

January 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Green Infrastructure in a post COVID-19 Landscape: Ensuring a Sustainable and Resilient Recovery, with Spanish Chamber of Commerce, 26 November

The Lord Mayor gave opening remarks at a joint event between the British Embassy in Spain, the Spanish Chamber of Commerce and the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum. He spoke to the importance of rebuilding the economy in the recovery from COVID-19 and how building back better with a green agenda can help to further the strengths of the UK economy and how the UK, London and the City Corporation are poised to harness this expertise in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) ambitions.

Virtual visit to Bristol, 26-27 November

The Lord Mayor's visit included political engagement with the Mayor of Bristol, the Mayor of the West of England, and the West of England Combined Authority. Discussions focused on the Financial and Professional Services (FPS) talent in Bristol, key overseas markets and the green agenda. There was a strong element of FPS engagement in the programme, including meetings with Hargreaves Lansdown and Osbourne Clarke. Both were keen to discuss the road to COP26 and ESG, as well as the creation and retainment of talent in Bristol. In a meeting with Graphcore to further discussions from the recent Initial Public Offering roundtables hosted by Mansion House, the Lord Mayor joined by Charlotte Crosswell (CEO, Innovate Finance), highlighted several action points and the Government's announcement for a listings review. Discussion focused on the opportunities and pitfalls in the journey to public market. The Lord Mayor also had meetings on this Mayoral Theme with livery, charity and cultural stakeholders. He met the rehabilitation charity, Changing Tunes, and the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership. In a meeting with Bristol's Livery Company, the Society of Merchant Venturers, the Lord Mayor discussed Bristol and the City of London's historic connection to the slave trade in relation to the recent debate about public monuments and historical endowments.

Virtual visit to China, November-December

The second of the Lord Mayor's virtual visits to China enabled promotion of ESG investing with Chinese asset owners and managers, building on the momentum generated by the recent Green Horizon Summit. The visit started with the launch of the joint ESG Leaders' Forum, a theme which continued throughout and was prominent in all the bilateral meetings. The visit also promoted the City of London as a leading hub for global asset allocation. This is part of a recent City Corporation initiative aimed at driving engagement between the UK and China investment management industries. The Lord Mayor was joined by a very strong delegation of Asset and Wealth Managers to showcase expertise. The visit also enabled the City Corporation to strengthen relationships and offer investors reassurance over the future of the City.

Commonwealth Enterprise and Investment Council (CWEIC) Event, 10 December

The Lord Mayor, along with the Policy Chair, took part in a panel discussion chaired by Lord Marland and organised in collaboration with CWEIC about banking and professional services trade. The Lord Mayor provided opening remarks and spoke about the UK's responsibility to collaborate with the Commonwealth, highlighting our work in Australia identifying market access barriers, changes and opportunities. He spoke about the importance of regulatory cooperation on services and as the world's leading international financial centre, how the City of London and the UK are best placed to lead industry in the post COVID recovery. The Lord Mayor also touched on the green and sustainability agenda, highlighting how finance is a critical part of stemming climate change and the road to COP26.

Gulf visits, December

In December the Lord Mayor visited Qatar (8-10 December, in person) and Saudi Arabia (14-16 December, virtually). In Qatar, he met the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and leading figures from Sovereign Wealth and banking to discuss investment and green finance, including sovereign green bonds. The Lord Mayor then led a virtual fintech mission to Saudi Arabia, where the highlight was a meeting with the CEO of the £300bn Public Investment Fund to promote investment into UK fintech. This will be followed by a virtual visit to the UAE, Kuwait and Oman, from 1-4 Feb, where the main theme will be investment, green finance and the road to COP26.

Virtual visit to Davos, 25-29 January

The Lord Mayor was invited to attend the World Economic Forum Agenda meeting, the 'virtual Davos' from 25-29 January. The main themes of the meeting were economic recovery after COVID-19, ESG investing, global trade and cities of the future. There were addresses by leaders from China, the UN, the EU and India. The Lord Mayor joined a number of meetings around ESG on the road to COP26, including ones led by Mark Carney OC (UN special envoy for climate action and finance) and Rt Hon Alok Sharma MP (President of COP26). He also spoke in a session on Net-Zero Cities, presenting the City of London's Climate Action Strategy.

Contact [Chloe Waterman](#) or [Katherine King](#)

CHIEF COMMONER

It looks increasingly as if the City of London's 'spring' this year will be postponed. We still have a long haul through the pandemic before we return to anything like normal and when we do we will emerge into a somewhat different world. The Court will in all probability be gearing up for what are expected to be transformative elections. A significant number of older members will be stepping down; there will be a fresh intake, with the future shape and size of the Court as yet undetermined as members continue to work through Lord Lisvane's report.

One of the recent panel discussions about Lord Lisvane's proposals for the Planning and Transportation (P&T) Committee brought the future of the Court into sharp focus. Should P&T remain a ward committee or should it become a slimmed down panel? If the latter, how would members of residential wards continue to represent their electors? Would there still be a role for residential ward members?

The hybrid nature of our franchise – the mixture of residential and business voters – is one of the many anomalies of the City of London Corporation. The consensus among members seems to be that if it works, then don't fix it.

But how well is it working? A question posed recently at the Policy & Resources Committee revealed an uncomfortable truth – while an overwhelming majority of residents register, there is at best only marginal buy-in to the business vote. In the 2019-2020 ward lists, there were 12,716 registered business voters in the City out of a potential estimated total of 46,851 – that's just over 27 per cent. In the same count there were 6,484 residential voters. Our mandate is at best fragile. In the last full elections in 2017 there were just 4,779 votes cast, although turnout would have been higher had there not been six uncontested wards.

Registrations for the latest 2020-2021 electoral rolls, due to be published on 16 February 2021, are unsurprisingly well down; offices are empty and the City of London's businesses have seemingly more urgent tasks than nominating voters. Some city dwellers are also not in residence. As of writing, there were 6,632 registered business voters and 4,961 residential voters. The full list is still being collated, but with only 11,593 voters in all to date and with continuing lock down, it looks eminently sensible that this year's elections were postponed.

The challenge now is to re-build the lists so that there is a bigger uptake from the time registration forms go out on 1 September 2021 to publication of the new wards lists in 16 February 2022. Online registration will help, and a fixed term contract manager is being hired to drive the process; his or her primary goal will be to ensure that we do not go into the 2022 elections with a depleted electoral roll. Individual ward members can of course also make a huge contribution here.

Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Virtual visit to Washington DC

The Policy Chair teamed up with Miles Celic (CEO, TheCityUK) to lead a 'virtual visit' to Washington DC in early December. Both held candid conversations with senior officials in the outgoing administration, regulatory agencies and DC-based international organisations. These conversations covered the opportunities for substantive UK-US cooperation under the incoming administration – ESG and innovation stand out – and the mechanisms to make progress – UK G7 presidency and COP26. This will inform the City Corporation's strategy going forward.

Contact [Duncan Richardson](#)

Scottish Government and City of London Corporation Roundtable on Green Investment

Towards the end of December 2020, the Policy Chair hosted a roundtable on Green Investment in Scotland with Kate Forbes MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance in the Scottish Government. Joined by Vice Chair Keith Bottomley CC, the Policy Chair and Cabinet Secretary moderated a discussion on Scotland's transition to net zero and the City Corporation's work on green finance and its climate action strategy. The discussion focused on shared Green Investment activities, barriers investors might face and preparations for COP26. Firms present included Macquarie, Blackrock, Aberdeen Standard and Legal & General.

Contact [Andrew McGowan](#)

Socio-economic Diversity Taskforce Strategy Meeting

HM Treasury (HMT) and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) have commissioned the City Corporation to lead an independent taskforce, to boost socio-economic diversity at senior levels across UK financial and professional services. It will run from May 2021-Nov 2022. The Taskforce will be chaired by the Policy Chair, alongside co-chairs Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Sandra Wallace (Social Mobility Commission) and Andy Haldane (Bank of England) with representatives from BEIS and HMT. On 19 September the Policy Chair attended the Taskforce's strategy steering group meeting which focussed on the desired impact, outputs and metrics. The Taskforce is supported by three delivery partners, PwC, Deloitte and MyKindaFuture. Its inaugural meeting will take place on 10 May. 30 senior-level individuals will be recruited onto the Taskforce, drawn from nearly 80 written expressions of interest.

Contact [David Bulafkin](#)

London COVID-19 Response

The Policy Chair continues to take part in several pan-London groups and boards that are focused on the ongoing pandemic and the recovery of the capital. The London Recovery Board is co-chaired by the Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils, and meets every six weeks. The Recovery Board is using a missions-based approach and has agreed nine missions with the aim of restoring confidence in the capital city, minimising the impact on London's most vulnerable communities and rebuilding London's economy and society. Cross-cutting all of this work are three principles of addressing social, economic and health inequalities, delivering a cleaner, greener London and ensuring Londoners are at the heart of the recovery. The Policy Chair also attends the monthly London COVID Business Forum which is working to support the safe and full reopening of London's economy, as well as the twice-weekly London Leader's Conference which provides regular updates on efforts to manage the ongoing pandemic in London.

Contact [Sarah Bridgeman](#)

London Assembly Informal Environment Committee

At the start of the new year, the Policy Chair was joined by Port Health and Environment Committee Chair Keith Bottomley and officers at an informal meeting of the London Assembly's Environment Committee. The Committee heard about the development of the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy, measures within the Strategy relating to the built environment, the importance of a green recovery from COVID-19, and the City Corporation's commitment to embedding climate resilience in its decision-making. The Policy Chair emphasised the importance of partnership working with London boroughs and other pan-London stakeholders in addressing environmental issues.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

Annual City-wide Residents' Meeting (virtual)

The annual City-wide Residents Meeting was held 2 December, and was well attended by around 140 residents from across the Square Mile. The Policy Chair chaired the event with speeches being delivered by Assistant Commissioner Alistair Sutherland from the City of London Police, Assistant Town Clerk Peter Lisle and Andrew Carter Director of Community & Children's Services. Issues such as the City Corporation's response to COVID-19, the City Corporation's work on equality and diversity and Climate Action were a key focus of the speeches along with feedback to a number of questions that were raised in advance. Minutes of the meeting can be found on our [website](#) along with the relevant slide packs. Attendees have been encouraged to submit feedback on the event by using the following link: [Virtual Residents' meeting feedback form](#). Residents can also opt into updates on the various [engagement and consultation exercises](#) that the City Corporation is running in the first half of 2021.

Contact [Jackie Foster](#)

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

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

Financial Services after Brexit

Managing Director of the City Corporation's Brussels Office Nick Collier and Chief Executive of TheCityUK Miles Celic fielded questions from the Lords EU Services Committee on prospects for financial services in light of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). Chair Baroness Donaghy (Lab) opened questions by asking how the financial services sector had fared since the end of the transition and how well-prepared firms were. Celic said that there had been no unexpected developments and that the industry had always expected the deal to be "thin" on financial services. Nick Collier said one thing that had been unexpected was COVID-19 and as a result some changes that firms might have wanted to make in ordinary times may not have been given effect. Both agreed that the agreement of a deal was positive and provided a platform to build on, but Collier expressed disappointment that there wasn't greater ambition on financial services on the face of the TCA. Peers were keen to explore equivalence with the panel. The Committee heard that there was a misplaced concern in Brussels that the UK's departure would lead to a bonfire of regulations but both Collier and Celic said this was unlikely as firms wanted to remain in a well supervised and well-regulated environment. Collier said the Memorandum of Understanding currently being negotiated wouldn't deliver equivalence but might help unlock some barriers. He added that it was important for firms to be part of the conversation and equivalence should be assessed on an outcomes basis rather than looking at it on a line-by-line basis. Collier was keen to move away from the negative language associated with divergence. He said the UK should re-regulate for the 21st century and be prepared to adapt more quickly than other centres on emerging areas such as technology and sustainability. The UK had higher standards in wholesale markets than the EU, so he did not think it was possible to accuse the UK of having a de-regulatory agenda. Viscount Trenchard (Con) asked how the UK could take a leadership role in developing common global standards in financial services in the longer term. Celic said the UK had an outsized voice in financial regulation globally. He thought there were substantial risks of regulatory fragmentation and said it was important to maintain an international approach as much as possible. The UK must use its regulatory diplomacy to argue for open markets and free trade. Collier said the UK was tremendously influential and G7 and COP26 provided opportunities for the UK to show leadership.

Pension Scams

City Police Commander Clinton Blackburn appeared with other Project Bloom partners on a panel before the Work and Pensions Committee to answer questions on pensions scams. Project Bloom is a project led by The Pensions Regulator (TPR) that aims to reduce the harm from pension scams through collaborative working with Government departments, regulators, law enforcement and industry. The TPR's Nicola Parish told the Committee that more than £30m had been reported as having been scammed through pensions from individuals over the last three years but the real figure was likely to be much greater because of the general under-reporting of fraud. She also explained that many pensions scams were now probably categorised as investment scams following the pension freedoms from 2015. Commander Blackburn told the Committee that pension scams represented a much smaller subset of economic crime. He said that in 2020, out of an approximate total of 822,000 reports to Action Fraud, only 637 were categorised as pension frauds. Reports of investment fraud were increasing, however, with approximately 1,500 more reports in the last year compared to previous years. Commander Blackburn said the rapid growth of fraud as a crime type meant that it was not something "we can arrest ourselves out of" and preventing people from becoming victims in the first place was vital. He told the Committee of work being undertaken by the City Police to highlight the importance of fraud to Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners across the country to encourage them to include it as a priority in their policing and crime plans.

London Assembly Environment Committee

The Policy Chair was joined by Port Health and Environment Committee Chair Keith Bottomley and officers at an informal meeting of the London Assembly's Environment Committee at which Assembly members were briefed on the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Our global offer to business: London and the UK's competitive strengths in a changing world

This month we have published research evidencing the UK's competitiveness as an international centre for financial and professional services. We benchmark the UK's offer against other major business hubs. London and the UK perform consistently well with the strongest overall competitive offer. The UK's world-leading competitiveness is built on longstanding strengths accelerated by a commitment to innovation. The research also highlights opportunities and areas for improvement. View the report's findings on [The Global City website](#).

Contact [Maximilian Bierbaum](#)

Financial services priorities for the UK's G7 presidency

The International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG) has set out its key areas of focus in financial services for the UK's presidency of the G7 this year. The document, entitled, 'Financial services priorities for the UK's G7 presidency', advocates four areas of focus for the UK: global regulatory coherence for pandemic recovery; leadership on climate agenda ahead of COP26; digital policy continuity, including on digital taxation; and alignment with G20 global policy priorities. Read the priorities in full on the [IRSG website](#).

Contact [Anete Andermane](#)

The UK-US Regulatory Relationship: A study into the UK-US regulatory market access barriers in foreign investment and data regulation

This [report](#) focuses on two key cross-cutting issues: implications of the Foreign Investment Risk Review Act on foreign investment and firm-level impacts of overlapping data privacy regimes. The report series aims to develop an agenda for UK-US regulatory dialogues.

Insurance

The Lord Mayor, Policy Chair and Innovation and Growth continue to deepen their engagement on insurance with the London Market. They are speaking to Lloyd's and major global brokers and underwriters on issues ranging from the competitiveness of the City post-Brexit to climate change, with a view to COP26 and the persistent protection gap. COVID-19 continues to be a key challenge – both managing the impact of claims, and the practical challenges of return to office. In December and January the Lord Mayor convened three senior insurance forums around recovery. The Policy Chair and Lord Mayor also launched a report entitled '[The Future of Cyber Insurance: Next Steps for the London Market](#)' in December. This report, in partnership with Accenture, focuses on London's position and further potential as a leading hub for cyber insurance, accelerated by the increase of online risk through COVID-19. The Policy Chair will draw on this report at the India Insurance Summit on 29 January.

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

Heart of the City foundation programme

Heart of the City has developed [a short film](#) asking their current members how responsible business has benefitted their companies. This as part of the 2021 recruitment campaign looking for SMEs to join them.

Contact [Andy Melia](#)

Recovery Taskforce

The City of London Corporation has launched a Recovery Taskforce which will provide a blueprint for how the Square Mile can remain internationally competitive and locally vibrant. This will speed the City's evolution towards being the world's most innovative, inclusive and sustainable business ecosystem, an attractive place to work, live and visit.

The Taskforce will build on ongoing work from the City Corporation that is relevant to its mission including the work of the Culture and Commerce Taskforce; the Climate Action strategy; and London Recharged, among others. The project will focus on four dimensions:

1. Outstanding environments (i.e. the right workspaces, environment and infrastructure)
2. People (i.e. attracting the best and brightest)
3. Vibrant offer (i.e. what makes it fun and exciting to be here, attracting talent and visitors)
4. World-class business ecosystem (i.e. thriving businesses with innovation and growth opportunities)

We will be launching a survey in early February for the general public to capture insights and views of residents, workers and visitors alike. We welcome you to take part in [this important survey](#) as well as share it widely among your colleagues and constituents to provide the most productive baseline of all communities and backgrounds.

Contact [Katelyn Williams](#)

Removal of statues with links to the Transatlantic slave trade

Statues of two prominent figures in the City of London with links to the Transatlantic slave trade will be removed and re-sited. The Policy and Resources Committee voted to move statues of William Beckford and Sir John Cass which currently stand in the historic Guildhall. A working group will be setup to oversee the removal of the statues and the works that could replace them, and will also consider commissioning a new memorial to the slave trade in the City. The move was recommended by the City Corporation's Tackling Racism Taskforce and will be accompanied by measures aimed at boosting diversity in staffing, governance, education, business and policing. Last year, the City Corporation held a consultative exercise asking people for their views on statues and other landmarks in the Square Mile linked to slavery, which garnered more than 1,500 responses.

City Bridge Trust (CBT)

As COVID-19 took its grip on the capital last Spring, a decision was made to pause grant applications for new projects in May 2020. This allowed the CBT team to focus on the [London Community Response](#), pan-London transition and recovery planning, and the pipeline of applications already received before COVID-19. Late 2020, work began to examine which pre-pandemic Bridging Divides programmes could be re-opened. This work will form a key input to the Interim Strategic Review of Bridging Divides (taking place in the first quarter of 2021). Although the scale of need in London remains high, a decision has been made to hold off restarting the funding programme until its redesign is complete. Additionally, the pandemic and Black Lives Matter have both highlighted issues which CBT's future practice should reflect, such as the role of core funding and equity so that groups and organisations led by or working with particularly disadvantaged or marginalised communities can have improved access to funding opportunities. To that end, Dinah Cox OBE continues to support CBT's team and Members in the development and delivery of a plan to tackle racial injustice. To ensure that support remains available, CBT will contribute £4m to Wave 5 of the London Community Response Fund, and £1m as aligned funding (which entails CBT directly awarding grants to organisations identified from within CBT's current grants portfolio).

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Goats get a Christmas takeaway

The team at Hampstead Heath helped Kentish Town City Farm, to raise some money and give the Farm's goats a January detox. Christmas trees are nutritious and aid digestion in goats so the Farm asked residents of North London to make a small donation to the farm and in return the Farm would collect Christmas trees from their doorstep for their goats. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the initiative was a huge success and the farm collected about 500 trees and raised £7,500. The goats were also reportedly delighted with their Christmas tree feast. Kentish Town City Farm plan to expand this scheme next year to raise more funds for the community farm. Watch the [video](#).

Children's playground planning permission approved

The planning permission to renovate the children's playground at West Ham Park ((WHP) has been approved and work will commence in the summer. The new playground will provide an exciting place of discovery for years to come, with a water feature, landscaping and new play equipment. The City of London Corporation is investing over £750k towards it. WHP will make all the improvements it can with its secured funding. A [donation page](#) has also been set up to try and get even more equipment. Every donation is vital to help refurbish the playground and, in turn, help develop children's key social, emotional and physical skills. The Park had hoped to secure further grant funding in order to extend the playground area but in the current climate this is proving difficult. They are focussing on renovating within its current footprint but have plans in place should more significant funding become available.

New car parking system at Burnham Beeches

New car parking machines came into operation at Burnham Beeches in December. This cashless system means visitors can pay by card or by using the phone parking app 'RingGo'. In the month since it was installed, 11,500 transactions have been made, far more than expected. This also reflects the abnormally high visitor numbers currently being seen at the nature reserve. This is noticeably impacting the site, with heavily eroded paths, damage to rare habitats and increased amounts of litter and general waste. Discussions have been taking place with Buckinghamshire Council to look at ways to reduce the number of visitors parking on local highways.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Tech Takeback events give back to City residents

Laptops, from Tech Takeback events hosted by the City of London Corporation Recycling and Clean City Awards Scheme (CCAS) Team, aimed at City residents, are now being distributed to vulnerable residents. The Team held two Tech takeback events (September 2019 and January 2020) in which devices were collected from residents to reduce the amount of electronic, data bearing items being stored in people's homes or going to waste. These devices were then taken to be wiped of data before returning to the City to be distributed to our residents. This model uses Circular Economy principles to reduce waste and reuse items. Some 10 laptops are being distributed among City residents, identified by Age UK, to help them to stay socially connected during the pandemic. More Tech Takeback events will be held in due course.

Clean City Award Scheme Final Judging

On 11 and 12 January, the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee chaired the first ever virtual Final Judging for the Clean City Awards, organised by the Recycling and CCAS Team. Over two days of judging, 17 presentations were given by shortlisted entrants vying for the top awards in the new look CCAS award categories; Resource and Circular Economy, Plastic Free City, Air Quality and Climate Action, Communication and Engagement, plus the Chairman's Cup. The theme for this year's Chairman's Cup was "embedding environmental performance and sustainability during the COVID-19 outbreak". Winners will be announced at the virtual CCAS ceremony, date to be confirmed.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Community & Children's Services

Barbican and Community Libraries (BCL), Select and Collect and Home Deliveries

For the safety of all, Select and Collect is only available at the Barbican Library. Staff are still carrying out contactless Home Delivery to housebound residents. BCL have been awarded funding to establish virtual 'Reading Friends' groups - a befriending programme that helps to start conversations and connect people who are isolated through reading. The Reading Agency is providing £4,560 of grant funding which we will use to strengthen the virtual programme of events for City residents.

Contact [Carol Boswarthack](#)

What's Next Quiz

BCL apprentice Laura Smith has curated this "[What's Next](#)" quiz to help you find your next read. It has been circulated to residents through traditional and social media and internally to City Corporation staff.

Contact [Laura Smith](#)

Aldgate in the Winter... and Spring

The annual celebration usually held in Aldgate Square was adapted this year into a two-week programme of online events including craft workshops, virtual walks around the City and digital workshops for older residents. Outer City residents and staff were also able to take part. [The project will be continued into Spring](#) with a drawing competition, a short film and a soundscape project.

Contact [Emily Grant](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

Family of Schools update

The City of London Family of Schools have been working hard to provide high quality virtual learning for pupils, whilst maintaining consistent delivery for pupils attending school, since the Government announced the national lockdown and school closures in January 2021. This has included online resources and webinars, live and pre-recorded lessons as well as physical resources such as books, exercise books and worksheets. The Education Unit has maintained regular engagement through online forums and meetings, which has seen the Family of Schools come together to share resources, ideas and offer support to each other.

Cultural and Creative Learning

Galleywall Primary School are taking part in Creative Earth, an art competition run by the UN Climate Change Conference and WWF for young people, as part of pupils' remote learning. Pupils are asked to paint, draw or design a piece of art that shows how they would like our planet to look in the future. The winning artwork will be displayed at the UN Climate Change Conference. Galleywall will be creating an exhibition to further showcase the pupils' artworks. City of London Academy Southwark are preparing for their involvement in the upcoming LGBTQ+ history month in a number of different ways, including a poster design competition, adding notes to a celebration Padlet, and nominating an inspirational figure.

PAPYRUS Suicide Prevention Awareness Session

On 19 January, a session on Suicide Prevention Awareness was hosted by the suicide prevention charity, PAPYRUS, and was well attended by staff across the Family of Schools and the City Corporation. Participants

were encouraged to consider the question 'should we talk about suicide?' and to peel away the attitudes and beliefs around this question in order to shatter the stigma that can surround suicide. They were also asked to examine personal and societal beliefs around suicide and to consider how we can all contribute to suicide prevention. The session was open, honest, and engaging. It resulted in a crucial discussion about the importance of this topic for schools and the wider community.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School (CLS)

During the Christmas break, three Junior Sixth Form pupils spent their holiday administering the COVID-19 vaccine. The pupils started at the end of December at St Charles Hospital, taking specific online competency modules to become administrators and vaccinators. The feedback about the trio was truly inspiring with a consultant telling one of them that despite the pandemic he will make a plan for him to have further work experience at Great Ormond Street Hospital. The pupils worked tirelessly during their break; truly embracing the core CLS values of being Kind, Ready and Aware. Following on from last year's success, our collaboration with IntoUniversity returns. IntoUniversity is an organisation with centres all over the country and their aim is to provide support for vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the form of education, activities and much more. Under a Sixth Form-led committee, pupils have set out to help students of IntoUniversity with their GCSE content. The committee have begun planning short videos, due to be filmed later this half term, based on a variety of subjects including 'Picking your A-Levels', 'Languages', 'Core subjects' such as maths and sciences and much more.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

City of London School for Girls (CLSG)

Following a term of in-person teaching at the Barbican site, CLSG's return to online learning has thus far been peppered with positive developments. Not least among these is the launch of the head's new lecture series, City@6. With a range of high-profile, inspiring guests scheduled to deliver a wide-ranging programme of talks at 6pm, the virtual format of the series has allowed us to expand the audience to include parents, alumnae, and our partner schools, in addition to CLSG students. The inaugural lecture took place on 18 January, with nearly 200 people tuning in from as far away as New Zealand to listen to Guardian journalist Amelia Gentleman speak about her role investigating and reporting on the Windrush scandal. This was followed by an equally fascinating Q&A discussion, with deputy head-girl Rosa delivering questions sent in by the online audience. Future speakers, including leading barrister Tim Otty QC, author and women's advocate Pinky Lilani, and former Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, promise to be equally captivating viewing. During school hours, meanwhile, lessons have been creatively adapted for delivery over Microsoft Teams, with some notable exceptions. The PE department, for instance, have encouraged students to get up, get away from their screens, and get moving. In place of their weekly PE lessons, students are set PE assignments. These include dance, High Intensity Interval Training circuits, extended family walks, runs, or cycles, and a special weekly PE challenge, on which note, how long can you hold a stacked plank for?

Contact [Sam Robson](#)

City of London Freeman's School

We are fortunate to have an active and engaged community of students, parents, staff and Alumni, with a shared love for Freeman's. We are proud that our School mission to 'Make A Difference' endures amongst our community, throughout their time connected directly with the School and beyond. Given that our Freeman's Family continues to demonstrate a desire to help those less fortunate, and in honour of that mission, the Freeman's Alumni and Development Office has launched an initiative to raise funds for Bursaries, which seeks to support students who would otherwise be unable to attend the School. We shall be celebrating the Freeman's community spirit through our first 'Love Freeman's' initiative. Our Freeman's Family is invited to share thoughts on what they love about Freeman's via short video messages or written words. The inaugural 'Giving Weekend', which will coincide with Valentine's Day, begins with an appeal from the Headmaster, inviting the purchase of 'Love Freeman's' merchandise in order to raise funds. In support, the Freeman's Music department is producing a special online concert featuring the first Virtual Community Choir Concert involving anyone connected with the School. The Concert will be released to coincide with the 'Love Freeman's' campaign and links to a giving page where the audience might make an optional donation to Freeman's Bursaries. The campaign culminates on Valentine's Day, with the release of the 'Love Freeman's' messages via @HelloFreemans, in the hope that we can 'Make A Difference' and increase much-needed support for Freeman's Bursaries.

Contact [Reema Agarwal](#) on 01372 822 454.

Gresham College

Strong Online Attendance

Gresham is running lectures online only up until at least April and we are continuing to get strong online audiences, with over 16,000 attending live online lectures so far this academic year (some 4,000 of which were school students) as well as good video views after the lectures (2.6m views so far this academic year, of which 50% were by people aged 18-44).

[Building Back Better: The City's Role in a Green-Led Economic Recovery](#)

When: Monday 1 February, 6-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Solving climate change is not something that can be achieved overnight; it is a long journey, one that is complicated by the economic problems we face after COVID-19. Every industry has a role in not only helping the economy recover from the pandemic, but also ensuring that any recovery is green-led. The City of London is a world leader in 'Green Finance' and has an important role in helping the country – and the world – to 'build back better'. Join the Lord Mayor, Dr Mark Carney, Liv Garfield and Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas, to find out more about how the City can help us transition to a sustainable and resilient future for all.

[Vaccination](#)

When: Wednesday 10 February, 6-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Vaccination has transformed the outlook for many previously lethal infectious diseases. It has, however, caused controversy since its beginnings, even when used for widely feared diseases such as smallpox. For many infectious diseases we do not have a vaccine, and may never get one. Vaccination is increasingly being considered for cancers, including ones with no infectious trigger. This lecture by Professor Chris Whitty will consider several aspects of the science and public debate about vaccines.

All lectures are live-streamed online and also made available afterwards on the [Gresham College website](#).

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

The Chairman of the Police Authority Board recently submitted a response on behalf of the Authority to the Home Office to inform their Review of the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). The SPR sets out the key priority areas where police forces must maintain a ready capability to deal with key national threats (e.g. Counter Terrorism and Public Order). The Authority is keen to see fraud made a more prominent feature in the SPR, which would require police forces to ensure they have a minimum capability to investigate fraud. Despite fraud accounting for a third of all crime, Police forces continue to divert resources to other areas, and it is hoped that highlighting fraud in the SPR will help ensure there is greater focus on building their local investigative teams. Fraud is also rarely prioritised in Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCCs) local plans and in addition to championing fraud in the SPR, the Authority is working closely with the City of London Police to engage PCCs and highlight the threat fraud poses and the role local forces have in tackling it. With the PCC elections coming up, this also presents an opportunity to raise the issue with a new cohort of local leaders.

Contact [Oliver Bolton](#)

City of London Police

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began to have an impact in the UK, City of London Police has played a key role in the in National policing response in relation to COVID-19 related frauds, usually aimed at the most vulnerable in society. In January 2021, Action Fraud, hosted by the force, received a report of an elderly woman who had been defrauded by an individual who demanded money after administering a fake vaccine. The individual was arrested following a nation-wide appeal and will stand trial on 12 February. Working with local and national media outlets and engagement with local forces, City of London Police continue to issue warnings related to COVID-19 related fraud. A number of fraud threats are currently circulating, either via SMS ('smishing') or email ('phishing'), the most common of which currently tells the recipient they need to pay for their COVID-19 vaccine. The DCPCU (a joint unit of Met and City of London Police officers, funded by UK Finance) has pursued a number of suspects behind the smishing/phishing frauds. Locally, the force has issued 121 fines for non-compliance with the COVID-19 regulations since April 2020, including two £10,000 fines, one of which was issued after a corporate Christmas party in December.

Contact [Teresa La Thangue](#)

Culture and Commerce Taskforce

The Lord Mayor's [Culture & Commerce Taskforce](#), jointly set up by the City Corporation and Culture Mile, will release a new report, making a number of key recommendations to secure London's cultural future. Please [sign up online](#) to attend the launch event at 8am on Tuesday 9 February. The Culture & Commerce: Fuelling Creative Renewal report will advise that collaboration across the commercial and creative sectors is now essential to build a renewed creative sector that accelerates economic growth and supports London's competitive business advantage. The Taskforce is now calling on creative, civic and commercial organisations across London to take forward, test and trial the recommendations outlined in the report. Taskforce Members are: Maria Adebawale-Schwarte, Foundation for Future London; Charles Armstrong, The Trampery; Ruth Duston OBE, OC Primera; Stella Ioannou, Sculpture in the City & Lacuna; Nicholas Kenyon, Barbican; Dan Makoski, Lloyds Banking Group; Tony Matharu, Integrity International Group & Central London Alliance; Gideon Moore, Linklaters; Lucy Musgrave OBE, Publica; Tonya Nelson, Arts Council England;

Caroline Norbury, Creative England & Creative Industries Federation, Beatrice Pembroke, King's College London; Jemma Read, Bloomberg LP; Dan Scanlon, Brookfield Properties & City Property Association; Russ Shaw, Tech London Advocates & Global Tech Advocates; Justine Simons OBE, Deputy Mayor for Culture & Creative Industries; Tom Sleigh, Barbican Board & Amazon Business UK; John Studzinski CBE, Genesis Foundation & PIMCO; and Jasmine Whitbread, CEO London First.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#) or [Andrew Buckingham](#)

Culture Mile

Following the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee to approve Culture Mile's core revenue budget for two years, Culture Mile continues its transition to a sustainable business model. Working to become a new culture-led Business Improvement District (BID) in the City, the project will continue to support creative SMEs and entrepreneurs, as well as seeking commercial sector partnerships to animate the district's public realm. Larry Achiampong has been appointed Artist in Residence for the public realm redevelopment of the historic Smithfield area. In January 2020, the City Corporation selected a multidisciplinary design team led by Hawkins\Brown and comprised of OKRA, Contemporary Art Society (CSA), Momentum, and Studio Dekka. Larry was invited to the role following a curatorial process led by the CSA and will be embedded in the design team. His role includes research into the area and engaging with local communities, particularly with black youth and elders in the City and adjacent boroughs. His work will develop a creative response that will inform Smithfield's civic spaces' permanent design. The winners of our £50,000 [Fusion Prize](#) have launched a recruitment drive for young people to join their incubator scheme - [The Pattern](#) - designed to give future cultural producers from under-represented groups the tools they need to develop community projects. The Fusion Prize is awarded to projects with young people that promote essential 21st Century fusion skills, in partnership with Foundation for Future London. Last month, Culture Mile distributed 1,600 creative 'Imagine Packs' to isolated individuals helping people in City Estates stay stay connected, including to Bangladeshi elderly people in Mansell Street and homeless people in local hostels.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

The Barbican has continued its curated digital cross-arts programme during its current temporary closure in line with the latest government guidance. Highlights of the latest digital programme include:

- [Cinema On Demand](#) offers a curated selection of independent new releases, ScreenTalks and exclusive partner festivals' content including Coded Bias, a documentary which examines the racial and gender prejudice embedded in artificial intelligence.
- [Soundhouse: Intimacy and Distance](#) is a free digital showcase of experimental audio works and written commissions exploring audio culture in a physically distanced world.
- A new selection of [Inside Out Shorts](#) - a series of films exploring the relationship between our inner lives and creativity, produced in collaboration with The Smalls. Directed by Lexi Kiddo, Laura Nasir Tamara, Natasha Mwansa and Roxy Rezvany, the films explore identity, love, mindfulness and our sense of self. Each film is accompanied by an interview with the filmmaker as they reflect on the past year, and what the future for filmmakers and cinema looks like.
- The latest exhibition in the Barbican's Curve gallery, [Toyin Ojih Odutola: A Countervailing Theory](#), can still be experienced via a digital video walkthrough of the space. Narrated by Toyin Ojih Odutola, the video reveals an epic cycle of new work that unfurls across the 90-metre long gallery, exploring an imagined ancient myth conceived by the artist.
- And the Barbican's podcast series [Nothing Concrete](#) has released new episodes, including a discussion with guest speakers Sadie Coles, Sir Richard Alston and Stevie Stewart on the themes raised by the recent Michael Clark: Cosmic Dancer exhibition.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Celebrating success of first ever season of digital events

Guildhall School is delighted with the response to its first digital performance season which included over 60 online events in the Autumn term. The 37,920 total views across the season are equivalent to having filled the Milton Court Concert Hall 62 times at full capacity. The events were viewed by people across the world, with 76,814 unique page views from over 120 countries. A selection of highlights will be available to watch again on Guildhall School's [YouTube Channel](#). Due to the latest restrictions, Guildhall School's teaching has moved online until at least 22 February. Upcoming digital events in the Spring term include [Research Works](#) seminars, the [Real Talk](#) conversation series and self-led solo performances from our students.

Staff and Student Awards

Recent months have seen multiple members of the Guildhall School community being recognised with

awards. In the 2021 New Year Honours, Composer in Residence and Professor of Composition Julian Anderson was awarded a CBE for services to music. At this year's Association for Lighting Designers Excellence Awards BA Technical Theatre graduates Liam Strong and Liam Sayer (2020) won the Blue- Theatre Technology Award for Excellence in Video and the Fred Foster Award for Production Electrics respectively. Finally, William Bruce, Head of Strings at Junior Guildhall, has been awarded the 2020 European String Teachers Association (ESTA) Award in recognition of distinguished services to string teaching.

Soprano Kate Royal presented with Fellowship of Guildhall School

Guildhall School is delighted to present alumna and soprano Kate Royal with a Fellowship, the School's highest accolade, awarded in recognition of exceptional achievement or service to the School. The award was presented during a masterclass with current Guildhall School singers in December 2020. Royal is one of the country's finest sopranos, having appeared with many of the world's finest orchestras and conductors, and has garnered many awards, including the 2007 Royal Philharmonic Society Young Artist Award.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations
Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

LMA LGBTQ+ Archives

On Saturday 5 December LMA was proud to present the 18th annual LGBTQ+ History and Archives Conference - Unorthodox: contrary to what is usual, traditional, or accepted. Celebrating its 18th birthday, the LGBTQ+ History and Archives Conference 'came of age'. For the first time ever, the conference took place online and the themes of the conference were explored through a combination of pre-recorded panels, interactive Q&As and live workshops. The online format was very successful and attendance was on a par with previous years including some international delegates. Fittingly for a coming of age event, the conference also saw the relaunch of LMA's LGBTQ+ programming under the new umbrella Out Loud: London Metropolitan LGBTQ+ Archives. Working with depositors, volunteers, project partners and researchers, its vision is to be a living centre for principles, practice, promotion and performance that connects archives to the LGBTQ+ communities they serve.

Collage - the London picture archive has changed

Providing free online access to over 250,000 historical photographs, prints, maps and drawings of the capital from the collections at LMA, Collage - The London Picture Archive is a fantastic resource for anyone interested in the visual history of the city. LMA made some changes to the website in December, including the name, so say farewell to Collage and hello to the [London Picture Archive](#). It has several new galleries including one of [historical images of London's keyworkers](#), and a seamless one-stop online process to order copies and usage licences.

Contact [Geoff Pick](#)

Museum of London

Collecting Dreams

In November the museum announced [Guardians of Sleep](#), a research-based project seeking to collect the dreams of Londoners from the pandemic. Launched as part of their Collecting COVID initiative, it will be the first time that dreams as personal testimonies will be collected by a museum. The news was covered widely across the UK and internationally.

"Trump Baby" Blimp

In 2019 the museum [announced its ambition to acquire the "Trump Baby" blimp](#), recognising its importance in the protests that happened in London in 2018. This month, it was confirmed that the blimp's final resting place would be with the Museum of London and potentially displayed in the museum's new home in West Smithfield. The announcement generated over 600 pieces of media coverage globally coming as it did ahead of the US Presidential Inauguration.

Weavers' Company donates £100,000 to the Museum of London's move to Smithfield

A £100,000 donation towards the creation of the new Museum of London from the Worshipful Company of Weavers was [announced earlier this month](#). This generous gift, one of the largest awarded by the Company, will support the Museum's plans to create a spectacular new home for the history of London and its people.

At home learning resources

The Museum of London's website offers a diverse range of educational resources for at home learning. The [Learning Resources](#) page spans English, history, citizenship, PSHE, science, geography and archaeology. You can filter by topic, historical era, or education level and discover a wealth of multimedia resources.

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

City Business Library (CBL)

CBL is adding two more specialist databases to the remote subscription offer with *Statista* (which has a wealth of statistics for industries, demographics and more) and *Alf* (which contains advertising spend and contacts for advertisers). This is helping small businesses not only make contacts, but also get ideas on how to successfully market themselves. In conjunction with the existing eight remote access data resources, this ensures that CBL continues to provide important business data to a wide range of SMEs. CBL is working with a wide range of business support organisations to help give wider SME access to the business information and this has been paramount during the pandemic. Recent partnerships include the Business Hub which is part of the Greater London Authority and the National Enterprise Network. CBL also created and launched a new YouTube channel in October 2020. The aim of the channel is to provide 24-hour support for our 1,665 subscription members and anyone who wants to understand how to use our business data. CBL continues to reach different business support networks all around the UK with online training sessions for The Entrepreneur Refugee Network (pan-London), Soul and Sound (Barking) and Launch It Scotland (Dundee and Paisley).

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

In the News

- Statues of two prominent figures in the City of London with links to the Transatlantic slave trade to be removed and re-sited was reported in over 470 pieces of coverage nationally and internationally, including [BBC News](#), [Metro](#), [Daily Mail](#), the [Evening Standard](#) and [The Times](#) [viewable internally only]. The Policy Chair and Co-Chairs of the Tackling Racism Taskforce were quoted. BBC news bulletins covered the story, including BBC Radio 4's Today and BBC regional stations. Co-Chair of the Tackling Racism Taskforce Caroline Addy took part in interviews on [BBC Radio London's Vanessa Feltz](#) breakfast show this morning [skip to 42:10] and [ITV News London](#) [link not available].
- Policy Chair quoted in the [Financial Times \(FT\)](#) in an article about a report published by the City Corporation that shows London continues to hold the top spot for financial and professional services. Further coverage in [Financial News](#) (£), [Yahoo Finance](#), [Politico](#) and [Eminetra](#).
- [Politico](#) included a piece about the International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG), setting out its key areas of focus in financial services as the UK takes over the presidency of the G7. The Policy Chair was quoted (£).
- Policy Chair quoted in a [FT](#) report about the City Corporation's COVID-19 Recovery plan. Further coverage in [Financial News](#) (£)
- In an interview with [Bloomberg Radio](#), the Policy Chair discussed the impact of the new national lockdown on the City. Articles in [City Matters](#) [1], [2] quoted the Policy Chair.
- [City A.M.](#) ran an interview with the Policy Chair, which highlighted that the UK's financial services industry should be prioritised in UK-EU trade talks going forwards. The comments were picked up by a [Daily Telegraph](#) opinion article, and in a piece by [Private Equity News](#). [£]
- Policy Chair was quoted in a [Guardian](#) article about how the City of London and in particular, its small businesses, have been coping financially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also reported by [Eminetra](#), [FR24 News](#).
- Policy Chair was quoted in a [City Matters](#) article about the Guildhall Yard testing centre delivering 12,000 COVID-19 tests.
- Coverage of the City Corporation's call for employees to complain if they are forced to travel to their workplace unnecessarily was aired on [BBC London](#) [viewable internally only]. Further coverage on [Times Radio](#) [after 42 minutes], [City A.M.](#), [the Guardian](#), [France 24](#) and [Brinkwire](#), quoting the Chairman the Port Health & Environment Committee.
- Chair of the Property Investment Board was quoted in the [Evening Standard](#) in a piece about law firm Latham & Watkins showing long-term confidence in London, after agreeing a major pre-let for a City office.
- City Bridge Trust Chairman was quoted in [In Your Area](#), [Sutton & Croydon Guardian](#), [This Is Local London](#) and [London Post](#) on a £143k grant which will enable youth charity, Reaching Higher, to triple the size of its operation.
- [BBC London News](#) reported on a City Bridge Trust grant to the charity, Rethink Mental Illness, for a programme to help university students with their mental health during the pandemic and beyond. The Trust's Communications Manager, was interviewed. (internal only).
- The [Channel 5](#) documentary, [Bridges That Built London](#), featured the work of City Bridge Trust, including a grant to environmental charity Hubbub. Former Deputy Chair of the Trust Committee, was interviewed. (internal only)
- [Camden New Journal](#) reported that the City Corporation will begin restoration work to Hampstead Heath this spring to address the very high level of footfall by visitors during the COVID-19 lockdown. Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee was quoted.
- [Ham & High](#) reported sporting facilities, including the bathing pools at Hampstead Heath have closed due to the new national lockdown, but the Heath is open for exercise.
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) reported on Noël Coward: Art & Style, the forthcoming major exhibition at Guildhall Art Gallery, celebrating the visual impact of the celebrated performer's life and work. (£) The exhibition has now been postponed due to the national lockdown.
- [The Times](#) [£] reports Sir Simon Rattle will leave the London Symphony Orchestra in 2023.