

February 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Annual Gresham College Lecture

The Lord Mayor delivered his annual Gresham Lecture to over 1,500 people at a live virtual event on 1 February. The Lecture was entitled *Building Back Better – The City's Role in a Green-Led Economic Recovery* and focused on the importance of ensuring a transition to a sustainable and resilient future. The Lord Mayor was joined by a distinguished panel including Dr Mark Carney OC (HMG COP26 Finance Advisor and UN Special Envoy), Liv Garfield CBE (Chief Executive Officer at Severn Trent) and Rhian-Mari Thomas OBE (Chief Executive Officer at the Green Finance Institute). Building on the Green Horizon Summit the Lord Mayor and the panel discussed the City's role, as a world leader in green and sustainable finance, in Building Back Better and the Road to COP26.

Gulf Virtual Visit

From 1-3 February, the Lord Mayor's virtual visit to the Gulf took place with the programme focussing on the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait. The meetings gave the Lord Mayor the opportunity to catch up with major Financial Professional Services institutions and high-ranking ministers in both countries. The visit showcased the strength of the City as a global financial centre, as well as the UK's expertise in innovation within financial services, particularly in the fields of Sustainable Finance and fintech. With the visit taking place so soon after the World Economic Forum, a major theme running throughout the visit was the global momentum towards net-zero and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) matters. The Lord Mayor met key financial decision makers in the UAE and Kuwait to promote investment opportunities within the UK. The visit enabled the City of London Corporation to strengthen relationships and offer investors reassurance over the future of the City.

Culture & Commerce Taskforce Report Launch

On 9 February, the Lord Mayor launched the Culture & Commerce Taskforce report entitled *Culture and Commerce: Fuelling Creative Renewal*. The Taskforce, chaired by the Lord Mayor, in partnership with Culture Mile, assembled leading figures from across the capital to address the shared challenges faced by the creative and commercial sectors in the City, and London more widely, in the wake of the global pandemic. Caroline Dinenage MP, Minister of State for Digital and Culture spoke at the launch event and welcomed the report.

Engagement with Board of Trade - Virtual Visit to Urban Tide (Edinburgh)

On 10 February, the Lord Mayor took part in a virtual visit to Urban Tide, an Edinburgh-based smart cities and data company business, along with Lord Grimstone, Minister for Investment, and other members of the Board of Trade. Graham Stuart MP, Minister for Exports, chaired an export-focused roundtable, whilst Lord Grimstone hosted meetings with trade ministers and investment agencies from the devolved administrations in a series of investment-themed tri-laterals.

Financial and Professional Services Address

On 10 February, at the annual address to the Financial and Professional Services sector, the Lord Mayor and the Governor of the Bank of England warned about the need for well-regulated global markets and looked towards a more ambitious future UK-EU relationship in financial services. Both emphasised that Brexit wouldn't usher in an era of low regulation and tax cuts and remained positive of London's future as a global competitor. The Lord Mayor noted that high regulatory standards are one of London's biggest advantages and can continue to support innovation in areas like fintech and green finance.

Japan Engagements

The Lord Mayor had a series of high-level engagements with Japan from 12-15 February, principally as part of the City Corporation's Memorandum of Understanding with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government (TMG). At an ESG seminar, he delivered the keynote speech to promote London's thought leadership in Green Finance, alongside The Tokyo Governor and Sir Roger Gifford. The audience included a wide range of representatives from the TMG, Tokyo business leaders, and international companies seeking to develop business in Japan. A few days later the Lord Mayor opened a fintech seminar which enabled Japanese and British firms to exchange ideas and business models, with a particular focus on the Asset Management sector. Both opportunities enabled the Lord Mayor to further develop the relationship with Hiroshi Nakaso, Chairman of FinCity Tokyo as he seeks to deliver on his plan to make Tokyo more open and attractive to international firms. These two engagements were followed by a meeting with the incoming British Ambassador to Japan, Ms Julia Longbottom. The Lord Mayor spoke on the close working relationship between the City Corporation and British Embassy Tokyo, as well as underlining the strengths of the City.

Meeting with Lord Mayor of Melbourne

On 17 February, the Lord Mayor met the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Sally Capp. Discussions focussed on the importance of culture in building a vibrant and successful city and how to encourage a return to the office as lockdown restrictions ease.

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

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Since the last edition, a major focus continues to be on **Recovery**. For the Square Mile itself, the City of London Recovery Taskforce was established in response to the pandemic and structural trends shifting demands and expectations. It ventures however beyond merely *adapting* to the new environment, to *proactively* shaping it to thrive; ensuring its diverse communities are eager to be here. The Taskforce has drafted a set of actionable recommendations for the next five years: those which ensure the Square Mile is the world's most innovative, inclusive and sustainable business eco-system, an attractive place in which to invest, work, live and visit. This in turn contributes to a diverse and sustainable greater London, and a globally successful UK.

The recommendations cover four critical dimensions: a world-class business ecosystem with opportunities for innovation and growth; a vibrant cultural offer; outstanding environments including the right workspaces, infrastructure and built environment; and last but certainly not least: people. The initial recommendations continue to be validated extensively through internal and external engagement: over 180 meetings, and 4,000 public survey responses thus far. All members have been invited to contribute. We will soon turn the final bend: refining the recommendations for committee submission and gearing up for launch. The project is being overseen by the Chairs of Policy & Resources and Planning & Transportation Committees, supported by their deputies, and Mayoral/SABTAC input.

As part of this work the Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor have each been speaking with City firms, global investors, partner organisations and stakeholders, in the UK and internationally. Discussions have moved beyond just COVID-19 but this month in particular, conversations have focussed on the work of the Recovery Taskforce and London's emergence from the pandemic; harnessing emerging and big tech to create a vibrant and responsive City; the after-effects of the end of the transition period and what this means for future commitment in terms of headcount and business conducted in London; and how we mobilise private sector support in achieving net-zero for the Square Mile by 2040. Notable meetings include Simon Eaves, Accenture; Christophe Lattuada, Societe Generale; Katie O'Donovan, Google; Anne Marie Verstraeten, BNP Paribas; Nathan Bostock, Santander.

Some emerging and trending insights include the importance of continued and flexible access to global talent as a major consideration for organisations in the City of London, particularly financial services and fintech as they look to meet the increased demand for innovative technology services arising out of COVID-19. Whilst office demands will be changing there remains a clear need for a physical space that workers and businesses can and want to return to as soon as they can. Stakeholders believe it is important to now look ahead when it comes to London (& the UK's) brand and its global reputation.

At the same time, we continue to liaise with London government at all levels on the immediate response to the pandemic and the recovery, and on 17 February the Policy Chair attended the London COVID-19 Business forum. The Policy Chair attends the monthly meetings of the Forum, which is convened by the Mayor of London and brings together representatives from business and London government to work on a roadmap for the safe and full reopening of London's economy. The Forum looks to identify urgent actions and opportunities for joint working and advocacy on key issues affecting London's economic recovery. The February meeting was held in advance of the Prime Minister's statement on 22 February on the next steps for reopening after the current lockdown. The focus of the meeting was on ensuring clarity for businesses as the economy starts to reopen, and on working together on a coordinated response across London. This forum is one of several pan-London groups covering the pandemic response and recovery that the Policy Chair is part of alongside stakeholders from both local and national government.

It is vital that we look to the future and support the UK as it forges its new place in the world, and February will see the publication of the Kalifa Fintech Strategic Review. The City Corporation has played an active role in supporting the independent Review into UK fintech, commissioned by HM Treasury and led by Ron Kalifa (former CEO of Worldpay). The Review published its final report and recommendations on 26 February. The report is a culmination of many months of engagement across the financial services and tech industries to benchmark the UK against its peers and sets out a blueprint for the successful and sustainable growth of our fintech ecosystem. Through a five-point plan that spans policy and regulation, skills, investment, national connectivity and international competitiveness, the Review sets out a clear strategy to ensure that the UK can capitalise upon the opportunities fintech presents to create quality jobs and level up the country, increase financial inclusion and play a key part of "Global Britain".

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

COVID-19 Roadmap

In a statement to Parliament, the Prime Minister set out the “road map” to guide England “cautiously but irreversibly” out of the COVID-19 lockdown. While the threat remained substantial, the Prime Minister said the vaccination programme made possible “a one-way road to freedom.” The easing of restrictions would be data led and subject to four tests at each of four stages: that the vaccine rollout continued successfully, that hospitalisations and deaths were reduced, that the infection rate did not risk an increase in hospitalisations, and that new variants did not change the balance of risks. Each stage would be at least five weeks apart to allow the data to be assessed, and would begin with the reopening of schools on 8 March and end on 21 June at the earliest, when legal limits on social contact would be removed and any businesses still closed, such as nightclubs, would reopen. The road map will be accompanied by reviews into social distancing, international travel, COVID-19 status certification and the safe return of major events. Public health being devolved, the administrations in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast will set out their own plans for the other home nations.

The Future of Financial Services

The Remembrancers Office has submitted evidence on behalf of the City of London Corporation to the Treasury Select Committee’s inquiry into the future of financial services. The submission notes the need to strengthen and develop the UK’s overseas trading relationships, preserve the UK’s openness to international business and talent, maintain the UK’s high regulatory standards and collaboration on global regulatory policy, and support domestic skills development. Given the need for enhanced parliamentary oversight of financial services regulations now that the UK has left the EU, the submission also advocates an enhanced scrutiny role for the Treasury Committee and for the creation of a new, specialised, financial services sub-committee. Submissions have also been made to the Lords EU Services Sub Committee on the UK’s future relationship with the EU in trade in services, and to the International Trade committee on Digital Trade and Data.

Musicians working in the EU

Nickie Aiken, MP for the Cities of London and Westminster, raised concerns expressed by the London Symphony Orchestra on the ability of musicians to travel and work in the European Union. Aiken noted that the LSO is “based in the Barbican Centre in the City of London in my constituency” and warned that “present restrictions on live performances combined with the future challenges for touring in the EU threaten its very existence.” Aiken noted additional bureaucracy required for musicians to perform in Europe, with rules varying between different Member States. Caroline Dinenage MP (Minister for Digital and Culture) said that the UK had offered to capture “the work done by musicians, artists, entertainers and their accompanying staff through the list of permitted activities for short-term business visitors,” but claimed that “the EU rejected this proposal,” with no counteroffer proposed, aside from smaller exceptions in other parts of the negotiations. Dinenage noted that “our door remain[s] 100% open... if the EU should change its mind.” Dinenage also set out rules for EU musicians in the UK, noting that “Musicians, entertainers, artists and all their technical staff from non-visa national countries, such as EU member states and the United States, can all come to perform in the UK for up to one month without requiring a visa, if they are paid by a UK source, and they can come for up to three months without requiring a visa, if they are sponsored by a registered tour sponsor.” Closing the session, Committee Chair Catherine McKinnell MP asserted the need for “the Government to get back to the table and sort this out urgently.”

Brexit and London’s Economy

The Mayor of London has released a paper by the Centre for Economics and Business Research analysing the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement from a London perspective. It concludes that London’s economy may lose £9.5bn of GDP annually owing to reductions in UK-EU trade, and that the Financial and Professional Services Sector may alone account for more than £2bn lost in GDP each year. This loss could be worsened by a failure to reach agreements on equivalence, the Mayor added, stressing the need for other issues such as data adequacy, recognition of professional qualifications and business mobility to be addressed.

COVID-19 and Legal Services

The City Corporation and the Industry and Parliament Trust co-hosted a parliamentary event on innovation and legal services, with particular comments on the effects of COVID-19. The Policy Chair, the President of the Law Society, and the Chairman of Shoosmiths LLP opened the meeting with their remarks. Attendees heard about the challenges faced by the legal sector as a result of COVID-19, and topics of discussion included Lawtech, the City Corporation’s proposed combined courts facility, and the need for stronger political support for the English legal system as a global commodity. Participants emphasised the importance of maintaining access to justice and concerns over the operation of the criminal justice system.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Practical Actions to Finance India's Sustainable Recovery

The UK India Sustainable Finance Working Group launched its latest report '[Practical Actions to Finance India's Sustainable Recovery](#)' on 28 January. This report sets out practical actions that the government and private sector can adopt to unlock capital in support of India's sustainable recovery. These actions derive from the work of the Group's three subgroups and are focused on: developing a sustainable finance taxonomy for India, mobilising domestic capital and attracting international capital into sustainable sectors.

Innovative solutions to COVID-19 challenges in finance

The [Digital Sandbox pilot](#) ran from September 2020 to February 2021 and saw engagement with over 800 individuals across financial and professional services (FPS), tech and academia. 30 teams developed innovative solutions to COVID-19 challenges in finance. The pilot demonstrated the potential for the Digital Sandbox platform to assist the development of much needed technology solutions, with features such as synthetic data and a digital testing environment. It also created a new eco-system in which the FPS industry and technology community could interact and collaborate.

Contact [Theresa Yurkewich Hoffmann](#)

Demonstrating the value of financial services

The publication of our annual [Total Tax Contribution of UK Financial Services](#) underlines the enduring value the sector provides. Findings attracted significant media attention. The sector paid £75.6bn in tax in the year to March 2020 - 10% of all government tax receipts. That is more than the combined Government spend on housing, environment and transport. But more importantly, the report also forecasts that through the turbulence of the pandemic the tax contribution will prove to have held relatively stable. Authors PwC predict a worst-case scenario of £71.1bn and a best-case projection of £75.7bn. So, although the pace and path of the recovery post-pandemic is still uncertain, the sector provides an element of stability.

British American Finance Alliance

The British American Finance Alliance, a transatlantic coalition of FPS trade associations co-chaired by the Policy Chair, held senior working-level meetings with both HM Treasury and the US Treasury this month. This engagement aims to shape the content for long-term regulatory cooperation.

G7 priorities for financial services

The UK takes over the G7 presidency in a critical year for global recovery. The International Regulatory Strategy Group has set out four areas where the UK must demonstrate leadership: COVID-19 recovery, climate change, the digital agenda and alignment with G20 policy priorities.

UK-EU Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

Building on previous work of the International Regulatory Strategy Group, and in collaboration with key industry partners, the Policy Chair and officers have engaged closely with HM Treasury on the negotiations of the UK-EU MoU on Financial Services. It is hoped that the MoU will stabilise the relationship and lay the foundations for a deep and structured dialogue.

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

2021 Census of Population for England and Wales

The next full Census of the Population for England and Wales is due to be undertaken shortly. It is being organised nationally by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) and Census day is scheduled to take place on 21 March. As you might be aware, Government use the Census statistics to determine the support local authorities receive to fund public services. The statistics also provide valuable information for the planning and delivery of those services. It is therefore important that this enumeration exercise and the information obtained is accurate, and that the ONS receive the highest possible response rates from all local authority areas and community groups. Local authorities have important knowledge and understanding that can help ensure the Census is a success. Given the local authority functions undertaken by the City Corporation, it has been supporting the arrangements by promoting it in City Resident magazine, the weekly residents COVID-19 e-bulletin, across our social media channels and other local output. This year the Census will be run digitally. Those without IT facilities have the option of completing and returning forms by post. The ONS has produced a [Councillor Handbook](#) containing information on the Census, which you may find a useful.

Contact [Angela Roach](#)

Recovery Taskforce

The City of London Corporation's Recovery Task Force carried out a public survey during February. The aim was to capture insights and views from different groups about how they intend to use the Square Mile when rules allow. This will be used to help shape plans as we work to ensure the Square Mile is the world's most innovative, inclusive and sustainable business eco-system, and an attractive place to invest, work, live and

visit. At the time of writing, we have heard from over 4,500 people from a wide variety of communities and backgrounds including; over 2,400 workers; over 950 visitors; over 440 were part of Liveries; over 390 City of London officers; over 370 residents; 170 business owners; 83 Members; and over 80 students. Initial findings show that 16% intend to use the Square Mile every working day when rules allow, this is a decrease from 50% prior to March 2020. 71% of City workers said they used the Square Mile every working day prior to March 2020 and only 20% intend to when rules allow, with 71% intending to work in the City some days a week. The main reasons were hesitations over the commute and changes in working practices. Encouragingly, all groups plan to use the Square Mile, as much as or more than they did previously in their free time when rules allow. This was true for eating and drinking out and for visiting tourist attractions, arts and culture venues and attending events. Over 40% shared comments on what would attract them or keep them from returning to the City. Many were concerned about crowded streets and trains. Wanting a better work/life balance and opportunities to spend time in green spaces were also common responses. A clear passion to return to the historical surroundings, connect with colleagues in person and make the most of the Square Mile's attractions and events also came through strongly. Further details will be included in papers the Recovery Taskforce is presenting to the Policy & Resources and Planning & Transportation Committees in April.

Contact [Katelyn Williams](#)

City Bridge Trust (CBT)

Beacon Collective report

A report was launched by the CBT-funded [Beacon Collective](#) on 9 February. The report outlined the importance of London as a centre for global philanthropy. It recommended that:

- To be a credible global centre of excellence, the UK must model best practice in philanthropy, encompassing more and better giving.
- Match funding must be considered as a tool for engaging international philanthropists.
- There must be an intentional focus on the equitable distribution of any inbound philanthropic capital across the UK, as well as for outbound capital globally.

The two online launches to different audiences were presented by the Policy Chair and Alderman Alison Gowman respectively, attracting 200 participants in total and were featured in two articles in The Times and a piece on Times Radio. There was significant appetite at both events to keep this dialogue going within the broader group of interested parties who took part.

Cornerstone Fund

[The Cornerstone Fund](#) re-opened last week. CBT is seeking to support collaborations and partnership approaches aiming to bring about systemic change to tackle structural inequalities and build stronger, more resilient communities. The Cornerstone Fund is a funder collaboration currently involving CBT, the GLA, the National Lottery Community Fund, Trust for London and the John Lyons Charity. It forms part of CBT's *Bridging Divides* strategy 2018 – 2023.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Rare Coral Tooth Fungus discovered

A rare Coral Tooth fungus was found in Epping Forest in November. It has rarely been recorded in the woodland in the last 15 years. This fungus is generally found on beech trees and is a saprotrophic fungus meaning it obtains nutrition from non-living organic materials. The fantastic assemblage of fungi species in Epping Forest is one of the reasons that two thirds of the Forest is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest / Special Area of Conservation. The Epping Forest Management Strategy has been produced and is now available on the [City of London website](#). A printed version is currently in production and will be distributed to members over the next month.

Zoom aerobic and boxing classes and healthy eating food packs

Charity partner Capital Kids Cricket (CKC) who work very closely with West Ham Park have been busy during lockdown running their health and well-being workshop for adults and a confidence building workshop for children. CKC are running women only zoom aerobic classes and women and children zoom boxing classes enabling engagement with families. Volunteers are working hard to pack and deliver much needed food to families. Each delivery contains supplies and includes a COVID-19 fact sheet with several healthy recipes that families can cook together to promote healthy eating, learn new skills and have fun.

Car parking at Burnham Beeches

Following concerns over excessively high visitor numbers to the site, new parking restrictions have been introduced. Discussions were held with the Buckinghamshire Council and the Highways Authority which enabled Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common to reduce the number of spaces. This will help reduce

overflow onto local roads and impact to residents and provide safety to everyone. Temporary banners have been installed and increased ranger presence at key times. Disabled parking has not been affected. In addition, some key paths in sensitive areas have also been temporarily cordoned off to allow the area to recover following high foot fall.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Clean City Award Virtual Award Ceremony

The City of London runs the Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) which encourages and rewards City businesses who adopt and maintain sustainable practices. The CCAS was reviewed this year and more award categories have been added including "Resource and Circular Economy", "Plastic Free City" and "Air Quality and Climate Action" to help support the City's Climate Action Strategy. This year's Chairman's Cup theme is "embedding environmental performance and sustainability during the COVID-19 outbreak". This year's CCAS Annual awards ceremony will take place virtually on 22 March, 12 noon-1pm. Everyone is invited to attend. [Book your place](#) at the virtual ceremony.

Food Waste Action Week and Low Waste Cookery Workshop

The City of London Recycling Team are participating in the UK's first ever Food Waste Action Week (FWAW) which will run from 1-7 March. The week will bring together citizens and organisations from retail, manufacturing, local government, hospitality and across industry to demonstrate the impact of wasted food on people, on business, and on the planet. As part of the FWAW, the City of London Recycling Team will be hosting a low waste cookery workshop on 4 March between 12.30 – 1.30pm. Working in conjunction with Sunny Jar, the low waste cookery workshop will demonstrate easy recipes and tips to save food going to waste at home and to curb the contribution it makes towards climate change. We will also provide info on how you can make your food go further by better planning and storage of food, as well as ideas on what you can do with left overs. To register for the workshop please complete our [online registration form](#).

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Community & Children's Services

Youth Hostel

The Youth Hostel Association (YHA) Carter Lane site has been the cornerstone of the City of London's COVID-19 response for rough sleepers. The hostel, which currently hosts 45 rough sleepers, will continue to operate for at least another year, meaning that they can continue to offer the crucial work that they do to our rough sleeping community.

Contact [Will Norman](#)

Barbican and Community Libraries

On 16 February staff teamed up with the Salters' Company to run a virtual event for children. They were taught the science behind pancake batter and enjoyed some songs and reading. One mother commented; 'thank you so much to this community who always put their efforts to bring our children together during this hardest time.'

Contact [Carol Boswarthack](#)

Barbican Music Library hosted a virtual talk by photographer, Jill Furmanovsky, attended by over 60 people.

Contact [Richard Jones](#)

New Online Contraceptive Service

The City of London and Hackney have recently joined several other London boroughs in making available a new service to improve residents' access to contraceptives, despite the ongoing pandemic. The service is provided through the [Sexual Health London portal](#).

Contact [Xenia Koumi](#)

Education and Early Years

We are well into our third national lockdown. As we know families in the Square Mile are in need of practical support and advice to deal with the challenges they are facing, the team has published a second 'lockdown edition' of their newsletter for parents and carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. Download the [newsletter](#).

Contact eeyservice@cityoflondon.gov.uk

City of London Academies and Schools

LGBTQ+ Month

The City of London Family of Schools have marked various cultural events over the month of February and engagement among students remains high, despite the obstacles of online learning. The City of London Academy Hackney have been sharing examples of their pupils Art & Design creations made at home. This included pupils being challenged to use their creativity to design a new comic book character who fights for social issues, to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month. The City of London Academy Southwark chose to mark the event with videos on social media, highlighting the LGBTQIA activities for pupils running throughout the

month. This included virtual Q&A sessions with prominent figures Wes Streeting MP, and Chris Kenna, both of whom are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

Children's Mental Health week

The City of London Family of Schools has been focusing on children's mental health week including Galleywall Primary School which has been practicing mindfulness techniques. The school shared helpful infographics on social media with tips on how to look after our mental well-being. During a recent Culture and Creative Learning Forum discussions took place, from staff and governors across the Family of Schools, around wellbeing. Participants shared how they have used arts and culture within their school to support wellbeing, this has included photography and art projects during school closures as well as staff training in the form of Continuous Professional Development. The Forum also discussed how wellbeing is a key priority for schools and individuals and shared best practice for improving in this area.

National Apprenticeship Week

There are over 100 people kickstarting their careers at the City Corporation in a diverse range of jobs across the capital. This year's National Apprentice Week theme focused on how employers train, retain and help apprentices achieve. There were over 30 events across the week for apprentices, managers and employees which ranged from live interviews to an inclusion and diversity talk with Shaun Dellenty.

London Careers Festival 2021

London Careers Festival 2021 will build on the success of previous years (2019 & 2020) which together connected over 7,500 pupils with more than 120 organisations. The event will take place online this year between 28 June – 2 July 2021. The virtual Festival will provide numerous resources, live webinars and interactive workshops with businesses and employers for pupils to explore their career interests and develop their skills. Find more information on: www.londoncareersfestival.org.uk

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School

Raphael Leon, a Sixth Form pupil who is a Member of the Youth Parliament (MYP) for the City of London, alongside the Deputy Member of the Youth Parliament, had the unique opportunity to meet (virtually) the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair of the City of London. During the meeting, they spoke about their respective roles and discussed the healthy living campaign that Sixth Former, Raphael and Year 11 pupil, Aiden have devised and are launching for young people who live, work and study in the City of London. We also had the opportunity to pose questions to the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair, who provided inspirational insights in topics ranging from overcoming barriers to how to be successful in their chosen fields. The terms as MYP and Deputy MYP have been extended for another year, enabling them to continue to represent the school, strengthen their connection with the City Corporation and further their political campaigns.

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

City of London School for Girls (CLSG)

With staff and students settled into the online learning status quo, CLSG has been able to more fully take advantage of virtual possibilities. Biology students, for instance, created short films to illustrate biological processes – year 8 filmmakers captured the emulsification of lipids (or in this case, sunflower oil) with bile (a squeeze of fairy liquid)! Our musicians, too, have embraced technology to collaborate while physically apart – a year 12 string quartet rendition of Elgar's 'Chanson de Matin' was rehearsed and recorded remotely, while our first [Siblings Concert](#) showed off the impressive familial talent within households. The increased capacity of online events, meanwhile, made it possible to extend the reach of City's careers programming. Our first virtual Higher Education Evening – a bumper schedule of representatives from leading universities speaking on a variety of subject areas – drew many attendees from both City and partner schools. Over 140 legally-minded pupils from across the City of London's Family of Schools and the East London Consortium, meanwhile, attended a Linklaters panel webinar organised by CLSG and City of London School. Nothing perhaps epitomises this spirit of continued creativity more than the half term challenges set for students to complete at home and share in PSCHE just before the February break. Whether whipping up a showstopper for the Bake Off challenge, capturing 'life in lockdown' for the photography challenge, or recreating a famous piece of art using household items for the art challenge, [student responses](#) were consistently resourceful and refreshing.

Contact [Sam Robson](#)

Gresham College

Strong Online Audiences

Gresham lectures are continuing to attract strong live online and school audiences, with more than 5,000 registered school students watching lectures so far this year (among the over 20,000 people watching lectures 'live online'). Watch our top lecture for February; [Vaccination](#) by Professor Chris Whitty. Our hit lecturer this year is Professor Alec Ryrie, whose history of religion lectures have been racking up - between them - hundreds of thousands of views. [View his playlist](#).

Restraining Police Restraint (Thursday 4 March, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later))

We hear too often about sudden death in adults following prolonged and often unnecessary police restraint. What do people know about the dangers of restraint and how widespread is our understanding of such deaths? This [talk by Gresham Law Professor Leslie Thomas QC](#) explores the legal implications facing the state and what steps can be taken and implemented to save more lives and have safer policing. Do these deaths disproportionately affect African Caribbean men given recent BAME stop and search statistics?

The Mistakes CEOs Make (Tuesday 16 March, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later))

We often think that leaders are particularly strong in decision making – that's why they've made it to the top. But evidence shows that even senior executives are prone to psychological biases, such as overconfidence, groupthink, and applying one-size-fits-all rules. This [talk by Gresham Business Professor Alex Edmans](#) will also discuss how boards, investors, policymakers, and executives themselves can address these biases to make better decisions – that affect not only companies but also wider society.

The Politics of Judging (Monday 29 March, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later))

The decision in the parliamentary prorogation case brought by Gina Miller against the UK government has thrust the judiciary into the public eye. Was it “a constitutional coup” as some claim? The government has promised to “update the Human Rights Act” and review the “relationship between the government, parliament and the courts”. Will this limit the power of the judiciary to do justice? Do British judges have too much “power” and are they over-politicised? [Join visiting Professor Thomas Grant QC](#) to explore the issues.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

On the 22 February, the Royal United Services Institute published its [report on the UK's Response to Cyber Fraud](#), which has received significant media coverage, including in [The Times](#), [Telegraph](#) and [Sky News](#). The Chair of the Police Authority Board helped the City shape this important piece of research, which has taken a whole-system approach to fraud, engaging widely, beyond law enforcement and government, to understand the views and concerns of the private sector. This sector has a significant role to play with a wealth of information that can help monitor the threat in real time and best coordinate efforts to address it. However, obstacles to sharing this information (real and perceived) need to be overcome to facilitate this. While there are a number of recommendations, some of which build on positive recognition of the City of London Police's work via the Economic Crime Academy and the Economic Crime Victim Care Unit, the key message from the report is the need for a clear, comprehensive strategy to direct efforts effectively. Clear ministerial ownership is vital to avoid duplication and conflicting workstreams in an area that has extremely limited resources in the face of an ever-growing threat. The City of London Police and Authority will be working closely together to help land this report with Government and take forward the recommendations on behalf of policing, as we look to embed the force's new responsibility for cyber-crime.

Contact [Oliver Bolton](#)

City of London Police

Whilst COVID-19 continues to distort the policing landscape, City of London Police is amongst those police forces which have seen a considerable decrease in crime levels. Crime analysis for January 2021 showed a 41% drop from the previous month, and 49% year on year. With a small residential population, our focus is on those crime types which could continue under lockdown: theft, robbery and burglary. We have had considerable success in obtaining Criminal Behaviour Orders to prevent prolific offenders from entering the City, with over seven in the last year to address crimes such as burglary, pick-pocketing, cycle theft and shop lifting. Such orders prevent those offenders from entering the City from five years to indefinitely and are very effective at making the City a more hostile environment for persistent offenders. Shop lifting is one aspect of crime that continues throughout lockdown and officers are working closely with those retail outlets that are still open and are being targeted, with advice and a frequent, visible policing presence. The force continues to issue fixed penalty notices for those breaking the COVID-19 laws, including Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for private parties, sight-seeing and making music videos; a total of 148 FPNs have been issued in the City since April 2020.

Contact [Teresa La Thangue](#)

Markets and Consumer Protection

Leaving the EU and its impact on Port Health

The City of London Corporation, as the London Port Health Authority (LPHA) is responsible for 94 miles of the River Thames; from Teddington Lock to the outer estuary. The LPHA is responsible for border controls on food and feed that enter the UK through the ports of London Gateway, Tilbury, Tilbury 2, Purfleet, Thamesport and Sheerness. Before the end of the Transition Period (31 December 2020) the LPHA only controlled food

and feed imported from outside the EU. Although a deal was reached between the UK and the EU before Christmas 2020, controls will now be applied to high-risk food and feed imported from the EU. These controls will be phased in, with full implementation by July. This puts a huge pressure on the ferry ports along the River Thames, mainly Tilbury 2 and Purfleet, as they have multiple daily sailings to Europe. During 2020, LPHA checked 18,500 consignments and this is estimated to at least double with the introduction of checks on EU imports. To cope with this extra demand, LPHA was awarded Government funding to increase its staffing by 50%. Most of the new employees have now been appointed and are undergoing training in preparation for undertaking full checks from July. So far in 2021, food and feed from the EU and beyond has been able to flow through the ports without significant delays.

Contact [Gavin Stedman](#)

Idling engine campaign

On 22 February the City Corporation's Air Quality Team launched for four weeks a London-wide advertising campaign encouraging drivers to turn off their vehicle engines when parked. The campaign is part of a three-year idling engine programme funded by the Mayor of London and led by the City Corporation and London Borough of Camden. The 'Engine Off, Every Stop' campaign features posters and billboards on roadside sites and petrol stations across the capital. Drivers are also being reached with radio adverts, videos and social media, in a bid to change behavior.

Contact [Ruth Calderwood](#)

Culture and Commerce Taskforce

The Lord Mayor's [Culture & Commerce Taskforce](#) launched its [Fueling Creative Renewal Report](#) on 9 February in a virtual event, attended by over 450 people from across the business and creative sectors. The report provides a blueprint for a deeper relationship between the creative, civic, and commercial sectors and calls for them to act urgently upon three key recommendations and 10 proposed projects where culture and commerce may work together for mutual benefit. Working together will accelerate London's recovery post-pandemic and help secure its position as one of the best international cities in which to live, work, visit and invest. The Taskforce seeks partners from across London who are able to take on a leadership role in progressing one or more of the ten projects. If Members are aware of organisations or individuals that would like to get involved or have knowledge of a related project, please email cultureandcommerce@cityoflondon.gov.uk. The recommendations include:

- **Creative Activation: Bringing London alive through creativity**
The commercial and arts sectors should work together to use creativity to attract people back to London as soon as social distancing restrictions allow.
- **Exchange: Sharing knowledge and building skills between culture and commerce**
There is a powerful opportunity to bring together London's creative and business strengths to boost professional skills, attract and nurture global talent, and build international connections. By drawing upon each other's expertise, culture and commerce can access the creative and business skills needed to navigate the challenges of a post-pandemic, post-Brexit world.
- **Creative Enterprise Hubs: Developing dedicated spaces for cross-sector innovation**
Physical hubs are a hotbed of ideas for innovation and provide isolated workers with human connections and inspiration.

Contact [Andrea Lee](#)

Culture Mile

Play Packs

Culture Mile's successful Play Packs scheme continued in February half term, with 2,000 activity packs distributed through community centres and foodbanks. The packs included creative things to do for families developed by artist Kiran Chahal and Islington Play Association. Over 12,000 packs have been given out since their inception last April and will be celebrated next month in a billboard campaign, Play Packs in the Streets, taking imaginative play prompts to the streets around Culture Mile for passers-by to engage with.

Fusion Prize

Winners of the £50,000 [Fusion Prize](#), [The Pattern](#) launch a four week online curriculum on 22 February, developing key creative employability skills. The cohort of 22 Londoners aged between 18-25 years will then demonstrate these skills through a series of ambitious projects.

Online Mentoring Programme

Culture Mile Learning's Online Mentoring Programme continues to grow, with 20 young people developing relationships with creative professionals including a high-profile fashion designer, an actor, a video editor, and a well-known painter. Most mentees have been referred through Islington's Looked After Children's Services or the City of London Schools.

Imagine Fund

Recipients of Culture Mile's Imagine Fund, which provides micro-grants of £500 to the community, continue to develop their creative ideas for the area. The City Carers Community which offers support to unpaid carers, funded by Imagine Fund has now received additional money to continue for another term from the Communities & Children's Services Department.

SME Support

Culture Mile continues its support to the creative sector with freelancer and SME support, as well as the launch of the Culture & Commerce Taskforce's Fuelling Creative Renewal report in February.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

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

- Concerts as part of the acclaimed *Live from the Barbican* series in 2020 are available via [Concerts On Demand](#) from 9 Feb until 24 Mar 2021. Included are performances from celebrated artists who reflect the wide spectrum of the Barbican's distinct music offer.
- An excerpt from the Olivier-Award nominated work, *Blak Whyte Gray*, performed by Barbican Artistic Associate Boy Blue and filmed at the Barbican features in a three-part boxset *Dancing Nation*, available on [BBC iPlayer](#) and [Sadler's Wells Digital Stage](#) until Fri 26 Feb 2021
- [Inspired](#) – the Barbican's Theatre and Dance in-conversation podcast series – returns, and sees some of the amazing artists who work with the Barbican paired with Barbican young artists, sharing their personal stories about the influences that impact their work creatively.
- A full programme of exclusive films and ScreenTalks on [Cinema On Demand](#) including Martine Deyres's 2019 documentary *Our Lucky Hours*.
- As part of the Barbican Guildhall Creative Learning's programme [Subject to Change: New Horizons](#), interdisciplinary artist Mandisa Apena and Tice Cin have released: "cos now im missing our touchhh", a new musical score and video exploring the loss of nightclubs and queer nightlife in the UK due to the Covid-19 pandemic
- And for children aged five and under, [Squish Space](#) is offering a new series of digital prompts for parents/carers and their children to enjoy at home.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Pilot music project launched to support mother-baby bonding at University College London Hospital (UCLH)

The Music for Relaxation, Bonding and Healing project, funded by UCLH Charity and the Friends of UCLH, has seen postgraduate students from Guildhall School composing, arranging and recording music to support mother-baby bonding. The recorded selection of lullabies and folk songs from around the world aims to create a space for quiet relaxation and breathing. Taking place on the antenatal and postnatal wards on the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Wing of University College Hospital, it aims to support positive and healthy birthing journeys, particularly when COVID-19 is presenting extra challenges for new mothers.

Guildhall School announces Spring 2021 Drama productions, broadcast for free

Guildhall School presents an exciting line up of drama performances this spring, broadcast online for free. There is a chance to see *The Drowned World*, Gary Owen's rarely performed play directed by John Haidar (from 3 March) and a series of short, stand-alone solo performances titled *Pieces of Us*, created by Guildhall School students overseen by dramaturg Jude Christian (from 8 March). Acting and Production Arts students will also create two devised works in collaboration with multi award-winning theatre companies Barrel Organ and Breach (further details and broadcast dates to be announced soon).

New online courses announced

Guildhall School has announced 15 new online courses from April – July 2021, allowing people to learn a new skill from home, wherever they are in the world. The courses cover music, drama, music production for young women and girls, sound design for theatre, video mapping and an introduction to game audio. In addition to this, 11 new evening courses for adults have been announced, starting on 27 and 28 April. Topics covered include film music, acting, theatre and visual arts. Courses can be booked on the [GSMD website](#).

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

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

Collection Care @ Home

The LMA conservation team has produced seven leaflets about safe and easy ways to look after your

collection at home covering loose documents, books, prints and drawings, photographs, LPs and CDs, newspaper cuttings and offcuts, and pest monitoring. The leaflets explain how to care for your precious and important archives and collection items. It highlights best practice for storage to prevent further deterioration, environments that are harmful and how to handle items to avoid further damage. They are available to download on the LMA webpages at [CollectionCare@HomeLeaflets](#)

Switching the Lens – volunteers needed!

As previously reported, in October LMA published a new project dataset, [Switching the Lens - Rediscovering Londoners of African, Caribbean, Asian and Indigenous Heritage, 1561 to 1840](#) highlighting records of over 2600 individuals drawn from Anglican parish registers at LMA by staff and volunteers. Now we are looking for volunteers interested in systematically searching parish registers online to look for entries relating to Londoners of African, Caribbean, Asian and Indigenous heritage. The search will focus on City of London parish registers from the 1500s to 1837. Volunteers will be given access to LMA's digitised parish records on Ancestry, matching registers to skills and experience. This is a project that is only offered remotely, but staff will be available to help via email or Zoom. If you are interested in volunteering on the project, visit the [City of London website](#).

Contact [Geoff Pick](#)

Museum of London

Museum of London acquires Mayor of Lambeth's homemade ceremonial chain

On 17 February, the museum announced that it had acquired a ceremonial chain created by Councillor Philip Normal, Mayor of Lambeth, as part of its ongoing Collecting COVID initiative. Normal made the chain, or collar, for his virtual appointment to Mayor of Lambeth on 22 April 2020 during the first national lockdown. Created using card and plaited t-shirt fabric it displays Lambeth's coat of arms painted within a fluorescent pink oval. Normal is well known as a LGBTQ+ activist, ambassador for HIV awareness and owner of a popular shop in Brixton. He is now the first openly HIV+ Mayor in the UK. See the chain on the [Museums Instagram](#).

LGBTQ+ History Month

Though the Museum of London's sites are temporarily closed, visitors have been able to explore the heritage of LGBTQ Londoners through stories from online collections with a diverse digital programme. Access the full selection of [talks, videos, articles and learning resources](#) on the Museum of London website.

Lunar New Year virtual festival

Over 13 and 14 February, the Museum of London Docklands hosted their annual Lunar New Year celebrations in a very new way – completely virtually! Though the weekend itself has passed, there are still plenty of activities still available to try on the museum's website from the chance to learn some words in Mandarin Chinese to family yoga and a puppet show from Taiwan! [Try the activities](#) for free, on our website.

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

City Business Library (CBL)

City of London Corporation SME Strategy

CBL and the Corporate Strategy team are leading on the creation of a new Corporate SME Strategy, encouraging collaboration from various departments across the City Corporation. The Strategy is in its early stages of development and a detailed data analysis of the SME landscape in the City is underway. This will help inform focus areas within the strategy. Once a draft strategy has been developed, this will be sense checked with SME trade organisations and City SMEs.

Samuel Wilson's Loan Trust

CBL is now the initial contact point for applicants seeking funding from the Samuel Wilson's Loan Trust and has created new webpages to support its promotion. A dedicated freelance Business Adviser will be appointed to support applicants with the creation of a robust business plan and realistic financial forecasts. This focussed support and advice will enable more applicants to be successful in their bid for funding.

Supporting Creative Freelancers

CBL will be supporting the Creative Freelancer Exchange workshops starting in March. These are being offered by Culture Mile in response to the needs and requests of local creative freelancers due to COVID-19. CBL will deliver a workshop on business planning tools and participate in further sessions.

CBL Events

CBL continues to offer a full programme of virtual events to entrepreneurs and SMEs in London and beyond. Events in March include Introduction to business start-up, How to protect your Intellectual Property and How to research Import and Export.

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

In the News

- [Evening Standard](#) and [The Times](#) [viewable internally only] reported on the City Corporation's major 'renewal' plans for the Barbican Centre, the cancellation of the Centre for Music proposals, and continued funding for the London Symphony Orchestra and Culture Mile. Further coverage in the [Guardian \(i\)](#), [Guardian \(ii\)](#), [The Times](#) (£), [Daily Telegraph](#) (£), [City A.M.](#), [City Matters](#), [Architects Journal](#). The Policy Chair and Chair of the Barbican Board, were quoted.
- Widespread coverage of the release of a new City Corporation report showing the UK's financial services sector paid a record £75.6bn in the year to March 2020. The Policy Chair was quoted. Further coverage in [Reuters](#), [Daily Mail](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Telegraph](#) (£), [Financial News](#), [MSN](#), [City Matters](#), [Politico](#) [viewable internally only], [City A.M.](#), [Evening Standard](#) [viewable internally only], [City AM](#) and [MSN News](#).
- Policy Chair interviewed by [Reuters](#) discussing how London has no desire for a bonfire of regulations to retain its position as a top international finance centre after Brexit, but it won't be a 'rule taker'. Further coverage included in [The Sun \[at 10.15am\]](#), [City A.M.](#), [The Independent Metro \(US\)](#) and [Daily Mail](#).
- Continuing coverage also appeared in [City AM](#) on the City Corporation report showing that London continues to hold the top spot for financial and professional services. The Policy Chair was quoted. Also on [Bloomberg](#).
- The Policy Chair was interviewed on [BBC London News](#) talking about the confidence she has in the City to overcome the twin challenges of Brexit and COVID-19. [Viewable internally]
- [BBC News](#) ran a story about the future of the City following the UK's exit from the European Union. The Policy Chair was quoted and was interviewed on the [BBC News at Six and Ten](#).
- [Bloomberg](#) quoted the Policy Chair in a story on the impact of the UK leaving the EU on financial services. Also in [Yahoo Finance](#).
- The [Evening Standard](#) and [City AM](#) ran a story which quoted Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, after a new 'green' tower at 70 Gracechurch Street was approved. Also in [Construction News](#), [Yahoo](#) and [Construction Enquirer](#).
- The [Evening Standard](#) ran a story which quoted Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, about "a striking vote of confidence in the future of the City". Also in a comment piece in the [Evening Standard](#).
- [The Observer](#) [viewable internally only] ran an article on the City's future following Brexit, which quoted the Policy Chair. A related piece in [The Observer](#) also highlights the City's contribution to the economy and again quoted the Policy Chair.
- The [Evening Standard](#) quoted the Lord Mayor in a story about a £10m research centre to spur a greener global financial system. Further coverage in [UK Research and Innovation](#), [Simple News](#), [The Energyst](#), [Mirage News](#), [Company News HQ](#), [Markets Media](#) and [Science Business](#).
- Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee wrote in [Property Week](#) that confidence in the City remains high and the Square Mile has a recovery plan post-COVID.
- Continuing coverage of the decision by the Policy and Resources Committee to remove and re-site statues linked to slavery including [The i](#) [viewable internally], [Daily Mirror](#) [viewable internally], [The Independent](#), and [Daily Telegraph](#). Mark Wheatley CC wrote in [City AM](#).
- The [Daily Mail](#) reported the Government could block City Corporation plans to remove and re-site statues. The Policy Chair and Tackling Racism Taskforce Co-Chairs were quoted. Also in [The Times](#) [internal], [Reuters](#), and [Daily Mail](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [City AM](#) about the launch of a new COVID-19 rapid testing site in the City. Further coverage in [Financial News](#).
- [Evening Standard](#) reported on City Corporation approval for plans for a new 30-storey skyscraper in Gracechurch Street. Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, was quoted. Further coverage included [City AM](#), [MyLondon](#), [City Matters](#), and [Bloomberg](#).
- The [Evening Standard](#) ran a two-page spread on a report by the Culture and Commerce Taskforce, describing it as a 'solution to stopping a cultural catastrophe'. The Lord Mayor was quoted. Further coverage in an [Evening Standard](#) editorial, [City AM](#), [Financial News](#), and [Yahoo News](#) editions in the UK, Canada, India and Singapore.
- The Lord Mayor was quoted in [Bloomberg](#), [The Telegraph](#) (£) and [Yahoo News](#) ahead of the [Financial & Professional Services Address](#).
- Chair of the Education Board was quoted in [FE News](#) in a piece covering the City Corporation marking National Apprentice Week. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- The Vanessa Feltz show on [BBC Radio London](#) (from 1:41:03) featured the Love Your Neighbour scheme pairing up older and younger neighbours experiencing loneliness, run by the charity South London Cares with funding from City Bridge Trust. Also in in [Southwark News](#) and [South London Press](#). Chair of the City Bridge Trust Committee was quoted.
- [City AM](#) and [Sky News](#) [internal] reported on a plea by the City Corporation, Royal Parks and Lee Valley Regional Park Authority for people to use local parks. [BBC Radio Berkshire](#) interviewed Burnham Beeches Superintendent on calls for people to stay away from the nature reserve unless they live local [internal]. Also in [City Matters](#), [Maidenhead Advertiser](#), [Slough Express](#) and [Horticulture Week](#) (£).