

April 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

Virtual Visit to China

The third of the Lord Mayor and the Chair of the Policy & Resources Committee's joint virtual visits to China took place from 22-26 March, enabling them to have a series of grouped engagements around a theme and set of objectives building on the previous two visits. It sought to promote London as the centre for global asset allocation and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) investment with Chinese asset owners and managers. Reassurance around the UK post-Brexit was another theme and a meeting with the British Chamber of Commerce, Hong Kong enabled the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair to gauge the business sentiment of UK and international firms based there. The visit came days after Shanghai was announced as the third most competitive international finance centre in the Global Financial Centres Index. The visit also allowed the Lord Mayor and Policy Chair to provide an update on the City of London Corporation's China programme, particularly around investment management, Green Finance (focusing on the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, Green Investment Principles for Belt and Road Initiative and supporting the transition of allocation to sustainable assets) and continued work on Renminbi internationalisation. The visit showed that Brexit was no longer a principal concern for many Chinese firms. Further, it reaffirmed the desire for Chinese firms to work closely with the UK on promoting the ESG agenda, building on the recent history of strong collaborative working in this field at many levels. The accompanying business delegation was able to illustrate the breadth and depth of the expertise within London and why it is the ideal global hub for asset allocation. Many follow up opportunities were identified, in particular with Chinese asset managers keen to explore opportunities for product collaboration with UK managers and listing of funds in the UK. These opportunities will be further explored jointly by the City Corporation and the UK businesses which joined the visit. In summary, a high value impactful overseas visit, delivered virtually.

International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) Virtual Visit

On 24 March, the Lord Mayor met representatives of the IFSCA for GIFT City as part of their virtual visit to the UK. The GIFT City is a Special Economic Zone in Gujarat and is India's first international financial services centre. Discussions focussed on how we can provide support in the areas of fintech, Green Finance, cyber security, and bilateral cooperation for the development of Higher Education Institutions within GIFT City.

British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce in Conversation Series

On 31 March, the Lord Mayor was invited by the British Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and the British High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur to speak at an event on the UK Green Investment Landscape. The event enabled the Lord Mayor to speak on innovation around Green Finance and ESG investing within the City of London to a wide audience drawn from across the South East Asia region. In the absence of any visits to that region, speaking to this audience was a most effective way to engage with key emerging markets there.

Reopening Campaign

On 12 April, the Lord Mayor started his 'Reopening Campaign' to highlight the gradual return of activity to the City. The campaign is a phased programme of activities and events, based around the Government's roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions. It includes all aspects of City life, from workers to hospitality and culture, to churches. It aims to build confidence and footfall as more venues in the Square Mile start to re-open and is accompanied by a strategic communications campaign. The Lord Mayor had reopening engagements at the Royal Exchange, One New Change, Middlesex Street, the Bloomberg Arcade and Fleet Street, seeing the return of non-essential retail and hospitality. He has visited offices at JP Morgan, WeWork and N+1 Singer to see how employers are adapting their workplaces to make them safe for the return of workers. The Lord Mayor reopened Barbican Community Library and visited Howden Group to highlight their work rolling out the City Gift Card to their workers and encouraging this across the insurance sector. He also visited vaccination and testing sites, two City churches and the newly re-opened City Information Centre. The Lord Mayor's activity has featured in CityAM, the Telegraph, the Financial Times and the Times, as well as on social media.

Green FinTech Deep Dive roundtable

On 21 April, as part of UK Fintech Week the Lord Mayor hosted a roundtable with the Department for International Trade and a number of Green fintech firms. This was an opportunity to hear feedback from the companies regarding this expanding area of interest including challenges and opportunities for future growth and collaboration. The Lord Mayor also hosted two roundtables with Manchester and Birmingham based fintech firms, focussed on showcasing UK ecosystems to domestic and overseas investors.

Contact [Katherine King](#)

CHIEF COMMONER

Members divided on return to Guildhall

Members are understandably divided on the return to Guildhall. The 'expect the unexpected' situation I wrote about last month hasn't much clarified. On the one hand we want to get the City back to working normally, but on the other we are still constrained by a lack of clear messaging from the Government which continues to recommend that we work from home where possible. To add to the confusion, under current ruling local and police authority meetings can no longer be virtual from 6 May, and it is not known what recommendations about social distancing – if any – will be applicable after 21 June. Nor is it certain how this could affect both Members and officers and how many people, for instance, could be allowed into Guildhall at any one time.

Not surprisingly this apparent confusion was reflected in the responses to a recent survey which asked Members whether they would prefer to continue working remotely from home or to resume meetings at Guildhall. Of the 101 who responded, 54 said they would attend meetings in person while 47 said they would rather attend virtually. A larger proportion – 46 to 23 – said they would chair meetings from Guildhall.

Clearly, there is strong support for maintaining hybrid meetings, even though one veteran Member commented that he feared this might encourage 'country Members' never to come back to the City.

One welcome development is that Guildhall Yard will return to normal at the end of May with plans approved to move the COVID-19 Testing Centre from there to Basinghall.

Progress on Standards

The recruitment of Independent Persons to establish a new nine-member board to oversee Standards is progressing well, and it is expected that a list of candidates will be submitted to the Court for approval on 13 May. The Chief Commoner has been part of the panel making the selection, and to date seven of the nine have been chosen. The successful candidates in the main have impressive, varied and relevant backgrounds and are to a person demonstrably independent. If their selection is approved by the Court, it envisaged that the new board will set to work immediately and have a standards process in place by the autumn. This will be one of the first tangible results of Lord Lisvane's Report.

Financial Support Scheme

A Members' Financial Support Scheme is work in progress, with a view to submitting it for approval to the Policy & Resources Committee on 3 June and to the Court on 22 July. If approved by both bodies, and not referred back for amendment, the aim will be to get the Scheme up and running as soon as practicable, and at the latest in time for the next City-wide elections on 23 March 2022. Under terms of the proposed Scheme, Members will be entitled to claim an annual payment for their attendance and work.

Brian Mooney MA CC

Contact [Devika Persaud](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Launch of The Square Mile: Future City - see page six.

City & Financial Virtual Summit - The Future of UK-US Financial Services Regulation

On 13 April, the Policy Chair joined a panel at the City and Financial recent conference about UK-US regulatory cooperation. Other panellists included British American Finance Alliance (BAFA) co-chair Ken Bentsen alongside other BAFA members such as Miles Celic from TheCityUK and British American Business. The panel focused on the need for strong UK-US collaboration on the regulatory policy agenda highlighting climate and innovation as specific potential areas. The Policy Chair will continue to advocate for continued UK-US cooperation in financial services regulation in an upcoming virtual visit to Washington DC next month.

UK Fintech Week – Welcoming Address

As a key partner for the annual UK Fintech Week and Innovate Finance, the Policy Chair gave a keynote speech to senior stakeholders in fintech, government and across the wider financial and professional services industry. The keynote was an opportunity for the City Corporation to re-confirm our support for innovation within the sector, championing recent reports such as the Kalifa Review, the Digital Sandbox and Regtech Report, which stress the imperative of fintech development to UK wide growth and prosperity.

Visit to testing and vaccination centres in the Square Mile

On 16 April the Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor visited the City of London's first dedicated COVID-19 vaccination centre at Boots Fleet Street. Alongside the City Corporation's Director and Deputy Director of Public Health, they were given a tour of the facility by the Boots area and store managers. They then travelled to the rapid COVID-19 testing centre at 65A Basinghall Street, where they undertook a test and spoke to staff about their work. The visit promoted the City's vaccination and testing sites to residents and workers, and was publicised to the media and featured on social media.

UK Voluntary Carbon Markets Forum inaugural event

The Policy Chair participated in the first meeting of the UK Voluntary Carbon Markets Forum, chaired by Dame Clara Furse. The Forum's Steering Committee consists of 16 firms across the private sector with the common aim of promoting scaled, voluntary carbon markets. The Forum will be key to enabling firms in the real economy to meet their net-zero commitments, particularly in hard-to-abate sectors.

Irish Ambassadorial Roundtable with senior industry stakeholders

The City Corporation invited Irish Ambassador Adrian O'Neill to discuss the current state of play of the UK-Irish relationship in financial services at a roundtable event. The event was an opportunity to engage with one of the City's closest EU partners to discuss areas of mutual interests: green finance, digitisation and the COVID-19 recovery. Both the UK and EU have huge challenges to overcome in pandemic recovery and recapitalisation, which requires ongoing cooperation between the UK and our European partners.

London COVID Business Forum

Every month, the Policy Chair attends the London COVID Business Forum which works on a meaningful and achievable roadmap for reopening London's economy. It brings together London government and the business community, and looks at working jointly on the key challenges affecting the capital's economic recovery. The Policy Chair was asked to chair the April meeting and outlined the City Corporation's five strands of work on recovery as part of her contribution.

Socio-Economic Diversity Taskforce - Strategy Steering Group

On 23 April, the Taskforce's Strategy Steering Group met, comprising of its Chair Catherine McGuinness, Co-Chairs: Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Sandra Wallace and Andy Haldane, alongside government officials to discuss the Taskforce's first meeting taking place on 10 May. This meeting will be attended by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister, John Glen MP and Minister for Investment, Lord Grimstone. To find out more, read the [Taskforce brochure](#) and sign up to its [quarterly newsletter](#).

Policy Chair's Member Briefing Programme

Any Member interested in learning more about the ongoing workstreams within the City Corporation can sign up to attend the Policy Chair's Member Briefing Programme: 24 May, 8:30-9:30am, Markets Programme; 14 June, 8:30-9:30am, Social Mobility Taskforce; 23 June, 8:30-9:30am, IG - COP26 & Green Finance Institute; 29 July, 8:30-9:30am IG - International Engagement (to cover Lord Mayor and Policy Chair visits programme, and wider market and sector work); 30 September, 8.30-9.30am, Lord Mayor and Policy overseas visits programme; 14 October, 8:30-9:30am, Political Party Conferences Feedback; 24 November 8:30-9:30am, IG – fintech; 2 December, 8:30-9:30am, IG - Market Access.

Contact [Alex Redman](#)

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

PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

Listings Review

The Chancellor of the Exchequer published the Government's response to Lord Hill's review into the UK's listing arrangements. Of the 14 recommendations made by Lord Hill, seven are directed towards the independent Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), including those on free float, dual class share structures, and special purpose acquisition companies. The FCA has indicated it will respond in due course. Of the six recommendations directed to the Treasury, the Chancellor will take forward all of them, with the remaining recommendation being directed to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The Chancellor accordingly committed to presenting a "State of the City" report to Parliament and will consider the recommendation that the FCA be given a "growth" or "competitiveness" objective. The Government will also bring forward a public consultation on reviewing the UK's prospectus regime, considering whether prospectuses drawn up under other jurisdictions' rules can be used to facilitate secondary listings in the UK and facilitating the provision of forward-looking information by issuers in prospectuses. The Chancellor also said he would bring together an expert group to consider the issue of improving the efficiency of further capital raising by listed companies. The recommendation to BEIS, regarding how technology can be used to improve retail investor involvement in corporate actions and their undertaking of an appropriate stewardship role, will be taken forward as part of its wider consideration of the findings from the Law Commission's recent scoping study on intermediated securities.

Digital Trade and Data

The International Trade Committee heard from Culture, Media and Sport Minister John Whittingdale and International Trade Minister Greg Hands as part of their inquiry into Digital Trade and Data. Chair Angus Brendan MacNeil (SNP) started the session asking about securing a positive data adequacy decision from the European Union. Whittingdale responded that progress was well underway, with the EU Commission having assessed UK data protection laws as adequate, with the assessment due to go to the Council Committee of Ministers. Whittingdale assured committee members the UK would achieve adequacy before the end of the temporary bridging agreement at the end of June. MacNeil asked about the UK-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. Hands praised the deal as going further than the EU-Japan deal in removing unnecessary rules on data localisation, and highlighted the agreement's strong provisions on data protection, which do not undermine the UK's Data Protection Act 2018. Hands listed five "pillars" to the Government's approach: opening digital markets, opening the flow of trusted data, consumer and business safeguards, promoting things being done digitally by default, and working to ensure that digital trade was moved forward on the international scale.

Online Harms – Fraud

Appearing before the Treasury Committee, City Minister John Glen confirmed that the Online Safety Bill would be coming in the next session and would be the subject of pre-legislative scrutiny. This would he said include looking at the issue of fraud which had initially been considered out of scope when the White Paper was published last year.

Integrated Review – Soft Power

Peers debated the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy published last month. Retired Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office mandarin Lord Ricketts was critical of the decision to cut international aid from 0.7% of GDP to 0.5%. President of the Royal Commonwealth Society Lord Howell of Guildford (Con) lamented the lack of appreciation in the Review of "the biggest modern soft power network of all, the modern Commonwealth." On a more positive note, the City's role in soft power was acknowledged by Lord Sheikh (Con) who said the City was widely respected and recognised for supporting global trade and investment.

London Mayoral Manifestos

The Conservative, Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties have now published their manifestos for the forthcoming London mayoral and assembly elections. Policies to support London's recovery from COVID-19, improve air quality and the environment, and reduce violent crime are common to all four. Of perhaps greater interest to the City, Sadiq Khan's (Lab) manifesto includes a commitment to support green finance through the creation of a new green financing facility for infrastructure, Shaun Bailey's (Con) a pledge to appoint a Deputy Mayor for International Trade, Luisa Porritt's (Lib Dem) a policy to lobby government to secure a better deal with the EU for London's services sector, and Sian Berry's (Green) a policy to explore the benefits of bringing the City Corporation's "archaic privileges and assets" into "a rationalised devolution agreement between the GLA and Government."

For a note on the London Mayoral and Assembly elections including a summary of the principal parties' manifestos, please contact the Remembrancers Office.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

The Square Mile: Future City

The Policy Chair and the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee launched the City of London's Recovery Taskforce's report [The Square Mile: Future City](#), at an event jointly hosted by Bloomberg. Produced in partnership with Oliver Wyman, the report sets out strategy recommendations for the next five years. They will achieve the Taskforce's mission: *to ensure the Square Mile is the world's most inclusive, innovative, and sustainable business eco-system, an attractive place in which to invest, work, live, learn and visit.*

Contact [Giles French](#)

UK Fintech Week – recognising the City Corporation's support of fintech across the UK

The Chancellor's keynote speech at UK Fintech Week and subsequent [announcement](#) recognised the work the City Corporation is doing to support fintech across the UK. The Chancellor made specific mention of the [Digital Sandbox](#) and our plans to launch a second phase in collaboration with the Financial Conduct Authority. The Chancellor also backed our recommendation in the [Kalifa Review](#) to create an industry-led Centre for Finance, Innovation and Technology, which will identify and address sector challenges.

Contact [Mary Kyle](#)

Green Horizon Perspectives inaugural event

This inaugural 90-minute virtual event took place on 20 April. The agenda featured an insightful keynote speech from Mark Carney, UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance and UK Prime Minister Johnson's Finance Adviser for COP26. He reflected on significant achievements made over the last year by the public and private sectors to ensure every financial decision takes climate change into account. An esteemed panel of banking leaders underscored the need for urgent commitments and action given the fundamental role of the financial sector in transitioning to a net zero future.

2021: A Critical Year for RegTech

The City Corporation commissioned research into the opportunities and challenges for UK RegTech, and international best practice for driving growth. The findings informed recommendations for industry, government and regulators, and dovetail with the recently published Kalifa Fintech Review. 2021: A Critical Year for RegTech report was launched at a virtual event on 16 April.

International Regulatory Strategy Group (IRSG) Financial Services Dialogues

On 22 April, the co-chairs of the IRSG Financial Services Dialogues organised by the City Corporation in conjunction with TheCityUK, met virtually to discuss the strategic vision of the Dialogues post-Brexit. Partner countries for the Dialogues are France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, and the Netherlands. The co-chairs discussed the future role of the Dialogues considering the new EU-UK relationship. Overall, the work of the Dialogues was viewed as positive and there was a shared desire for their continuation.

Trade Promotion Group

In January the Policy Chair took over as Chair of the International Trade Group of the Professional and Business Services Council and enlisted the City Corporation to set up a new Trade Promotion Group (TPG). The TPG was set up on 28 April with members including PWC, Arup, Mott Macdonald, BDO, Osbourne Clark, and McKinsey. It will focus on net zero transition, data and general promotion.

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

City Bridge Trust (CBT)

Bridge House Estates (BHE) Board

In March, the Court of Common Council approved a dedicated committee for the administration of Bridge House Estates. This committee - the "BHE Board" has responsibility for dealing with the management and administration of the charity's business and financial affairs. The first meeting of the BHE Board takes place on 4 May. The CBT committee sat for the last time in March in its current form. David Farnsworth offered gratitude and thanks for their guidance and steer: towards progressive funding practices, a lead role in response to major incidents, and pioneering a collaborative response. In line with the agreed City Corporation's Tier 1 TOM leadership changes, the previous Chief Grants Officer and Director of City Bridge Trust's job title and duties now include the management and oversight of BHE's functions. David Farnsworth has now taken on the change of job title to "Managing Director of Bridge House Estates".

COVID-19 Funding Support - London Community Response Fund (LCRF)

Wave 5 of the LCRF launched in January. A budget of £4.34m was allocated to this wave via the LCRF, including £4m from the 2020/21 'Bridging Divides' (BD) budget, as well as a donation of £250,000 from Macquarie Bank. The full budget was awarded as core grants across 119 organisations, with an average grant size of £35,000. An additional £1m was also allocated as aligned expenditure (also from the 2020/21 BD Budget) which went towards a further 21 organisations with slightly higher income levels (over £1m) that would not have otherwise been considered for funding in this Wave.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

COVID-19

Rapid Tests

Everyone in England is being encouraged to undertake twice weekly free rapid COVID-19 tests. [Rapid COVID-19 tests are available by appointment or collection](#) for home testing for anyone who does not have symptoms of COVID-19. All lateral flow tests are free with results available in 45 minutes. You can collect home testing kits in the City from test centres at 65a Basinghall or Guildhall Yard (please note 80 Leadenhall will close at the end of April), a community pharmacy or order a kit online.

Contact [Chris Lovitt](#)

Advice sessions for City businesses

Over the past month, the City Corporation has been providing guidance and information to the local business community on COVID-19 measures to keep their workforce, customers and visitors healthy and safe as lockdown measures ease and more sectors reopen. Presentations by the Public Health's Business Healthy team and Environmental Health have been delivered as part of the following webinars:

- The London Banks' Health and Safety Forum (a network of the largest banks in the City and Canary Wharf)
- Assurity Consulting "COVID-19: One year on, what have we learnt?" (200 attendees)
- UK Finance's Business & Operational Continuity Committee meeting (120 attendees)

In addition, a "reopening advice" webinar for City and Hackney businesses was hosted on 7 April, led by Business Healthy and the Hackney Business Network. Presenters included Dr Sandra Husbands – Director of Public Health – as well as Environmental Health and Licensing officers. 114 businesses attended, and were given an opportunity to ask questions. The session was promoted through many business-facing channels in the City, including through the BIDs, and Active City Network. Topics covered include infection prevention control measures in the workplace and other settings, testing, vaccination, risk assessment, and supporting the mental health and wellbeing of the workforce. A particular focus has been made on the "hidden" workforce – routine, service and manual workers such as cleaners, security officers, and facilities engineers – who have specific health, safety and wellbeing needs. Further advice webinars are planned for early May and include a session for SMEs in the City, jointly hosted by the City Business Library and Business Healthy, and a session for the City Property Managers' Network.

Contact [Xenia Koumi](#)

City-wide Residents Meeting

The next City-wide residents meeting will take place online on 17 June, 6-7.30pm online via Zoom. More details will follow in the next Briefing.

Open Spaces

City of London Biodiversity Action Plan

The City Gardens team are consulting on the draft City of London Biodiversity Action Plan 2021-2026 during May. The Plan identifies the priorities, themes and actions for biodiversity in the Square Mile over the next five years. View the Plan and complete the survey on the [City of London website](#).

Donation Campaigns – now live

The Open Spaces donation campaigns are now live. Please visit their webpages for more information and spread the word to help support these great campaigns.

- [Hampstead Heath Model Boating Pond Island - wildlife sanctuary](#)
- [Hampstead Heath Bird and mammal shelters](#)
- [Queen's Park sandpit and playground improvements](#)
- [Burnham Beeches ancient trees](#)
- [West Ham Park playground refurbishment](#)
- [Farthing Downs interpretation improvements](#)
- [Epping Forest new sculptures and trails](#)
- [Epping Forest toad conservation project](#)
- [Keat's 200 legacy programme](#)
- [Keat's House garden enhancement](#)

Permanent exhibition at West Ham Park's Rose Garden

The Friends of West Ham Park received a grant from the Enjoying Green Space and the Natural Environment central grants programme backed by the City Bridge Trust, to make a permanent exhibition which will be installed in the Rose Garden. The ornate metalwork display will feature historical information, maps and beautiful Eighteenth Century botanical drawings exploring the legacy of Dr Fothergill. The Friends will be on hand to show keen garden enthusiasts where to see the plants and flowers in today's garden once it is launched in the summer.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Clean City Award Scheme open for membership!

Forward looking City businesses and organisations exploring how to build back better after COVID-19 can receive environmental sustainability support through the Clean City Awards Scheme (CCAS), organised by the City Corporation's Recycling and CCAS Team. Members receive a range of benefits including access to resource packs and invites to environmental best practice workshops. If a site is reducing plastic use, cutting carbon emissions or just going that extra mile to be more environmentally friendly, all businesses and organisations located within the Square Mile can enter the awards and be recognised for their efforts. To sign up, apply and find out more visit [ccas london website](#).

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Community & Children's Services

Barbican and Community Libraries

In line with guidance, Barbican and Shoe Lane Libraries have now reopened for time-limited browsing, borrowing, PC use and enquiry work. Artizan Street Library will reopen when an essential repair to the ventilation system is complete. Library customers have returned in very good numbers and are delighted that services have been restored. Events cannot yet run inside libraries but with COVID-19 safety measures, our first outside "Rhymetime" for under-fives took place on 27 April in the garden of St Andrew's Church.

Contact [Carol Boswarthack](#)

Education and Early Years

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on children's education, particularly in children from lower socio-economic backgrounds – an Oxford study has found. Parents and carers can reverse this trend by playing, talking and singing with their young children. The COLTALE programme shares free or low-cost activity ideas to inspire parents and carers to make the most of their time. In addition, COLTALE:

- Launched a new Instagram profile.
- Encourages families to get outdoors and explore their community safely.
- Released an eBook of their mascot's (Coltale) adventures - written by City children.

Contact [Fiona Sapler](#)

Act Early

The Community Safety Team in collaboration with the City of London Prevent team have been raising awareness of the National Counter Terrorism safeguarding website 'Act Early' since its launch in November 2020. The team have reached nearly 900 people, by promoting the campaign to business forums, schools, universities, internal City Corporation forums, on the City Corporation intranet, Skyline, resident newsletters and by including it as part of our Prevent training to various stakeholders.

Contact [Ali Burlington](#)

Good Night Out

As restrictions begin to ease and venues are opening, the Good Night Out campaign will be delivering training sessions on 'sexual harassment in the night-time economy' to licensed venues across the City of London. The training will provide staff with the knowledge and skills to respond effectively to incidents of sexual harassment and signpost victims to support services.

Contact [Ayesha Fordham](#)

Anti-Social Behaviour Webpage (ASB)

The Community Safety Team have published on the City Corporation website a dedicated webpage providing advice to residents and members of the public on reporting ASB in the City. Members are encouraged to signpost their residents to this information should they encounter any issues of ASB.

Contact [Jillian Reid](#)

City Business Library

May will be an exciting month for the City Business Library with a change of name, new branding and the re-opening of the physical space. The Library name will be changing to the **Small Business Research and Enterprise Centre** from 4 May. Whilst the physical space was closed due to the pandemic, staff worked tirelessly to support entrepreneurs remotely and used this time to review how the Centre could add more value to start-ups and SMEs across the City, London and the rest of the UK. As a result, the Centre is now a members' only service, specialising in supporting start-ups, sole traders, micro businesses and SMEs. The change of name reflects the transformation of the service to providing more targeted support and leading the way on The City Corporation's SME Strategy. The Centre will be reopening to members for desk research on 10 May offering access to an increased range of online business resources. To learn more about the transformation, Alex Leader, Business Engagement Manager, was interviewed in a [podcast](#) by Start-ups Magazine. The new centre will provide a mix of onsite and remote support for small businesses. A wide range of [free webinars](#) will continue to be offered as well as start-up business advice and training and research support. The centre will also continue to support small businesses applying for the [City Corporation's COVID-19 Recovery Grant Fund](#) and handle loan enquiries for the [Samuel Wilson Loans Trust](#).

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

Debating Tournament

As part of the Education Unit's series of events offered to the City of London's Family of Schools and extended Family of Schools, a virtual City of London Debating Tournament was hosted on 27 April in partnership with the English-Speaking Union (ESU) and the International Churchill Society (ICS). In preparation for the event, two very successful training sessions were hosted by a trainer from the ESU for a total of 72 participants. The tournament itself saw eight schools participate with 27 pupils from Years 8-9. The judges from the ESU, ICS and the City Corporation were thoroughly impressed with the level of confidence, enthusiasm and professionalism displayed by all pupils. Prizes were awarded to the winning team, runner up team, best rebuttal, best question asked from audience and most convincing debater. The Tournament is an annual event for pupils to develop their oral communication, critical thinking and resilience skills.

City School's Music Project

Due to the pandemic, the City of London's Education Unit was unable to host its annual school's concert as a live performance. In order to continue to hold a valuable school-to-school collaborative project focused on music, two creative online workshops were delivered to each school focused on composition skills. Two composers, Paul and Sigrun, hosted these workshops for eight schools across the family of schools from Years 3-9. The workshops were tailored according to the needs of the individual music departments but generally involved a singing and composition workshop. A sound recordist also took part in the workshops to gather recordings of individual pupil's work and re-create the music in a studio. The Education Unit are hoping to host the final pieces in a virtual 'listening event' in the near future to showcase them together.

Find Fusion

The Education Strategy Unit have just launched the Find Fusion website and are excited to share this with partners within the City and beyond. Find Fusion is a signposting platform for learning opportunities and enables schools and learners to find events, courses, projects and resources relevant to them or learners that they work with, as well as for organisations to share their own learning offers with others. The platform connects and curates learning opportunities around themes such as learner type, fusion skills, curriculum area and other interest areas. Find out more on the website here: www.findfusion.org.uk

London Careers Festival

The London Careers Festival will take place again this year and will be hosted virtually between 28 June and 2 July for primary, secondary and post-16 pupils. The event is designed to connect pupils with the world of work so that they are introduced to the diverse array of opportunities offered across Greater London and beyond and to fuel their imaginations and inform their futures. The festival will offer webinars, workshops and easily accessible resources to support pupils to explore a wide range of skills and career related opportunities as well as help schools to meet their Gatsby benchmarks. Over 120 organisations and 5000 students attended the event in the last two years. For more information and to register, visit www.londoncareersfestival.org.uk or email the London Careers Festival team at lcf@cityoflondon.gov.uk. Bookings for events is now open and Members are invited to share details of LCF with their school's networks and wider partnerships.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](mailto:Catherine.McGovern@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

City of London School (CLS)

Guest speakers are a huge part of life at CLS and recently we hosted our first speaker in person. Head Alan Bird sat down for a live Q&A with Switchback CEO and founder Alice Dawnay. Broadcast to pupils, parents and staff via Zoom, the pair sat in the Levene Learning Centre library separated by a perspex screen. Switchback is the charity the School is supporting this year, so it was fantastic to gain an insight to the work they do from their CEO. Switchback helps people in prison to join the dots between prison skills and world skills, most commonly resulting in Switchback trainees taking up jobs in bakeries or cafes after working in the kitchen in prison. She spoke with Alan about how the multiple lockdowns have had created an immense challenge for both Switchback and prisons around the world. We can't wait to welcome more speakers back to School in person.

Contact [Georgina Berry](mailto:Georgina.Berry@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

City of London School for Girls

The spring term ended with a flurry of creativity. Year 9 gained an insight into creative careers in the Arts Day, filming 30-second videos portraying 'Joy in my Space' and composing their own soundtrack. The Mission fundraising committee released a recipe book to raise money for the school's charity, Street Child, comprised of student and staff favourites. They also held a 'Square Mile Showdown' in partnership with City of London School (CLS), in aid of Street Child and both schools' sixth form bursary funds. 25 of our finest contestants tackled competitors from CLS in a tense battle of minds – not only did our champions emerge victorious (was it ever in doubt?), but the event raised an impressive £2,400 for charity. Finally, the corridors were very much alive with the sound of music. The Sing & Swing concert was back, with quartets donning gold and silver hats, a swing band rendition of Saturday Night Fever, and a take on a Mama Mia medley. Last but not least, all students gathered in their form rooms for a virtual House Music competition. Although

vocal, instrumental, solo, and House song entries were all filmed in advance and broadcast simultaneously to form rooms, chants could still be heard ricocheting across the school at truly impressive volume. St Bride emerged worthy winners of the event, along with best House song (Bastille's Pompeii), and a brand new 'music technology' prize, in recognition of the new challenges involved with producing their entries.

Contact [Sam Robson](#)

City of London Freeman's School

City of London Freeman's School continues to extend its Partnership reach with the launch of an online Maths support programme 'Strength in Numbers', for senior school pupils. Based on a programme developed by Colet Mentoring, a partnership between St Paul's School and EasyA, an online maths tutoring app, Freeman's is proud to be spearheading this latest Partnership initiative. The programme involves student volunteers from participating City schools who are currently studying Maths A level, providing support via a WhatsApp-type app to a targeted group of Year 7-10 students. During the initial stages of the programme in excess of 80 volunteer A level Maths students from City of London School, City of London School for Girls, The Beacon School (a local maintained school) and students from Freeman's Sixth Form have been trained in mentoring. The programme is being offered to all City of London secondary-phase schools, along with local partner schools, with the aim of providing Maths support to a large number of students. In a uniquely reciprocal arrangement, volunteer students who are providing the maths mentoring benefit from the opportunity to work as part of a team and improve communication skills, and those students from secondary schools who seek support stand to benefit from the knowledge and expertise of A Level Maths students. Once this exciting programme is fully established, the ambition is to encompass other subjects to provide mentoring for students via Strength in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, for the benefit of many more students across the City.

Contact [Catherine Bennett](#)

Gresham College

News

Gresham College Council Chair Loyd Grossman appeared in an [article about Chief Medical Officer and Gresham Professor Chris Whitty in The Guardian](#) last month.

Some of our upcoming lectures

[The Maths of Life and Death](#)

4 May, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later)

This talk by Dr Kit Yates will relate true stories of life-changing events in which the use (or abuse) of mathematics has played a critical role. We will meet athletes banned by faulty tests and patients crippled by faulty genes; innocent victims of miscarriages of justice and the unwitting victims of mathematical bugs. We follow stories of investors who have lost fortunes and parents who have lost children, all because of mathematical misunderstanding.

[The Politics of Judicial Appointment](#)

10 May, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later)

Has the time come for some form of political appointment of Supreme Court judges? Should there be parliamentary scrutiny of judicial appointments? This lecture by Thomas Grant QC contrasts the position of British and American Supreme Court judges. It looks at the dangers of governmental interference in the judiciary, looking at historic examples in the Soviet Union and South Africa, and recent cases in Poland and Hungary. Might the politicisation of the judiciary challenge the international reputation of the English courts?

[How Companies Profit from Our Mistakes](#)

11 May, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later)

CEOs make mistakes due to their own psychological biases – but they also profit from the biases of others. Some exploit investors by catering to sentiment – adding “.com” to their name during the Internet bubble or entering “hot” industries to inflate their valuations. Other exploit customers – selling cheap printers hoping they'll ignore the price of expensive toners or offering mobile phone plans that profit from customers underestimating their usage. The talk by Professor Alex Edmans shows how we can guard against such behaviour.

[Maths vs COVID-19](#)

27 May, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later)

Mathematics has been used as a tool to understand and control infectious disease for over a century, but Covid-19 brought along a whole epidemic of new challenges. In this joint lecture with the London Mathematical Society Professor Julia Gog will discuss some of the maths used in the fight against the pandemic, and give some insights into life as a mathematician assisting with policy advice during this unprecedented time.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

The Fraud and Cyber Crime Reporting and Analysis Service (FCCRAS) programme (replacement for Action Fraud) continues to make good progress. The Outline Business Case for the programme was approved by the Home Office's Finance & Investment Committee on 18 March 2021. The business case was well received and supported by the committee and its approval secures the Home Office funding for the new service. The team is just awaiting the final confirmation from the Home Secretary to allow them to go to market with their invitation to tender. While the team works hard to develop the new system and work with industry partners to refine the requirements and optimum technological solutions, an agreement has been reached with the current supplier ensuring a continued service to the public and victims of fraud until the new service comes online. The FCCRAS is a key foundation of the City of London Police's wider work, supported by the City Corporation, in spearheading the police's efforts to tackle these harmful and widespread crimes. And the Force's new lead role on Cyber for the police service is also reflected in the Police Authority's newly expanded Economic and Cyber Crime Committee. This will not only oversee this additional police portfolio, but also look to build stronger links between the work of the Force and the City Corporation where there are natural synergies in our joint aim of ensuring the City is the safest place to do business.

Contact [Oliver Bolton](#)

City of London Police

Intellectual Property Crime

On 15 April, officers from the City of London Police's Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) seized 25,000 counterfeit face masks in Scotland. Officers from the PIPCU team and other Forces, attended the residential address of a 22-year-old man and a storage unit in the Dyce area, and uncovered the 25,000 counterfeit face masks. It is thought that these were going to be advertised as being medical grade and sold online. Between 21-24 April, City Police officers led an operation that uncovered an estimated £15m worth of branded clothing, shoes, electrical items, watches, jewellery, and perfume suspected to be counterfeit. In total over 45,000 items were seized. This joint action involved three Police Forces, Border Force and Immigration Services, and saw seven people arrested. Four premises in Strangeways, Manchester, were raided as part of this large-scale operation aimed at cracking down on the sale of counterfeit goods.

City Bridges

Tragically, bridges in the Square Mile are attracting media interest following a number of deaths of people who have jumped into the Thames. Most notable in the case of Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole, who drowned after jumping from London Bridge to rescue a woman in the water. Police patrols of all the City bridges have been increased to prevent further similar incidents.

Contact [Teresa La Thangue](#)

Markets & Consumer Protection

COVID Compliant Accreditation Scheme Relunched

An accreditation scheme assessing COVID-19 safety measures was relaunched on 12 April to promote public confidence in the City's pubs, restaurants, gyms, hairdressers and shops and to help the City recover as employees and visitors return to the Square Mile. ([COVID Compliant Accreditation Scheme - City of London](#)). The City Corporation has teamed up with the London boroughs of Southwark and Camden to run the initiative, which aims to support firms in their reopening and reassure customers that premises are safe to visit. Businesses already signed up from the pilot project last autumn include beauty salons, restaurants and retailers. Under the scheme, our Environmental Health Officers assess businesses' COVID-19 risk assessments and procedures and carry out site visits to look at social distancing measures, customer track and trace, and cleanliness. Firms are given a simple pass or fail. Those who fail will still have the opportunity to put in place remedial measures as advised by our officers and then be reassessed. A sticker is then awarded to businesses to display on their premises. Small businesses that directly interact with the public and are signed up to this scheme are also eligible to apply to the new City of London [COVID Business Recovery Fund](#). The Fund is designed to support SMEs which contribute to the Square Mile's vibrancy at street level and directly provide services to returning City workers, visitors and residents.

Contact [Tony Macklin](#)

Trading Standards: Unfair practices in the mail forwarding sector

The City Corporation's Trading Standards Team has uncovered a UK-wide problem with mail forwarding businesses which results in letters sent to limited companies at their registered office never being received by the intended recipients. Limited liability companies are legally required to have a registered office in the UK. However, there is a thriving mail forwarding industry which allows them to use a 'virtual' registered office address. This has resulted in some limited companies selecting which type of mail is actually forwarded to them. For example, some choose to only receive written communications from government agencies such as HM Revenue & Customs, with everything else being ignored. Companies choosing to only be sent official

government mail are in breach of professional diligence provisions in unfair trading regulations. Such a breach is a criminal offence for which Directors and other company officers could be fined or imprisoned. Any Trust and Company Service Providers facilitating this practice could also be committing offences. In these days of increasing electronic commercial activity, it is still vital that consumers can correspond with businesses in writing, particularly when complaints or problems need to be resolved. Trading Standards authorities are now engaging with the mail forwarding sector across the UK to give them the opportunity to rectify their methods of operation. Limited companies are also being urged to ensure that they have proper arrangements in place to receive all mail that is addressed to their registered office.

Contact [Steve Playle](#)

Culture Mile

BID Development - Transitioning Culture Mile to a mixed economy model by 2023/24

A two-year workplan has been drawn up, as part of Culture Mile's work with Primera Corporation to form a new business partnership that will lead to a ballot on Business Improvement District status in spring 2023. The business partnership will meet in May with representation from the City Corporation at Member and Officer level.

Creative Learning - A partnership of 30 cultural venues, supporting learning and social mobility through a schools and young people programme

Winners of the £50,000 Fusion Prize, The Pattern's creative curriculum with young people from fringe communities will create a range of creative projects this summer, led by grassroots cultural curators from BBZ London, Muslim Sisterhood, UK Student Climate Network and the Black Curriculum.

Creative Livelihoods - developing the City's creative ecology and deeper relationship between commerce and culture

Culture Mile's Creative Freelancers Exchange is hosting a series of free online workshops for freelancers working in the creative and cultural industries to support them, as we emerge from the pandemic.

Creative Spaces - developing the spaces within Culture Mile

A Culture Mile and Brookfield Properties co-commissioned short film '[The Spell & The Promise](#)' has been shortlisted in in this year's [Brand Film Awards](#). A collaboration between LSO Young Composers, LSO musicians and emerging London filmmakers, the films were inspired by lockdown in the City.

Creative Communities - strengthening connections with our neighbours and the culture on their doorstep

The next Imagine Pack for isolated, older people will be distributed this month via Age UK, to residents, including a range of different creative activities.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

In line with the latest government guidance, the Barbican is preparing to reopen its Art Gallery, Cinemas, Shop and Cafes, and welcome back live audiences in the Hall, in the week of 17 May; followed by the Conservatory on the 24 May. The Curve and The Pit are planned to reopen on 17 June, and the Barbican Theatre will make its much-anticipated return later this summer with a new production of the musical *Anything Goes*. Highlights for May include:

- *Jean Dubuffet: Brutal Beauty*, the first major UK exhibition of the work of French artist Jean Dubuffet in over 50 years, will open at the Barbican Art Gallery on 17 May.
- The Live from the Barbican concert series continues with livestreamed concerts from London Symphony Orchestra & Music Director Sir Simon Rattle, and Paul Weller with the BBC Symphony Orchestra & Jules Buckley, and also with socially-distanced live audiences later in May, Shirley Collins & the Lodestar Band, and This Is The Kit.
- The Barbican's co-presentation with the Bridge Theatre of Vox Motus's highly acclaimed theatre installation *Flight* resumes at the Bridge from Monday 17 May for a limited three-week run, subject to government regulations at the time.
- The Barbican's cinemas, including newly refurbished Cinemas 2&3, will reopen from Monday 17 May with a programme of new releases, as well as the annual Chronic Youth 2021, and the curated film series *Return to the City*.
- *How We Live Now: Reimagining Spaces with the Matrix Feminist Design Co-operative*, an ambitious installation, public programme and publication, will open on Monday 17 May as part of the Barbican's Level G programme, exploring who are our buildings and shared spaces are designed for, and how they affect us.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Summer Season of free online events announced

Guildhall School is pleased to announce summer events from April until the end of June, broadcast for free throughout the season. A mixture of live and pre-recorded events will be available to watch via the [Summer 2021 pages](#) of Guildhall School's website. Music highlights include: a quintuple bill of three new chamber operas and two works from the Baroque era (from 28 May); the Summer Jazz Festival (from 4-6 May); the School's year-long History of Big Band series continues, and Guildhall Jazz Orchestra and Jazz Choir celebrate Iain Ballamy's career. Other events include three dramas: *Gone too Far!*; *Love and Information*; and *Mr. Burns, A Post Electric Play*; Paula Varjack hosts a third series of Instagram Live conversations with socially engaged artists; the graduating class of the BA Performance & Creative Enterprise present a three-day festival of innovative work; and eight live seminars as part of the School's ResearchWorks series.

Gold Medal update

As part of the summer season The Gold Medal, Guildhall School's most prestigious music prize, will take place on 8 May, 7pm. Alternating between singers and instrumentalists each year, in 2021, it is the year of the singers. Many Members will have enjoyed attending the School's annual Gold Medal competition in the past in person. As this year's event is taking place without an audience, Members are invited instead to watch the broadcast via the [Gold Medal 2021](#) pages of Guildhall School's website.

In-Person Short Courses & Summer Schools

In addition to the series of online evening courses from April – June 2021, Guildhall School is delighted to be offering summer courses in-person, across Drama, Music and Production Arts. These courses will take place across the School's campus in central London, and include: Acting Summer Schools for various age groups, Composition Summer Course, Introduction to Music Therapy, Jazz & Rock Week, Singers' Weekend: Jazz, Gospel & World Music, and in Production Arts. [Find out more and book places on the School's website.](#)

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

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

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

Disability History Conference

LMA's annual Disability History Conference on 14 May this year is entitled Disability History: Knowledge, Practice and Collaboration. The online conference, running from 1-5pm, is divided into three strands. In knowledge, we will hear from archivists, librarians and historians about their work and collections; in practice, from institutions, self-advocacy groups and artists; and in collaboration, there will be a chance for all those active in the space of disability history to come together. Break out rooms will recreate the stalls and networking that are such a popular part of conferences at LMA. Please [attend the Conference](#) to discuss and share issues in the field of Disability History.

Radical Voices: Yesterday-Today

Talkin meh Talk: My words set me free: The role of Afrikan centred publishing in decolonising language on 26 May 2021 is the third in a series of three live online educational events aimed at 18-34 year olds by LMA entitled Radical Voices: Yesterday-Today, delving into the archives of Guyanese-born activists and publishers Jessica and Eric Huntley who were prolifically involved with the British African-Caribbean community's experience. Audio from these archives has been digitised recently by the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage (UOSH) project at LMA. Three guest curators unpack the archives, bringing together high-profile public figures including academic Kehinde Andrews, online influencer Mikai McDermott and dub poet Mutabaruka, to listen to audio extracts and relate them to the pressing issues of the day. Themes include the exclusion of Black students in education, Black organising in the UK and, in this [final event](#), decolonising language.

Contact [Geoff Pick](#)

Museum of London

The Museum of London and the Museum of London Docklands plan to open their doors on Wednesday 19 May 2021, depending on government guidance, and welcome visitors once again. They are pleased to share that [Dub London: Bassline of London](#) at the Museum of London will be extended until 5 September 2021, [Havering Hoard: A Bronze Age Mystery](#) at the Museum of London Docklands will be extended until 22 August 2021 and [Krios of Sierra Leone](#) at the Museum of London Docklands will be extended until 4 July 2021. New general opening hours for both sites will be 10am – 5pm Wednesday to Sunday and visitors will be required to book a free ticket online, in advance, for a time slot of their choosing. For more information on opening hours, safety measures in place and to book your free advanced entry please visit the [Museum of London](#) and [Museum of London Docklands](#) homepages.

Contact [Emily BrazeeMe](#)

In the News

- Policy Chair quoted in [The Evening Standard](#), welcoming proposals for the new 'Justice Quarter' off Fleet Street. Further coverage in [The Times](#) [viewable internally only], [City AM](#), [Yahoo News](#), [Estates Gazette](#), [City Matters](#), [Building Design](#), [Simple News](#) and [My London](#).
- [City A.M.](#) featured a piece about the Lord Mayor supporting the Square Mile reopening. The Lord Mayor was quoted. The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair were also quoted in an article in the [FT](#) (£). Further coverage featuring images of the Lord Mayor was included in over 40 other media outlets including the [Daily Telegraph](#) [viewable internally only], [Financial News](#) (£), [The National News UAE](#), [Yahoo! News UK](#), [The Times](#) [Viewable internally only] and [The Atlantic](#). Leadenhall Market was also featured in another article in [City A.M.](#)
- The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair were quoted in [City A.M.](#) in coverage about the City Corporation's announcement about a number of events across the Square Mile to mark the reopening. Also in [City Matters](#). The City Corporation's head of programmes at Mansion House, Jeremy Blackburn, was quoted.
- The Policy Chair was interviewed by [BBC Radio 4 Today](#) [skip to 1:21:00] about the future of the City and workers returning to offices. Further coverage in [Financial News](#) (£), [BBC Radio London](#) [listenable internally], [Daily Mail](#), [Reuters](#), [This Is Money](#), [Metro](#), [China Daily](#), [Yahoo Finance](#), [Business Times](#), [The Peninsula](#), [London South East](#), [Business Times Singapore](#), [Eastern Eye](#), and many other outlets.
- Coverage of the launch of the City Corporation's new Covid Business Recovery Fund in [The Times](#) [viewable internally only] and [The Sunday Times](#)(£). Further coverage quoting the Policy Chair featured in [City A.M.](#) (1, 2) and [Financial News](#) (£), [BTG Advisory](#) and [The Credit Protection Association](#). The Policy Chair also wrote in [City A.M.](#) and [City Matters](#).
- [London Loves Business](#) and [City Matters](#) covered the City Corporation's relaunched COVID-19 accreditation scheme. Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee quoted.
- The Policy Chair was quoted in an [Associated Press](#) story about the how the City will adapt to new ways of working post-COVID. Further coverage in the [Independent](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Yahoo News](#) and many global online outlets.
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [The Sunday Times](#) (£) following an open letter to the Chancellor to take forward recommendations made in the Kalifa Review.
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [Fintech Times](#), on the Chancellor's announcement of plans to help fintechs. Further coverage in [FE News](#), [Money Cloud](#), [Finextra Research](#), [London News Time](#), [Finance Magnates](#), [Bitcoin Ethereum News](#) and [S&P Global Market Intelligence](#).
- [City A.M.](#) published a piece on the appointment of eight new senior officers and the election of the first woman as Chamberlain. Chair of the Establishment Committee and the Town Clerk were quoted. Further coverage in [FE News](#) and [City Matters](#)
- Coverage of a new research report commissioned by the City Corporation calling for urgent action to address barriers to the growth of RegTech) in [Reuters](#), [Reuters Arabic](#), [Daily Mail](#), [This is Money](#), [Politico](#) [viewable internally only], [Yahoo News](#), [London News Time](#), [London South East](#), [Business Times Singapore](#), [Nasdaq](#), [Reuters](#), [Financial Times](#) (£), [Economic Times](#), [London News Time](#), [Hong Kong News](#) and [Law 360](#) (£).
- Planning and Transportation Committee Chair quoted in coverage of the public consultation on the future of Bank junction. Further coverage in [Taxi Point](#), [New London Architecture](#), [My London](#), [London News Online](#), [South London Press](#) [viewable internally only], [My London\(ii\)](#), [City Matters](#), [Kensington, Chelsea & Westminster Today](#), [City AM](#), [Estates Gazette](#) (£), [Taxi Point](#), [World News Monitor](#), [Building](#), [Building Design](#), [Bisnow](#) (£), [Ian Visits](#).
- The Policy Chair wrote in [City AM](#) about the new taskforce aiming to improve socio-economic diversity in the City as the country reflects on a year since the first lockdown.
- [FE News](#) quoted the Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair as the City Corporation paid tribute to The Duke of Edinburgh. Meanwhile, the City Corporation was mentioned in an [Evening Standard](#) piece on His Royal Highness and a photograph of the Duke at Guildhall during a lunch to mark his 80th birthday in 2001 is used by many media outlets including [Buzzfeed](#), [Express Informer](#), [The Washington Time](#), [Health Readsector](#) and [The Girl sun](#).
- [City Matters](#) reported on an NHS service providing free one-to-one support to those in the City and Hackney who want to stop smoking going live. Chair of the City Corporation's Community and Children's Services Committee was quoted.
- [City A.M.](#) published an article about the Policy Chair speaking at the Court of Common Council on a recovery plan to encourage workers and visitors to return to the Square Mile. Further coverage in [City A.M.](#), [Financial News](#) (£), [Estates Gazette](#) (£) and [World News](#).
- The Epping Forest Guardian published a column from Chair of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee, which urged visitors to help keep COVID rates down.
- Chair of Epping Forest & Commons Committee quoted in a BBC London News story about dozens of people being fined for picking wild mushrooms in Epping Forest. Further coverage in [The Times](#) (£), [Times Radio](#)

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