

# City of London Corporation Committee Report

<b>Committee(s):</b> Barbican Centre Board	<b>Dated:</b> 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
<b>Subject:</b> Annual Review of Terms of Reference	<b>Public report:</b> For Decision
<b>This proposal:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• provides statutory duties</li><li>• provides business enabling functions</li></ul>	
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N/A
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N/A
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	N/A
<b>Report of:</b>	Town Clerk and Interim CEO, Barbican Centre
<b>Report author:</b>	Kate Doidge, Governance Officer

## Summary

This report calls for the annual review of the Board's own Terms of Reference.

At its meeting on 22 October 2025, the Board received a report concerning the annual review of its own Terms of Reference. It was agreed that any matters for consideration be submitted to the Town Clerk for discussion at its January 2026 meeting. No matters were put forward for consideration and thus this report is seeking agreement that the Board's terms of reference be submitted for approval to the Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council in April 2026.

## Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Agree that the terms of reference of the Barbican Centre Board be approved for submission to the Court of Common Council in April 2026 via Policy & Resources Committee.

## Main Report

1. The Court of Common Council considers and re-appoints committees/Boards to discharge its various responsibilities on an annual basis each April.

2. In anticipation of this, each Grand Committee (i.e. a committee/Board directly appointed by the Court of Common Council) is, invited to consider whether its own terms of reference sufficiently capture and reflect the work of their relevant work areas.
3. Typically, this annual review provides an opportunity for officers and Members to suggest any administrative amendments (such as the updates of names of any Departments, or Committees/Boards) alongside any more substantial revisions that are considered necessary to facilitate strategic change.

## **Current Position**

4. The Board's Terms of Reference document (also known as the 'Court Order') is set out at Appendix A. At its meeting on 22 October 2025, the Board received a report concerning the annual review of its own Terms of Reference. The report advised that if Members feel that updates were necessary, caution be exercised if attempting to draft wording in the meeting as it can have unintended consequences/implications. Therefore, it was recommended that Officers would be instructed to draft proposed amendments and report back to the Board at its next meeting or, alternatively, via the Delegated Authority arrangements.
5. It was agreed that any matters for consideration be submitted to the Town Clerk for discussion at its January 2026 meeting. No matters were put forward for consideration. It is therefore recommended to agree to submit the Terms of Reference to the Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council in April 2026.

## **Options**

6. Members have two options:
  - a) To determine that no changes are required and agree to submit the terms of reference to the Policy & Resources Committee and Court of Common Council (recommended); or
  - b) Make further proposals which can be discussed and approved via Delegated Authority (not recommended for reasons set out in paragraph 4).

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

- **Strategic implications** – Any changes should facilitate efficiencies in the delivery of the City of London Corporation Strategy.
- **Financial and Resource implications** – None, providing no additional changes are required. Financial and Resource Implications will need to be considered should the Board seek to make amendments of this nature.
- **Legal implications** – any changes proposed will change internal organisational administrative procedures at the City of London Corporation.
- **Risk implications** – None, providing no changes are required. Risk Implications will need to be considered should the Board seek to make amendments.

- **Equalities implications** – Under the Equality Act 2010, all public bodies have a duty to ensure that when exercising their functions they have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and to take steps to meet the needs of people with certain protected characteristics where these are different from the needs of other people and encourage people with certain protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low. The proposals contained in this report do not have any potential negative impact on a particular group of people based on their protected characteristics.
- **Climate implications** - The proposals included in this paper do not carry any significant implications for the Climate Action programme.
- **Security implications** – None

## **Conclusion**

7. It is recommended that this Board consider its terms of reference and decide whether the document accurately reflects the nature of its work and suitably supports the City Corporation in the exercising of its various duties.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – 2025/26 Barbican Centre Board Court Order (Terms of Reference)

**Kate Doidge**

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**Town Clerk's Department**

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**BARBICAN CENTRE BOARD**

**Constitution**

A Non-Ward Committee consisting of,

- Seven Members elected by the Court of Common Council for three-year terms, at least one of whom shall have fewer than five years' service on the Court at the time of their appointment.
- Up to eight non-Common Council representatives appointed by the Board, of which at least two should be drawn from the arts world
- a representative of the Policy & Resources Committee
- the Chair of the Barbican Centre Trust (ex-officio)

The Chair of the Board shall be elected from the City Corporation Members.

The Board shall elect a Deputy Chair from the Members and the Board shall also elect a second Deputy Chair, appointed from the External Membership of the Board.

There is a maximum service limit of nine years, which shall apply to all Members (including ex-officio) not counting service as Chair or Deputy Chair.<sup>1</sup>

**Quorum**

The quorum consists of any five Members, provided that Common Councillors are in the majority for the approval of the Budget, the appointment of External Members and the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer.

**Terms of Reference**

To be responsible for:-

- (a) the strategic direction, management, operation and maintenance of the Barbican Centre, having determined the general principles and financial targets within which the Centre will operate;
- (b) the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the Barbican Centre;
- (c) the Centre's contribution to the City of London Corporation's key policy priority, 'Increasing the impact of the City's cultural and heritage offer on the life of London and the nation', viz.:
  - i) the provision of world-class arts and learning by the Centre for the education, enlightenment and entertainment of all who visit it, particularly through the delivery of its creative and cultural learning programmes; and
  - ii) the provision of access to arts and learning beyond the Centre;
- (d) the creation of enterprise and income-generating support for the Centre.

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<sup>1</sup> Other than in specific cases approved by the Court of Common Council.