

June 2020



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

In this issue:

Lord Mayor	Pg 2
Chief Commoner	Pg 3
Chair of Policy & Resources	Pg 4
Parliamentary / GLA	Pg 5
Open Spaces	Pg 7
Improving the Environment	Pg 8
Academies and Schools	Pg 9
In the News	Pg 13



LORD MAYOR

Visit to Geneva

The Lord Mayor visited Geneva on 26 February, for a productive and interesting day of meetings and events. Switzerland is a significant investor in the City of London, with investment stock of £37bn (10% of the global total), employing 9,000 people in the City (5% of the total workforce), with £7.2bn annual turnover in the UK. The visit was future-focused, looking to cement the next stage in our warm, collaborative relationship. As from 2021, the UK and Switzerland will both be major European financial centres, outside the European Union. Sharing a mutual desire for a strong and constructive relationship with the EU in financial services, based on long-term partnerships and clear principles, along with a desire for strong regulatory and supervisory co-operation to underpin market access. The Lord Mayor met the President of the World Economic Forum, Borge Brende, and gave a presentation to the Geneva Business Community at an event hosted by the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce. He also participated in a roundtable discussion on private banking with the Association of Swiss Private Banks and met the Deputy Secretary General of the Geneva Cantonal Government's Department for Economic Development, Research and Innovation.

Visit to Cardiff

The Lord Mayor visited Cardiff on 9 March. The trip took place immediately after Wales in London Week, an annual programme of events showcasing the Welsh economy and culture in London. The trip allowed the Lord Mayor to strengthen relations with the Secretary of State for Wales and the Welsh Government, outlining his role as Ambassador for the UK's financial and professional services sector and his Mayoral theme of 'Global UK: Trade, Innovation and Culture'. The Lord Mayor learned about how the City of London Corporation can work more closely with Welsh banks to channel funding to growing Welsh businesses in a financial and professional services roundtable hosted by Deloitte. In a meeting with the Cardiff Capital Region Economic Growth Partnership, the Lord Mayor heard about Cardiff city region's four priority sectors: pharmacy, financial and professional services, life sciences, and fintech, in addition to the economic strengths of Cardiff. Discussions with the Secretary of State for Wales focused on how the City Corporation can assist in directing funding to green energy schemes in Wales.

Australia Dinner

On 12 March, the Lord Mayor and His Excellency the Hon George Brandis QC, High Commissioner for Australia, hosted a fundraising dinner at Mansion House in conjunction with the Red Cross and the Australian High Commission, to support the Australian Bushfire Appeal. The dinner was attended by 240 guests from across the international financial and professional financial services, charity and entertainment sectors. HRH Prince Charles, the Duke of Cornwall, spoke at the event about the importance of philanthropic giving and protecting the environment. A charity auction with Lord Jeffrey Archer as auctioneer, combined with ticket sales, a City Bridge Trust donation, and personal donations raised a total of over £250k for the Appeal.

COVID-19 Recovery Breakfasts

Since May, the Lord Mayor has been hosting a fortnightly COVID-19 Recovery Breakfast meeting, convening senior stakeholders from 40 financial and professional services firms in the City and across the UK, to discuss their recovery plans and ways in which they could collaborate beyond the immediate response into the recovery phase. All firms have emphasised the primary importance of safety and well-being of staff and have noted the transition from the office to working from home has been successful. Resilience, recapitalisation and access to liquidity were some of the key issues across the financial and professional services sector. These events have focussed on different topics each week, with speakers from the Departments for International Trade and Culture, Media and Support, and enabled firms to openly share information. Key workstreams identified were Mental Health, Building Use, and Transport and Safety.

Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council webinar (CWEIC)

On 4 June, the Lord Mayor participated in a webinar hosted by CWEIC entitled "The Commonwealth, COVID-19 and the City's Response – a conversation with the Lord Mayor". A wide range of participants from across the Commonwealth joined the event, from the High Commissioner for Bangladesh to the Head of Asset Management for KPMG in the Cayman Islands. Discussions focused on a range of topics including the support for tech innovation in Bangladesh, enhancement of digital product offerings across Africa, and how the City can stimulate interest in financial offerings dedicated to sustainable products. The Lord Mayor promoted the City Corporation's Virtual Engagement Programme. He also championed the City, highlighting the work taking place both within the Impact Investing Institute and Green Finance Institute.

20:40 webinar

On 16 June the Lord Mayor was a panellist on a 20:40 webinar entitled 'Leadership in crisis and the role of the next generation in economic recovery'. Hosted by the 20:40 organisation, it focused on young people aged 20-40. The Lord Mayor spoke on the need for a green-led recovery, the economy after the COVID-19 crisis, and lessons from his career in finance and time at the City Corporation. Ann Cairns, Executive Vice Chair of MasterCard and Adrienne Harris, former Special Assistant to President Obama also took part.

CHIEF COMMONER

I must be the first Chief Commoner who has been in office for more than two months without attending a single social gathering. I am in that sense very much the virtual Chief Commoner; some might even say invisible. I have, however, taken part in two outdoor events at Guildhall – raising the respective flags for Pride Month and Armed Forces Week.

For the Pride event, we managed to unfurl and hoist the flag from the top of the main entrance tower. The flag raising parade for the Armed Forces Week involved a small, socially distanced ceremony in Guildhall Yard led by the Lord Mayor and the General Officer in command of the London district, and it was filmed in advance of a virtual ceremony that was 'held' online a few days later. I gave a brief welcome and introduction to the event on camera in which I highlighted the role the Armed Forces have played during the COVID-19 crisis.



These two events were not exactly the boots on the ground that we have all been longing for, but they marked a small step on the road back.

Starved of official engagements, I have been able to concentrate on the other half of my job – giving leadership and support to the Court of Common Council.

I began lockdown with a telephone campaign, and over several weeks I managed to call and chat to the majority of Members. This was extremely rewarding as it gave me the opportunity to appreciate once again what an exceptional assembly we are – doers, achievers, givers. As well as engaging in a useful exchange of views, I was also able to advise and help a few members.

In a further extension of our new parallel existence, I arranged five catch-up sessions on Teams and Zoom with Members of the Court grouped entirely at random. Each session had its own character, determined largely by the enthusiastic participation of individual Members. Uppermost in everyone's mind was the still unanswerable question: when and how will we get back to normal?

As things stand, it looks as if there will be some tentative re-start at Guildhall in 'new normal' over the summer, even possibly with some significant social events in the autumn especially as two metres has become one metre. 1 September is pencilled in by the Hospitality Working Party as a target date for some limited resumption of social activity. But overall the City Corporation will remain in lock-step with the Government, and the key determinant on the open road back to normal will ultimately be when and how the recommendation to work at home, if at all possible, is lifted or modified. Don't therefore, expect those boots to be firmly back on the ground until early 2021.

Meanwhile, there are other significant developments which will affect us all. Once again the question of paying Members, or providing some form of allowance, is being actively discussed, and there is an emerging consensus in the Financial Assistance Working Party that something needs to be agreed and implemented soon, and certainly in time for the next elections. The earliest these can now be held is July next year, although there is a possibility that they may be rolled over until 2022.

There are also renewed calls to look at the timing of meetings. I hope this and other issues, such as the use of new technology, will come to the fore in a new survey of members that I am trying to organise. The burden of membership increases every year; I think this needs to be measured and properly understood. Finally, several Members asked me how I felt about being personally attacked at Court in June; the answer will have to wait until I am no longer Chief Commoner!

Deputy Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](#) on 3460

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

US Virtual Visit

The Policy Chair led a 'virtual visit' to Washington DC from 4-5 May, holding calls with senior policy makers to discuss the shape of the future relationship and explore the potential for deeper UK-US cooperation. The UK-US financial and professional services relationship is a key driver of economic prosperity in both jurisdictions. The UK and US have a strategic opportunity to enhance alignment of financial markets and play a leadership role in an increasingly global sector. This visit paralleled the launch of official UK-US Free Trade Agreement negotiations as a key pillar in recalibrating the relationship.

IRSG Teleconference with Mark Hoban

On 20 May, the Policy Chair attended a meeting of the UK co-chairs of the five International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG) Financial Services Dialogues via video conference. Topics of discussion included: the future role of the IRSG Financial Services Dialogues; the European response to the COVID-19 crisis and the role of financial services; the establishment of common dialogue themes such as Environment, Social and Governance; and a potential meeting of all IRSG Dialogue co-chairs in the Autumn.

Meeting with the Governor of the Bank of England

On 26 May, the Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor met the Governor of the Bank of England, Andrew Bailey. The discussion focused on the Bank's response to COVID 19, the key challenges faced by the financial services sector due to the pandemic, and the industry's role in both the immediate response and recovery. In addition, the Policy Chair participated as a member of the senior steering committee for TheCityUK Recapitalisation Project. As part of the project, the Policy Chair attended a roundtable hosted by TheCityUK with the Bank of England and senior practitioners to discuss options for recapitalising unsustainable private sector debt built up during COVID 19. The roundtable also discussed the challenges for businesses in returning to work and using public transport. On 8 June, TheCityUK released its interim Recapitalisation report setting out potential options for wider consultation.

Contact [Duncan Richardson](#) on ext. 1253

London Recovery Board and London Transition Board

On 4 June, the Policy Chair attended the first London Recovery Board, chaired jointly by the Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils. This Board is primarily concerned with the economic and social recovery of London and is expected to meet every six weeks. On 9 June, the Policy Chair attended the inaugural meeting of the London Transition Board, which took place online. This Board was jointly convened by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Mayor of London, consisting of representatives from key sectors across London. The Transition Board will oversee the next phase of the London-wide response to the COVID-19 crisis and the work of the Transition Management Group, which is chaired by the Town Clerk. The Board will meet every three weeks and is expected to continue operating until Christmas. Its work will run alongside and be overseen by the London Recovery Board, in which the Policy Chair will continue to participate.

Contact [Matthew Baird](#) on ext. 1357

Launch of the Financial Services Skills Commission

The Financial Services Skills Taskforce was launched in June 2018 by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Philip Hammond, to ensure the sector is prepared to meet long-term skills needs over a period of unprecedented technological and social change. It was chaired by former City Minister Mark Hoban and convened by TheCityUK, with support from EY and the City Corporation. [The Final report](#) was delivered this year in January. Between March and June, the Taskforce met with senior individuals within the sector, based in cities across the UK and representing organisations of all sizes including speaking to stakeholders in Edinburgh, Bristol, Cardiff, Belfast and Birmingham. One of the key outcomes from the Taskforce, is the newly established Financial Services Skills Commission. The Commission will seek to ensure the creation of a sector-wide future-skills framework linked to an accreditation programme, whilst strengthening the purpose and culture of the sector to ensure it remains attractive to existing and future talent.

Contact [David Bulafkin](#) on ext. 1739

Any Member wishing to know our policy position on any subject can contact the Director of Communications [Bob Roberts](#) or the Head of Corporate Affairs (Interim) [Richard Messingham](#).

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

COVID-19 Restrictions

Prime Minister Boris Johnson made a statement to the House of Commons on 23 June outlining the next phase of changes to the lockdown in England. Given progress in tackling the virus, Johnson announced that from 4 July, two households of any size would be allowed to meet in any setting, subject to social distancing. Following a review of the requirement to maintain a social distance of two metres, the Prime Minister announced that where it was not possible to stay two metres apart, a distance of 'one metre plus' would do, as long as other measures were put in place to limit the transmission of the virus. The reduction in social distancing would allow pubs and restaurants to open from 4 July, though hospitality indoors would be restricted to table service and businesses would be required to collect the contact details of their customers for the purpose of 'track and trace'. Other businesses and attractions allowed to reopen from 4 July include hair salons, museums, galleries, libraries, social clubs and community centres. Indoor attractions such as nightclubs, indoor gyms, nail bars and swimming pools will not be able to reopen at this stage. Specific guidance for the resumption of live performances in theatres and concert halls is being considered. The restrictions on overnight stays will be lifted, permitting travellers to stay in self-contained accommodation. Leisure and tourist attractions would also be allowed to reopen, where they can do so safely. Places of worship will be allowed to reopen their doors, though services, including weddings, will be limited to 30 socially-distanced attendees. Schools will be expected to reopen at full capacity in September, and courts, probation services, police stations and other public services would increasingly resume face-to-face proceedings. The Prime Minister concluded by noting that the Government would continue to monitor the data, and would not hesitate to reapply greater restrictions at a local or national level if necessary.

Mayor's Question Time

Sadiq Khan opened Mayor's Question Time by addressing recent protests by the Black Lives Matter movement. Khan noted that a Commission had been set up to evaluate monuments, plaques and street names across London to reflect the contribution of Londoners throughout history. Any changes will be made in consultation with the boroughs and Khan emphasised that the recommendations made by the Commission would be separate from his office. Khan reiterated that COVID-19 was the biggest challenge faced by London since the Second World War and noted that London's public finances had been greatly impacted. A collapse of 90% in TfL's fare income meant that a new budget assumed cost reductions of nearly £1bn and the use of £1bn of TfL's cash reserves. Even with these measures, there would be a funding gap of up to £1.9bn in the first half of the year. Khan also noted that projects such as the Bank Station upgrade, northern line extension and the transformation of the Old Street roundabout had now resumed. In an update on the 'test, track and trace' programme, Khan noted that the Government had asked boroughs to put systems in place to manage local outbreaks, and called for the necessary powers and funding.

COVID-19 and London's Economy

The London Assembly's Economy Committee took evidence from the culture, tourism and hospitality industries on the impact of COVID-19 on London's businesses. Deputy Mayor for Business Rajesh Agrawal anticipated that the impact would be "far-reaching and long-lasting," but asserted that London was resilient and would overcome the challenges it faced. The London Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Richard Burge noted that surveys carried out by his organisation had found that 60% of respondents had seen a major decline in income and had concerns about dwindling cash flow, faltering supply chains and falling consumer confidence. Bernard Donoghue, from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions, asserted that tourism had been one of London's hardest hit sectors, and raised concern about the impact of social distancing on the commercial viability of a number of attractions. Policies such as the 14-day quarantine would affect international tourism to the degree that attractions would be almost wholly dependent on domestic visitors, he said. The Creative Industries Federation's Caroline Julian said her sector could lose 406,000 jobs across the UK, with London most affected, while David Sheen, UK Hospitality, highlighted difficulties for the sector in reintegrating furloughed staff, reopening bars and restaurants, paying deferred rent despite a lack of revenue, and accessing government support owing to the high rateable value of premises in London. Deputy Mayor for Culture Justine Simons noted that her sector was populated by many Small to Medium-sized Enterprises and freelancers who lacked support. She was lobbying for a sector deal, she said, as well as a "tactical extension" of the furlough scheme to support businesses such as theatres which would be unable to reopen in the short to medium term. London&Partners' Laura Citron outlined a campaign launched last week – 'Because I'm a Londoner' – that sought to encourage Londoners to support their local businesses and attractions. Discussing London's economic recovery, Green Assembly Member Caroline Russell raised an issue she had recently discussed with the City Corporation's Policy Chair—how the City's office worker-dependent micro-businesses would be impacted by changed working patterns. The Federation of Small Business's Rowena Howie agreed that this was a concern across central London, while Burge noted that many small businesses relied on the flow and density of commuters into Zone One. He wondered whether London's microbusiness infrastructure would be sustainable in the longer-term if commuter density declined.

High Sheriff of Greater London

Notified in the London Gazette recently, Alderman John Garbutt (Walbrook Ward) was appointed by the Queen's Royal Warrant to be High Sheriff of Greater London with effect from his swearing-in ceremony on 2 April. Due to COVID-19, instead of occurring at the Royal Courts of Justice, Alderman Garbutt declared his Oath by video conference (the first time ever) from home, in front of the Lord Chief Justice, the Queen's Remembrancer and other senior High Court Judges from the Royal Courts. In this role, his remit will cover the Royal Courts of Justice, all Crown Courts (excluding the Old Bailey), Prisons, the Metropolitan Police, and most other aspects of the Judicial system across Greater London.

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Virtual Engagement Programme

As part of the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair's Virtual Engagement Programme, they have spoken with 100 City firms, global investors, partner organisations and stakeholders, in the UK and around the world. Initially framing conversations around COVID-19 looking at; supporting the City to help employees, businesses, and the financial system; sustaining our work on the UK's long-term competitiveness; and speeding the recovery, to relaunch a full and strong economy. This revealed the financial and professional services sector has shown initial resilience and flexibility, thanks to structural capitalisation efforts during the 2008 downturn, agile technology and sympathetic regulators. Yet it has become clear that as we move through to the next stages, the sector and the City Corporation will need to be ready to respond to the economic after-effects and a more challenging landscape globally. Notable meetings include Lord Gerry Grimstone, Department for International Trade; Andrew Bailey, Bank of England; Larry Fink, BlackRock; Lloyds of London; Legal and General; JP Morgan; Goldman Sachs, Deloitte. As well as dialogue with other international financial centres.

Contact [Po Chan](#) on ext. 3384

London RMB Business Quarterly Report

The seventh London RMB Business Quarterly Report was published on 25 May with the People's Bank of China Representative Office for Europe. London's Foreign Exchange Market continues to handle the biggest proportion of Renminbi payments outside greater China, despite COVID-19 slowing down trading volumes.

Contact [Shevon Campbell Roberts](#) on ext. 3360

Survive and Thrive

Heart of the City has launched '[Survive and Thrive](#)', a series of webinars to support SMEs facing challenges as a result of COVID-19. These weekly webinars hosted by experts have covered managing furlough, anxiety around returning to work and leading teams virtually.

Contact [Sarah Mitchell](#) on ext. 3848

The Global City - fintech campaign

The Global City initiative, which showcases the UK's competitive offer for financial services has been running a month-long campaign on [supporting UK fintech](#). Highlights included a research-backed brochure that showcases fintech sectors perceived to be especially leading edge and a high impact promotional video.

Contact [Isabelle Almeida](#) on ext. 3587

Resilience: Lessons to Scale Responsible Investing

This research report, developed with pension consultants Mercer, focuses on practical steps institutional investors in the UK and China need to take to mobilise capital to support a green recovery.

Contact [Amy Herford](#) on ext. 3524

Luxembourg engagement

Nick Collier held virtual meetings with stakeholders in Luxembourg, including Mike Hentges (Sherpa to the Prime Minister), representatives of the finance ministry, and a roundtable with key trade bodies representing the financial sector. The discussions allowed us to gather reflections from stakeholders on the progress in the EU-UK negotiations and to reflect on how to design the economic recovery from COVID-19.

Contact [Duncan Richardson](#) on ext. 1253

IMP+ACT

The [Impact Classification System](#), launched with partners in June, is a public good technology. It creates comparability across investment products on environmental and social impact. It will increase transparency and support asset owners to allocate more capital towards sustainable investments.

Contact [Heather Wilson](#) on ext. 3381

Impact of COVID-19 on Social Mobility Commission webinars

The Social Mobility Commission and the City Corporation facilitated webinars on how employers can tackle societal challenges linked with COVID-19, highlighting the Commission's 'Employer's Toolkit'.

Networking lunches for City Academy students

The City Corporation funds students from City Academies (and London schools with above average rates of free school meals) to complete the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment's 'Fundamentals of Financial Services Level 2' course. Deputy Keith Bottomley hosted networking meetings for students with employers, providing a valuable opportunity to consider career paths into the financial services sector.

Contact [David Bulafkin](#) on ext. 1739

London Careers Festival 2020

The City Corporation will host the capital's first ever virtual careers festival for young Londoners. The [London Careers Festival](#) (LCF), which was set to take place at the Guildhall, will now take place virtually between 29 June and 3 July. Major organisations including, Bloomberg, Education and Employers, London Southbank University, PWC, NatWest and the Metropolitan Police Service will host live sessions for pupils of all ages talking about career paths and skills. The LCF will be the second of its kind, building on the success of last year's event which connected more than 5,000 pupils with 120 organisations. It aims to connect pupils with the world of work, so not only are they introduced to the diverse array of opportunities offered across London and beyond, but to fuel their imaginations, develop their skills and inspire their future.

Contact [Fatema Chowdhury](#) on ext. 3178

City Bridge Trust

COVID-19

The London Community Response Fund launched (LCRF) in March, jointly by City Bridge Trust (CBT) and the GLA, each contributing an initial £1m (administered by CBT). It has since grown to a fund of £13.5m, including a total of £6m committed by CBT, due to donations from across the City. Almost 1000 grants have been awarded under the initiative so far in waves one & two, providing food and essential items to communities across the capital via crisis response grants, as well as grants to enable the voluntary sector to adapt its services in response to the crisis. Wave three will launch imminently. The fund distributes grants to applicants which have applied via the London Community Response online application portal and wider funder collaboration of which the LCRF is part that is hosted and co-ordinated by London Funders: its current total sits at more than £23m. Under the Bridging Divides strategy, CBT also allocated £1.8m in emergency funding for smaller organisations and has moved to ensure organisations with existing funding battling the impact of COVID-19 receive core costs rather than restricted funds, as this is what is currently required.

Black Lives Matter

CBT has shown solidarity with Black Lives Matter and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities it supports. In the last five years it has funded over £5m in projects that increase equality and give voice to diverse communities. CBT will continue to review its own practices and influence others to tackle some of the existing systematic inequalities.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#) on 07542228526

Open Spaces

During these challenging times the Open Spaces Department has been busy accommodating visitors, implementing up-to-date guidelines in order to keep our green spaces as safe as possible for the public. It has been a very challenging time for sites especially on days when the weather has been very hot.

Reopening of facilities

Some of the sports facilities such as tennis courts at West Ham Park are now open. The positive impact of this has been huge. Since opening in mid-May there has been an increase of +111.2% at 1,869 bookings over the month. On 17 June plans to reopen swimming facilities at Hampstead Heath, when safe to do so, were announced. In line with Government guidance on COVID-19, the Bathing Ponds and Lido at Hampstead Heath currently remain closed. This is being kept under constant review and they will reopen as soon as it is safe for visitors and staff, in consultation with swimming associations.

Superb resources from the Learning Team

The Learning Team have been developing free fun activities for families that help connect them with nature and offer something new to learn and get involved with during lockdown. They have produced some great worksheets and videos which children and families can get involved with at home, and have been included in Culture Mile Playpacks distributed to food banks, children centres, and families staying in hostels.

Cemetery and Crematorium

There has been nearly a threefold increase in the number of burials over the last few months compared to the same time last year and a two fold increase for cremations.

In this together

We are thankful that most visitors have been observing good social distancing, however during exceptional weather and the relaxing of lockdown rules has seen significantly higher numbers of visitors. At times, disappointingly this has resulted in much more littering and occasional incidents of very poor social distancing and anti-social behaviour. Teams have been working exceptionally hard during this period so a huge thank you to the Department.

Contact [Roush Islam](#) on ext. 3614

Improving the Environment

Draft Climate Action Strategy

The City of London Corporation is currently developing a draft Climate Action Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the organisation's and the Square Mile's carbon emissions, to ensure that both are resilient to climate change and to lead others to make similar changes. A series of studies have been commissioned to provide a solid evidence base across a range of climate related topics. These studies have resulted in a good understanding of where we are now and what our options are. The next step is to launch a non-statutory public engagement from mid-July to the end of August. This will help us to gather views and gauge stakeholder appetite for climate action before the strategy is finalised, and to connect with people and organisations that will help deliver it post-approval. The final strategy will be presented to the Policy & Resources Committee in September and the Court of Common Council in October 2020. Unfortunately, COVID-19 related restrictions mean we will not be able to use some of our normal methods of communication, such as having a physical presence on the street or in community facilities. We will still be able to use a dedicated web platform, e-publications, press and social media channels already used by the City Corporation and residents' associations. Please email climateaction@cityoflondon.gov.uk if you would like to assist in notifying constituents in Ward e-publications or to attend our next virtual Climate Action Strategy Member Briefing on 2 July 2020 at 8:30am.

Contact [Katelyn Williams](#)

Revamped Clean City Awards Scheme

After 25 years focussing on waste, the Clean City Awards Scheme (CCAS) has been reviewed and it is with great pleasure we announce that a revamped CCAS will be launched on 6 July. As part of the new CCAS, fee-paying members will be able to apply for an award in the following new award categories; Resources and Circular Economy; Plastic Free City; Air Quality and Climate Action; and Communication and Engagement. This will enable any business or facilities management site operating within the Square Mile to be rewarded for their hard work in these high-profile areas, whether they are just starting out to make improvements or are already a high achiever. CCAS Members will also receive Resource Packs which provide guidance and support in the new category areas, monthly e-newsletters, invites to Best Practice Meetings and annual award ceremony (which this year will be dependent on COVID-19 restrictions). Any business operating within the Square Mile is welcome to join the CCAS, whether they be an office, café, hotel, shop, dentist, work in facilities management, and everything in-between. The CCAS is open to all!

Give and Take Day

The Barbican Give and Take Day on 18 July has been cancelled. This is due to the impact of COVID-19. The Give and Take Day planned for 17 October at Artizan Street Library/Middlesex Street estate will be kept under review. Further updates can be found on the Recycling Events page on the City of London website.

Contact [Karen Marks](#) on ext. 4975

Markets and Consumer Protection

COVID-19: Port Health steps up to the challenge

During the pandemic, the London Port Health Authority has continued to undertake vital infectious disease and imported food control in the Port of London. Imported food control has remained fully functional and the food inspection arrangements at London Gateway and Tilbury ports have run smoothly. Port Health plays an important role in infectious disease control aboard vessels. Any illness onboard is investigated by Port Health Officers to check crew health and welfare, and to prevent disease coming ashore. We have worked closely with the Port of London Authority and Harbourmasters regarding safe working procedures when boarding vessels. Port Health regularly undertake public health inspections on cruise ships too, with seven cruise ships and one cross-channel ferry currently at Tilbury. PS Columbus arrived direct from Asia/Australia on 14 April carrying 1521 passengers and crew. A disembarkation over two days was carried out through liaison between Public Health England, shipping companies and the Port of Tilbury. Port Health observed the disembarkation and were on hand to provide advice as required. COVID-19 test kits have been delivered and collected on the quayside. We are in daily contact with onboard doctors and senior officers regarding outbreak control measures.

Contact [Louis Franks](#) on ext. 1101

Air quality improved significantly across the Square Mile in 2019

Comprehensive and detailed air quality monitoring undertaken across the Square Mile in 2019 has revealed a substantial reduction in pollution at nearly all sites. Many roadsides now meet the annual average health-based limit for nitrogen dioxide around the Barbican and Golden Lane area after a Low Emission Neighbourhood programme was introduced. Air quality monitoring around City schools has also revealed levels of air pollution that meet the health-based limits. An annual report containing the data, and progress with actions in our Air Quality Strategy, will be presented to the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee in July.

Contact [Ruth Calderwood](#) on ext. 1162

City of London Academies and Schools

Education

The City of London Family of Schools have followed Government advice and both primary and secondary schools have extended their opening to Reception, Year 1, and Year 6 and to Years 10 and 12. All of the Family of Schools have undertaken rigorous risk assessment processes on extended opening to ensure the safety and wellbeing of returning pupils and staff. In the meantime, for pupils who remain at home, our schools are working hard to provide virtual learning, including online resources and webinars, physical resources such as books, exercise books and worksheets. We have maintained and expanded regular engagement with our schools via the calendar of forums and meetings which have seen the Family of Schools come together to share resources and ideas between each other, including several collaboration projects. The schools are keen to continue to safely expand their opening with the main limitations being the space needed for social distancing and the available staff. Plans are underway for addressing any gaps in learning, especially for our most vulnerable learners.

Cultural and Creative Learning

Culture Mile Learning (a partnership of over 30 cultural organisations in the City or supported by the City Corporation) have been working with some of our schools to engage pupils and teachers in online cultural and creative learning, as well as Continuous Professional Development (CPD). To support pupils in Year 7 engage with Victorian literature, the English Department at City of London Academy Highgate Hill have collaborated with the London Metropolitan Archives to develop a series of fortnightly webinars conveying the Victorians' fascinations and depictions of all things supernatural. The project is CPD focused, using culture to inspire creative teaching methods and will lead to the development of schemes of work to be delivered in the next academic year. The Art department at City of London Academy Highbury Grove have been running a photography module called 'The Hidden City', co-taught by tutor Ella James and a professional photographer. Pupils respond to webinars with their own photographs depicting their lives in lockdown. The project aims to enrich the Key Stage 4 and 5 curricula while serving as a CPD opportunity for teachers. It has gained very positive feedback from parents who report an increase in motivation and routine among the young people participating. The project and resources have now been shared with both primary and secondary schools in the Family of Schools and represent a high-quality collaboration between a school and a professional artist to develop CPD and schemes of work. At Sir John Cass' Foundation Primary School, Teacher James Roe has been using Google Classrooms to post different Art challenges each week. James has designed the challenges to be suitable for a range of age groups from Years 1 to 6 with resources that are readily available at home. A page has been created on the School's website with video projects that pupils can follow at home. Pupils can send their work in which is then uploaded on a virtual gallery. James has also created his own YouTube channel which has gained lots of positive reactions. The quality of artwork submitted by pupils has been very high.

Skills

This year, the London Careers Festival will be an online virtual event aimed at connecting pupils to the world of work. As with previous years, the Festival will provide numerous resources, opportunities for pupils to speak to employers through live webinars and interactive workshops with businesses and employers for pupils to explore their career interests and develop their skills. The event will be taking place between 29 June – 3 July and will be for pupils in primary, secondary and post-16. Find out more information on the Festivals website: www.londoncareersfestival.org.uk

Contact [Daniel McGrady](#) on 07935208179

City of London School goes virtual

During these unprecedented times, City of London School has moved to a remote teaching model. This allows our educational provision to continue as pupils access their day-to-day lessons online from home. For the teachers, this has provided an unexpected opportunity to innovate. Having completed exam work with GCSE and A-level pupils, we are now embarking on pre-A Level and university preparation. This has provided opportunities to teach a broader curriculum and for teachers to share some less familiar areas of their expertise. The health of our pupils and staff remains paramount and never has the co-curricular life of the School been more important. A virtual hub was launched at the beginning of the Summer Term and this continues to keep the School community in touch with one another in challenging times. A weekly podcast has been launched with culinary challenges, musical performances, weekly competitions and more. There have also been virtual school trips and regular lunchtime talks from guest speakers. The weekly pupil newspaper The Citizen is currently The eCitizen, and an edition of this has recently been entered for the Shine Media Awards. Pastoral care continues to be at the heart of everything we do and during this period of remote learning, it becomes more important than ever for us all. We are very mindful of our responsibility to wider society, and to that end, our library remains open for the children of key frontline staff, whose professional responsibilities prevent them from providing supervision at home.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#) on 020 3680 6414

City of London Freeman's School

As with all educational institutions, Freeman's was launched into the world of online learning and teaching when lockdown began. The School has been able to provide students with a varied and interesting educational diet of 'live' lessons, which have followed their timetables, in order to provide 'School at home'. Freeman's has been operational throughout lockdown, hosting Key Worker children on site and, in accordance with the guidance, we have been adding to these numbers. By the end of the Summer term, all Junior School children, and students from Years 10 and 12, will have enjoyed some face-to-face contact with their peers and teachers. Additionally, we have provided not only our own GCSE and A-level student year groups, but those in City Schools and other local senior schools, with 'bridging courses' specifically designed to utilise the time they would have otherwise spent revising for external examinations, on furthering their studies in preparation for A-level or undergraduate courses. It bodes well for an accelerated start to the next academic year for these students. Having been unable to welcome potential families on to site for our traditional open events, we have had to respond creatively in order to continue attracting students to Freeman's for 2021 and beyond. With one digital live webinar having taken place, future events are planned to allow potential parents to hear from our leadership team, watch videos of student performances, and ask live questions. It has proven to be a worthwhile 'window' on life at Freeman's.

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#)

Gresham College

At the time of writing, we are nearing the end of our academic year, and our last lecture will take place on 25 June. We have livestreamed most of our lectures online since March and have good online stats for many of those lectures, with online attendance figures in some cases almost comparable to and in others exceeding a normal year. We ran a successful promotional campaign to encourage people to use our online resources, especially schools, in March and April, which combined with a lecture by the Chief Medical Officer on COVID-19 to see our online stats more than double over the last few months. Traffic to our schools pages is up by a factor of 10. Our media coverage on the back of the COVID-19 lecture has reached more than 70 million people. We have appointed new Professors of Geometry (Sarah Hart) and Law (Leslie Thomas QC); the Law Professorship had significant press coverage in June, in part because Professor Thomas's first year of lectures is highly relevant to the Black Lives Matter protests. We have also announced a new Provost, Dr Simon Thurley, who has been lecturing at Gresham since 2009, and a CEO, Dr Wendy Piatt, who has a stellar CV and who will be overseeing Gresham's five-year expansion plan.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#) on 07799738439

Culture Mile

During the pandemic, Culture Mile has responded to the needs of its network, reframing activity to support the area's recovery, working with partners to protect the delicately balanced ecology that is essential to the area being an attractive place to live, work, learn and visit. The focus is on its hyperlocal communities – residents and businesses within a 30- minute walk, supporting schools and young people through Culture Mile Learning and working with core partners on their phased re-openings. [Radio Local](#) - a daily live broadcast, with nearly 10,000 listens in its two-week run from 30 May – 12 June. It celebrated the extraordinary spirit of creativity, community and resilience in Culture Mile, built with, by and for residents, workers and local businesses. In June, Culture Mile and its partners created the first in a series of Play Packs for young people and families at home. 5000 packs will be distributed to foodbanks and community centres across the City and neighbouring boroughs over the summer, providing creative activities, 'playful prompts' and art materials to families with little or no online access or play resources. In March, The Hidden City online photography exhibition went behind the scenes in the City to celebrate the everyday creativity taking place in the unique cluster of organisations here. Pre-lockdown, Culture Mile hosted a special event entitled Creativity: the Commercial Superpower, which saw the Lord Mayor bring together the commercial and cultural sectors and launch the Culture Mile Business Engagement Taskforce – a group of senior leaders, who will develop the project's commercial value propositions.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#) on 07921219144

Barbican Centre

One of the ways the Barbican has remained active while its building is temporarily closed has been by producing Read, Watch, Listen - a range of innovative digital content for audiences to enjoy. Inspired by the Barbican's international arts and learning programme, the curated mix of podcasts, playlists, films, videos, talks and articles ensures that audiences always have something to Read, Watch & Listen to via the Barbican's website and social channels. Highlights so far have included a podcast series with Stephen Fry on music, mental health and the healing power of art, and the launch of a new album of original music by young people as part of Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning. The Barbican has also been proud to share

two short films commissioned for the cancelled The Lark Ascending: People, Music, Landscape concert; Ballet Black's Ingoma which was co-commissioned and filmed at the Barbican; a Q&A with curator Alona Pardo about the exhibition Masculinities: Liberation through Photography; and a live discussion between filmmaker Kitty Green, director Mia Bays and Barbican cinema curator Sonia Zadurian about the film The Assistant. Speaking on Robert Elms' show on BBC Radio London, Barbican Interim Artistic Director Leo Thomson described the aim of the digital offer as being to 'bring the feel of the Barbican and its wonderful diverse programme into people's homes to entertain and inspire them during this time'.

Contact [John Kelly](#) on ext. 2389

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Response to COVID-19

In response to the UK government's advice, Guildhall School of Music & Drama has closed its buildings, suspended face-face teaching and cancelled public performances for the duration of the summer term (20 April – 10 July). A full programme of online teaching is currently being delivered. In the Drama department, students have been devising and rehearsing works online as well as undertaking a self-taping project. They have also been taking part in workshops of new and contemporary plays alongside leading writers and directors in partnership with theatre company High Tide. Across the Music department, one-to-one tuition for each Principal Study has continued via Zoom, as have regular group classes. The department has also created additional opportunities, from language coaching and career skills sessions for vocal students to performance classes for pianists. The Opera department have created an entire digital opera. Work on summer term productions for Production Arts students has continued in the virtual realm, as well as practice interviews with industry professionals and a focus on developing online portfolios and presence. Guildhall School is planning to re-open its buildings on 14 September when it will deliver a blend of face-to-face and online teaching. Some buildings may open in August for individual practice and assessment.

Online performances during Lockdown

The summer term's opera double bill of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas and Respighi's La bella dormente nel bosco has been transformed from the physical to the digital stage with the creative team and artists from across the School bringing the productions to life from their homes using digital technology. Over 100 students, staff and guest artists across 14 countries and four continents worked on the project. Guildhall School's 2019 production of Provok'd: A Restoration in 360° and performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream, have also been streamed online for free. Visit [We are Guildhall](#) for the latest content.

League Table Rankings

Guildhall School has been placed sixth in the world for performing arts in the [QS World University Rankings 2020](#), up one place from the 2019 rankings. The School has also been placed third in the Arts, Drama and Music [Complete University Guide League Table 2021](#).

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations on 020 7247 1894

Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama on 020 7382 6130

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

The LMA has been awarded a substantial [grant by the Wellcome Trust](#) for Positive history: preserving the archives of HIV/AIDS - care and testimony. The project will make accessible and promote three recently acquired archive collections illuminating the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and its aftermath: Mildmay Hospital, AIDS Since the 80s - now the National HIV Story Trust, and Positively UK - formerly Positively Women. There are [lots of ways to continue to enjoy our resources and research our collections](#) while we are closed, and the important work of LMA has continued. With Guildhall Library, LMA celebrated Family History Fortnight 18-31 May, with free online access to LMA's sources on Ancestry and expert advice on researching family history. LMA's Engagement and Learning team have been sharing digital learning resources through [London Learning at Home](#), a City Hall collaboration with major heritage organisations, the [Culture Mile Playpacks](#), as well as adapting the teacher training programme for online delivery. Well-attended [online events including our monthly LGBTQ history club](#) have reached out to existing and new audiences. Every day during lockdown LMA conservators have shared on social media insights into their work and [on Caring for Your Family History Collection at home](#). At the very beginning, in response to [a national initiative by the Institute of Conservation](#), they donated their supplies of vinyl gloves to an appreciative Bart's Hospital. They are monitoring advice from across the world about handling and quarantining archives in connection with COVID-19 to make sure LMA is following best practice when we open again.

Contact [Geoff Pick](#) on ext. 3833

Museum of London

Plans approved to create a new Museum for London in West Smithfield

On 23 June, the Museum of London received the green light from the City Corporation's Planning and

Transportation Committee for its [plans to transform a campus of largely dilapidated market buildings in West Smithfield](#). The Museum is one important step closer to realising the vision for its new home in 2024.

Collecting COVID

On 23 April, the Museum of London announced that it was seeking to collect both objects and first-hand experiences to reflect [Londoners' lives during the COVID-19 pandemic](#), to record and ensure future generations of Londoners are able to learn about this extraordinary period. The response was incredible with widespread media coverage and hundreds of responses from the public.

#MuseumForLondon

While its physical doors are closed due to COVID-19, the Museum of London has shifted focus to temporarily become the Museum for London as part of a mission to bring first-class online content to visitors at home. The strands of this programming are varied and include going behind the scenes through video content like the popular [London's Fashion Alphabet series](#), sharing exhibition content for people to enjoy at home such as [The Clash: London Calling exhibition film](#) (commissioned by BBC Arts as part of 'Culture in Quarantine' and #MuseumFromHome, available on BBC iPlayer), and more.

Millicent Fawcett Brooch on permanent display

On 11 March, it was [announced](#) that a unique brooch, belonging to Millicent Fawcett, President of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies would go on permanent display at the Museum of London during Women's History Month. It had previously been on a long-term loan from the Fawcett Society.

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

City Business Library

Since the start of lockdown, the City Business Library (CBL) has been busy making support services digitally available for Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) looking for trusted and reliable business advice.

Business Advice

121 free business advice sessions have been delivered to over 100 SME's since April looking to pivot their existing business delivery model and those looking to start new businesses.

Business Events

CBL business events have been transformed into free online events. A series of webinars, training sessions and panel discussions have been created to support SME's across the UK on a range of topics from marketing and social media, to accessing finance. For all upcoming events visit the [CBL events webpage](#).

Access to business information

During lockdown, the CBL team have been providing members with a wide range of business information, from COVID-19 industry specific impact reports, to company data and market research. Two new databases have been added to ensure more business data can be shared with members to support and inform business growth during these challenging times.

The Hustle Awards from Startups Magazine

CBL is proud to be sponsoring the [Social Impact Hero Award](#) at Startups Magazines Hustle Awards. The award recognises entrepreneurs who have made positive strides in their community, for the environment or the wider society. As a part of this sponsorship, CBL is receiving media coverage via Startups Magazines Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram pages, as well as being on all nomination and event details pages. Startups Magazine developed the award with the view of providing a promotional avenue for new and small businesses. Each winner will have a series of articles published about them in July.

Contact [Alex Leader](#) on ext. 1849

Community Safety

The Community Safety Team have been working to keep the City safe. There has been a national increase in reports of domestic abuse since the beginning of lockdown and the Community Safety Team have been raising awareness and promoting the support that is available for City residents and workers. Information has been made available online, and posters have been displayed across City estates, shops, and pharmacies with the London Fire Brigades' help to ensure those without internet access are still aware of domestic abuse services. The Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2019-2023 is also available on the City Corporation website. We continue to work with the City of London Police, the Department of Community and Children's Services, and external agencies. As concerns increase about anti-social behaviour, we are encouraging residents and businesses to report any incidents by calling the Police on 101 or in an emergency 999.

Contact Safer.City@cityoflondon.gov.uk

In the News

Contact [Aisha Musad](#) on ext. 3328

- [City Matters](#) and [London Post](#) reported that the LGBT rainbow flag has been raised over City Corporation landmarks. Chair of the Establishment Committee was quoted.
- The Policy Chair wrote in [City A.M.](#) about the Government's new quarantine policy and its impact on the City. Further coverage in [City AM](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#), [FT](#), [City AM](#), [Yahoo News!](#) and [Law360](#).
- The Lord Mayor wrote in [City A.M.](#) about the economic recovery from COVID-19 and building relationships internationally.
- Extensive coverage of the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair's virtual 'visit' to China was included in a number of outlets including [Sina East Money](#), [CN Stock](#), [Yicai](#) [Chinese].
- The Lord Mayor wrote in [Maeil Business](#) (Korean) about Korea Fintech Week.
- [City Matters](#) reported on plans by the City Corporation to support people returning to work safely. Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee was quoted. Further coverage in [London Loves Business](#).
- [City Matters](#) reported on new public health guidance from the City Corporation and City of London Police for premises providing takeaway food and drink. The Chairman of the Licensing Committee and Commander David Evans from City Police were quoted.
- Many outlets including the [Mail Online](#), [The Sun](#), [BBC News](#), and [Metro](#) reported the statue in Guildhall of William Beckford and a separate statue of Sir John Cass feature in a list of monuments Black Lives Matter protesters want removed. The Museum of London Docklands was also referenced after a statue of Robert Milligan was removed outside it.
- [City Matters](#) reported on a statement issued by the City Corporation on the death of George Floyd and Black Lives Matter. .
- Member Andrien Meyers was quoted in a [Financial News](#) (£) article on the City Corporation's new Tackling Racism Working Party. Further coverage in [City Matters](#), [Reuters](#) and [Al Jazeera](#).
- [Architects Journal](#) ran a Q&A with the Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee about the Finsbury Circus Gardens architecture competition [viewable internally only]. Further coverage in [City Matters](#), [UK Construction Media](#), [Exploring London](#), [Architects' Journal](#) (£), [Building](#) and [Horticulture Week](#).
- The City Corporation's outline planning application for the markets co-location project in Barking and Dagenham was covered by [Construction Enquirer](#), [Building Design](#), [Ian Visits](#), [PBC Today](#), [Construction News](#), [OnLondon](#), [Evening Standard](#) and [Barking and Dagenham Post](#). The Policy Chair and Markets Chairman were quoted.
- [Estates Gazette](#) reported the Museum of London's plans to create a new home at Smithfield Market have been recommended for approval by the City Corporation.
- [Horticulture Week](#) and [City Matters](#) reported on the City Corporation's message for visitors to its green spaces to act responsibly and take care of the natural environment. Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee was quoted. Further coverage in [Epping Forest Guardian](#).
- The [Evening Standard](#), [Ham & High](#) [viewable internally only] and [City Matters](#) reported on plans by the City Corporation to safely reopen swimming facilities at Hampstead Heath. Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee quoted.
- [City Matters](#) and [Ham & High](#) reported Anne Fairweather is the new Chair of the Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Management Committee. She was quoted in both pieces. Further coverage in [Horticulture Week](#) (£).
- Chairman of the Finance Committee, was quoted in [City Matters](#), [FE News](#) and [Essex Magazine](#) following a £20k donation from the City Corporation to St John Ambulance.
- [Thiis](#) reported the Centre for Accessible Environments has received a £3220 grant from the City Bridge Trust (CBT) to train young people on inclusive design and the accessibility of buildings and services. Further coverage in [Disabled People Against Cuts](#), [Disabled News Service](#), [AT Today](#) and [Access and Mobility Professional](#).
- [City Matters](#) and [Charity Today News](#) report that St Margaret's House, a community hub in Bethnal Green, has received a grant from CBT. Chairman of the CBT Committee, was quoted. Further coverage in the [Docklands & East London Advertiser](#) [viewable internally].
- [City Matters](#) and [Charity Today News](#) reported on a further £5m donation from CBT to the London Community Response. Chairman of the CBT Committee, was quoted. Also covered in the [London Post](#).
- [London Post](#) reported CBT relaxing conditions on the use of their funding to help charities struggling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Chairman of the CBT Committee, was quoted.
- [FE News](#) reported that the new City Wellbeing Centre is offering virtual counselling and psychotherapy sessions to residents and workers. Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, was quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- Matthew Bell, the City Corporation's Mental Health Champion, was interviewed for Culture Mile's [Radio London](#) (from 41:29).

Key Links: - [City Corporation website](#) - [YouTube](#)
- [City Corporation intranet](#) - [Twitter](#)

For all enquiries contact MembersBriefing@cityoflondon.gov.uk
or telephone the Communications Team on 020 7332 3467