**Item No: 3**

# LANGLEY, MAYOR

# PARMLEY, LOCUM TENENS *(ITEMS 20-21)*

# COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL

**23rd July 2026**
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)
Vincent Keaveny CBE (Alderman)
Sir Alastair John Naisbitt King DL (Alderman)
Elizabeth Anne King, BEM JP (Alderwoman)
The Rt Hon. The Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley, DBE (Alderwoman)
Tim Levene (Alderman)
Christopher Makin (Alderman)
Bronek Masojada (Alderman)
Jennette Rachel Newman (Alderwoman)
Sir Andrew Charles Parmley, (Alderman)

COMMONERS

George Christopher Abrahams
Munsur Ali
Samapti Bagchi
Shahnan Bakth
Brendan Barns
Matthew Bell
The Honourable Emily Sophia Wedgwood Benn, Deputy
Christopher Paul Boden, Deputy
Keith David Forbes Bottomley, Sheriff & Deputy
Tijs Broeke
Simon Burrows
Timothy Richard Butcher, Deputy
Dominic Gerard Christian
Lesley Cole
Melissa Rachel Collett
Henry Nicholas Almroth Colthurst, Deputy
Bethany Coombs
Anne Corbett, Deputy
Elizabeth Corrin
Karina Dostalova
Simon Duckworth, CBE OBE DL VR
Peter Gerard Dunphy MBE, Deputy
Susan Farrington
Helen Lesley Fentimen OBE JP, Deputy
John William Fletcher, Deputy
John Foley
Dawn Frampton
Marianne Bernadette Fredericks, Deputy
John Griffiths
Madush Gupta, Deputy
Caroline Wilma Haines, Deputy
Josephine Hayes
Christopher Michael Hayward, Deputy
Jaspreet Hodgson, Deputy
Stephen Hodgson
Adam Michael Hogg
Ann Holmes, Deputy
Sandra Jenner
Florence Keelson-Anfu
Philip Kelvin
Helen Ladele
Charles Edward Lord, OBE JP
Paul Nicholas Martinelli, Deputy
Tim McNally
Wendy Mead OBE
Andrien Gereith Dominic Meyers, Deputy
Sophia Mooney
Deborah Oliver TD, Deputy
Leyla Ostovar
Fraser Stuart Peck
James Henry George Pollard, Deputy
Jason Paul Pritchard
Nighat Qureishi, Deputy
Gaby Robertshaw
David Sales
Sushil Kumar Saluja (Alderman)
Hugh Selka
Alethea Silk
Tom Sleigh, Deputy
Naresh Hari Sonpar
Stephanie Steeden
James Michael Douglas Thomson CBE, Deputy
William Upton KC
Matthew Waters
Jacqueline Roberts Webster
Ceri Wilkins, Deputy
David Williams
Chief Commoner Philip Woodhouse
Dawn Linsey Wright, Deputy
Irem Yerdelen

Locum Tenens — The Town Clerk reported that the Lady Mayor may be unable to remain in attendance at Court should proceedings extend beyond a certain point, as she and the Sheriff needed to depart the meeting to attend a prior engagement. At this juncture a Lord Mayor Locum Tenens would be appointed..

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 Minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded subject to the inclusion of Alderman Alexander Barr and Timothy McNally on the list of attendees.

4. Mayoral Engagements — The Court heard that the Lady Mayor had recently travelled to Germany, India, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and Germany, with her engagements focussing on promoting the UK's strengths, unlocking investment, and opening doors to talent. She had also hosted the Business and Trade and Financial and Professional Services Dinners at Mansion House; the former had seen the announcement of the Team UK campaign, and the latter the launch of InvestConnect.

5. Policy Statement — In his statement, the Chairman said that the City Corporation looked forward to building the same strong partnership with new Prime Minister Andy Burnham's administration as it sought with all governments. The City Corporation would continue to engage with government on work including Wholesale Digital Markets and InvestConnect. The latter was an initiative which supported the government's focus on devolution, and the Chairman emphasised that, to help drive growth across the country, the City Corporation needed the freedom and support to fulfil its potential. This meant approval of the City Plan 2040 without delay, ensuring that the Fair Funding Review reflected the City's unique role, its substantial daytime population and its importance to the UK economy and retaining an independent City of London Police, highlighting recent achievements of both the City Corporation's Planning team and the City Police. The Chairman said that this demonstrated the City Corporation's ability to build relationships internationally and convert them into practical delivery at home.

The Chairman concluded thanking Members and officers for their continued work and commitment and wishing everyone a restful recess.

6. Appointments — The Court proceeded to consider the following appointments.

(A) **Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School** (Three vacancies - two terms expiring in July 2028 and one for a term expiring in July 2030).
(No Contest)

**Nominations received**:-
John Foley

Read.

Whereupon the Lady Mayor declared John Foley to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London Freemen's School.

(B) **Board of Governors of the City of London School** (Two vacancies for four-

year terms expiring in July 2030).

(No Contest)

**Nominations received:-**
Florence Keelson-Anfu

Read.

Whereupon the Lady Mayor declared Florence Keelson-Anfu to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School.

(C) **Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls** (Three vacancies, two for four-year terms and one expiring in July 2027).

(No Contest)

**Nominations received:-**
Anett Rideg

Read.

Whereupon the Lady Mayor declared Anett Rideg to be appointed to the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls.

7. **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**(Deputy Christopher Michael Hayward)**

9 June 2026

**(A) Governance Efficiencies and Effectiveness: Scheme of Delegations to Officers**
The Court considered a Report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the introduction of a structured framework for managing amendments to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers.

*Resolved* – That the Court of Common Council approves the Framework for Managing Changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers as at Appendix 1 of the Report.

**(B) Corporate Services Committee: Policy Chairman Representation**
The Court considered a Report of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the arrangements for the ex-officio appointment from P&R to the Corporate Services Committee.

*Resolved* – That the Court of Common Council agrees to amend the constitution of the Corporate Services Committee so that the ex-officio place currently provided for the Chairman of Policy and Resources may instead be held by either the Chairman or a Deputy Chair of Policy and Resources.

8. Freedom of the City

The Chamberlain, in pursuance of the Order of this Court, presented a list of the

under-mentioned persons, who made applications to be admitted to the Freedom of the City by Redemption.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sandeep Bhalla** | a Hotel Managing Director | Bromley, London |
| *Philippe Roland Rossiter* | *Citizen and Innholder* | |
| *David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt* | *Citizen and Innholder* | |
| **Baroness Farmida Bi, CBE** | a Solicitor | Merton, London |
| *Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |
| *Dep. James Michael Douglas Thomson, CBE* | *Citizen and Grocer* | |
| **Helena Bonham Carter, CBE** | an Actor | Camden, London |
| *Teresa Mary Claire Marchington, CC* | *Citizen and Haberdasher* | |
| *Ald. Sir William Anthony Bowater Russell* | *Citizen and Haberdasher* | |
| **Christine Campbell Brentani** | a Financial Services Compliance Consultant | Westminster, London |
| *Timothy James McNally, CC* | *Citizen and Glazier* | |
| *Elizabeth Clare Jarvis* | *Citizen and Scientific Instrument Maker* | |
| **Lawrence William Broome-Young** | an Animal Health Officer Supervisor | Addlestone, Surrey |
| *Dep. Marianne Bernadette Fredericks* | *Citizen and Baker* | |
| *Philip John Woodhouse, CC* | *Citizen and Grocer* | |
| **Fadi Chaaban** | a Sheriff's Footman | Hounslow, London |
| *Sheriff & Dep. Keith David Forbes Bottomley* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |
| *Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |
| **Coran Noel Cherry** | a Boatmaster | Bexley, London |
| *Dr Iain Reid* | *Citizen and Ironmonger* | |
| *Robert Constant* | *Citizen and Carman* | |
| **Philip Raoul Adrian De Souza** | a Hotel General Manager | Bromley, London |
| *Philippe Roland Rossiter* | *Citizen and Innholder* | |
| *David Alastair Morgan-Hewitt* | *Citizen and Innholder* | |
| **His Excellency Martin Fraser** | a Diplomat | Westminster, London |
| *The Rt. Hon The Lady Mayor* | *Citizen and Insurer* | |
| *Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Sarah Deirdre Fraser** | an Adult Literacy Tutor | Westminster, London |
| *Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny, CBE* | *Citizen and Solicitor* | |
| *Ald. Sir Nicholas Stephen Leland Lyons* | *Citizen and Merchant Taylor* | |
| **Russell Mark Haward** | a Bank Official | Shenfield, Essex |
| *Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP* | *Citizen and Pewterer* | |
| *Dep. Madush Gupta* | *Citizen and Pewterer* | |
| **Sir Geoffrey Charles Hurst** | a Footballer, retired | Cheltenham, Gloucestershire |
| *The Rt. Hon The Lady Mayor* | *Citizen and Insurer* | |
| *Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |
| **Jharna Jeet, JP** | a Life Coach & Finance Company Director | Kensington and Chelsea, London |
| *Ald. Alison Jane Gowman, CBE* | *Citizen and Glover* | |
| *Ald. Timothy Russell Hailes, JP* | *Citizen and Pewterer* | |
| **Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard John Knighton, KCB ADC** | Chief of the Defence Staff | Cambridgeshire |
| *Sir Kevin James Leeson, KCB CBE* | *Citizen and Coachmaker and Coach Harness Maker* | |
| *Peter William David Ruddock, CB CBE* | *Citizen and Coachmaker and Coach Harness Maker* | |
| **Marco Giovanni Lombardelli** | a Rail Construction Company Director | St Albans, Hertfordshire |
| *Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny, CBE* | *Citizen and Solicitor* | |
| *Amanda Josephine Keaveny* | *Citizen and Fletcher* | |
| **Captain Anthony Simokovic, CD** | a Canadian Army Officer | Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| *Derwin James Mak* | *Citizen and Stationer & Newspaper Maker* | |
| *Dr Craig Paterson* | *Citizen and Tobacco Pipe Maker & Tobacco Blender* | |
| **Olatokunbo Babatunde Sowemimo** | a Security Manager | Lambeth, London |
| *Ald. & Sheriff Robert Charles Hughes-Penney* | *Citizen and Haberdasher* | |
| *Sheriff & Dep. Keith David Forbes Bottomley* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |
| **Dr Declan Martin Tiernan** | a Fund Manager | Essex |
| *Ald. Vincent Thomas Keaveny, CBE* | *Citizen and Solicitor* | |
| *Ald. Prem Babu Goyal, CBE* | *Citizen and Plumber* | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **His Excellency Valerii Fedorovych Zaluzhnyi** | a Diplomat | Kensington and Chelsea, London |
| *The Rt. Hon The Lady Mayor* | *Citizen and Insurer* | |
| *Dep. Christopher Michael Hayward* | *Citizen and Pattenmaker* | |

9. Motions

The Court noted a motion relating to a Ward Committee appointment taken under urgency procedures since the last meeting in accordance with Standing Order 19 and 23(6) and considered two further motions relating to Ward Committee appointments.

**By Deputy Ann Corbett**

*Corbett, A., Deputy; Wilkins, C., Deputy*

A motion relating to a Ward Committee appointment taken under urgency procedures since the last meeting in accordance with Standing Order 19 and 23 (6) in the following terms:-

"That Gaby Robertshaw replace Adam Hogg, as the Ward Representative for Cripplegate on the Planning & Transportation Committee, with immediate effect"

*Resolved* – That the action taken be noted.

**By Deputy Madush Gupta**

*Gupta, M., Deputy; Woodhouse, P. J.*

*Resolved* - That Leyla Boulton be appointed to the Finance Committee in the room of Deputy Madush Gupta for the Ward of Bassishaw.

**By Deputy Henry Colthurst**

*Colthurst, H. N. A., Deputy; Woodhouse, P. J.*

*Resolved* - That the Ward of Lime Street pair with the Ward of Cornhill in the room of Deputy Henry Colthurst on the Planning & Transportation Committee.

10. Questions

**Removal of the Freedom of the City of London from Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor**

*Fredericks, M., Deputy to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee*

Deputy Marianne Fredericks asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee for an update on the action taken by the Corporation in response to the Motion passed at the meeting of the Court of Common Council in May regarding the removal of the Freedom of the City of London from Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor.

The Chairman informed the Court that, subsequent to its meeting in May, the Comptroller and City Solicitor and the City Remembrancer had produced a draft Law Officers' Opinion for discussion with the Recorder and Common Serjeant. The provisional finding of the Opinion was that the current process for disenfranchisement, described in detail in the Report submitted to the Court at its May meeting, was defective and defunct. In those circumstances, it was open to the Court to confer the power of disenfranchisement on itself through an Act of Common Council. The Law Officers were considering other circumstances by which the freedom could potentially be automatically removed.

Further work was underway to finalise and issue the Law Officers' Opinion and to produce a draft Bill for an Act of Common Council for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee at its September meeting for onward submission to the Court. Should Act be passed, a further Report would be brought to back in the following cycle, via the Policy and Resources Committee, in relation to Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor to give the Court to opportunity to consider and determine the case for his disenfranchisement.

The Chairman said that the City Solicitor and Remembrancer had asked him to highlight that this was a substantial piece of work with significant constitutional implications, which needed to be carefully considered by Members to ensure that the new process was lawful and workable with no unintended consequences.

Members needed to first agree the process for removing the freedom before considering the specific case of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. To ensure the process was fair, the two matters needed to be considered separately.

Deputy Fredericks welcomed the progress made since May. She emphasised the critical importance of keeping up the pace in these matters and asked that the Chairman ensured that all those involved were working to resolve this in an efficient manner to a rigorous timetable.

The Chairman said that he had outlined the timetable for reporting in his initial response. He also proposed that, in the run up to the reports coming back to Court in the autumn, monthly updates, via email, could provided to the whole Court to give a high-level summary of ongoing progress in this area. The Chairman emphasised that this was a complex legal matter, but he was assured that the relevant officers were working as quickly as they could to meet the will of the Court.

*Foley, F., to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee*

**Impact of AI on the City's workforce**

John Foley asked a question of the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee concerning the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the City's workforce and if the City Corporation had any plans to address this.

In reply, the Chairman agreed on the pace of change on AI; Members of the Policy and Resources Committee had discussed at length during its strategic Away Day and asked officers to actively consider further work.

Whilst AI was transforming how many people work, the Chairman said that exposure to AI should not be confused with inevitable job losses. There were major productivity gains to be made, and a new demand for job creation around AI and tech skills. Nevertheless, the risks identified for administrative staff, young people, entry-level workers and women must be taken seriously.

The City Corporation contributed actively to the Mayor of London's AI and Jobs Taskforce's examination, which the Chamberlain sat on. The Taskforce recognised that the response to AI could not focus solely on deploying new technology. It must also support job redesign, workforce planning, and investment in people.

The Chairman said that the City Corporation welcomed the Taskforce's call for London to act early, including through a London AI at Work Partnership and stronger pathways into work.

Mr Foley consequently asked what the City Corporation would do with any extra spare office space that might result from job losses.

The Chairman emphasised that there was currently no clear evidence that AI would result in significant overall job losses or a reduction in demand for office space in the Square Mile. The latest GLA projections anticipated substantial employment growth in the City to 2050. It was therefore critical that the City Corporation continued to deliver the high-quality office space needed to support that growth, and more than 600,000 square metres of additional office floorspace were currently under construction.

The Mayor of London's new draft London Plan similarly recognised the importance of office growth in central London and the City's particular role as an international business centre. The City Corporation would continue to monitor changing working patterns and demand, but the Chairman felt that the evidence currently supported further investment in high grade, sustainable and well-located offices.

Deputy John Fletcher asked the Chairman whether, given the efficiencies brought about by AI resulting in a likely reduction in working patterns from five to four days over the coming years, the proper emphasis was being given to ensure that the City's nighttime economy and cultural offer continued to compete with major international peers.

The Chairman agreed wholeheartedly that the nighttime economy and cultural offer was vital for the City's future. Much progress had been made over the past decade and whilst the employment rebound across the Square Mile since the pandemic had been outstanding, the City Corporation would not be complacent and would continue to support development and initiatives in this sector; the phased opening of the new London Museum at Smithfield would be a key milestone in these endeavours.

Remarking on the existential changes that AI would bring, Naresh Sonpar asked if the Chairman agreed that the City Corporation had a responsibility in providing opportunities to its young people in order for them to navigate and thrive in this new environment.

The Chairman agreed that AI presented huge opportunities but also fundamental challenges. He had recently asked the Policy Leads for Skills and AI to meet with the Bayes Business School to look at these matters, including the opportunities for young people in the years ahead and routes forward for them in the Square Mile; the outcomes of these discussions would be reported in due course. The Chairman stressed that as per the GLA Report, Generative AI had the potential to reshape London's labour market, but its overall impact on employment remained uncertain. High exposure did not signal definitive job losses, nor did low exposure guarantee job and occupational security.

Melissa Collett asked the Chairman what the City Corporation was doing to help support tech SMEs across the Square Mile to help build their businesses in order to both grow and drive employment.

In his reply, the Chairman reflected on the success that King's Cross had achieved in recent years in attracting tech and life sciences SMEs; he suggested that the City Corporation needed to develop an SME friendly incubation environment. This had been a topic of much recent discussion and he would endeavour to report back to the Court as soon as able.

Munsur Ali asked that the Chairman to consult with the Chair of the Equity, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Sub-Committee to see if her Sub-Committee could

explore AI's impact on already existing pay gaps across the City's workforce. The Chairman confirmed that he would raise this with the Chair of the Sub-Committee.

David Williams asked that the Chairman considered the critical need for the Corporation to balance its role as a facilitator of growth with its responsibilities to take a humane approach to displaced workers and younger cohorts through re-skilling. In reply, the Chairman agreed that a balance needed to be struck. AI was a revolutionary technology and the City Corporation's role was to address both these areas; whilst the full implications of AI were still unknown, the Policy and Resources Committee, and indeed the organisation as a whole, would keep this as a critical live issue and would continue to take its responsibility seriously.

Alderman Sushil Saluja, the Lead Member for AI, noted he and the Lead Member for Skills Deputy Caroline Haines, had met recently with Bayes Business School to discuss the future of work and re-skilling; he asked the Chairman to confirm that the Policy and Resources Committee would continue to support efforts to strengthen the City Corporation's skills agenda. The Chairman confirmed that his Committee would fully cooperate and support the ongoing efforts in this area. He thanked both Leads for their work on these matters.

*H. N. A. Colthurst, Deputy, to the Chair of the Community and Children's Services Committee*

**Statutory Independent Inquiry into Grooming Gangs**

Deputy Henry Colthurst asked the Chair of Community & Children's Services Committee if there was any evidence of grooming gang-related activity in the City of London, and how the City Corporation intended to influence other police forces, civic authorities across the nation and the courts to ensure that this sort of activity anywhere could be prevented from happening again.

In reply, the Chair said that, at present, there was nothing to suggest that any of the grooming gangs-related activity took place in the City of London or involved City children. The City of London Police was fully engaged with several safeguarding focussed national programmes, most notably *Hydrant*, an operation which has involved historic and contemporary reviews of investigations and intelligence records to determine whether any such activity occurred. The City Corporation had also responded to the national statutory Independent Inquiry into Grooming Gangs. The submission showed low levels of risk factors among City children and young people, and the Chair confirmed that the City Corporation would continue to engage fully with the inquiry and, crucially, implement any learning or recommendations that inquiry puts out.

The Chair said that combatting this horrendous threat effectively was not something that fell on just any one agency, whether that was local authorities, the police, or others. It was vital that all parts of the system worked together to avoid the risk of individuals "falling through the cracks". The City Corporation had a Multi-Agency Child Exploitation arrangement in place, known as a "MACE", as part of a prevention-based approach. This gave strategic oversight of all exploitation cases, intelligence, and activity across the City, the London-wide area, and national learning and good practice. The MACE was co-chaired by the City Corporation's Head of Safeguarding from the Corporation and the City Police's Detective Chief Inspector for Major Crime & Public Protection. This joint approach – with membership drawn across all relevant services – allowed the City Corporation to draw together all the intelligence and activity necessary to drive a comprehensive approach. The Chair was pleased to report that a recent Ofsted focus visit

highlighted strong multi-agency working and a well-developed culture of early identification and intervention.

However, to avoid complacency, both the City Corporation and the City Police undertook undertake significant preventative work beyond the MACE such as the refreshed Hotels Toolkit, launched the previous week, which covered practical front of house and management training on topics adjacent to grooming.

*Farrington, S. to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee*

**Business Improvement Districts**

Susan Farrington asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to inform the Court of the arrangements that the City Corporation had in place to ensure that elected Members, particularly those representing affected wards, were engaged before discussions with Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) developed into formal proposals, partnerships or agreed corporate positions.

In reply, the Chairman provided the Court with the background on the significant amount of work undertaken over recent years to improve and coordinate the City Corporation's relationship with the City BIDs, which have existed in the City since 2015. The City Corporation had historically promoted BIDs and in recent years had taken a more active role to coordinate activities, activations and communications with the City BIDs. Each BID Board had a Member observer, which was the primary link back to the City Corporation. However, the Chairman agreed that the City Corporation could go further to better engage interested Members with the work of the City BIDs. To support this, a full Member briefing on BIDs was due to take place on 10 September, with a report brought to the Policy & Resources Committee in September setting out the framework which would govern the relationship between the City Corporation and the BIDs going forward.

As a supplementary question, Susan Farrington asked if the Chairman agreed that there should be a direct route for engagement with Members before the City Corporation's position's on BIDs were are communicated externally, rather than through the BID itself.

The Chairman agreed that, in principle, Members should be fully engaged and apprised of matters impacting their wards before these were communicated externally. He was not aware of the specific situation that Ms Farrington referred to, but undertook to ensure that she would receive a full if she wished to set it out in writing to himself or the Head of City BIDs.

The City Corporation was developing a position on matters directly affecting a Ward; Ward Members would have appropriate opportunities to contribute through the usual democratic functions and structures. He added that Ward Members were very welcome to make their views heard to the relevant BID, and the Head of City BIDs could help facilitate engagement where needed.

Deputy Marianne Fredericks, emphasising that the BIDs operating within her Ward had a good track record of engagement, asked the Chairman whether he agreed that the relationship between Members and BIDs was a two-way street with a responsibility on Members to also engage when offered the opportunity to do so. The Chairman stressed that he had not intended his earlier answer to be construed as a criticism of the BIDs. It was important that both sides engage so as to develop a mutually beneficial relationship.

Deputy Jaspreet Hodgson, noting the low turn-out of the recent Riverside BID ballot, asked the Chairman whether he agreed that elected Members were the best placed to engage with local businesses and not the BIDs. The Chairman said that, whilst Members retained the critical role in representing and liaising with their electors, the Riverside BID was ultimately approved through a formal ballot of eligible businesses on 8 July within the proposed BID area, in accordance with the statutory process. Ultimately, if businesses in a specific area wanted a BID, they could vote for it and, if they didn't, they could vote against.

At this point, the Town Clerk informed the Court that under Standing Order 13(9), the time limit for this item had been reached.

*Lord, C.E., Pollard, J. H. G. Deputy*

C. E. Lord, stood to propose a suspension of relevant Standing Orders to allow an additional 10 minutes for the final Question to be asked and answered. They consequently moved that:-

In accordance with Standing Order 2(1), that Standing Order 13(9) be suspended for up to ten minutes.

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

*Resolved* - In accordance with Standing Order 2(1), that Standing Order 13(9) be suspended for up to ten minutes.

*Steeden, S. to the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee*

**Appointment of Ward Deputies**

Stephanie Steeden asked the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to clarify the mechanism by which an Alderman or Alderwoman appoints a Ward Deputy, as a recent change of Deputy in the Ward of Castle Baynard had led to some confusion on the process.

In reply, the Chairman said that the process was covered by an Act of Common Council from 1712, which required the Ward Alderman, or Alderwoman, to "nominate and appoint" a Deputy from amongst the Common Councillors of the Ward. Typically, the appointment of a Deputy was made at the Wardmote for the ordinary election of Common Councilmen every four years – and thereafter confirmed, or otherwise, at each annual Wardmote. However, the Alderman or Alderwoman could elect to make a change at any point during the year. Further detail on this matter was outlined in the Wardmote Book, which could be found online on the City Corporation's website.

Stephanie Steeden noted that it appeared that the current arrangements could potentially allow an individual to be appointed as Ward Deputy without their consent. She and fellow councillors believed that this was contrary to the fundamental principle that appointments to public office should be made only with the consent of the individual concerned, and she therefore asked the Chairman if he would commit to asking officers to review the relevant Act of Common Council, so that person could be appointed as Ward Deputy without their explicit consent?

The Chairman confirmed that the Court had the power to alter acts of Common Council where current arrangements were acknowledged as being in some way defective. It was not for any one Member to provide ultimate direction on this matter, as it is for the decision of the whole Court. As the current arrangements provided for Aldermen or Alderwomen of the Wards to nominate and appoint, the Chairman suggested that the General Purposes Committee of the Court of Aldermen should consider the issue first. Should it be their wish to pursue any

changes, proposals could then be brought to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. If a consensus can be found, it could then be promoted back to the Court and the relevant Act of Common Council amended to make the necessary changes effective.

Wendy Mead asked the Chairman whether this was an opportunity to review the role of Ward Deputy altogether. The Chairman suggested that this should also be a consideration for the General Purposes Committee of the Court of Aldermen.

Ms Josephine Hayes reflected that it was disturbing that individuals were not required to consent to being appointed to the role of Deputy and asked the Chairman that any review into the position of Ward Deputy includes an analysis of the legal risks and implications around this lack of consent. The Chairman proposed that this point was included in the broader discussion at the General Purposes Committee.

11. **AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**(Alderwoman Elizabeth Anne King, BEM, JP)**

6 July 2026

**Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee**
The Court received a Report of the Audit and Risk Management Committee concerning its 2025/26 Annual Report, updating on its activity from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

*Resolved* – That the Court of Common Council noted the Report.

12. Legislation

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:-

| **Statutory Instruments** | **In Force** |
|---|---|
| **Licensing Act 2003 (FIFA World Cup Licensing Hours) (Amendment) Order 2026**<br>Amends the Licensing Act 2003 (FIFA World Cup Licensing Hours) Order 2026 so as to extend licensing hours for the final match of the tournament scheduled to take place at 8 p.m. on 19th July 2026 should England be involved in that match. | 4 July 2026 |
| **Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2026**<br>Relates to the requirement in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, as inserted by section 58 of the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025, on strategic planning authorities (such as the Mayor of London) to prepare a document called a spatial development strategy. The Regulations give a power to the Lord Chancellor enabling him to make procedural rules that must be used in the formal examination of a strategic development plan. | 16 July 2026 |

Read.

**The text of the measures and the explanatory notes may be obtained from the Remembrancer's Office.**

13. Ballot Results — There were no ballot results to report.

14. Resolutions — There were no resolutions.

15. Awards and Prizes — There was no Report.

16. Docquets — There were no Docquets for the Hospital Seal.

17. Exclusion of the public

*Woodhouse, P. M.; 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; or 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:-**

18. Non-public minutes — *Resolved* – That the non-public minutes of the last Court are correctly recorded.

19. **Policy & Resources Committee**

The Court considered a proposal relating to the London Museum.

***Locum Tenens***

Locum Tenens — At this point, the Town Clerk reported that the Lady Mayor had issued her apologies as she had to depart today's meeting due to a prior engagement. Accordingly, there was produced and laid in Court a Warrant, signed by the Right Honourable The Lady Mayor, appointing Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley as Locum Tenens to transact all the remaining business appertaining to the Office of Mayoralty of this City during her absence.

20. **City Bridge Foundation Board**

The Court considered the adoption of the Investment Strategy and Investment Policy for City Bridge Foundation.

21. **Civic Affairs Sub (Policy & Resources) Committee**

The Court considered proposals concerning an application for hospitality.

**The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and ended at 2.28pm**

**THOMAS.**