

October 2020



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Meeting with Saudi Minister of Commerce - 7 October

A delegation from Saudi Arabia led by their Minister of Commerce visited Mansion House to discuss Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and its alignment to financial services and the City. Both he and the Lord Mayor noted fintech, sustainable finance and insurance as important areas for partnership. This continued development of the relationship between the City and Saudi Arabia, even with the uncertainty of Brexit.

President of Ukraine, Ukraine Investment Forum - 8 October

President of Ukraine visited Mansion House, where he and the Lord Mayor opened the Ukraine Investment Forum. The Lord Mayor noted the poignancy of the President's visit in the wake of the pandemic to promote global trade. He also highlighted the UK's financial services strengths, the importance of Environmental, Social and Governance matters (ESG), and increased cooperation in financial services between the UK and Ukraine.

UK-India Sustainable Investing Online Forum - 14 October

In the context of the UK-India Economic Financial Dialogue and Virtual Visit, the Lord Mayor opened the UK-India Sustainable Investing Forum, alongside the President of the Indian Partnership Forum, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Power and the High Commissioner of India. The Lord Mayor noted the group's progress in attracting international capital, accessing finance for local projects, implementing a sustainable finance framework, and proposals to set up a UK-India Institute of ESG investment.

Culture & Commerce Taskforce - 16 October

The Culture & Commerce Taskforce was setup by the Lord Mayor and Culture Mile to tackle the 'cultural catastrophe' caused by COVID-19 and forms an integral part of 'Global UK: The New Future' the current mayoral theme. At this inaugural meeting the Lord Mayor welcomed Lord Neil Mendoza, the Government's Commissioner for Cultural Recovery and Renewal, alongside senior leaders from a range of sectors in the City who will be taking part in the work of the Taskforce.

Board of Trade Meeting - 19 October

The Lord Mayor represented the financial and professional services sector at the inaugural meeting of the UK Board of Trade presided by Rt Hon Liz Truss MP – Secretary of State for International Trade. The Lord Mayor emphasised the strength of the UK's financial and professional services sector and the importance of not discounting the UK's services sector.

North America Virtual Visit, 19-23 October

The Lord Mayor conducted a four-day virtual visit to North America engaging with key partners in San Francisco, New York City, Chicago and Toronto. The visit was an opportunity to advance the City Corporation's North American investment campaign by attracting capital investment into the UK fintech sector. In a first on his virtual visits, the Lord Mayor was accompanied by a business delegation comprised of UK fintech and Venture Capital (VC) firms interested in expanding into North America, fundraising and co-investment opportunities. Online meetings were held with TPG Growth, NEA, HSBC Ventures, IVP, OMERS, JP Morgan and Salesforce Ventures amongst others. Discussions focused on the differences between UK and North American VC ecosystems, co-investment, and advice for UK companies looking for investment partnerships, alongside the impact of COVID-19. There was considerable interest from investors in UK fintech opportunities, with North American VCs recognising strength in the early stage ecosystem in the UK, the talent pool, and areas of UK expertise such as RegTech and Open Banking.

Atlantic Future Forum - 20 October

During the Atlantic Future Forum, the Lord Mayor joined a panel discussion on the future of globalisation and reshaping the trade agenda, alongside Jes Staley (CEO, Barclays), Rt Hon Liz Truss MP (Secretary of State for International Trade) and Robert Lighthizer (US Trade Representative). They discussed the impact of COVID-19 on globalisation, with the Lord Mayor emphasising how transparent policy making is vital, and the need to enhance and maintain the UK's leadership role in shaping the rules-based international order. Reducing access barriers was identified as key to strengthening trading relationships and mitigating the impact of COVID-19. The Lord Mayor also raised the City Corporation's work to cement trust between international institutions, and how the City must remain pre-eminent in international trade to facilitate inward investment, reaffirm openness, maintain competitiveness and foster innovation.

Leadership Reimagined Roundtable - 21 October

The Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor joined the Leadership Reimagined Roundtable discussion alongside Tom Tugendhat MP MBE and representatives from a range of organisations including Aberdeen Asset, the Cabinet Office, Uber, Visa Europe, to discuss what business requires from foreign policy. Together they highlighted the importance of global regulatory standards and the City Corporation's work via the International Regulatory Strategy Group, which has identified the vital role UK financial and professional services can play in supporting regulatory standards globally to facilitate recovery from COVID-19.

CHIEF COMMONER

Many Members had wanted to hold the November informal Court in a hybrid format, with some of us present in Great Hall, but unfortunately it has turned out not to be possible.

I explained the background to this somewhat disheartening development in a recent email sent to all Members, but it is worth recapping on the primary reason – that the informal court is not a decision-making meeting.

This leaves open the possibility of holding the formal Court in December as a hybrid meeting; a decision-making meeting would seem a better opportunity to argue for the necessity of a partial physical presence. But even this could be hard to achieve; there are a number of hurdles to jump.

Guidance states, that workplaces should be set up to meet the COVID-secure guidelines. A full risk assessment would therefore need to be undertaken, especially as we need to ascertain for example:

- How we route Members to and from Great Hall via the North Wing;
- How we comply with social distancing by keeping a 2 metre distance between Members and staff at all times and avoid bunching at entrance and exit points;
- How we control the number of Members wishing to access their facilities on the third floor of the West Wing, given the limit on numbers there.

It might also be necessary to consider an equalities impact assessment – would such a meeting disadvantage those older and shielding Members who cannot attend in person?

In addition, there is the crucial issue of the safety of our officers. By holding a partly physical meeting, would we be putting them at increased risk?

Finally, Great Hall, the Livery Hall and Old Library are not currently equipped for hybrid meetings. While there is a project in train for improving Audio Visual (AV) functionality within these spaces this will take time. Officers are working with Remembrancer's (who are responsible for these event spaces) on a temporary solution for holding November's P&T and the next formal Court in hybrid format, subject to any restrictions that might be in place at the time.

Early quotes for formal meetings, where live streaming would be required, range between £4,500 for a Planning and Transport Committee meeting in the Livery Hall to approximately £8,000 for a Court meeting in Great Hall for each meeting. Officers are working to see whether they can get these costs down.

Even if a hybrid Court can go ahead, it will, however, be difficult to arrange any form of lunch, even for a small turnout. This will be disappointing, but the Guildhall Club is in fact open and – subject to a variety of arrangements and conditions – meals can be provided for Members and their family inside their support bubble. For enquiries and booking contact Clubcookandbutler@btconnect.com

Meanwhile, it is to be hoped that officers come up with a magic lamp at the informal Court on 12 November and that we agree on a voting mechanism which avoids the near shambles of the last Court. There is some valuable discussion about how to make these virtual meetings more efficient by changing the order so that we deal with meaty and contentious matters before we all lose the will to live. Perhaps we need a set of modified standing orders for virtual meetings?

On a totally unconnected note, it was with great sadness that we learned of Michael Welbank's death on 15 September 2020, aged 90. In normal circumstances there would have been full and formal tributes and an opportunity for many of us to attend his funeral. This will take place at St Lawrence Jewry with a small predominantly family gathering in early November. I will represent the Court.

As one of my distinguished predecessors, I would like to record my admiration and affection for Michael. He joined the Court in 2005, aged 75, following the death of his wife at a time when many people are happily retired, and he plunged into a new civic career with alacrity and enthusiasm. An architect and urban planner with strong connections to North London, Michael threw himself into the fray, championing Hampstead Heath and the Keats House as Chairman of their respective committees. He later served with distinction as Chairman of the Planning and Transport Committee and latterly, in 2016-17, as Chief Commoner. Michael was sharp-witted but always kind and courteous. In City Corporation and career terms, he had a good third innings.

Deputy Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](mailto:Devika.Persaud@btconnect.com)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Onward event with Stephen Barclay – Conservative Party Conference

On 5 October the City of London Corporation hosted a virtual open fringe event for the Conservative Party Conference. The panel of speakers comprised the Policy Chair, Rt Hon Stephen Barclay MP (Chief Secretary to the Treasury), Katherine Fletcher MP (South Ribble), Anthony Browne MP (South Cambridgeshire) and Lizzy Burden (economics reporter at the Daily Telegraph). The discussion centred around London's role in regional growth, whilst the Policy Chair highlighted the importance of the City Corporation's work with UK partnerships and inner London boroughs. The panellists agreed that London has an important role to play but helping areas outside London and the South East to grow was of equal significance to the UK economy.

Contact [Sarah Bridgeman](#)

City Corporation & EY report on the new UK immigration system

On 6 October, the Policy Chair launched a new report in collaboration with EY on how the new UK Immigration system can be enhanced to attract the highest quality financial and professional services (FPS) talent into the UK. We engaged with FPS industry users to build the findings and recommendations, which are intended to sit alongside the City Corporation's body of work on developing domestic talent in FPS. We also engaged with the Home Office ahead of the launch, who were on the whole receptive to our recommendations and the report was subsequently launched with a keynote address from the Minister for immigration, Kevin Foster MP. The full report can be downloaded [online](#), and is a follow up to our [2018 report](#) on the immigration system. The new system will come into force in January 2021.

Contact [Pancali Malkan](#)

London Transition Board

The Policy Chair continues to attend virtual meetings of the London Transition Board, which is chaired by the Mayor of London and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and attended by several senior stakeholders from across London. On 13 October, the increase of COVID-19 cases in London moved the city to the high "tier 2" level of local restrictions. This led discussions at the Board to focus on the capital-wide response. The London Transition Board works alongside the more longer-term focused London Recovery Board. Through the Policy Chair's membership of both Boards, the City Corporation remains at the forefront of ongoing work to ensure the recovery across the capital.

Contact [Sarah Bridgeman](#)

Virtual visit to Brussels

In lieu of her usual physical trip to Brussels, the Policy Chair led a series of virtual meetings with Brussels-based institutions between 15-20 October. The Policy Chair met several EU and third country Ambassadors to the EU, as well as representatives of the European Commission and relevant European Trade Associations. These discussions touched on the on-going negotiations between the EU and UK, as well as the nature of the future relationship. There was a recognition that this is a crunch time in the negotiations and stakeholders stressed their desire to see a deal done but recognised the difficult political environment. Stakeholders also emphasised the need for a continued dialogue between the two sides and stressed their commitment to continue to work together with the UK after the end of 2020. The importance of working together on areas of shared concern, including the very important topic of sustainable finance was also discussed.

Contact [Rebecca Wood](#)

Environmental Justice Commission

On 12 October, the Policy Chair led a virtual roundtable discussion with business, climate and academic stakeholders on sustainable private finance. This was a City Corporation led evidence session for the Environmental Justice Commission (EJC). The City Corporation continues to attend regular meetings as part of this Commission, with the Policy Chair acting as a Commissioner. The EJC has established a series of workstreams as it builds towards the publication of its final report and recommendations next year.

Our regular contributions to the Commission are aligned with the City Corporation's wider work on the implementation of our Climate Action Strategy and our support of the Green Finance Institute, in the run up to COP26 next year.

Contact [Thomas Regan](#)

Socio-Economic Research Roundtable

On 21 October, the Policy Chair hosted a roundtable focused on discussing the joint research being undertaken by the Bridge Group which explores the link between socio-economic background, job performance and career progression in financial services. The meeting was joined by executives from Bank of England, FCA, Santander, Cambridge Associates, Blackrock, Legal and General Investment Management, and First Sentier Investors. Additionally, the group discussed a new taskforce on socio-economic diversity at senior levels in UK financial and professional services, to be announced by the Government at the research launch on 24 November, when the final report will be published. [Please RSVP and share with your contacts.](#)

Contact [David Bulafkin](#)

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

COVID-19 Economic Update

Chancellor Rishi Sunak's statement to the House of Commons followed news that the long-term Comprehensive Spending Review had been abandoned in favour of a one-year review in late November, reflecting the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic. In his statement, the Chancellor announced three changes to COVID-19 support. First, the introduction of a new grant scheme for businesses impacted by tier 2 restrictions, even if they were not legally obliged to close. The Government will fund local authorities to provide businesses in their area with direct cash grants, and Sunak said these would provide "enough funding to give every business premises in the hospitality, leisure and accommodation sectors a direct grant worth up to £2,100 for every month for which tier 2 restrictions apply." Critically, these grants will be retrospective. Second, the Chancellor announced he would make the job support scheme more generous for employers. If businesses were legally required to close, the Government would cover the full cost of employers paying two thirds of people's salary where they cannot work for a week or more. For businesses that can open, employees will only have to work 20% of their normal hours to be eligible. Additionally, the employer contribution for the hours not worked will reduce to 5%. Third, for the self-employed the government would double "the next round of self-employed income support from 20% to 40% of people's incomes, increasing the maximum grant to £3,750." Shadow Chancellor Anneliese Dodds attacked the lack of promptness of Government support and accused the Chancellor of implementing changes only "when it looks like these restrictions will be affecting London." Sunak admitted that this was "the third time I have come to this House in several weeks to outline additional support" but asserted that he would "never make any apology for acting fast as the moment demands and as the health situation evolves."

UK Internal Market Bill

The Second Reading of the UK Internal Market Bill - which is intended to make provision for the continued functioning of the UK internal market after the Brexit transition period ends, but which has proved contentious owing to alleged encroachments on the devolution settlement and rule of law - took place in the House of Lords. The debate was unusual in that it lasted for two days, included over 100 speakers and was voted on by 564 peers, one of the largest votes in the history of the Lords. While the Bill passed Second Reading, there was a symbolic Government defeat. Former Lord Chief Justice Lord Judge (Crossbench) moved an amendment that "this House regrets that Part 5 of the bill contains provisions which, if enacted, would undermine the rule of law and damage the reputation of the United Kingdom." 395 Peers voted for the amendment (and therefore against the Government), including 39 Conservative Peers. Just 169 rejected it. The margin of 226 was the largest Government defeat in the House in over 20 years. While the motion of regret does not hinder the Bill's progress through Parliament, it places on the record the serious concerns of the Lords. The Bill now progresses to Committee of the Whole House where Peers have given notice of their intention to oppose the controversial provisions, which the Lords Constitution Committee and EU Committee have already called for the Government to remove.

Tourism in London

An analysis published by the Mayor of London has shown that spending by tourists in central London will be £10.9bn lower than normal as a result of COVID-19, outstripping the £1.9bn lost from fewer commuters entering the city. The decline in tourism, the Mayor has argued, leaves many hospitality, retail and leisure businesses without any prospect of returning to normal levels of businesses for many months to come. An analysis of forecasts by VisitBritain shows that overseas tourists will spend £7.4bn less on goods and services in central London throughout 2020, while domestic tourists will spend £3.5 bn less. The analysis coincides with the commissioning of new research into the impact of the pandemic on London's central activity zone. The research will provide evidence to inform future recovery work.

COVID-19 and the City

The Policy Chair provided an informal briefing to the London Assembly's Economy Committee on the impact of COVID-19 on the City of London. In a wide-ranging session, the Policy Chair discussed how the City had changed in the short term, how businesses were adapting to the new environment, and the challenges to be addressed in facilitating a safe return to the Square Mile. The informal session also provided an opportunity to discuss the City Corporation's contribution to the debate about the future of the capital, the London Recharged report published in September.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

City-wide Residents Meeting

All Members are invited to attend the virtual City-wide Residents' Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 2 December 2020, 6-7pm. The meeting offers residents the chance to hear updates from the City of London Police and the City of London Corporation. Residents will also have the opportunity to ask questions or raise issues about living in the City. Please check our [website and social media](#) in November for more details. It would be greatly appreciated if Members could notify their constituents of this opportunity and help encourage as many residents as possible to attend. For more details, email residents@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Contact [Jackie Foster](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Digital Sandbox

The Financial Conduct Authority and the City Corporation have opened applications for the [Digital Sandbox: COVID-19 pilot](#) opening mid-November. Applications are welcomed from innovative firms big and small that wish to develop, test and validate proofs of concept to tackle challenges created by COVID-19.

Legal Geek

The Chair of Policy and Resources delivered a speech on the 'Future of Legal Services' at the 2020 Legal Geek Conference. In addition, the Innovation team partnered with Simmons Wavelength to deliver a workshop on the power and potential of data visualization in an ethics-conscious world.

Contact [Theresa Yurkewich Hoffmann](#)

London recharged: our vision for London in 2025

The City Corporation worked with Oliver Wyman and Arup to deliver an ambitious vision for the capital. [This report](#) is a call to action for business and government to ensure London (and the UK's) recovery. It contributes to the work of the London Recovery Board with insights from over 40 business and policy leaders.

Contact [Giles French](#)

Tax policy for the recovery

The City Corporation and TheCityUK have jointly produced a paper that sets out how the tax system can be enhanced to maximise its role in the UK's economic recovery. It is the result of comprehensive stakeholder engagement with industry participants, international organisations, think tanks and academics.

Contact [Pancali Malkan](#)

Green Horizon Summit

The [Green Horizon Summit](#), 9-11 November, will provide a global platform for decision makers to share their solutions and demonstrate commitment to climate action. High profile speakers include Mark Carney; Christine Lagarde; Kristalina Georgieva; to name a few. We anticipate several key announcements on the future of sustainable finance to be launched at the Summit.

Contact [James Boyle](#)

Culture & Commerce Taskforce

A [Culture & Commerce Taskforce](#), chaired by the Lord Mayor has been jointly set up by the City Corporation and Culture Mile to tackle the 'cultural catastrophe', caused by COVID-19 and faced by the creative sector. Senior leaders from a range of sectors, including financial and professional services, tech firms and cultural organisations will meet over the next three months to develop new ways in which London's cultural and commercial sectors can work together to support creative businesses and maintain the City's competitive advantage as a global business hub. Prior to the pandemic, the UK's creative sector was growing at five times the rate of the wider economy. The City of London welcomed 21 million visitors in 2019, spending £2.1 billion, supporting 1,800 businesses and 20,000 jobs. It is estimated that the creative industries will be hit twice as hard as the wider economy in 2020, with London sustaining a £14.8 billion drop in GVA and more than 110,000 job losses. The 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; 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 Sleight, Barbican Board & Amazon Business UK; John Studzinski CBE, Genesis Foundation & PIMCO.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#) or [Joe Dibben](#)

Leisure and Active Travel Survey

The City Corporation is working with UK Active to survey our local business workers on their changing leisure and active travel needs following the COVID-19 pandemic. This will help shape plans for sport and leisure delivery in the Square Mile in the future. You can access the survey online via the [Survey Monkey website](#).

Contact [Sam Hutchings](#)

City Bridge Trust (CBT)

For the past two years, a Task & Finish group has been working hard to improve and modernise the governance of Bridge House Estates. Happily the Court of Common Council approved a new overarching strategy for the charity in October. Work is already underway to bring the new strategy to life, starting with a cross-organisation group looking at the best way to communicate the vision and mission of Bridge House Estates, in a way that best engages its stakeholders and audiences. It will also meet the challenge of explaining its relationship with City Bridge Trust, Tower Bridge, and its Trustee, the City of London Corporation, as powerfully and clearly as possible. The new positioning is expected to be finalised before the end of the year. As wave three of the London Community Response Fund (LCRF) drew to a close, City Bridge Trust colleagues were proud to have proactively funded, with partners (GLA, the National Lottery Fund, and London Funders) a large proportion of grants to LGBT (32) and BAME (213) led organisations. In total, almost £25m has been distributed through the LCRF in the first three rounds of funding. Senior officers from the City Bridge Trust team continue to contribute to the London COVID-19 Strategic Response and Recovery Boards and associated sub-groups, helping London to build back better and support critical needs in London's communities in the coming months.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Celebrating Green Flag wins

15 of the City of London Corporation's green spaces have been awarded Green Flag status. The prestigious Green Flag Award recognises these sites as some of the very best managed open spaces in the world. It rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard across the UK and globally. 13 sites have also received the Green Heritage Award in recognition of their historic features and high standard of conservation.

Annual bulb planting at Queen's Park

In the first week of November, the staff at Queen's Park will be holding its annual daffodil bulb planting sessions with local schools. Due to COVID-19 restrictions this year's sessions will be smaller as the schools are only allowed to attend if the subject is on the school curriculum. The pupils taking part, will all return in the spring to see their daffodils in full bloom.

Grazing in Wanstead Park

Epping Forest was pleased to have a short trial of grazing from its carefully selected 200-strong longhorn herd at Wanstead Park. The pilot was part of a plan to use cattle to better manage and restore the acid-grasslands in this historic Grade II* listed area for wildlife conservation, including rare plant species, insects and spiders. The herdsman were assisted by a fantastic team of volunteers who monitored the trial, looked out for the welfare of the cattle, noted grazing patterns and looked at biodiversity benefits in the Park. GPS collar technology helped contain the cows by emitting audio signals when they reach a virtual boundary, removing the need for electric fencing. Public response was extremely positive with many local people enjoying the opportunity to see the cows roaming in this more urban area of Epping Forest.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Consultation on Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

The City of London Corporation is consulting on a revised Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This draft SPD will replace the City of London Planning Obligations SPD 2014 and sets out how the City Corporation will use planning obligations to mitigate the impact of development in the City in order to make it acceptable in planning terms. You can [view the draft SPD online](#). The consultation will run from 26 October until 5pm on 11 December and will be available online only in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020. Comments and representations on the consultation should be emailed to: localplan@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Contact [Peter Shadbolt](#)

Textile repair workshop for London's first Repair Week

The City of London Recycling and Clean City Awards Team held a free Textile Repair Workshop during London's first ever Repair Week (12-17 October). The Workshop was held online and was open to everyone. It saw 25 people, including City workers, residents and Clean City Awards Scheme members (as well as some residents from other London Boroughs) come together to learn or brush up on sewing skills. Not only does repairing clothes help to save people money, it benefits the environment too by reducing the number of items thrown away. Repair Week London was organised by London Waste and Recycling Board and promoted repair of all kinds of items from clothes to electrical items. Creating a repair culture builds part of the Circular Economy – reducing, reusing and recycling items rather than using and disposing of them.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

On 19 October, the Chairman of the City of London Police Authority Board, Deputy James Thomson, gave one of the headline speeches at the West Midlands Fraud Symposium, hosted jointly with the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC). The event was to launch a report on tackling fraud in the UK by Birmingham City University, commissioned by the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner. As the APCC Deputy Lead on Fraud, Deputy Thomson used the opportunity to highlight the breadth of the work led by the City of London Police to tackle fraud in the UK. As Members will be aware, there have been instances of Action Fraud attracting criticism in the media. Deputy Thomson outlined the significant work that is undertaken by Action Fraud and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau in diverting approximately 48,000 days of demand off local forces each year (delivering a net saving of £12m per year), as well as the consistently high victim satisfaction that the service receives (regularly around 96%). Indeed, at the Symposium, one of the speakers was a victim of romance fraud who had used the services of Action Fraud and was incredibly grateful for the support and advice that they had provided to her. The Police Authority Board is looking to work with the Force to further promote the work it does as National Lead Force and the services provided by it through the National Economic Crime Victim Care Unit and the Economic Crime Academy to build capability across national policing.

Contact [Oliver Bolton](#)

City of London Police

As part of the City of London Police's key ambition to ensure the Square Mile remains one of the safest cities in the world, under the Transform programme an enhanced neighbourhood policing model known as 'Sector Policing' launched in October. The new model will demonstrably benefit our communities, including visitors, residents and businesses and was adopted after evaluating the experiences of other constabularies which have introduced similar models. The Transform programme is shaping the force towards a 'prevention' model of policing, with resource directed toward problem solving. Key benefits include:

- Delivery of a policing service that gives confidence to victims and the community in our ability to protect the Square Mile, tackle criminals and solve local problems.
- Improved police visibility within the Square Mile, meeting public expectation for high visibility and delivering greater reassurance.
- A model which puts the community at the forefront of our activity, enabling residents and businesses to communicate directly with officers responsible for their area.

The City has been split into two 'Sectors', East and West, with a senior leader responsible for each. The Sectors are broken down into three 'clusters' comprised of smaller wards, each cluster having a Dedicated Ward Officer (DWO), responsible for their areas, who is the main point of contact for visitors, residents and businesses. This model is designed with the local community in mind, giving residents and businesses a single point of contact. It will also help the force's response to live-crime, as well as long-term issues and emerging threats specific to each area. In addition to the Dedicated Ward Officers, the Sector Policing design brings together existing service areas across uniform policing with further enhancements in the future.

Contact [Teresa La Thangue](#)

Markets and Consumer Protection

President-Elect of the National Association of British Market Authorities

Following his recent election as Chairman of the Markets Committee, John Chapman CC has been appointed by the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA) as their President-Elect. NABMA represents over 200 local authority and private market operators and promotes their interests on the national stage. NABMA works closely with the Association of Town Centre Management; National Market Traders Federation; the National Association of Local Councils; and the Government to secure recognition for markets in a number of policy areas. It has been at the forefront of providing leadership for the markets sector throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, lobbying Government to champion the needs of, and highlight the difficulties faced by, the market industry. Given the current aspirations of the City of London Corporation to co-locate the three markets, the Markets Committee Chairman's prominent position within NABMA can only further the interests of the City Corporation, whilst supporting the cause of the industry.

Contact [Daniel Ritchie](#)

Helping ensure businesses are COVID-Secure

The City Corporation has begun work with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) to contact a range of businesses in the City to help make sure they are COVID-compliant. This is another part of the work we are doing alongside other regulatory and public health partners. The work involves spot checks, initially by HSE colleagues, who will provide advice and guidance to manage risk and protect workers, customers and visitors. It is focused on 'Close Contact Services', which have been identified nationally as being at greater risk for transmission of the virus, such as barbers, hairdressers and beauty service providers. Where businesses

are not managing the risks properly, the City Corporation's Environmental Health Officers will follow-up as necessary. Being COVID-Secure means that businesses need to ensure adjustments are in place to manage risk and protect workers and others from COVID-19. Extensive information on how to manage the risk of COVID-19 in different business sectors is available in [government guidance](#). Talking to local businesses and inspecting sites in the City is important to help understand how they are managing risks in line with their specific business activities. We are advising employers to work with their employees when implementing changes, to help increase confidence with workers, customers and the local community.

Contact [Peter Brett](#)

Community and Children's Services

Guildhall Yard Testing Centre

The NHS COVID-19 Testing centre located at the Guildhall Yard opened on 23 October and will be offering over 200 free COVID-19 tests a day (seven days a week, 8am-8pm) for City residents, surrounding boroughs and City workers with COVID-19 symptoms. Prior booking is essential to guarantee a slot for anyone with COVID-19 symptoms. Appointments can be made online via the [gov.uk website](#) or by phoning 119. Please see the [full press release](#) for further information.

Contact [Chris Lovitt](#)

City Wellbeing Centre

The City Wellbeing Centre opened its doors on 7 October, offering counselling and psychotherapy for City workers and those who live in or close to the City. The centre, located on Middlesex Street, has been offering virtual services during the pandemic and is now open following government COVID-19 guidelines. The service is provided by Tavistock Relationships, who have developed a range of innovative approaches for individuals, couples and groups with the ambition of providing greater access than is easily available through the NHS. More information can be found on the [City Wellbeing Centre website](#).

Contact [Ian Jarman](#)

Our Lockdown Diaries

The Libraries Connect with Creativity art classes at the Barbican and Artizan Street Libraries developed into the Our Lockdown Diaries project. A project that encouraged over 50 City residents to continue creating artwork during the pandemic. View part one of the exhibition on the [Barbican Library Facebook page](#).

Contact [Carol Boswarthack](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

City of London Family of Schools celebrate Black History Month

The City of London Family of Schools have been celebrating Black History Month through a variety of ways including through culture and creativity, engagement with the community, engagement with parents, resources, inspirational talks, literature, discussions, newsletters, assemblies and lessons. The City of London Academy Southwark conducted an assembly on their AstroTurf in celebration of Black History Month where three students addressed the socially distanced audience. One spoke on behalf of the student body about the need to learn from the past in order to create a better future. Another student read his own poem linked to race and identity in modern London. Finally, the third student sang a rendition of Amazing Grace and Something Inside so Strong. The event was symbolic of how passionate, driven and articulate the school community are on the topic of celebrating diversity. The City of London Academy Highgate Hill's music department created a challenge in October where students listened to one song a day from a black artist who has made a significant contribution to music. This resource has been shared widely across the family of schools and seen many schools take part. Galleywall Primary School's celebration of diversity has been a clear vision for the school's curriculum. They have been doing a number of activities including focusing on adapting the poem 'Life doesn't frighten me' by Maya Angelou and recording a video performance. They also illustrated their poem, inspired by the techniques and materials which Jean Michel-Basquiat used in his artwork and they will feature this on their online exhibition. The City of London Primary Academy Islington is addressing the topic of racism through inspiring stories, role models and engaging parents in their children's learning. Teachers have also shared their own stories of influential black figures who have inspired them across literature, art, music, science, technology, engineering, maths, and sports.

Cultural and Creative Learning

In celebration of Black History Month, Culture Mile Learning (CML) have been producing a programme of activities and digital content, supporting secondary school teachers to incorporate black British history, arts, and culture into the curriculum. The project is being delivered with St Paul's Cathedral, London Metropolitan Archives, Guildhall Art Gallery and Museum of London and centres on four short films produced collaboratively with black Londoners and inspired by objects in CML partners' collections. The programme started with teacher CPD sessions which provided practical tools and techniques on how to hold spaces for important discussions around race, racism and identity in the classroom and ensure the pupils' voices are at the centre of these discussions. Find out more on the [CML website](#).

Skills

On 9 October, the Virtual Fusion Cities 2 meeting occurred, welcoming over 200 highly experienced professionals from a range of industries, sectors and countries to share learning and incite action around Fusion Skills. The theme this year was around 'growing the dots.' This is to bring about systemic change in cities, communities and organisations to promote, champion and develop fusion skills.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London Freeman's School

At the half-way point of the Autumn term, the Freeman's community is enjoying a well-earned break from learning and teaching. Despite the backdrop of challenges that COVID-19 has bought, students and staff have persevered with School life in the 'new normal' way of operating. So much has been achieved despite the difficult circumstances, with students and staff responding with resilience to the imposed restrictions, allowing Freeman's to continue to provide a first-class education for the young people in its community, without interruption. Existing students were welcomed back to classrooms and new pupils were successfully integrated into their new school, thanks to the warmth from their peers and staff. Many of the usual Autumn term activities have had to be executed with digital creativity. Connecting with prospective families is a vital way to ensure that Freeman's fills its classrooms, and without the prospect of being able to invite visitors onto the campus, a range of successful [digital open events](#) have been enjoyed by families with children of all ages. GCSE and A Level students have been able to demonstrate their talents through a [virtual exhibition](#) of their examination work, providing them with much deserved praise for their achievements. Charitable and Partnership works have been able to continue to take centre-stage. A year-long music programme has been launched involving 200 children, following a successful collaboration in lockdown with local schools, and the whole community got behind [Jeans for Genes Day](#) in September, seeing almost £1,000 raised for this worthwhile cause. A similarly successful, productive and safe run-up to Christmas is hoped for in Ashted Park.

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#)

City of London School (CLS)

CLS has marked Black History Month this October with a series of events and projects with both pupils and staff. The Co-ordinator for Diversity and Inclusion has been at the forefront of organising the month, which has included biographies of several influential people of African and Caribbean descent presented on the screens dotted around the School building and on Twitter, and guest speakers including Amelia Gentleman and Sharna Jackson. The library put together a display of books from black authors and books containing black protagonists, as well as having a section dedicated to black writers and their work. The Afro-Caribbean Society organised an assembly about several prosperous pre-colonial civilisations. Staff were given an inset day on diversity and inclusion in Schools, and embedding our culture of antiracism.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

Gresham College

Data: The Past, The Present and The Future - Tuesday 24 November, 6-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Data structures are the critical ingredient of all good information systems. In [this lecture by Professor Richard Harvey](#), he'll explain how poor data structures lead to horrendous problems of interoperability and nightmarish complexity; good ones can make the 'uncomputable' computable. Structure and order would seem to be particularly important in the problems of "Big data." However, is this changing? One of the exciting developments is systems, such as Google, which handle unstructured data.

The Changing Geography of Ill-Health - Wednesday 25 November, 6-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Ill health has always been concentrated in particular places; tackling these pockets of ill health is an essential role for public health. In [this lecture Professor Chris Whitty](#) will explain these may be driven by environmental factors, demography, deprivation and healthcare provision. In the UK, the geography of ill health has shifted widely over time and continues to do so. Specific areas have particular health challenges, including coastal towns, rural districts and inner-city areas. This lecture will consider the shifting geography of ill health in the UK and globally, and its implications.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

Culture Mile

All Member Session

If you missed it watch the All-Member session, [Culture Mile Post-COVID: Building Back Better](#) held in October.

Imagine Season

Culture Mile recently announced Imagine, a season of programmes, events and activities taking place at home, throughout the community and across businesses. It will support residents, visitors, and workers to take an active role in the area's long-term vision as a vibrant and welcoming destination. The programme includes family Play Packs, Imagine Packs for isolated older adults, and a series of online films

co-commissioned with Brookfield Properties, directed by emerging filmmakers, and featuring LSO musicians. The Imagine Fund selects 10 members of the community to receive micro-grants of £500 to develop their ideas for the area. Whilst Imagine Commissions fund grassroots projects, these have so far included an artist working with families at the Timbuktu Adventure Playground and a collaboration between a musical ensemble and charity Women for Refugee Women.

Culture Mile Learning

Culture Mile Learning has curated a series of teacher prompts to inspire new methods of teaching. A series of short films have been developed too, exploring Black British history through items from London Metropolitan Archives, St. Paul's Cathedral, Guildhall Art Gallery and Museum of London.

Colourful Pop-up Interventions

Over the next few months, colourful branded interventions will pop up throughout Culture Mile. They will help visitors, residents and workers enjoy and explore the district, including the Moor Lane Community Garden which provides an exciting way to green our streets.

Supporting the Creative Sector

Culture Mile is strengthening its commitment to the creative sector and SMEs through bespoke training, the Culture & Commerce Taskforce, and the Imagination Exchange - a network for local artists and freelancers. Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#) 07921219144

Barbican Centre

Barbican Theatre returns

The Barbican has announced the return of its live Theatre and Dance programme, starting with a new collaboration with the Bridge Theatre in November to co-present *Flight*, the story of two refugee children and their perilous journey across Europe, told through beautifully crafted diorama. The production will be presented backstage at the Bridge Theatre with audiences seated in individual booths. Later in November, audiences will be welcomed back to the Barbican Theatre auditorium for *The Ghost Light*, a 30-minute experience for one household at a time. There will be cabaret, comedy, dance and poetry, and audiences won't know what and who they're watching until they sit down. In December, *We Cover the Universe* by Akin will be presented via Zoom, an interactive, sensory show for under-fives and their parents or carers.

Communities In Residence

Over the autumn, the Barbican is collaborating with Culture Mile to explore new ways of working with local artists and communities through a series of pilot community residencies at the Barbican Centre, as well as new artist commissions and funding opportunities.

Michael Clark: Cosmic Dancer

At the start of October, Barbican Art Gallery opened their major new exhibition *Michael Clark: Cosmic Dancer*. One of the largest surveys ever dedicated to a living choreographer, the exhibition presents a comprehensive story of Clark's career to date and development as a pioneer of contemporary dance who challenged the furthest intersections of dance, life and art through a union of ballet technique and punk culture. Films, sculptures, paintings and photographs by his collaborators across visual art, music and fashion are exhibited alongside rare archival material, placing Clark within the wider cultural context of his time. Contributions by cult icons of London's art scene establish his radical presence in Britain's cultural history.

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

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Gold Medal and Lutine Prize winners

Pianist Soohong Park is the winner of this year's Gold Medal, Guildhall School's most prestigious prize for outstanding soloists. The final took place on 25 September and was later broadcast via the School's website where more than 5,000 people viewed the event in two weeks. To allow for social distancing, the performance and rehearsals took place across four different rooms in two separate buildings at the School, synced using ground-breaking low-latency technology. Cellist Ellen Baumring-Gledhill was awarded first place in Junior Guildhall's Lutine Prize with a winning programme ranging from JS Bach to Casad . The Lutine Prize is Junior Guildhall's most prestigious award and the equivalent of the senior school's annual Gold Medal competition.

Guildhall alumni and staff recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours 2020

Several alumni and staff of Guildhall School were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours including: violinist Jennifer Pike (MBE); creative producer Judy Craymer (CBE); soprano Rebecca Evans (CBE); pianist and Alexander Technique professor Nelly Ben-Or (MBE); and oboe professor Nicholas Daniel (OBE).

Guildhall School presents Change Makers online workshop series

As part of its commitment to leading and supporting cultural change within the arts sector, Guildhall School launched a 12-week series of free online participatory workshops led by a range of exciting and insightful artists and leaders. The Zoom workshops specifically aim to help creative practitioners acquire new skills, approaches, and strengths during these unprecedented times.

Guildhall School's international research team launch major research survey

On 20 November Guildhall School launched a new multi-country research survey led by Professor John Sloboda OBE. This major survey is aimed at musicians working in socially engaged settings as part of a three-year investigation into the social impact of music making.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations

Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

LMA is pleased to announce the publication of a new project dataset, Switching the Lens - Rediscovering Londoners of African, Caribbean, Asian and Indigenous Heritage, 1561 to 1840. Focused on records of 2600+ people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds found in Anglican parish registers, it is the result of research by staff and volunteers which began in 2000 and continues today. London has long been home to a diverse population, a fact often obscured by mainstream British history which traditionally excludes the histories of people from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, centres 'whiteness' and upholds narratives constructed by colonialism. The project name reflects the variety and breadth of the contribution made by Londoners from many diverse communities. 'Rediscovering' embraces the fact that this history has always been present; 'Switching the Lens', that we are taking a proactive approach to highlight it more widely. The histories revealed are testimony to the diversity of London life. We encounter Charles, brought by Sir Walter Raleigh from Guyana and baptised 1597; Anne Vause, wife of Anthonie, a royal trumpeter at the Tower of London buried 1616; Phillip, an Indian born in Zarat (Surat), Gujarat baptised 1623; and Jonathan Strong, an enslaved man brought to London from Barbados who challenged the status of slavery in the City courts 1767. Switching the Lens offers an insight into the lived experiences of people arriving in London from the 16th to 19th centuries, helps reframe perceptions of immigration and presents materials to develop a deeper understanding of the complex historical relationships between London, the UK and the world. The dataset will be available to search within the [LMA Collections Catalogue](#) from 29 October.

Contact [Geoff Pick](#)

Museum of London

Visit from the Labour Party

Leader of the Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer, joined by Shadow Secretary for Women and Equalities, Marsha De Cordova MP, marked the start of Black History Month by visiting the Museum of London for a tour of the new free display [Dub London: Bassline of a City](#). It was covered widely in the national media and both shared [this video](#) via their social channels. Dub London: Bassline of a City celebrates dub reggae and its influence on the capital and is open now until 31 January 2021. Book your free timed entry [on our website](#).

Arsenal donates Black Lives Matter jersey to Collecting COVID project

The Museum of London has [announced](#) that it will be collecting one of Arsenal's Black Lives Matter tribute shirts worn by captain Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang during the 2020-21 Premier League season. The striker is donating his shirt to the museum as part of its ongoing [Collecting COVID project](#), which is also documenting the Black Lives Matter protests that took place in London earlier this year. This news was covered widely in the media by the Evening Standard, BBC News and numerous radio and TV networks.

Black History Month

Throughout October the Museum of London and Museum of London Docklands have been hosting a programme celebrating Black History Month with a series of events both on-site and online allowing visitors to explore the stories of Black Londoners in their collection. Discover more on the [Black History Month website](#) and be sure to check out the new [hSky News short documentary](#) with Gamal Fahnbulleh, which features [The Krios of Sierra Leone display](#) at the Museum of London Docklands.

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

City Business Library (CBL)

October marked Cyber Security Month and CBL hosted two events to help small business owners think about the steps they need to take to keep their business digitally and physically safe, a subject of increasing importance with so many people working from home. The sessions were run by Cyber Griffin, the City of London Police's cyber safety initiative, and were well attended. CBL also hosted a webinar for 20 entrepreneurs from the Prince's Trust's business start-up programme, introducing them to the valuable

resources that they can access remotely to help them with their business planning. Next month CBL will be running a similar session for Social Enterprise Ideas Development. October also marked Black History Month, and CBL ran a series of blogs on experiences of business entrepreneurs from the BAME communities. In late November and early December CBL will be supporting the UK-wide Small Business Saturday promotion taking place on 5 December. SMEs make up over 99% of all businesses both in the City and nationally. There will be a series of blogs featuring businesses CBL has supported in different sectors and events to help businesses thrive. Events will include promoting business through social media; reviewing and revising a business plan; and how to use CBL for business support through its invaluable data and advisers. These events will also enable small businesses to network and cover the areas of support requested by the City's small businesses in the City Corporation SME survey carried out over the summer.

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

London Symphony Orchestra (LSO)

Throughout October the LSO has successfully rehearsed, performed and recorded weekly concerts with up to seventy musicians at LSO St Luke's, with small audiences, with larger numbers attending the Friday lunchtime chamber scale concerts. Over the last two weeks, LSO Discovery recorded a Key Stage 2 concert for schools and Simon Halsey; the LSO's Choral Director produced and conducted musicians and singers for our annual Christmas concert, which we will relay at the beginning of December. Creating these programmes for digital presentation has flexed the creative muscles of our learning and technical teams, which will stand us in good stead for further future digital presentations. As our live audiences and online audiences repeatedly tell us in their feedback music in all forms is vital for our health and well-being. Sir Simon Rattle joined the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House for a cultural conversation webinar at the end of September. Sir Simon thanked the Lord Mayor for the City's continued support of the LSO during the pandemic and the recovery period. The funding from the City Corporation in addition to that from Arts Council England's Recovery Fund have already proved instrumental in assisting with the LSO's recently launched Recovery Appeal with donors acknowledging this vital government and local authority support. The return to performances in the Barbican in November is well within our sights and great work is taking place with Barbican colleagues to ensure the safety of audiences, artists, and support staff. Tickets are now on sale and there is every indication that audiences are keen to get back to live performances once more. Further challenges lie ahead, we have encountered a number of guest artists and conductors unable to fulfil their engagements with the LSO due to travel restrictions, and we continue to work with sector colleagues to lobby the government to introduce special measures to overcome this hurdle.

Contact [Chris Millard](#)

In the News

- A front-page [Financial Times](#) [£] story reported on a new report published by the City of London Corporation looking at how the capital needs to reinvent itself to emerge stronger following the COVID-19 pandemic and maintain its position as a world-leading business hub. Further coverage in a supportive leader column in [Financial Times](#) (i), [Financial Times](#) (ii), [Financial Times](#) (iii), [Financial Times](#) (iv) [City AM](#), [Yahoo Finance](#), [London Loves Business](#), [Bloomberg](#), [Financial News](#) [£], [Evening Standard](#), [The Sun](#), [CNN](#), [Estates Gazette](#), [Property Week](#) [£], [Planning Resource](#), [City Matters](#) and [Relocate Magazine](#). Lord Mayor and Policy Chair were quoted.
- The [Evening Standard](#), [City AM](#) and [MSN](#) reported on how the City Corporation is relaxing elements of the *al fresco* dining policy, in an attempt to help hospitality venues this winter. Chairman of the Licensing Committee is quoted. Further coverage in [City Matters](#) also quoted Chair of Planning and Transportation.
- [Financial News](#) [£] reported on the new Culture and Commerce Taskforce – set up by the Lord Mayor, the City Corporation, and Culture Mile – which will focus on tackling the issues faced by the creative sector, as the UK battles the second wave of the pandemic. Lord Mayor was mentioned. Further coverage in the [Evening Standard](#) and [LondonLovesBusiness](#). The Lord Mayor also wrote about the Taskforce in his [City AM](#) column.
- [The Fintech Times](#) reported on the Lord Mayor's virtual business delegation to North America. The Lord Mayor was quoted. Further coverage in [My Headlinez](#) and [Advisor News](#).
- [The Guardian](#) reported the Policy Chair's warning on how businesses and households will be affected by a no-deal exit from the EU, following the Prime Minister's announcement to prepare for it. Also in [LondonLovesBusiness](#), [Public Now](#), [MSN](#), [Yahoo!](#), [Bloomberg](#) [£], [Sri Lanka](#) and [The Straits Times](#).
- A piece was included in the [Sunday Times](#) [viewable internally only] about the current situation for the City with regards to ongoing trade negotiations with the EU. The Policy Chair was quoted. Further coverage in [City AM](#) and [Business Times Singapore](#).
- [Financial News](#) [£] and [FE News](#) covered the City Corporation's new report with EY on the UK's immigration system, quoting the Policy Chair. Also in [City AM](#), [City Matters](#) and [Relocate magazine](#).

- The Policy Chair was quoted in [City AM](#) in an article about the Prime Minister setting out a new three-tier system for local lockdowns. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- [City A.M.](#) ran a story on talks of London moving into local COVID alert level: high. Policy Chair was quoted. Also covered by the [Financial Times](#) (£), [The Telegraph](#) (£), [Yahoo News](#) and [City AM](#).
- The Policy Chair wrote in [CityA.M.](#) calling on the government to enable a safe, secure and flexible return to the workplace as soon as possible.
- The Policy Chair wrote in [City Matters](#) and [City AM](#) on the Climate Action Strategy and the City Corporation's commitment to achieve net zero carbon emissions across the City. Further coverage of the strategy was included in the [FT](#) (£), [Bloomberg](#), [City AM](#), [Financial News](#) (£), [Business Green](#), [City Matters](#), [Private Equity News](#), [FE News](#), [BetterSociety](#), [FutureNetZero](#), [London Loves Business](#) and [MSN News](#). The Policy Chair was quoted.
- [Financial News](#) (£) published a piece about the City Corporation's plans to launch a new COVID-19 task force focused on the Square Mile, as the UK battles a second wave of the pandemic. The Policy Chair was quoted. Further coverage in [Private Equity News](#).
- [The FT](#) wrote an article about the City Corporation's creation of a virtual reality map of the Square Mile. The Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, was quoted. (£) Further coverage in in [Estates Gazette](#), [City Matters](#) and [PlaceTeDay](#)
- Coverage was included in [Ham & High](#), [The World News](#), [Newham Recorder](#), [City Matters](#), [Epping Forest Guardian](#), [Windsor Observer](#) and [Slough Observer](#) about the City's parks and green spaces that have been awarded Green Flag Award status, recognising them as some of the best managed open spaces in the world. Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens and West Ham Park committees, Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, and Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee quoted.
- [The Telegraph](#) ran a story about recent prosecutions at Epping Forest for illegal fungi foraging and making people aware how picking mushrooms damages the forest. The Head of Conservation at Epping Forest, Jeremy Dagley, was quoted. Further coverage of the prosecutions in [The Times](#), [The Metro](#), [BBC London](#), [Daily Mirror](#), [The Sun](#), [City Matters](#) and [the Yorkshire Post](#). The City Corporation was referenced. Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee was also quoted in [Epping Forest Guardian](#).
- [City A.M.](#) ran a story about the winner of a design competition to transform the historic Finsbury Circus Gardens, the Square Mile's biggest green spaces and London's oldest public park. Further coverage in [Architects Journal](#) (£), [Estates Gazette](#), [BD online](#), [Building News](#) and [City Matters](#). Chairman of the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee was quoted.
- [BBC Radio London](#) featured Islington-based Octopus Community Network, which has received a £186,400 grant from City Bridge Trust to develop growing spaces and food hubs to tackle food poverty in the borough [01:49:42 to 01:58:29]. Further coverage of the grant is included in [Islington Gazette](#), [London Post](#), [FE News](#), [Islington Tribune](#), [The World News](#) and [Charity Today](#). Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee was quoted.
- [Charity Today](#) ran a story on City Bridge Trust's grant to Access Sport to train 60 new volunteers at community sports clubs in Greenwich, Lewisham and Southwark to deliver sporting opportunities to 800 disabled young people. Chairman of the City Bridge Trust Committee was quoted. Further coverage in [London News Online](#), [City Matters](#), [FE News](#) and the [London Post](#).
- [Hackney Gazette](#) wrote about a new drug and alcohol misuse service opening up. Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee was quoted. [KCW World](#) reported that the Lord Mayor will be opening a new wellbeing centre in the week. Chairman of the Community and Children's Services Committee, and Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, were quoted.
- [City Matters](#) reported on Culture Mile's *Imagine*, a season of programmes, events and activities, supporting residents, visitors, school children, businesses and workers to take an active role in the area's long-term vision as a vibrant and welcoming destination for generations to come. Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee, was quoted.

Contact [Aisha Musad](#)

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

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