

March 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Meeting with Co-Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth

On 1 March the Lord Mayor met the Co-Chief Executive of Friends of the Earth, discussing sustainability and climate change. In a very constructive engagement, the meeting explored areas where the agendas of the City of London Corporation and Friends of the Earth could potentially align. There was agreement on the need to build on the public's understanding and support for addressing climate change. The meeting also explored the possibility of sharing research and data that reinforce the importance of a sustainable and inclusive transition away from fossil fuels. Friends of the Earth acknowledged the opportunities the Mayoralty had in provoking and leading relevant conversations in this arena in the finance world.

Roundtable with High Commissioner for Australia

On 2 March, during the UK Government's fourth round of Free Trade Agreement negotiations with Australia, the Lord Mayor attended a roundtable promoting regulatory cooperation in reducing frictions in the Financial and Professional Services sector (FPS). The Australian High Commissioner the Hon George Brandis QC also attended the event. The Lord Mayor spoke about the City's competitiveness and recovery from the pandemic, highlighting the importance of the Recovery Taskforce and the integral role proactive policy plays to ensure the right skills and working environment exist to support collaboration and innovation. He also spoke about digital trade and the position of regulation to help protect it against fragmentation.

City, University of London Space Institute Launch

On 3 March, in his capacity as Rector of City, University of London, the Lord Mayor spoke at a virtual launch event of the University's London Space Innovation Centre. This centre will act as a hub for coordinating and promoting multidisciplinary research, education and enterprise projects in space-related fields. It will also facilitate collaboration between academia, industry, and the public sector with a focus on connecting the space sector in London with other sectors and industries. Demonstrating its presence in another sector where London's innovative nature comes to the fore, the global space sector (of which London has 6.5%) is expected to continue grow strongly with estimates forecasting \$1tn in annual revenue by 2040.

Virtual visit to Birmingham

On 4 and 5 March, the Lord Mayor virtually visited Birmingham in a series of engagements with a focus on tech sectors. He met key regional stakeholders including West Midlands Growth Company and Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership; business meetings included lawtech firm Clarilis and online property lending platform CrowdProperty. The Lord Mayor also participated in a roundtable on the city region's new SuperTech cluster, which focuses on the enabling technologies which underpin a range of tech sectors; and met representatives of the University of Birmingham's Green Innovation Centre.

Virtual visit to Latin America

From 8-10 March, the Lord Mayor took part in a virtual visit to Latin America in collaboration with the UK Government, focussing on Brazil and Chile. The visit helped to build relationships with new senior Government officials in the UK and Latin America as well as existing City investors and firms looking to set up in the UK. The conversations focussed on the government and FPS sector's work to build sustainable policy and how the UK can support new regulatory frameworks such as Open Banking.

UK Board of Trade Meeting

On 10 March, the Lord Mayor attended the second full Board of Trade meeting, following the launch of the first Board of Trade Report – 'Global Britain, Local Jobs'. The Lord Mayor spoke on the Green Trade Paper as well as Adviser Engagement. He updated the Board on the City Corporation's work running up to COP26 and led discussions on how Advisers can engage between meetings to further Board objectives

Lloyd's fireside chat event: Future of Cities – 11 March

On 11 March, the Lord Mayor was a panellist at an event chaired by Bruce Carnegie-Brown, Chairman of Lloyd's, alongside Dan Hill, Visiting Professor of Practice at UCL Institute for Innovation and Public Service and Nicola Millard, Principal Innovation Partner at BT. Topics discussed included Revitalising the City after the pandemic and the role of business in shaping the future of the City. The audience comprised insurance leaders and insurance market participants. Key messages were the London Recharged report, finding that businesses are still committed to Central London with the number of recent planning approvals for new office towers in the Square Mile showing there is still a big demand for business bases in the City.

Institute of Directors International Women's Day Webinar

On 12 March the Lord Mayor, alongside other speakers such as Julie Kapsalis (Coast to Capital LEP) spoke at the Institute of Directors International Women's Day Webinar discussing Mental Health, Emotional Resilience and how to deal with uncertainty and adversity. He touched upon the City Corporation's work on the Women in Finance Charter and the Lord Mayor's Appeal's efforts in the She Can Be campaign as well as Place2Be, the children's mental health charity.

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

CHIEF COMMONER

Gearing up for the *Rentrée* – Expect the Unexpected

Members are eagerly awaiting the **Rentrée** but no one can yet be quite sure how it is going to pan out. The year since the first lockdown has taught us to expect the unexpected, and the road to full recovery may take months if not years.

If all goes to plan, and the roll-out of the vaccination continues to have positive results, there will be a partial reopening of Guildhall on 17 May and a further opening after 21 June. In all probability, though, this will not mean full and unfettered access as before. Some restrictions in terms of social distancing are likely to remain in place for several months, and it may not be until the autumn before the City of London Corporation finds a new way of working in a post-pandemic world. Hybrid meetings, with some members continuing to participate from home, are likely to become standard practice. Government legislation will need to be modified to allow this to happen.

In line with Government public health advice, and as COVID-19 recedes, the City Corporation is keen to promote a return of activity to the Square Mile and to encourage and incentivise people back to their offices. Much depends on when and under what conditions the Government lifts the work from home recommendation.

There are some positive steps planned for the road back to normal. The Lord Mayor is expecting to return to Mansion House in mid-April, the Guildhall Club hopes to open its doors for tables of up to six from 17 May, and the Remembrancer's office is again taking bookings for social events. The Waterloo & City line is expected to re-open.

For many Members, a key moment will be the first Court back in Great Hall; this could be the Court scheduled for 22 July – the first after 21 June.

On the corporate hospitality side at Guildhall, a number of events are planned for the summer and there are currently substantial bookings in the diary for the autumn. Enquiries for the latter part of the year and for spring 2022 are increasing. The general outlook, however, is that business meetings and events are not expected to return to pre-COVID-19 levels for a substantial period, perhaps up to two years.

In another sign that the worst of the pandemic may be over, the COVID-19 testing centre in Guildhall Yard is scheduled to close down in the next few months, although testing will continue at other venues in the City.

Events that have not been able to take place there, such as passing out parades for new recruits to the City of London Police, will be brought back. The two most recent police graduation parades have been held at Wellington Barracks – the latest on 12 March attended by the Lord Mayor, the Chief Commoner, the Remembrancer and the Chairman of the City of London Police Authority Board.



City of London Police graduation parade - Wellington Barracks

Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Scottish Government/City of London Corporation – Race to Zero panel event

The Policy Chair took part in the high-level panel discussion introducing the Scottish Government's Race to Zero programme of events on 9 March. The event saw the Policy Chair further cement our collaboration with the Scottish Government and our support for their advanced green agenda. The Policy Chair also set out the City of London Corporation's own activity in this space, from the civic ambition embodied in our Climate Action Strategy, to our work on green finance on the road to COP26 in Glasgow.

London Recovery and London Transition Board

In recent weeks, the Policy Chair attended the latest meeting of the London Transition Board, which is co-chaired by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Mayor of London. The Board provides strategic direction across London for the next phase of the COVID response and restart, focusing on the system-wide issues London faces. It has oversight of the London Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) which is chaired by the Town Clerk. The Board is expected to continue to meet every six weeks for the duration of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown. Its work is in parallel with the London Recovery Board, chaired by the Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils, bringing together borough leaders and representatives from trade unions, education, health and police. The board aims, among other things, to reverse unemployment caused by the economic fallout of COVID-19, support communities, reduce inequality, and deliver a greener London.

Department for International Trade (DIT): The Business of Resilience Conference

On 24 March, the Policy Chair was invited by DIT to take part in the Business of Resilience conference. The two-day event was focused on examining the increasing needs to build economic and societal resilience across the public and private sector against forms of systematic risks. In recent years forms of risk include climate change, natural catastrophes and environmental stress, highlighting the need for greater collaboration and innovation and across industries including insurance, finance, regulation and technology. The Policy Chair chaired a panel on *Enabling Environment* with executives from the London Market Group, EY, Clyde & Co. The discussion centred on the ways in which the City is a global leader for resilience finance and services, allowing other countries to establish their enabling environment.

Thirty influential leaders join Government-backed taskforce to boost socio-economic diversity

The UK Government has commissioned the City Corporation to lead a taskforce, which aims to boost socio-economic diversity at senior levels across UK financial and professional services (FPS). It will be chaired by the Policy Chair, and Co-Chairs Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Sandra Wallace (Social Mobility Commission) and Andy Haldane (Bank of England). A group of [30 senior leaders from across FPS](#) (plus six regulators appointed as observers) were publicly announced by the Government on 22 March.

International Women's Day (IWD) Event

In celebration of IWD, the City Corporation hosted a virtual event to highlight the impact of the pandemic on women, both in the workplace and at home. The event focused on themes such as the reversion to traditional gender roles, domestic violence and the success of female scientists and thinkers who provided invaluable contributions to solutions to the pandemic. The event witnessed over 500 attendees listen in to speeches made by the Policy Chair and Alderman Alison Gowman as well as a Q&A session featuring leading directors, partners and CEOs across various sectors.

Contact [Alex Redman](#)

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

Integrated Review

The Prime Minister made a statement to the House announcing the publication of the Government's integrated review of security, defence, development, and foreign policy. Boris Johnson spoke of using the UK's G7 Presidency and hosting of COP 26 as an opportunity to pursue international agreement on pandemic preparedness and net zero targets, respectively. The Prime Minister also announced his invitation to Australia, South Korea, and India to attend the G7 summit in June and will visit India next month. Johnson committed the UK to remaining a nuclear-armed power with "global reach" and military capabilities across all five operational domains - cyber, space, maritime, land and air. Johnson also reaffirmed his commitment to NATO and announced (formally) that HMS Queen Elizabeth will lead a carrier strike group to the Indo-Pacific and back. On China, the Prime Minister said he noted "deep concern" on the mass detention of Uyghurs and China's approach to Hong Kong but said, "we will also work with China where that is consistent with our values and interests, including in building a stronger and positive economic relationship and in addressing climate change." While not mentioned in the statement, the review commented that the UK's "unique soft power" is expressed through the UK's model of "democratic governance, legal systems and Common Law heritage" and institutions such as the BBC.

Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill

The Government introduced this Bill, covering an extremely broad spectrum of issues. The Bill sets out new rules requiring collaboration between authorities to prevent and reduce serious violence, a widening of the scope of offensive weapons, homicide reviews, and measures to restrict deliberately disruptive protests. The Bill will create a new statutory offence of public nuisance, in line with a recommendation made by the Law Commission in 2015, and reverse the law which currently prevents deaf jurors because a sign language interpreter would breach the rules about who is permitted in the jury room. The measures to address the desecration of war memorials and other statues through harsher penalties and the provisions relating to protest have caught the most public attention. Introducing the Bill, the Home Secretary made it clear that she had worked directly with the Police Federation in developing the measures. The Bill provides for a police covenant, similar to the military covenant, on which a report will be presented to Parliament annually.

COVID-19 and Education

The Education Select Committee heard from Catherine Roche, Chief Executive of children's mental health charity (and Lord Mayor's Appeal-supported) Place2Be and former Love Island star and Department for Education Youth Health Ambassador Dr Alex George on the impact of COVID-19 on the mental health of young people. Dr George explained his role to the committee in terms of using his social media following to help young people open up about mental health. Roche argued concerns about children's mental health had been growing before the pandemic, with the charity learning about more severe issues in children and young people in secondary schools following the resumption of schooling after England's first lockdown. The session gave some sobering statistics about the state of mental health in young people, with NHS benchmark reporting the greatest ever demand for child and adolescent specialist mental health services in November, up 20% on the year before. Dr George questioned the use of phrases such as "catch up" and "lost generation" because of their impact on the mental health of students.

Public Landmarks Review

Orpington MP and London Assembly Member Gareth Bacon (Con) led an adjournment debate on the Mayor's Commission for Diversity in the Public Realm. Bacon characterised Britain's heritage as being "under direct assault" from a "woke perspective" which sought to reinterpret British history "in a slanted and decontextualised manner" to justify "its belief that modern Britain is inherently racist." He argued that it was against this backdrop that the legitimacy of statues, monuments and road names was being questioned. Bacon criticised Sadiq Khan's use of public money to set up the "irresponsible and dangerous" Commission, which Bacon asserted was made up of "hand-picked, hard-left political activists" and intended to "tear down London's landmarks." He argued that the Mayor should instead focus on the "core functions" of his role, rather than "pushing ahead with [a] deeply divisive, virtue-signalling exercise." Housing Minister Chris Pincher agreed that the UK would be poorer if it sought to deny its history and set out the Government's 'retain and explain' policy. The Government, he said, would act "to ensure that our national heritage is protected from those who would seek to remove or deface it." The range of views expressed was limited by the thin attendance at the debate.

SNP Roundtable

The Policy Chair spoke alongside Emma Harvey, Programme Director at the Green Finance Institute at a roundtable event with SNP MPs. The event, "Civic Leadership and Green Finance in the transition to net zero", saw discussion of the role green finance can play in enabling projects such as the retrofitting of buildings to make them more energy efficient. MPs heard of the City of London's ambition to become the greenest financial centre in the world, as well as the City Corporation's Climate Action Strategy. There was also discussion of the City Corporation's aspirations for the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference.

City Plan 2036

On 14 January, the Court of Common Council approved the Proposed Submission Draft City Plan 2036 for its final stage of public consultation. The City Plan 2036 has now been published for consultation and representations are invited. The consultation runs from **19 March until 6pm on 7 May**. It will be available online only in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. The Proposed Submission Draft City Plan 2036, and other supporting information, is available on the [City of London Corporation website](#). Representations must be made on the form provided on the website. Guidance on how to respond is also available on the website.

Contact [Adrian Roche](#)

Major Programmes

Programme Briefing Sessions

The first Major Programmes briefing session for Members took place in early March and offered Members a high-level update on progress of the Market's Co-location, new Museum of London and the Salisbury Square Development programmes. These briefings will be scheduled quarterly and used to update Members on news and developments since the previous briefing. The next briefings are scheduled for:

- **9 June** (11am-12noon)
- **7 September** (3-4pm)
- **8 December** (11am- 12noon)

An email reminder will be sent a couple of weeks before each briefing and you are encouraged to RSVP to MajorProgrammes@cityoflondon.gov.uk. If you would like to be sent a copy of the slides from the first briefing on 9 March, please email the Major Programmes team.

Markets Co-location Programme – Outline Planning Application Approved

The programme to co-locate the three wholesale markets to a new site in Dagenham Dock continues to move at pace. On 22 March, the Policy Chair attended the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham's Planning Committee which decided unanimously to 'resolve to approve' the outline application for making Dagenham Dock the new home for the City's three wholesale food markets. This approval is a key milestone for the markets programme as we work towards starting the parliamentary process later this year. For more information please read the City Corporation's [media release on this important milestone](#). You can also visit the [Wholesale Markets website](#).

Contact [Gary Webb](#)

Bank Junction public consultation

The public consultation on proposals to change how Bank Junction operates will launch on the week beginning 29 March and will be open until 7 May. The All Change at Bank project is looking towards the future of the area around Bank Station. The underground station upgrade is due to open at the end of 2022. The proposal is to further restrict motor vehicle movements on three of the arms (Threadneedle, Princes and Queen Victoria Street) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This will deliver a simplified layout of the junction and provide the opportunity to deliver substantial improvements for people who walk and cycle, and to provide greening and seating to improving the spaces that people can stop and rest. The proposals assume that traffic returns to 2019 flows (worst case) and that the temporary COVID-19 restrictions are no longer required. It is recognised that some of the temporary restrictions could be in place for some time to come. Initial work has been undertaken to understand whether this will prevent some of the Bank proposals being progressed. Letters have been sent to all City residents to notify them of the consultation. Businesses, workers, visitor and students are being engaged through various established outlets. In addition, several virtual town hall meetings will be held for stakeholders to learn more about the project as well as ask questions. Please visit the [City of London website](#) for more information. If you would like to assist in notifying constituents within your Wards about the consultation and virtual events, please email: allchange@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Contact [Gillian Howard](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Virtual visit to North America

In February, the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair undertook a joint virtual visit to North America to engage with the senior leadership of key investors such as JP Morgan, Fidelity, Aon and OTTP. Conversations focused on global COVID-19 recovery, the future UK-North America relationship and the UK's ongoing competitiveness, with a focus on innovation, and environmental, social and governance matters in the run up to COP26.

Global Solutions to Global Problems: Promoting Regulatory Coherence in Financial Services for Pandemic Recovery

On 18 March, the IRSG (International Regulatory Strategy Group) published its latest report, "[Global Solutions to Global Problems: Promoting Regulatory Coherence in Financial Services for Pandemic Recovery](#)", which calls on global stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to regulatory coherence to support a digital and green pandemic economic recovery. The report suggests that by making a renewed commitment to regulatory coherence, policymakers will support progress on challenges to future economic growth, such as climate change, cyber-crime and financial crime. To launch the report, there was a virtual event which included a keynote address from Dietrich Domanski, Secretary General, Financial Stability Board.

City of London: an ecosystem enabling international trade

On 24 February, the City of London Corporation and EY published a new report "[The City of London: an ecosystem enabling international trade](#)", which demonstrates how the UK's financial and professional services (FPS) ecosystem supports internationally exporting firms up and down the country. With the UK reshaping its economic relationships with key global markets, and the UK Government positioning international trade as a central pillar of the post-COVID-19 recovery, there is an opportunity to look anew at how UK-based FPS can support even more firms across all sectors of the UK economy trade internationally. Over 200 participants joined for the virtual launch which included a keynote speech from Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for Trade Policy.

The Recovery Taskforce

The final recommendations of the Recovery Taskforce have been drafted and will go to the Policy & Resources Committee and the Planning & Transportation Committee in the coming weeks. Pending approval, the recommendations and corresponding actions will be launched at an event in late April, entitled 'The Square Mile: Future City.' The mission of the Taskforce is to ensure the Square Mile is the world's most innovative, inclusive and sustainable business ecosystem, an attractive place to work, learn, live and visit. By delivering the long-term success and recovery of the Square Mile, we can ensure it plays its full part in driving the recovery across London and the rest of the UK. The recommendations span three dimensions:

- World-class business ecosystem (i.e. thriving businesses with innovation and growth opportunities)
- Vibrant offer (leisure offer, i.e. retail, hospitality, culture, tourism and recreation)
- Outstanding environments (i.e. the right workspaces, environment, and infrastructure)

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

City Bridge Trust (CBT)

COVID funding support via the London Community Response Fund (LCRF)

On 11 January, the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the CBT Committee, allocated £4m of the 2020-2021 CBT 'Bridging Divides' (BD) budget to Wave 5 through the LCRF, and £1m towards aligned expenditure (also from the 2020-2021 BD Budget). Expenditure of the £4m LCRF funds is now underway. A donation of £250,000 was also received from Macquarie Bank, bringing the total available for Wave 5 expenditure to £4.25m.

Flexible Funders

CBT has signed up to the Flexible Funders campaign run by the Institute of Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) and London Funders (the charity enabling the membership network for funders and investors of London's civil society). The campaign calls on funders to adopt more open and trusting practices that make life easier for those we fund, in light of the ongoing uncertainty caused by COVID-19. For more information visit the [IVAR website](#).

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Fabric Presents: London Unlocked

Tower Bridge is part of Fabric Presents: London Unlocked, a streaming series showcasing performances from the UK's leading electronic artists. London Unlocked, in partnership with Arts Council England, launched on 14 March and is streaming every Sunday for seven weeks. This extraordinary series sees Fabric nightclub unlock some of London's most iconic cultural spaces and raise donations for the Music Venue Trust (MVT) to support struggling grassroots music venues around the country. Tune in at 6pm on 11 April, when, at the top of Tower Bridge, Bristol's Giant Swan are set to perform before Djrum's deft and textured rhythmic selections and the fierce-forward sound of LCY. Visit the [Fabric London website](#) to see previous streams.

Increased profits at Chingford Golf Course

Golf is one of the few sports that has been permitted throughout the eased periods of lockdown during COVID-19. As such, profits at Chingford Golf Course in Epping Forest have increased this year by 16%, even with full closures being in place during the strictest periods of lockdown experienced in the spring last year and throughout this recent lockdown.

Revived woodland walk at West Ham Park

With help from departmental colleagues and West Ham Park's vegetable garden volunteers, Andrea Hayden, the Apprentice Team Leader led a project to replace the silver birch logs along the woodland walk. Level 2 horticulture apprentices from City Gardens, Dan Kane and Charlie Day, helped Andrea tackle the challenge as part of their course work which resulted in enhancing this ever-popular space, creating a visually pleasing pathway and a haven for wildlife. This is one of many projects apprentices are undertaking so watch out for new planting schemes in the Ornamental Gardens over summer.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Global Recycling Day – 18 March

In recognition of Global Recycling Day on 18 March, the Recycling and Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) Team hosted an online meeting for all staff reinforcing the importance of recycling and waste reduction. The presentation and supplementary information is available upon request.

Environmental awards given out at the first virtual Clean City Award Ceremony

The City of London Corporation's Recycling and CCAS Team ran the first ever virtual Clean City Awards Ceremony on 22 March. Hosted by the Chairman of Port Health and Environmental Services Committee, Keith Bottomley, the businesses leading the way in improving environmental performance were: Bank of England in the Air Quality and Climate Action category; Investec in Plastic Free City category; Broadgate in Resource and Circular Economy category; and Investec in Communication and Engagement category. The Bank of England and 1 Angel Court were the respective winners in the Large Site and Facility Management categories in the Chairman's Cup, for which this year's theme was "embedding environmental performance and sustainability during the COVID outbreak". The CCAS is open to all businesses and organisations in the Square Mile. For more information visit the [CCAS London website](#).

The City becomes the first place in the UK to run a fleet of Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles

The new fleet of Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (ERCV) will form the UK's first zero emission recycling and waste collection fleet and will collect residents' waste and recycling in the Square Mile. The first ERCV arrived on 4 March, with more to follow. It is anticipated that the new fleet of vehicles will collect approximately 20,000 tonnes of residential recycling and waste over the next six years. The pollution-busting ERCVs are part of the City Corporation's plan to ensure at least 90% of the Square Mile meets World Health Organisation guidelines for nitrogen dioxide by 2025. The introduction of this fleet of vehicles also aligns with the Climate Action Strategy goal for the City Corporation to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2027.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Community & Children's Services

Education and Early Years

If you have a child under five years old, and you live in the Square Mile, your child could receive a free book every month with the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Countless parents have shared how excited their child is when their new book arrives each month. Many groups and individuals work hard behind the scenes to make that special moment possible for each child. They can also access COLTALE (City of London Talks and Listens Enthusiastically) a communication and language project for children represented by a friendly blue dragon whose stories are written by children. COLTALE has responded to the pandemic by reviewing and adapting its online content to help reach as many City families as possible.

Contact: eeyservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Air Quality Superhero

As part of the Aldgate in Winter project the Community Engagement Team and the Air Quality Team asked young people in the area to design an Air Quality Superhero and received over 40 submissions. The winning drawings will be created into large-scale 3D lantern structures and displayed publicly in the summer.

Contact [Emily Grant](#)

Winter Grant Update

As part of its COVID-19 roadmap, the Government announced that the COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme will be extended to 16 April. The grant provides financial support for those in need during the pandemic, in particular those in receipt of free school meals. The City Corporation will make an additional payment to all families that are entitled to the grant over the Easter holiday period.

Contact [Karen Mathieu](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

Schools Reopening

The City of London Family of Schools welcomed most pupils back to school on 8 March, although for many there was a consistent in-school contingent during the national lockdown. The Schools are working with parents and pupils to ensure information and advice on testing, masks, arrival and leaving times, school transport, corridor protocols, handwashing, and other processes are clearly communicated and understood. The Government announced that the statutory Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 tests for this summer have been cancelled and primary schools will use internal assessment data for results. Furthermore, GCSE and A-Level examinations have also been cancelled and grades will be awarded based on teacher assessments. The Education Unit continue to engage with Schools during the process of reopening including through regular engagement forums and pupil-based events.

Chess Tournament and Workshops (Virtual)

The Education Unit, alongside Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC), hosted the annual Family of Schools' Chess Tournament as an online event on 3 March. Over 80 pupils joined the Tournament on the day, facilitated by the online platform Chess Kid and between games, CSC facilitated discussions, tips and techniques and interactive conversations on past games and historic check mates. Two training sessions for pupils took place prior to the tournament, who conducted themselves in a professional manner showcasing their extensive knowledge and passion, as well as being enthusiastic players. All pupils who took part in the tournament received a year's free subscription of a gold Chess Kid account. The Chess Tournament also provided an opportunity for Fusion Skills development including problem solving, initiative, critical thinking, resilience and analysis, and evaluation skills.

London Careers Festival

The London Careers Festival will take place again this year and will be hosted virtually between 28 June and 2 July for primary, secondary and post-16 pupils. The event is designed to connect pupils with the world of work so that they are introduced to the diverse array of opportunities offered across Greater London and beyond, and to fuel their imaginations and inform their futures. The festival will offer webinars, workshops and easily accessible resources to support pupils to explore a wide range of skills and career-related opportunities as well as help schools to meet their Gatsby benchmarks. Over 120 organisations and 5,000 students have attended the event over the last two years. For more information and to register, visit the [London Careers Festival website](#) or email the [London Careers Festival Team](#). Bookings for events is now open and Members are invited to share details of LCF with schools and other organisations.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School (CLS)

After being extended from October to the end of January due to COVID-19, the 2020/21 UCAS university application cycle has closed, and CLS now have 166 UCAS applications with UK universities and offers for pupils have been coming in thick and fast. The most popular institutions amongst this year's applicants are, in no particular order, Bristol, Warwick, Leeds, Durham, Manchester, Bath, Kings College London, Oxford, York and Birmingham. 30 pupils have received offers from Oxford and Cambridge, and it is always fantastic to see the incredible hard work our pupils put in being rewarded in this most competitive endeavour. Their offers cover a wide range of subjects including Natural Sciences, Computer Science, Maths, Engineering, Philosophy and Law. CLS is also delighted to announce that in March, Year 7 pupil, Keyaan, was named runner up in the BBC Young Reporters Competition. Over 2,500 young people entered the competition submitting their story ideas on one of three topics: 'Me and My World', 'Coronavirus Stories' or 'Uplifting Stories'. Keyaan focussed on the topic 'Me and My World' and submitted a story entitled: The stigma within the Bangladeshi community of being part of a single-parent family.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#) on 0203 680 6414

City of London School for Girls (CLSG)

After two full months of learning from home, broken up by a one-week holiday to relax at home, March began with the exciting news that students and staff would be able to return once more to the Barbican site. This was facilitated, of course, with a gargantuan testing effort. Previously a space for rehearsals and assemblies, CLSG's New Hall was transformed into a purpose-built asymptomatic testing centre complete with six adjacent booths and a friendly group of trained alumnae, garbed in full Personal Protective Equipment and ready to assist students through the self-swab process. In the ensuing week and a half, over 2,000 lateral flow tests were performed on nearly 700 students from year 7 through to year 13, with home-testing kits distributed for all to continue the now-familiar process at home. It certainly seems fitting that as everyone is approaching the Easter holidays from our physical classrooms, talking to non-pixelated faces, that the sun has come out – a warm and hopeful end to the term in more ways than one.

Contact [Sam Robson](#)

City of London Freeman's Schools

The Freeman's Alumni and Development Office recently launched an initiative to raise funds for Bursaries, which seeks to support students who would otherwise be unable to attend the School. 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, #LoveFreemens was launched to support fundraising for Freeman's Bursaries. The inaugural #LoveFreemens 'Giving Weekend', which coincided with Valentine's Day, began with an appeal from Mr Martin, Headmaster, inviting the purchase of 'Love Freeman's' merchandise in order to raise funds. In support, the Freeman's Music department produced a special online concert featuring the first Virtual Community Choir involving anyone connected with the School. The campaign culminated with the release of short video messages from our community explaining what they love about the School, shared via @HelloFreemens, in the hope that we could 'Make A Difference' and increase much-needed support for Freeman's Bursaries. We are delighted to announce that a fantastic total of £41,903 has been raised through the Love Freeman's campaign so far, thanks to the generous donations of our Freeman's Community and match funding available through the City Corporation. Please view the Love Freeman's videos, as well as the virtual concert, on our [website](#).

Contact [Reema Agarwal](#)

Gresham College

News

Gresham Maths Professor, Sarah Hart, wrote an article for the [New York Times](#) in March on music, literature and maths. Gresham College is currently running an [audience survey](#) to help assess our reach and impact.

Snapshot of some upcoming lectures

[What do we owe to those not yet born?](#) 13 April, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later)

Climate change and the over-exploitation of resources now may mean that unless the current generation modifies its behaviour, generations ahead may either not be born or will inherit a world with severe problems. A village or even a nation state can develop rules to prevent depletion of resources so that it does not cut down forests or over-fish the oceans. In this lecture Professor Martin Daunton asks, how can that be done globally when the action of one country can have a harmful effect on another?

[Where do Mathematical Symbols Come From?](#) 27 April, 1-2pm, online, free (or watch later)

Where do we get our mathematical symbols from? Why is the set of integers called Z ? When was the equals sign first used? How about zero? Good notation tends to catch on quickly, whereas bad notation can obscure beautiful theory. The lecture by Professor Sarah Hart explores how the introduction of new notation has paved the way for new leaps in understanding, and considers some mathematical quirks of language, such as what the number four in English has in common with the number 11 in Russian.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

The Black Lives Matter movement in May 2020 and more recent public vigil for Sarah Everard sparked wider conversations around the importance of legitimate, representative and proportionate policing across communities. Both events also drew attention to a greater need to increase public consultation - with focus on inequality issues to enhance understanding and improve service delivery particularly in respect to personal and public safety. The City Corporation has been looking at these issues for some time and assembled a Taskforce to assess what actions it could undertake to listen, engage and consult with the wider public, in order to promote better economic, educational and social inclusion across all its activities. This resulted in the publication and endorsement of the Tackling Racism Taskforce Report by the Policy & Resources Committee on 21 January and the Establishment Committee on 27 January. Following the publication of this report, the Police Authority Board developed a Diversity and Inclusion statement in response to the Taskforce's recommendations, outlining the Board's commitment to ensuring it's legal obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and associated Public Sector Equality Duty in respect to recruitment, training, retention and working practices. The statement was approved by the Board on 25 March and will align with the City of London Police Equality & Inclusion Action Plan set to be published shortly. The Police Board will work closely with the City of London Police, City Corporation, wider partners and stakeholders to ensure all aspects of its work and service delivery meet the objectives outlined in the Diversity and Inclusion statement. Members can read the [City of London Police Equality and Inclusion Strategy \(2020-2025\)](#) online.

Contact [Rachael Waldron](#)

City of London Police

COVID-19 regulations

Over recent weeks, Policing has again been thrust into the spotlight, with a serving Met officer charged with

the murder of Sarah Everard, and the subsequent vigil on Clapham Common. The policing family remains appalled by Sarah's death. Policing is often caught between public feeling and the need to enforce the law, and under current COVID-19 regulations, large gatherings are not permitted. The City of London Police continues to police the regulations in a proportionate and appropriate way, in line with the 4Es approach - explain, engage, encourage, enforce.

Violence Against Women and Girls

On Monday 15 March, there was an extraordinary meeting of the National Chief Constables Council, to discuss violence against women and girls. While being abducted from the streets is thankfully rare, violence against women and girls at the hands of men is not, and policing is fully alive to the pernicious harassment women suffer that limits their freedoms. A key issue for policing is the effectiveness of our response to violence against women, particularly in relation to rape, domestic abuse and stalking. In the City of London, we share the commitment to see meaningful change come from Sarah Everard's death and we will carefully consider in the coming weeks how we can contribute to this change.

Contact [Teresa La Thangue](#)

Community Safety

Reframe the Night

The Community Safety Team is relaunching the Reframe the Night campaign, which challenges myths and misconceptions around sexual harassment. This will be promoted through social media, other online channels and will be supported by the City of London Police.

Contact [Ayesha Fordham](#)

Prevent

The Community Safety Team, working with the City of London Police, delivered Prevent awareness sessions across the City Corporation, including: the Homelessness Team, Education and Early Years (including providers), Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care Safeguarding and Quality Assurance and Apprentices.

Contact [Ali Burlington](#)

Markets & Consumer Protection

Citizen Science air quality monitoring

The City Corporation's Air Quality Team has launched a project giving residents the opportunity to measure local air quality for 12 months, seven years after a similar study took place. The initiative is being run with residents of the Barbican and Golden Lane Estates, with the support of social enterprise Mapping for Change. It aims to demonstrate the improvements in air quality that have occurred since the original Citizen Science programme and the value of community input in tackling local environmental issues. Several recommendations made by residents during the initial project have been implemented leading to improved air quality, including a three-year Low Emission Neighbourhood programme implementing electric vehicle charging points, green infrastructure, cargo bikes and a zero-emission street pilot.

Contact [Ruth Calderwood](#)

Commendation for Billingsgate Market's new wellbeing space

At their virtual conference on 4 February, the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA), highly commended the submission made by Billingsgate Market in the category of 'Innovation of the Year'. In this particularly challenging time, staff worked with the mental health charity MIND to help create a space where tenants, staff, customers, and anyone else visiting the market can just rest, clear their thoughts, relax and discreetly find information on services that they might want to access. MIND advised on improving the lighting, painting and furnishings as well as how to make the space more discreet and what to leave in the area to attract people to use it. Supporting the submission MIND said "*We are pleased to endorse the wellbeing space that Billingsgate have created for their traders, staff, and customers. This is a wonderful initiative and is a highly important message to be sharing with a predominantly male environment.*"

Contact [Daniel Ritchie](#)

Culture Mile

Moor Lane Community Garden

A new poetry commission in Moor Lane Community Garden was unveiled to coincide with World Poetry Day on 21 March. The poem, *a portrait of you in a garden, now*, written by Kit Finnie, is complemented online by a suite of accompanying works, including a [creative video commission](#) created by Guildhall School graduate Em Davis.

Play Packs and Imagine Packs

Culture Mile's successful Play Packs scheme will be celebrated in a billboard campaign, Play Packs in the

Streets this month, taking a selection of imaginative play prompts to the streets around Culture Mile. Over 1,500 Imagine Packs for isolated, older people have been distributed to care homes and local estates including Middlesex Street, Mansell Street and Golden Lane, featuring different creative activities, including weaving and planting, inspired by the Moor Lane Community Garden.

Culture Mile Learning

Culture Mile Learning's virtual art exhibition #Mood starts in April for the City Family of Schools, in collaboration with Art in Flux. Students create their own memes inspired by artists and submit them into a collective digital artwork. Culture Mile Learning and Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning have also launched Fusion Futures, in association with Foundation for Future London. Secondary school pupils will take part in workshops with an artist and an industry partner to explore collaboration and adaptability alongside creative careers. Future programme participants will include trainees, apprentices and adult learners.

Global Culture District Network

Culture Mile took part in a Global Culture District Network discussion event on 17 March. The event focused on Culture Mile as the core case study for [recently published research](#) about the relationship between cultural organisations and local creative industries by AEA Consulting for NESTA Policy & Evidence Centre.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

The Barbican has announced that Will Gompertz will join the arts centre in the newly designed role of Director of Arts and Learning. This key role for the Centre brings together the arts and creative learning departments for the first time, and working with the art form and learning leads, Gompertz will lead the creation and delivery of the next phase of the Barbican's artistic vision. He joins the Barbican from the BBC where he has been Arts Editor since 2009, and prior to that was a Director of the Tate Galleries for seven years. During his tenure in these internationally renowned media and cultural organisations, he brought a focus on driving innovation and change, opening up the arts to the public with dynamic and strategic leadership. Gompertz joins the Barbican at a pivotal time as it looks to its 40th anniversary next year and embarks on a major renewal of the building which aims to ensure the Centre will be the creative home for the next generation. He will lead the organisation in renewing its vision and purpose as a civic space for the widest inclusive community, especially in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He will take up the position on 1 June. Led by Saxton Bampfylde, a wide-ranging recruitment process involving members of the Barbican Centre Board and Directors led to the appointment.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Spring Dramas: All Your Houses and Jackal Run

Final-year actors and production artists at Guildhall School have worked with two multi-award-winning theatre companies to create two brand new pieces of contemporary theatre, available to view from 14 April, 7.30pm. In *All Your Houses*, created with theatre company Barrel Organ, 14 people look out of their bedroom windows. Something is coming, so they look to each other for help, only to find that they are alone. Forced to turn inwards, they unearth figures from the past, who can perhaps help them with their present. *Jackal Run*, created with theatre company Breach, is inspired by real events and uses a blend of real witness testimony and imagined characters to tell the story of a group of British women who discover their partners are undercover police officers. Each of their stories – spanning several decades of deception, manipulation and surveillance – are remarkably similar, and now they are looking for answers.

Final five bridges of Illuminated River to be lit in Spring 2021

Illuminated River is a public art commission to light up the bridges of the Thames, delivered by artist Leo Villareal, who uses the latest LED technology to 'paint with light', and architects Lifschutz Davidson Sandilands. Guildhall School composers and electronic producers have been commissioned to create original scores inspired by the context and architecture of the bridges. The pieces capture the character of each bridge, ranging from sweeping orchestral scores to minimalist electronic pieces and original songs. In Spring 2021, the final five bridges will be illuminated: Blackfriars Bridge, Waterloo Bridge, Golden Jubilee Footbridges, Westminster Bridge and Lambeth Bridge.

Spring music events include a Beatles Reimagined concert

Guildhall Studio Orchestra perform reworkings of Beatles hits including In My Life, Eleanor Rigby and Yesterday in a concert to be broadcast online which celebrates Guildhall School alumnus Sir George Martin's pivotal role in the creation of these timeless songs (1 April, 7:30pm). It features arrangements by Head of Jazz Malcolm Edmonstone which were originally commissioned by BBC Radio 2 for Friday Night is Music Night. Watch this event and see full listings of upcoming performances on the [GSMD website](#).

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

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

Haringey's BAME LGBTQ+ history has been secured for future generations with the help of LMA and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Since July 2018, LMA has been working with Haringey Archive and Museum Service (HAMS) to support the Haringey Vanguard Collection (HVC) at Bruce Castle Museum, a BAME LGBTQ+ History project focused on the history and contributions of Haringey-based community activists in the 1970s–90s. The impact of the project has been felt well beyond Haringey, improving access to existing collections and encouraging the donation of new material. This has brought together formal records with personal and community collections, enriching wider Haringey LGBTQ+ history and ensuring the preservation of this important history by placing older BAME LGBTQ+ residents' experiences at the heart of the project. The culmination of the two year project was the launch of *We Have Always Been Here*, an exhibition from the HVC hosted by the Mayor of Haringey of which you can find a recording on [Youtube](#). A website has been created at www.hgbh.co.uk where visitors can learn more about the project, listen to excerpts of audio and see some of the archive materials; education resources will be added soon. Those interested in information about future access to the exhibition and contributing materials or stories, should email museum.services@haringey.gov.uk, call 020 8489 4250 or visit www.haringey.gov.uk/brucecastlemuseum.

Contact [Geoff Pick](#)

Museum of London

Women's History Month

The Museum of London has been celebrating Women's History Month throughout March with online exhibitions, events, articles, videos and much more. Highlights include the [Votes for Women online exhibition](#), which was originally a traditional physical exhibition, as well as a new Women's History Month series of videos created in collaboration with some of London's best women in comedy. Each comedian has created their own comedic sketch inspired by pieces chosen from the Museum's London Collection. Watch the [series](#) and visit our online [Women's History Month Hub](#) to discover even more.

Young people must be at the heart of Museums' post-pandemic plans

The Museum's Director, Sharon Ament, [wrote in 'the Guardian'](#) on the importance of placing children and young people at the heart of London's cultural recovery, focusing on the new Museum of London project.

Toto the Ninja Cat x Museum of London – In Conversation with Dermot O'Leary

Join the Museum of London for a PAWsome exclusive online event celebrating Toto the Ninja Cat and the Mystery Jewel Thief, the new children's book written by Dermot O'Leary. From St. Paul's to the legend of Dick Whittington and his faithful cat Tom, discover surprising stories through the eyes of Toto and her gang of friends. The event will take place on the Museum's Facebook Page on 9 April at 11am, and is completely free. Find out more and sign up [online](#) to receive a reminder just before the broadcast begins and get 10% off Toto the Ninja Cat and the Mystery Jewel Thief paperback in the Museum of London's [online shop](#).

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

City Business Library (CBL)

Networking

CBL will be hosting a series of monthly networking events beginning 1 April with [Women in Business - Rising to the challenge](#). These events have been developed following a survey of small businesses carried out last year by the City Corporation where respondents said they were looking for more networking opportunities.

Business planning short course

CBL will be running a [short course on business planning](#) for entrepreneurs wanting support in their forward plans, which will take place in the last week of March and first week of April. The course covers getting started, sales and marketing, financials and outside impacts. It is designed for entrepreneurs at all stages.

Outreach

At the end of March CBL will deliver three sessions on Introduction to Starting a Business to Year 10 GCSE Business Studies students at Valentines High School, Redbridge. Training on using the Library's resources for the Prince's Trust and on business start-up for Islington Adult Education have already been delivered.

IT upgrade

In preparation for reopening the physical Library the public IT will be upgraded with a new dedicated WIFI network and workstations. The Library will be reconfigured to ensure that we can welcome our members back safely. CBL is working with an external company to develop an App.

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

In the News

- The Policy Chair was quoted in [City AM](#) in a piece covering the release of the Z/Yen Global Financial Centres Index. Further coverage in [MSN News UK](#), [MSN News Ireland](#), [The Daily Express](#), [MSN News UK](#) and [Financial Sector Technology](#).
- Coverage of Lord Mayor's virtual visit to Birmingham in [Insider Media](#), [Just Entrepreneurs](#), [Business Insider](#), [Business and Innovation Magazine](#), [Grapevine Birmingham](#) and [Business Leader](#). The Lord Mayor was quoted.
- The Policy Chair was interviewed on [BBC Radio London](#), on the Prime Minister's plans to lift the UK out of lockdown [viewable internally] Further coverage in [City Matters](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) (£) and [EGL](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted in a piece by [Reuters](#) related to the Women in Finance Charter. Coverage also in [The Daily Mail](#), [This is Money](#), [Nasdaq](#), [Yahoo! News](#), [MSN News](#), [Global Banking and Finance Review](#), [Metro US](#), [London South East](#) and several international radio stations.
- The [Financial Times](#) (£) quoted the Policy Chair on tax policy and the need for UK regulation to keep pace with a fast-changing world following the Chancellor's Budget.
- A joint op-ed from the Lord Mayor and Charlotte Crosswell, Chief Executive of Innovate Finance, in [Financial News](#) highlighted the need to do more to attract IPOs to London. (£)
- The Policy Chair discussed the outcomes of the Kalifa Review in an op-ed piece for [City AM](#). Further analysis of the review in [Fintech Times](#) mentioned the City of London Corporation.
- [City AM](#) ran a story on the decision of the Court of Common Council to create a new Covid Business Recovery Fund of up to £50m to support Square Mile firms. Chairman of the Finance Committee Jeremy Mayhew was quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#), [World News Monitor](#) and [City Matters](#) where elected member Tijs Broeke was quoted.
- [City Matters](#) reported on the Court of Common Council's decision to protect spending on social care, rough sleeping and academies. Finance Committee Chairman Jeremy Mayhew was quoted.
- [Politico](#) (viewable internally only) covered a new report launched by the City of London Corporation in collaboration with EY on the role that the City ecosystem has to play in enabling international trade. The Policy Chair was quoted. Further coverage in [City A.M.](#)
- The [FT](#) published a letter written by the Chairman of the City of London Corporation's Licensing Committee, Sophie Anne Fernandes, about the City's hospitality sector bouncing back after lockdown. (£)
- [The Telegraph](#) reported on the City of London Corporation having so far this year approved more than two-million square feet of office floorspace, amounting to almost 80 percent of the total office floorspace it approved last year. Planning and Transportation Chair Alastair Moss was quoted. Also covered by [Estates Gazette](#), [London South East](#), [IFA Magazine](#), [City A.M.](#) and [The Times](#). [£]
- Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Alastair Moss, was quoted in coverage of the City of London Corporation's approval of a new 38-storey development at 2 Finsbury Avenue. Coverage featured in the [Evening Standard](#), [Building](#), [Property Week](#), [Estates Gazette](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Construction News](#), [Twin FM](#), [City A.M.](#), [The Daily Telegraph](#) [viewable internally only], [Construction Enquirer](#), [The Construction Index](#) and [On London](#).
- The Chair of the Barbican Centre Board was interviewed in [AJ](#) on the Barbican Renewal project.
- The Lord Mayor wrote in [City A.M.](#) about the Culture and Commerce Taskforce report which sets out the blueprint to aid the recovery of London's creative industries.
- [City AM](#), [Financial News](#) (£) and [Air Quality News](#) ran articles about the City Corporation becoming the first UK governing body to run a full fleet of Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles. Chairman of the Environment Committee Keith Bottomley was quoted. Further coverage in [Envirotec](#), [World News Monitor](#), [Commercial Fleet](#), [Londonist](#), [City Matters](#), [Transport Xtra](#) (£), [Fleet Europe](#), [Green Fleet](#), [SMMT](#), [My London](#) and [Fleet Point](#).
- [City A.M.](#) reported on a new London-wide 'Engines off, Every Stop' campaign launched by the City Corporation and Camden Council to improve air quality Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Chairman Keith Bottomley was quoted. Further coverage in [Taxi Point](#), [Public Sector Executive](#), [The Chiswick Herald](#), [Fleet News](#) and [Green Fleet](#).
- [Air Quality News](#) quoted Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Chairman Keith Bottomley in a story about a new Citizen Science Project at the Barbican and Golden Lane Estates. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- The Policy Chair wrote in [City AM](#) and [City Matters](#) on air quality. The column covers idling engines, the City Corporation's new electric refuse vehicle fleet, and local air quality monitoring.