P. - 57 votes
Spoilt - 2 votes

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Philip Woodhouse to be elected to the office of Chief Commoner for 2026/27.

Philip Woodhouse spoke to thank Honourable Members for their support.

5. Draft vote of
thanks to the
Lord Mayor
Deputy Caroline Haines, for the Ward of Queenhithe, read the draft terms of a vote of thanks to the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, which was intended to be moved formally at the next meeting of the Court.

The Lord Mayor was heard in reply.

6. Letter
A letter of the Lady Mayor Elect, declaring her assent to take upon herself the Office of Lady Mayor, was laid before the Court.

7. Mayoral
Engagements
The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor reported on his recent engagements, which included hosting the annual Innovation and Technology Dinner and attending at the State Banquet in honour of President Trump. He had made overseas visits to China, Singapore, Japan, and Vietnam and a domestic trip to Edinburgh, and, to coincide with Black History Month, an event at Guildhall to launch the tenth City Belonging Network, Black in the Square Mile.

In the upcoming weeks, the Lord Mayor would be attending the Regional Investment Summit in Birmingham, hosting the annual Defence and Security Lecture and the annual City Regulators' Dinner before flying to the Gulf and Indonesia for his final overseas engagements as Lord Mayor.

8. Policy
Statement
In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee took the opportunity to make a statement, updating the Court on the Chairman's trip to India and various Party conferences over the past month.

The Deputy Chairman clarified the arrangements for the regular City Question Time events and emphasised that these were intended for residents of the City; he has asked officers to ensure that, going forward, the rules around attendance are clear and robust.

The Deputy Chairman welcomed several spouses of Ambassadors and High Commissioners to the United Kingdom who were attending today's Court from the public gallery.

The Deputy Chairman concluded by thanking the Lord Mayor for his huge efforts and congratulating him on his many successes during his term in office.

9.
Appointments

The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments.

(A) **Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School** (one vacancy for a three-year term expiring in July 2028).

Nomination(s) received:-

Tessa Marchington

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Tessa Marchington to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London Freeman's School.

(B) **Housing Governance Working Party** (eight Members)

Nomination(s) received:-

Matthew Bell
Nick Bensted-Smith
Deputy John Fletcher
Mercy Haggerty
Stephen Hodgson
Adam Hogg
Sandra Jenner
Charles Edward Lord
James Tumbridge
Jacqui Webster
Mark Wheatley
Deputy Ceri Wilkins

Read.

(C) **Board of Governors of the London Museum** (two vacancies for four-year terms expiring in December 2029)

Nomination(s) received:-

Alderman Gregory Jones
Deputy Paul Martinelli

Read.

Whereupon the Lord Mayor declared Alderman Gregory Jones and Deputy Paul Martinelli to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the London Museum

The Court proceeded, in accordance with Standing Order No.10, to ballot on the contested vacancies listed at Item 9(A) on the agenda. The Lord Mayor appointed the Chief Commoner and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, or their representatives, to be the scrutineers of the ballots.

Resolved – That the votes be counted at the conclusion of the Court and the results printed in the Summons for the next meeting.

10. POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

(Deputy Christopher Hayward)

18 September 2025

a) Scheme of Delegations – Managing Director of City Bridge Foundation.

The Court considered a Report concerning revisions to the Court of Common Council's Officer Scheme of Delegations for the City of London Corporation, specifically to the introductory Overall Delegations to Officers section and the section in respect of the Managing Director of City Bridge Foundation (CBF).

Resolved- that the Court:

- i. Approve the proposed amendments to the Overall Delegations to Officers and Managing Director of CBF sections of the Scheme of Delegations for recommendation to the Court of Common Council for approval;
- ii. Approve the proposed amendment to the Chamberlain & Chief Financial Officer section of the Scheme of Delegations for recommendation to the Court of Common Council for approval; and
- iii. Authorise the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee, to agree any consequential amendments to the entries in respect of other Chief Officers, where these are required to give effect to the proposed amendments and/or impact on the Managing Director of CBF post.

18 September 2025

b) Investment Governance update

The Court considered a Report concerning amendments to the Standing Orders to raise the financial thresholds for leasehold transactions for Investment Properties.

Resolved- that the Court:

- Amend the thresholds for investment property transactions in Standing Orders as set out at paragraphs 4 and in Appendix 1.
- Authorise the Town Clerk to make the necessary amendment to the Scheme of Delegation to Officers to give effect to these changed thresholds.

18 September 2025

c) Annual Report of the Panel of Independent Persons

The Court received a Report concerning activity undertaken by the Panel of Independent Persons in relation to both Complaints received under the Members' Code of Conduct and applications for dispensation since May 2024.

Resolved – that the Court notes the Report.

11.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

(Deputy Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst)

16 September 2025

Get Britain Working Trailblazer – Full Potential – Novation to the City of London Corporation

The Court considered a Report concerning the City of London Corporation's role as contracting authority on behalf of Central London Forward (CLF).

Resolved – that the Court:

- Approves novation of the agreement between the GLA and the London Borough of Camden, and the agreements between the London Borough of Camden and the other CLF member authorities in relation to this Programme.
- Approves the acceptance of funding from the GLA and/or the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for an extension of and growth within the 'Full Potential' Get Britain Working Trailblazer programme, up to a total value of £15m for delivery between April 2026 and March 2029, and endorsement of the subsequently required contractual amendments or variations.
- Approves novation of the agreement between the London Borough of Camden and the Learning and Work Institute for the evaluation of this programme, and the extension of that agreement to cover the extended programme period, to March 2029.
- Delegates authority to the Chamberlain and Executive Director, Innovation and Growth, with support from the Comptroller & City Solicitor's Department to finalise and enter into the relevant contractual information.

12. 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:

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| Professor Salma Yasmin Abbasi | a Science & Technology Company Founder | Westminster, London |
| <i>David James Sales, CC</i> | <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> | |
| <i>Nicholas James Redgrove</i> | <i>Citizen and Insurer</i> | |

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| Alison Elisabeth Maria Thaddea Abensperg Und Traun | a Homemaker | Gross Schweinbath, Austria |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |

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| Count Benedikt Andreas Abensperg Und Traun <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | an Entrepreneur <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen</i> | Gross Schweinbarth, Austria |
| Chian Tat Ah Teck <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | an Investment Company Chairman <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen</i> | Westminster, London |
| Dr Ibrahim Saad Ibrahim Abdulaziz Almojel <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | a Holding Company Founder & Partner <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen</i> | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia |
| Alexander Henry Fenwick Armstrong <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy Jones, KC</i> | a Television & Radio Presenter <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Leatherseller</i> | Oxford, Oxfordshire |
| Dawn Ann Bartlett <i>Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell</i> | a Project Manager <i>Citizen and Baker Citizen and Haberdasher</i> | Cambridgeshire |
| Andrew Philip Bates <i>Robert Maurice Andrews Jeffrey Richard Lewis</i> | an Insurance Broker <i>Citizen and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawer Citizen and International Banker</i> | Uxbridge, Ontario, Canada |
| Brian John Bishop <i>Kristen James Cottier David John Parkins</i> | a Business Analyst, retired <i>Citizen and Spectacle Maker Citizen and Spectacle Maker</i> | Bexley, London |
| Daniel Moran Bricken <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | a Food Company Director <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen</i> | Hammersmith & Fulham, London |
| Gail Campbell <i>Nigel Morris Berman Yvonne Charlotte Margaret Morrissey</i> | an Investment Bank Director, retired <i>Citizen and Loriner Citizen and Barber</i> | Kensington & Chelsea, London |
| David Howarth Chapman <i>Rafael Steinmetz Leffa Jago Toner</i> | a Programme Director <i>Citizen and International Banker Citizen and International Banker</i> | Southampton, Hampshire |

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| John Gordon Cluff, OBE DL | a Mining Company Chairman | Dover, Kent |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |
| His Excellency Vikram Kumar Doraiswami | a Diplomat | Westminster, London |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy</i> | <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> | |
| Her Excellency Hélène Julia Émilie Caroline Duchêne | <i>a Diplomat</i> | Kensington & Chelsea, London |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy</i> | <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> | |
| Alexandre Rodrigues Frota | a Jewellery Company Chief Executive | Westminster, London |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |
| Reverend Paul Arthur Gismondi | a Clerk in Holy Orders | Norfolk |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |
| Sarah Kate Gosling | a Charity Chief Executive | Grantham, Lincolnshire |
| <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> | <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> | |
| <i>Madush Gupta, CC</i> | <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> | |
| Alexandra Lilian Hovius-Náray | a Student | Budapest, Hungary |
| <i>Matthew Richard Hovious</i> | <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> | |
| <i>Nigel Paul Harding</i> | <i>Citizen and Scrivener</i> | |
| Andrew Howard | a Lecturer and Jewellery Consultant | Stourbridge, West Midlands |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |
| Harjeev Singh Kandhari | an Entrepreneur | Haringey, London |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |
| Professor Sir Nasser David Khalili | a Scholar, Art Collector & Philanthropist | Westminster, London |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |
| Emily Georgia Knight | a Jeweller | Warwickshire |
| <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> | <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> | |
| <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | <i>Citizen</i> | |

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| The Revd Timothy John Nicholas L'estrange <i>Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward</i> <i>Matthew Damian Hampson</i> | a Clerk in Holy Orders <i>Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> <i>Citizen and Information Technologist</i> | Ealing, London |
| Tik Pong Martin Man <i>Craig Stuart Philip Harding</i> <i>Richard Gary Stephen Miller</i> | a Wireless Solutions Company Managing Director <i>Citizen and Constructor</i> <i>Citizen and Glover</i> | Bristol |
| Ramsey Neal Mankarious <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Sophia Abigail Mooney, CC</i> | a Hotel Investor <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen</i> | Camden, London |
| Major Michael McCarthy, MBE <i>Colonel (retd) James William Denny, MBE</i> <i>Michael John Dudding, OBE, TD</i> | a Civil Servant <i>Citizen and Fletcher</i> <i>Citizen and Chartered Secretary & Administrator</i> | Bedfordshire |
| Kevin Douglas McOwan <i>Ann-Marie Jefferys</i> <i>Anne Elizabeth Holden</i> | a Property Sales Manager, retired <i>Citizen and Glover</i> <i>Citizen and Basketmaker</i> | Dorking, Surrey |
| Figen Ayse Murray, OBE <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Russell Penny</i> | a Campaigner <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Security Professional</i> | Cheshire |
| Samantha Christina Orozco <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, CBE</i> <i>Samapti Bagchi, CC</i> | a Capital Markets Executive Director <i>Citizen and Goldsmith</i> <i>Citizen</i> | Wandsworth, London |
| Michael James Phllis <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor</i> <i>Ald. Sheriff Gregory Percy Jones, KC</i> | a Barrister <i>Citizen and Blacksmith</i> <i>Citizen and Leatherseller</i> | Lambeth, London |
| Isobel Lily Potter <i>John Alexander Smail</i> <i>Dr Shirin Parsno</i> | a Lifeguard <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i> | Loughborough, Leicestershire |
| David Andrew Prashner <i>James Michael Douglas Thomson, CBE, Deputy</i> <i>Ald. Elizabeth Anne King, BEM, JP</i> | a City of London Police Officer, retired <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> <i>Citizen</i> | Epping Forest, Essex |
| Michael Stuart Rayner | a Bank Senior Integrator | Dorset |

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| <i>Madush Gupta, Deputy Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> | <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Pewterer</i> | |
| Sir Arthur Gareth Ludovic Emrys Rhys Williams, CB <i>Jeremy Mark Fox Peter James Bottomley</i> | a Transport Company Chairman <i>Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker Citizen and Draper</i> | Hammersmith & Fulham, London |
| Sébastien Rousseau <i>Paul Victor Holmes Mark Robert Jason Eyles- Thomas</i> | a Banker <i>Citizen and Security Professional Citizen and Security Professional</i> | Barnet, London |
| Kalle Juhani Salminen <i>Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, CBE Vladislav Dobrokhотов</i> | an Entrepreneur <i>Citizen and Goldsmith Citizen and Marketor</i> | Helsinki, Finland |
| Lord Sarfraz of Kensington Aamer Ahmad Sarfraz <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy</i> | a Peer of the Realm <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Pattenmaker</i> | Kensington & Chelsea, London |
| Olu Shonubi <i>Peter John Neal Patrick John Carroll</i> | a Film & Documentary Writer <i>Citizen and Plaisterer Citizen and Plaisterer</i> | Hackney, London |
| John Edward Taylor <i>Colin Trevor Gurnett John Charles Jordan</i> | an Electrician, retired <i>Citizen and Wheelwright Citizen and Glover</i> | Loughton, Essex |
| Dr Paul Alexander Taylor <i>Madush Gupta, Deputy Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> | a Software Development Company Chief Executive <i>Citizen and Pewterer Citizen and Pewterer</i> | Weybridge, Surrey |
| Lieutenant-Colonel Sir James Michael Vernon, KCVO <i>The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor James Henry George Pollard, Deputy</i> | Lord Chamberlain's Office's Comptroller, retired <i>Citizen and Blacksmith Citizen and Skinner</i> | Duns, Berwickshire |
| Helen Mary Robertson Waldron <i>John Alexander Smail Dr Shirin Parsno</i> | a Teacher, retired <i>Citizen and Distiller Citizen and Apothecary</i> | Loughborough, Leicestershire |
| Lucy Jennifer Robertson Waldron | a Student | Loughborough, Leicestershire |

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| <i>John Alexander Smail</i> | <i>Citizen and Distiller</i> | |
| <i>Dr Shirin Parsno</i> | <i>Citizen and Apothecary</i> | |
| Paul Douglas Whitehead | a Knowledge of London Examiner, retired | Bexley, London |
| <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> | <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> | |
| <i>James Michael Douglas Thomson, CBE, Deputy</i> | <i>Citizen and Grocer</i> | |
| Daniel Bryan Wilkinson- Horsfield | a Property Operations Director | Salisbury, Wiltshire |
| <i>Hannah Siobhan Moxon</i> | <i>Citizen and Wheelwright</i> | |
| <i>Gerald Michael Edwards</i> | <i>Citizen and Fruiterer</i> | |
| Harriet Vanessa Elizabeth Winters | a Banking Product Owner | Lambeth, London |
| <i>Madush Gupta, Deputy</i> | <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> | |
| <i>Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP</i> | <i>Citizen and Pewterer</i> | |

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.

13. Motions

(A) By Deputy Ann Holmes

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

Resolved - That Matthew Bell be appointed to the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee for the Ward of Farringdon Within, in the room of Florence Keelson-Anfu.

(B) By Deputy John Edwards

*Edwards, J. E.;
Pollard, J. H. G.,
Deputy*

Resolved - that David Williams be appointed to Planning & Transportation Committee for the Ward of Farringdon Within, in the room of Matthew Bell.

(C) By Deputy Henry Colthurst

*Colthurst, H. N.
A., Deputy.;
Pollard, J. H. G.,
Deputy*

Resolved - that the Ward of Lime Street twin its representation on Planning & Transportation Committee with the Ward of Langbourn, in lieu of the representation of Anthony Fitzpatrick who is stepping down from the Committee.

(D) By Leyla Boulton

Motion -

"That This Honourable Court notes that:-

"Given: That everywhere else in the United Kingdom, rolling electoral registers allow new electors to be added monthly, ensuring registers remain up to date and inclusive;

That the City of London is the only place in the country where this system does not apply, with the electoral register updated only once a year;

That a lack of rolling registers means that any number of new constituents can be disenfranchised and any number who have left a ward can still vote there, undermining democracy;

That an unnecessary bureaucratic burden is imposed on businesses, which must draw up new voter lists every year instead of simply adding and removing voters as the need arises; and

That the electoral services department already maintains a rolling register for residents as part of its obligations for parliamentary elections.

This Honourable Court resolves:-

To instruct officers to bring forward a report to the Policy & Resources Committee setting out the necessary steps to achieve legislative change at the earliest opportunity to introduce rolling electoral registration in the City of London Corporation."

In seconding the Motion, Mercy Haggerty focussed on its benefits in greatly enhancing two principles; namely, democratic accountability and bringing the City's electoral mechanisms up-to-date with the rest of the country, ensuring that everybody who wants to vote and is eligible to vote is able to.

During the debate, several Members welcomed the Motion, commending it as a sensible step, which sought to increase transparency and the democratic process with a timeline for implementation. It was remarked that some businesses had expressed support for the principle of rolling registration, too.

Given the unique electoral structure of the City, it was remarked that Members should keep in mind the implications for the introduction of rolling registration on the business franchise. In addition, the paramount need for officers to ensure that any new rolled electoral Register was as accurate as possible, given the issues faced in other parts of the UK, where accuracy was commonly in the mid 80% range.

A reference was made to the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee's comments on this matter at the last meeting of the Court in September.

There was a desire expressed that officers explored more broadly the overall franchise particularly with regard the electoral rights of individual workers in the City.

There was some opposition presented on the basis that the Motion resolved to bring forth a Report just on the matter of rolling registration in isolation; some felt that a comprehensive Report on the Franchise would be a more efficient and effective way in which to tackle this issue. There were other contributions signalling a desire to review the Franchise before a Boundary Review.

It was noted that the City Corporation's Electoral Services Department already operated rolling registration for parliamentary elections and referendums. The process for rolling registration does legally require an annual full canvass to take place, just as happens with the Ward List. It would be an additional monthly task to add to or subtract from the register under rolling registration which would, in turn, have a significant resourcing impact for officers in the Electoral Services Department.

As the Mover of the Motion, Ms Boulton concluded the debate by thanking colleagues for their thoughtful contributions, the strength of feeling shown in the debate was a reminder of the importance of the City's democratic foundations. At its heart, the Motion was very simple, it asks that the electoral list reflects as accurately as possible

who actually lives and works in the City at any given moment. It was felt it would help Members and the Corporation better engage with constituents so that more people in the City understood what it does, participate in elections, and even consider standing in them.

Ms Boulton emphasised the need for the Court to express its clear view now by passing the Motion – this was not to pre-empt the Review but to guide it. Unless the Court intended to preserve its electoral arrangements, Members needed to consider that reform may come sooner or later. A further question raised was that rolling registers might make electoral lists less stable or accurate; it was suggested that the current system caused distortion.

Upon being put, the Lord Mayor declared the Motion to be carried.

Resolved – To instruct officers to bring forward a report to the Policy & Resources Committee setting out the necessary steps to achieve legislative change at the earliest opportunity to introduce rolling electoral registration in the City of London Corporation.

14.

Questions

Adkin, T., KC to the Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee

Winter fuel-type payments to residents on the Golden Lane Estate

Tana Adkin KC asked the Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee to confirm whether the City will be making a winter fuel-type payment to all residents on the Golden Lane Estate this winter to compensate them for the dilapidated windows and air leaks likely to increase their energy costs?

The Chair reminded Members that the grade II listed Golden Lane Estate (GLE) was home to more than 650 residents. The plan for the Estate was now finally progressing as a strong deliverable 10-year renewal plan after many years of delay. The Chair recognised the need to support residents who now lived with ineffective windows as a result of those delays.

Officers had reviewed a number of measures that would go some way to addressing these issues. Temporary improvements were being made on those poorest windows at Crescent House and provide door curtains would be provided on request. The City Corporation had considered the costs of heating over the winter period. The City Corporation appreciated that fuel bills were a pressure for people and therefore work was being undertaken with the Climate Action Team to assess the impact of window quality on heating bills. A winter fuel payment had been agreed for GLE residents as credits applied to rent and service charges over the five months of the winter period. At this point, it has been agreed for the coming two years. The calculations are a contribution to overall bills and are based on a benchmarked average, we cannot address individual circumstances.

This payment was specific to GLE because of the length of delays, the poor condition of the windows and the time it would take to deliver the programme. The amount would be monthly for a five month period- and would range between £40 per month for a one bed/bedsit and £60 for a 3 bed. This is £200-300 as a contribution to fuel bills. Great Arthur House is slightly different and will be offered £100 as the majority of the windows there have been replaced.

The Chair concluded by emphasising the Corporation's plan for Social Housing, which she hoped Members would see as an example of the consideration the Corporation are giving to the individual circumstances of our residents whilst we undertake major works.

In response to a supplementary question from Alderwoman Elizabeth King, the Chair thanked the Members of the Cripplegate Ward for their representations about this matter.

In response from supplementary questions from Munsur Ali and Marianne Fredericks, the Chair reminded the Court that the Guinness Estate was not the responsibility of the City Corporation, but said that concerns from residents, if fed back to elected Members, could in turn be raised with the Guinness Partnership.

Other Estates, including the Middlesex Street Estate and those City Estates outside of the Square Mile had not been included in the scheme as there were specific issues related to GLE; the calculations behind the Scheme were based upon EPC ratings which were unique to Golden Lane. The Chair said that should any other Estates reach a similar state in the future, a similar scheme would be considered by the Housing Management and Almshouses Sub-Committee.

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:-

15. Legislation

| Statutory Instruments | In Force |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Hazards in Social Housing (Prescribed Requirements (England) Regulations 2025 | 27 th October 2025 |

For social homes, implies into the lease of a social home, a covenant that the registered provider of social housing will address hazards (such as damp and mould) that affect or may affect the social home, within certain timeframes several categories are set out. In standard cases, for instance, investigations must take place within 10 working days of the date the landlord becomes aware of the issue. The investigation must be completed by someone competent and can generally be completed in any way (i.e. physically or remotely). The Regulations set out detailed schemes for how investigations by landlords should be conducted. The substance of this Regulation is known colloquially as Awaab's Law.

Read.

16. Ballots

There were no ballots taken at the last Court.

17. Resolutions

There were no resolutions

18. Awards and Prizes

There was no Report

19. Docquets

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 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 11 September 2025 are correctly recorded.

22. **Corporate Services Committee**
The Court considered a Report of the Corporate Services Committee concerning the 'Ambition 25: My Contribution, My Reward' Project.

23. **Finance Committee**
The Court considered three Reports of the Finance Committee concerning proposals related to A) the continuation of a Waste Management Service Contract, B) the extension of a Waste Collection, Street Cleansing and Ancillary Services Contract, and C) the growth of the Central London Works Programme.

24. **Audit and Risk Management Committee**
The Court considered a Report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee concerning the procurement approach for the appointment of an External Auditor for City Fund.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and ended at 2.31 pm

THOMAS