

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 29 January 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held at Committee Rooms, 2nd Floor, West Wing, Guildhall on Thursday, 29 January 2026 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Christopher Hayward (Chairman)
Deputy James Thomson CBE (Deputy Chair)
Deputy Emily Benn
Deputy Caroline Haines (Vice-Chair)
Munsur Ali
Shahnan Bakth (Ex-Officio Member)
Brendan Barns (Ex-Officio Member)
Sheriff & Deputy Keith Bottomley
Tjjs Broeke
Deputy Henry Colthurst (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Peter Dunphy MBE (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Helen Fentimen OBE JP
Steve Goodman OBE
Jason Groves
Alderman Timothy Hailes JP
Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson
Deputy Ann Holmes
Shravan Joshi MBE
Alderman Vincent Keaveny CBE
Florence Keelson-Anfu (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Paul Martinelli
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Deputy Andrien Meyers
Deputy Alastair Moss
Deputy Benjamin Murphy
Deputy Henry Pollard (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Tom Sleigh (Ex-Officio Member)
James Tumbridge
Philip Woodhouse
Irem Yerdelen

Officers:

Ian Thomas, CBE	- Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Gregory Moore	- Deputy Town Clerk
Caroline Al-Beyerty	- The Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	- Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Wilkinson	- City Surveyor
Paul Wright	- Remembrancer
Katie Stewart	- Executive Director, Environment

	Department
Dionne Corradine	- Chief Strategy Officer
Cliff Morton	- Interim Chief People Officer
Damian Nussbaum	- Executive Director of Innovation & Growth
Kristy Sandino	- Interim Executive Director of Communications and External Affairs
Professor Jonathan Vaughan	- Principal, Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Sonia Virdee	- Chamberlain's Department
Genine Whitehorne	- Chamberlain's Department
Jack Joslin	- City Bridge Foundation
Ben Dixon	- Town Clerk's Department
Ben Dunleavy	- Town Clerk's Department
Polly Dunn	- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Alderman Sir William Russell.

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

Several Members noted, regarding Item 21, that their involvement with The Honourable The Irish Society ('the Irish Society') was declared publicly on their Register of Interests.

3. MINUTES

a) To agree the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 11 December 2025

The public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 were approved as a correct record.

b) To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 November 2025

The public minutes and non-public summary of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 November 2025 were received.

c) To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 November 2025

The public minutes and non-public summary of the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 November 2025 were received.

d) To note the public minutes and non-public of the Capital Buildings Board meeting held on 26 November 2025

The public minutes and non-public of the Capital Buildings Board meeting held on 26 November 2025.

e) **To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025 were received.

f) **To note the public minutes and non-public summary of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 December 2025**

The public minutes and non-public summary of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 December 2025 were received.

g) **To note the summary of the Destination Advisory Board meeting held on 16 December 2025**

The summary of the Destination Advisory Board meeting held on 16 December 2025 was received.

4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Committee proceeded to elect a Vice Chair in accordance with Standing Order 29.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Deputy Emily Benn, Deputy Helen Fentimen and Deputy Ann Holmes had all expressed their interest in standing.

A ballot was therefore conducted with the result as follows:

Deputy Emily Benn	-	15 votes
Deputy Helen Fentimen	-	6 votes
Deputy Ann Holmes	-	7 votes

Deputy Emily Benn was duly elected as Vice-Chair for the remainder of the Civic Year.

Deputy Benn thanked the Committee and offered her acceptance of the position.

5. OVERNIGHT STAY LEVY POSITIONING

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning a consultation response on the Overnight Stay Levy ('the Levy').

Members generally supported the model presented in the report, though some felt that the City Corporation's response could be more critical, based both on the opposition of the hospitality sector and the potential for the GLA to retain all proceeds. Members felt that the proceeds should be used to support visitor and the hospitality sector, with one Member suggesting that any funds received by the City Corporation should be directed towards culture and the Barbican Centre. Officers said that further feedback from this sector would be included in the City Corporation's response; the sector had been clear that they did not want the revenue subsumed into general budgets.

During discussion, the following further points were raised:

- Officers confirmed that the City Corporation had no decision-making power and that the Committee was simply being asked to agree the City Corporation's position.
- Further information on the collection mechanism for the Levy would need to wait until the Mayor of London's consultation.
- Areas such as AirBnB and serviced apartments would be captured in the Levy
- Officers felt that there would likely be some scope for exemption in scenarios such as accommodation being affected by nearby development.

RESOLVED: That Members:

1. Approve the position on the overnight stay levy and a response to government immediately, and the Mayor of London in due course, on the following points:
 - Support an implementation model that limits the impact on City hotels and visitors, recognising the other cost pressures affecting the hospitality sector at this time and noting the trade-off that this model would raise less revenue across London as a whole and will be regressive overall (i.e. a visitor to a budget hotel and a luxury hotel would pay the same fee).
 - Support a 75:25 between local authorities and the Greater London Authority recognising that services that support the visitor economy are predominantly locally owned and managed.
 - Oppose central government control over how OSL is spent locally but work with the Mayor of London to ensure that revenue generated can support institutions that have a pan-London impact on the visitor economy.
2. Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of Policy & Resources Committee to approve final consultation responses on this topic.

6. LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS SCHEME

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning expenditure to be incurred under the London Council's Grants Scheme.

Officers undertook to circulate further information on how London Councils spent the funds collected through the Grants Scheme.

RESOLVED: That Members:

- Approve the total amount of expenditure to be incurred in 2026/27 under the Scheme (£6.734m) and to the City Corporation's subscription for 2026/27 (£11,177); and
- subject to the Court of Common Council's approval (as levying body for the Scheme) agree the levy of £6.734, noting that the Court's approval will be sought using urgency procedures and is subject to at least two-thirds of the

constituent councils agreeing the total expenditure to be incurred before 1 February 2026.

7. 2026/27 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

The Committee considered a report of the Chief People Officer.

The Chairman noted that the Pay Policy Statement had been approved for submission to the Court of Common Council subject to two amendments. The Chief People Officer and the Town Clerk informed the Committee that these amendments related to clarifying paragraph 3.3.3 (II) on incentive plans and an additional paragraph at 5.6.2 on the provision of accommodation as a Benefit in Kind for officers, as follows:

Para 3.3.3 (II):

Incentive Plans: These are put in place for executive roles that have a significant impact on the Corporations long-term performance, to help ensure sustainable growth, and delivery of multi-year objectives to stretching targets. The payments are only made at the end of the agreed period, and only on successful or better delivery against all targets.

Para 5.6.2:

Some senior officers may be provided with accommodation where it is in the best interest of the Corporation and its duty of care to the individual, due to a range of factors related to the nature of the work (e.g. regular evening appointments and working beyond normal public transport availability). In such cases the requirement for and provision will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In such circumstances the City of London Corporation will meet the cost of any additional benefit in kind due for that individual. These are published in the Annual Statement of Accounts, under the Notes to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement; part 9: Remuneration and Exit Packages of Employees.

The Committee approved the inclusion of the amended paragraphs.

The Chief People Officer said that the Corporate Services Committee had made a further request to include additional senior roles, which would be included in a future paper.

RESOLVED: That Members of the Policy & Resources Committee agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2026/27, as amended.

8. DEPARTMENTAL 2026/27 BUDGET ESTIMATES - POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Committee considered a Joint Report of the Deputy Town Clerk, Remembrancer, Executive Director of Innovation Growth, Chamberlain, Executive Director of Environment & Chief Strategy Officer, Executive Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs and the City Surveyor concerning budget estimates.

A Member, also the Chairman of the Finance Committee, alerted the Committee to the financial pressures the City Corporation was facing and said that officers did not need to spend the entirety of their allocated budgets.

RESOLVED: That Members

1. Approve the Chief Strategy Officer's, Deputy Town Clerk's, Remembrancer's, Executive Director of Innovation & Growth, City Surveyors, The Executive Director of Environment & The Executive Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs proposed revenue budgets for 2026/27 for submission to the Finance Committee.
2. Authorise the Chamberlain, in consultation with the Deputy Town Clerk, Chief Strategy Officer, Remembrancer, Executive Director of Innovation & Growth, City Surveyor, The Executive Director of Environment & The Executive Director of Corporate Communications & External Affairs to revise these budgets to allow for any further implications arising from Corporate Projects, other reviews and changes to the Cyclical Works Programme; and
3. Authorise the Chamberlain to agree minor amendments for 2025/26 and 2026/27 budgets arising during budget setting.

9. DRAFT CSO BUSINESS PLAN 2026-2029

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Strategy Officer concerning business planning.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the Corporate Strategy Officer's departmental Business Plan 2026-2029.

10. ALLOCATION OF OSPR (QUARTER 3 2025/26)

The Committee considered a joint report of the City Surveyor and the Chamberlain concerning the On-Street Parking Reserve.

RESOLVED: That Members approve the allocation of £150,000 from the On-Street Parking Reserve for the City Gardens Revenue Budget (per annum from 2026/27, subject to review after five years).

11. 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.

RESOLVED: That Members note the update on key pieces of work that have taken place between October 2025 and December 2025 and their outputs.

12. POLICY AND RESOURCES CONTINGENCY/DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director for Innovation and Growth.

RESOLVED: That Members note the report and the contents of the schedules.

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

There were no questions.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

There was no other business.

15. 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 and by relating to functions of the Court of Common Council that are not subject to the provisions of Part VA and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

16. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

a) **To agree the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025**

The non-public minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025 were approved as a correct record.

b) **To note the non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 November 2025**

The non-public minutes of the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 3 November 2025 were received.

c) **To note the non-public minutes of the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 November 2025**

The non-public minutes of the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee held on 20 November 2025 were received.

d) **To note the non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting held on 26 November 2025**

The non-public minutes of the Capital Buildings Board meeting held on 26 November 2025 were received.

e) **To note the non-public minutes of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025**

The non-public minutes of the Member Development and Standards Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 December 2025 were received.

f) **To note the non-public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee meeting held on 10 December 2025**

The non-public minutes of the Communications and Corporate Affairs Sub-Committee held on 2 December 2025 were received.

17. FUTURE SHOWCASING OF THE LORD MAYOR'S STATE COACH

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning storage of the Lord Mayor's State Coach.

18. THE HONOURABLE THE IRISH SOCIETY - PROPOSED TEN-YEAR GRANT FROM THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION COMMENCING 2026-27

Members considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning the Honourable The Irish Society.

19. GLA LONDON BUSINESS VISITOR CENTRE

The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning partnership opportunities at the London Centre.

20. CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME (CWP) REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR 2026/2027

The Committee considered a report of the Chamberlain concerning governance of the Cyclical Works Programme.

21. GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC & DRAMA CYCLICAL WORKS PROGRAMME (CWP) 2025 - 2030 REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR 2026/2027

The Committee considered a report of the City Surveyor concerning governance of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's cyclical works programme.

22. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning action taken between meetings.

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

There were no questions in the non-public session.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED.

There was one item of other business.

25. CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES

a) To agree the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2025

The confidential minutes of the meeting held on 11 December were approved as a correct record.

b) To note the confidential minutes of the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 November 2025

The confidential minutes of the Equity, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Sub-Committee held on 20 November 2025 were received.

c) To note the confidential minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee meeting held on 2 December 2025

The confidential minutes of the Freedom Applications Sub-Committee held on 2 December 2025 were received.

26. GSMD COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY

The Committee considered a report of the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama concerning a partnership opportunity for the School.

27. REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN

The Committee received a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning action taken between meetings.

28. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIALLY

There was one item of other business.

The meeting ended at 3.19 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Ben Dunleavy
ben.dunleavy@cityoflondon.gov.uk