FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 June 2026

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held at Guildhall, EC2 on Tuesday, 2 June 2026 at 1.00 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Henry Colthurst (Chairman)
Samapti Bagchi
Simon Burrows
Deputy Timothy Butcher
Deputy Bethany Coombs
Deputy Anne Corbett
Elizabeth Corrin
Susan Farrington
Steve Goodman OBE
Deputy Madush Gupta
Adam Hogg
Deputy Ann Holmes
Sandra Jenner
Deputy Paul Martinelli
Deputy Benjamin Murphy
Alderman Sir William Russell
Deputy Oliver Sells KC
Deputy James Thomson CBE
Deputy Christopher Hayward (Ex-Officio Member)

Observers:

Deputy Andrien Meyers (Deputy Chairman)
Alderman Bronek Masojada
Alderwoman Jennette Newman
Fraser Peck

Officers:

Ian Thomas CBE	-	Town Clerk
Caroline Al-Beyerty	-	Chamberlain
Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Paul Wilkinson	-	City Surveyor
Sonia Virdee	-	Financial Services Director
Genine Whitehorne	-	Commercial Director
Robert Murphy	-	Investment Property Group Director
Kate Neale	-	Climate Action Programme Director
Chris Bonner	-	Director of Regeneration and Development
Simon Gray	-	ERP Programme Director
Matt Lock	-	Group Chief Internal Auditor
David Abbott	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Phil Black	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Monica Patel	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Bridget O’Dyer	-	Community & Children's Services Department
Harinder Thandi	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Sandra Milburn	-	Chamberlain’s Department
John Park	-	Communications and External Affairs
Charlotte Rendle	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Emily Slatter	-	Town Clerk’s Department
Connie Dale	-	Chamberlain’s Department
Doris Chan	-	Town Clerk’s Department

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Deputy Andrien Meyers, Alderman Alexander Barr, Nicholas Bensted-Smith, Alderwoman Martha Grekos, Stephen Hodgson, Alderman Alastair King DL, Alderman Bronek Masojada, Alderwoman Jennette Newman, Fraser Peck, Deputy Sir Michael Snyder, James St John Davis, and James Tumbridge.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED, that – the public minutes and non-public summary of the meeting held on 28th April 2026 be approved as an accurate record.

4. **FINANCE COMMITTEE'S FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee received a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the Committee's Forward Plan.

RESOLVED: - that the Committee noted the Report.

5. **PUBLIC UPDATES OF THE PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 MAY 2026**

The Committee received a verbal update of the key public items at the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee meeting held on 19th May 2026.

RESOLVED – that the Committee noted the Report.

6. **HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE TERM CONTRACT – PROPOSED CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The Committee considered a Report of the Executive Director, Environment concerning a proposed extension for the City Corporation's Highway Construction and Maintenance Contract.

RESOLVED: - that the Committee:

- Agreed the extension of the Highway Maintenance term contract with FM Conway for a further five years from June 2027, ensuring continuity of service delivery, sustained performance, and effective forward planning for major programmes. The proposed extension is in accordance with the original procurement provisions and represents a continuation of an existing compliant contractual arrangement.

- Agreed that the Comptroller and City Solicitor is instructed to prepare, and arrange for due execution of, a Deed of Variation recording the extension and other agreed changes to the contract in accordance with its terms.

7. **STAGE 1 - CITY OF LONDON STREET HOMELESSNESS OUTREACH AND SUPPORT SERVICE**

The Committee considered a joint Report of the Executive Director, Community and Children's Services and the Chamberlain concerning procurement strategy and evaluation criteria to be used in the selection of a preferred supplier for a Street Homelessness Outreach and Support service contract, supporting the work of the Department of Community and Children's Services.

RESOLVED - that the Committee approved the procurement strategy under the Open Procedure (Procurement Act 2023) and the evaluation criteria on a 55 / 15 / 30% Quality / Responsible Procurement / Price ratio.

8. **STAGE 1 - PAN LONDON SUBSTANCE MISUSE PROGRAMME - INPATIENT DETOXIFICATION AND STABILISATION BEDS**

The Committee considered a Report of the Executive Director of Community and
Children's Services concerning the undertaking of an Invitation to Tender exercise and, following completion of that process, the award of a contract for drug and alcohol inpatient detoxification provision for London.

The Chairman reminded Members that the Corporation was facilitating this programme in its role as the host Authority to the Pan-London Substance Use Programme on behalf of London local authority partners. The programme was funded through a combination of protected drug and alcohol funding within the local authority Public Health Grant (which includes London Consortia grant funding, which is a separate allocation within City and Hackney's Public Health Grant) and Pan-London Substance Use Programme local authority banked reserves. The City Corporation has acted as lead commissioner for these services since 2021.

Given its strategic importance and value to the City, a broader piece of work on the City's Pan-London activities would be undertaken by the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee later in 2026. A summary would be submitted to the Finance Committee in due course.

RESOLVED: - that the Committee:

- Noted the report.
- Approved the use of Regulation 11 (Competitive Process) of the PSR to undertake a procurement exercise for drug and alcohol inpatient detoxification provision for London, as set out in this report.

9. **CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGY FINANCE UPDATE TO END OF YEAR 5 (FY2025/2026)**

The Committee received a Report of the Executive Director of Innovation and Growth concerning the Corporation's Climate Action Strategy.

A Member commended the success of this strategy so far. However, it was noted that the costs for Scope 3 (achieving full net zero across the Corporation's full value chain by 2040) had yet to be outlined to Members. Given the significant pressures on the City's current finances, it raised the serious question about where this funding would come from. In response, Members were informed that, hitherto, the costs had mainly been generated by improvements to the Corporation's operations and capital assets, including buildings and machinery. Given the success of this initial work, moving beyond 2027, the spending would refocus on how the Corporation would influence and bring changes to our value and supply chains.

Whilst noting that it was useful to see the split in costs between City Fund, City's Estate and City Bridge Foundation, a Member asked whether a split could also be presented showing the savings for each of these three funds, so as to avoid any inadvertent cross-subsidies. It was confirmed that this information was available and going forward would be included in reporting.

The Chairman asked whether there was a breakdown in the identified £53m of savings since the CAS was rolled out. Members were informed that £36 million was due to avoided costs, with the majority of this sum coming via significant savings on the Corporation's energy bills. The remaining £17m was in realised savings.

Whilst the City Corporation was broadly on track to achieve net zero by 2040, officers were currently re-forecasting the organisation's pathway to 2040 which would be shared with the Finance Committee in the autumn. Given the increasing frequency of external factors and central government's shifting priorities, it was vital that Members were presented with a full and frank Report which outlined the savings and costs and how the strategy would impact the Corporation's Medium-Term-Financial-Plan (MTFP).

Separately, officers emphasised the CAS team's role in mainstreaming the goals and policies of the Strategy across the Corporation's Departments as service areas should ultimately be empowered to progress these.

RESOLVED - that the Committee noted the Report.

10. **UPDATE OF FINANCE REGULATIONS**

The Committee considered a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the City's Financial Regulations.

It was noted that the Regulations would highlight non-local authority functions which were not subject to the Procurement Act 2023.

RESOLVED - that the Committee:

- Critically examined and approved the revised Financial Regulations set out in Appendix B;

- Approved a delegation to the Chamberlain to amend the regulations in respect of any further changes that may need to be made as a result of the review of the Procurement Code and to tidy up numbering and formatting of the Financial Regulations document; and

- Noted that the next review of the regulations will be undertaken early in 2027, to pick up any further changes required, with the outcome reported to the Finance Committee before June 2027.

11. **RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT**
The Committee received a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the financial corporate and departmental risks documented by the Chamberlain's Department.

Given the importance of the issue, Members noted that a Report on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) would be submitted to the Committee in July. In the meantime, the Chamberlain provided a brief high-level overview; at year-end of 2025/26, the position was that of a £624,000 surplus, with work ongoing in this financial year to secure a similar outcome in spring 2027. In terms of future funding for housing stock repairs and new supply, the Chamberlain asked that this discussion be deferred until July when a full discussion with other key officers in attendance could take place.

RESOLVED – that the Committee noted the Report.

12. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
A Question was raised as follows -

A Member asked whether the Corporation should consider a decrease in the Officer Workplace Attendance Policy at Guildhall from 3 to 2 days if the result achieved savings from the opportunity to consolidate all employees in a smaller footprint and dispose of the remaining portion of the Guildhall campus for commercial development.

The Chairman welcomed the question and, whilst acknowledging the Finance Committee's remit in driving savings, suggested that, for now, such an option would be a useful component in the upcoming wider discussion about the City's Workplace Policy at the Corporate Services Committee meeting in September.

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**
There were no urgent items.

14. **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 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

15. **NON-PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
RESOLVED, that – the non-public minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2026 be approved as an accurate record.

16. **NON-PUBLIC UPDATES OF THE PROJECTS AND PROCUREMENT SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - 19 MAY 2026**
The Committee received a verbal update of the key non-public items at the Projects and Procurement Sub-Committee meeting held on 19th May 2026.

17. **INSURANCE - PROPERTY PROCUREMENT STAGE 1 STRATEGY**
The Committee considered a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the procurement approach and evaluation criteria for appointing preferred suppliers for the placement of the property insurance programme across the City Corporation portfolio.

18. **INTEREST RATES FOR LOAN FACILITIES**
The Committee considered a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the interest rates for the City Corporation's loan facilities to the institutional departments and third-party bodies within the City of London Corporation 'family',

19. **PROJECT SAPPHIRE UPDATE**
The Committee considered a Report of the Chamberlain concerning Project SAPphire.

20. **FORMER BARKING POWER STATION - UPDATE ON PHASE 1 AND APPROVAL TO PROCEED ON PHASE 2**
The Committee considered a Report of the City Surveyor concerning the former Barking Power Station site.

21. **CITY FUND DISPOSAL - PROJECT SHIELD 1**
The Committee considered a Report of the City Surveyor concerning a disposal of a City Fund property asset.

22. **CITY FUND DISPOSAL - PROJECT SHIELD 2**
The Committee considered a Report of the City Surveyor concerning a leasehold disposal of a City Fund property asset.

23. **DELEGATED AUTHORITY REQUEST (IPG)**
The Committee considered a Report of the City Surveyor concerning a request for Delegated Authority.

24. **EFFICIENCY AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW GROUP'S FORWARD PLAN**
The Committee received a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the Efficiency and Performance Review Group's Forward Workplan.

25. **MPO DASHBOARD REPORTING**
The Committee received a Report of the Chamberlain concerning the Major Programmes.

26. **NON-PUBLIC APPENDIX - (ITEM 6 - HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE TERM CONTRACT - PROPOSED CONTRACT EXTENSION)**
This was considered in conjunction with Item 6.

27. **NON-PUBLIC QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
There were no non-public questions relating to the work of the Committee.

28. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**
There were no items of urgent business.

29. **THE PAN LONDON SEXUAL HEALTH ESERVICE**
The Committee considered a joint Report of the Director of Community & Children's Services and the Chamberlain concerning the Pan-London Sexual Health E-Service.

The meeting ended at 2.30 pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: John Cater