

May 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

WEF Regional Action Group

The Lord Mayor continued engagement with the World Economic Forum (WEF), speaking at the ninth Regional Action Group for the Middle East and North Africa on 21 April on the topic of 'Investing in Resilient Economies and Societies'. He spoke about climate change, the challenge and opportunities for the Middle East, London as a hub of opportunity and the road to the COP26 UN Conference on Climate Change, alongside Lord Sedwill, G7 Envoy for Economic Resilience. The Lord Mayor also participated in the Regional Action Group for Europe and Eurasia meeting on the topic of 'Accelerating the Digital Transformation for Recovery' on 29 April. For 2021, this group will focus on improving the region's competitiveness in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Dragon Awards

The Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards celebrate businesses achieving excellence in social impact. The Awards recognise the role that businesses of all sizes and sectors play to contribute to a thriving society, as well as the contribution of community organisations. This year the Awards were conducted via a virtual platform presented live from Mansion House on 29 April by The Lord Mayor and Tim Campbell MBE. There were six award categories including: Inclusive Employment and Boosting Social Impact. The Lord Mayor's Award for Innovation During COVID-19 was won by 'onHand', an online app created to support those who need help by matching local, vetted volunteers to shop for essentials such as food and medication in London.

Town Hall with Smart Pension

On 5 May, the Lord Mayor spoke at a Smart Pension "Town Hall" event that brought together employees from businesses around the world. Smart Pension is a fintech company that was launched in the UK in 2015 with the mission to transform pensions and has grown substantially since then. They are active on four continents and one of the fastest-growing companies in the pension marketplace. Their journey of growth has benefitted greatly from accompanying Mayoral visits to secure new business opportunities and they regard such involvement as a critical part of their international expansion plans.

Culture and Commerce Taskforce

On 12 May the Lord Mayor chaired the sixth meeting of the Culture and Commerce Taskforce to discuss progress on 10 recommended projects in the Taskforce's report, [Fuelling Creative Renewal](#) launched in February. It was an opportunity to hear from partners about piloting initiatives such as a commissioning scheme to showcase creativity in empty spaces, a programme of creative and commercial skills exchanges and using repurposed office and retail space as dedicated workspaces for creative businesses. On 24 May it was announced that the Taskforce will partner with [New Diorama Theatre](#) on NDT Broadgate, a major new artist development complex, in partnership with British Land, comprising 29 high-quality, fully resourced rehearsal rooms, large design studios, presentation spaces and offices for independent artists to use for free throughout the year. NDT Broadgate is opening in the summer and will run a series of pilot projects implementing the recommendations of the Culture and Commerce Taskforce's 'Fuelling Creative Renewal' report and be a testbed for how culture and commerce can work together for mutual benefit to accelerate London's recovery.

Re-Opening week

The Lord Mayor was out and about in the City during the week commencing 17 May highlighting the return of indoor hospitality, cultural attractions and hotels to the Square Mile. He re-opened the Barbican, the Museum of London and heard the London Symphony Orchestra's first performance this year. He also opened hospitality venues welcoming guests indoors for the first time this year, such as the Rising Sun pub (Carter Lane) and Drake & Morgan venues, the Drift and the Anthologist. Perhaps the most visual event was when the Lord Mayor drove around the City in a dray, pulled by two shire horses, to deliver barrels to the re-opened Old Dr Butler's Head pub on Mason's Avenue. These events celebrated life gradually returning to the Square Mile, while also showing the COVID secure measures staff have implemented to make the venues safe for guests. The Lord Mayor also visited two hotels, Tower Suites and the Dorsett City, to see their preparations for accepting regular guests. He thanked key workers from Veolia who have kept the City clean during lockdown and visited Dowgate Fire Station to show appreciation for the City's fire-fighting team. He also made a special visit to the Tower of London, and was met by the Governor and the Chief Yeoman Warder, to mark the re-opening of the Tower to visitors. If the current roadmap remains in place, the next key week in the reopening campaign will be on 21 June when restrictions are set to be further eased.

Contact [Michal Arenson](#)

CHIEF COMMONER

The Chief Commoner is greatly looking forward to welcoming all members to one of his summer party reunions in June. The Member Receptions are taking place on 7, 9 and 15 June, between 5-6.30pm in Guildhall Yard. We will be meeting under a suitable canopy, and drinks and refreshments will be served.

The Policy Chair hopes to attend each of the Receptions, and also very much looks forward to seeing you there.

If you haven't already responded, please RSVP to rem.events@cityoflondon.gov.uk with your first and second date preferences. Confirmation and instructions for attending in compliance with any applicable regulations will be sent nearer the time.

Contact [Devika Persaud](#)

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

The role of financial services in supporting the recovery from the COVID-19 economic crisis

On 18 May, the Policy Chair hosted a virtual roundtable discussion with H.E. Arkady Rzegocki, the Polish Ambassador to the UK. The meeting brought together several senior City practitioners from financial and professional services and trade association networks. They discussed the role of financial services in supporting the recovery from the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK's bilateral relationship with Poland, and developments on key issues for financial services, including on sustainable finance.

Reopening of Indoor Hospitality

On 17 May, the Policy Chair joined the Lord Mayor and Sheriff at a variety of reopening ceremonies to celebrate the return of indoor hospitality and household mixing in the next stage of lockdown easing. The Policy Chair attended the reopening of the Barbican Centre and Museum of London, as well as being invited to one of the first live concerts performed on the Barbican stage with the London Symphony Orchestra. The easing of lockdown restrictions marks an important step on the government recovery roadmap, the need to remain cautious and adhere to existing rules still exist. This will ensure that we can continue with reopening plans taking place at the end of June.

Transition Board

The Policy Chair attended the latest meeting of the London Transition Board, which meets every six weeks. This meeting was co-chaired by the Minister for London, Paul Scully MP and the Deputy Mayor for Business, Rajesh Agrawal. The Board is also attended by other senior political figures from across London. The Board continues to discuss the roadmap for reopening and co-ordinates the pan-London response as the capital emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, providing strategic direction. Its work is in parallel with the London Recovery Board which looks at the longer-term recovery.

Levelling Up event with Onward

The Policy Chair was part of a panel at an event hosted by the think tank Onward and sponsored by the City of London Corporation, entitled "Return on investment: who funds levelling up?" The event formed part of a series of sessions considering a number of aspects of "levelling up". The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Jesse Norman MP, was also part of the panel, along with Felicity Buchan MP, Gareth Davies MP and Rupert Harrison of BlackRock. In her contribution, the Policy Chair covered the City Corporation's UK Partnerships Offer and its work on Finance for Sustainable Growth and Place-Based Impact Investing. She also made the point that although boosting regional economies is key to levelling up, the inequalities within regions including London should not be overlooked.

US engagement

From 24-25 May, the Policy Chair led a virtual delegation on a series of calls with senior US policymakers. Key themes discussed were emerging US priorities for financial and professional services policy and the climate agenda. The Policy Chair also spoke to the City Corporation's upcoming research report '*Data, Direction, Dialogue: Opportunities for UK-US collaboration in climate regulation*' which urged maximum US collaboration to avoid fragmented regulatory regimes as the world tackles climate change.

Addressing Next Generation Data Issues for the Financial and Professional Services industry

The Policy Chair hosted a roundtable on 'Addressing Next Generation Data Issues for the Financial and Professional Services Industry', with participants from both the IRSG Data workstream and the membership of the Centre for Information Policy Leadership. Attendees discussed the most significant data challenges and opportunities relevant to financial services in the UK, and how they would like to see these addressed. They proposed to work together to engage other stakeholders from across the City, to underline that data should be a strategic asset and opportunity for businesses.

Social Diversity and update on taskforce

The inaugural Socio-economic Diversity Taskforce meeting, attended by [newly appointed taskforce members](#), took place on 10 May. The taskforce seeks to improve socio-economic diversity at senior levels in UK Financial and Professional Services. Speakers included Commissioning Ministers John Glen MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury and Lord Grimstone, Minister for Investment, alongside the City Corporation's Policy Chair (and Chair of the taskforce) and taskforce Co-Chairs: Alderman Vincent Keaveny, Sandra Wallace (Social Mobility Commission) and Andy Haldane (Bank of England). Should your business constituents wish to join the 80+ employers already engaged, please ask them to [sign up to this newsletter](#). To find out more, you are invited to attend a Member Breakfast on 14 June (8.30-9.30am). To RSVP, email [member support services](#). Please read [the brochure](#) for further details or visit the [City of London website](#).

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

COVID-19 Statement

The Prime Minister said that it is his intention to lift work from home guidance should England progress with the next step of the unlocking roadmap on 21 June. Responding to a question from Kensington MP Felicity Buchan (Con), the Prime Minister said the change in guidance would happen “provided that we stay on track.” The Prime Minister also announced that an inquiry into the government’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic would begin in Spring 2022.

G7 and International Trade

The House of Commons International Trade Committee took evidence on the G7 and international trade ahead of this summer’s summit in Cornwall. Trade Secretary Liz Truss once again emphasised the importance of this year for the UK and that co-leadership of the G7 offered the UK an opportunity to co-operate with like-minded democracies to shape the future of global trade. She said the UK wanted to prioritise trade and health, women’s economic empowerment, and champion free and fair trade. Asked about the prospect of a UK-Australia trade deal before the G7, Truss said the goal was to have an agreement in principle by early June. She rejected criticism that the deal could have negative impacts on British farmers, arguing instead that the deal would benefit all industries in the UK. She told MPs that the deal would also pave the way for accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans Pacific Partnership.

European Scrutiny Committee

Lord Frost’s appearance in front of the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee explored his ambitions for greater regulatory freedom outside the EU, as well the border in the Irish Sea. Responding to a question about the opportunities of having left the EU, Frost referenced “major reforms” including “the Subsidy Control Bill, the Procurement Bill, the National Insurance Bill... and the Professional Qualifications Bill,” as well as work undertaken by Sir Iain Duncan Smith to identify opportunities for regulatory reform. Frost noted that “we are looking at... financial services regulations and seeing what we can do now that we are able to move on from EU arrangements.” Frost explained that a new regulatory freedom unit was being created that would work for him and that a head of unit would shortly be recruited from outside government. Frost argued that the UK had a lot to contribute in the regulatory sphere and described as an oversimplification the assumption that only three players mattered in international standards: the Americans, the Europeans and increasingly the Chinese. During discussion of concerns about the trade of goods and the Northern Irish border, the Committee touched on issues relevant to the City Corporation’s Port Health functions. Lord Frost said for the EU the easiest solution to any border problem was that the UK should operate the same rules as it. In Frost’s view, this did not work for the UK and was not going to be the solution. There were well-precedented arrangements around equivalence of sanitary and phytosanitary standards, for example, where there was no requirement to align but both parties accepted they were pursuing high standards.

Risk Planning

The House of Lords Risk Assessment and Risk Planning Committee took evidence from Fiona Twycross, Chair of the London Resilience Forum, City Corporation Town Clerk John Barradell, in his capacity as the London Resilience Forum’s deputy chair, Rachel Swann, Chief Constable of Derbyshire Police, and Stuart Marshall, Chief Emergency Planning Officer for Cleveland Local Resilience Forum. The witnesses concurred that while the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 was “a positive step forward” when introduced, it had not kept pace with practice. Swann suggested that Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) be put on a statutory footing, while Twycross asserted that the government needed to be clearer on what it wanted LRFs to do, arguing that the planning and operational functions needed separating. The witnesses lamented LRFs’ limited access to the National Security Risk Assessment and called for LRFs to be treated as “trusted partners” for information sharing by government. More information would help in planning, they said. The witnesses also discussed how they liaised with government and the communities they were part of.

Mayoral Appointments and London Assembly AGM

The Mayor has announced the reappointment of his deputy mayors for the coming term, with the return of Heidi Alexander to Transport, Rajesh Agrawal to Business, Shirley Rodrigues to Environment and Energy, Sophie Linden to Policing and Crime, Tom Copley to Housing and Residential Development, Justine Simons to Culture and the Creative Industries, Fiona Twycross to Fire and Resilience, Jules Pipe to Planning, Regeneration and Skills, and Debbie Weekes-Bernard to Communities and Social Justice. Assembly Member Joanne McCartney (Lab) was reappointed as Statutory Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Education and Childcare. Richard Watts, the current Leader of Islington Council, has been appointed as the Mayor’s Deputy Chief of Staff. The London Assembly has held its Annual General Meeting, electing Andrew Boff (Con) as Chairman of the Assembly for the 21/22 year. Keith Prince (Con) was elected as Deputy Chairman.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

Alderman Sir Roger Gifford

It is with sincere regret that we inform Members that Alderman Sir Roger Gifford passed away on 25 May from myeloma. I know all Members will be very saddened by the news. Sir Roger served as Alderman for the Ward of Cordwainer since 2004, was elected Lord Mayor for 2012-13, and was knighted in 2014 for services to international business, culture and the City. He was most recently Chair of the Green Finance Institute and a senior banker at SEB in London. Sir Roger was also previously Chair of the Green Finance Initiative, launched in London in 2016 to focus on growing the contribution of the financial sector to the G20 climate agenda, and chaired the UK Government's Green Finance Taskforce. Sir Roger was a Trustee of St Paul's Cathedral Foundation, Chairman of the English Chamber Orchestra charity and the Tenebrae Choir and Co-Founder – with his wife Clare – of the City Music Foundation. He was also past master of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, Governor of Sedbergh School, Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Oxford and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Lithuania in the county of Dorset. Hearing of Sir Roger's death the Lord Mayor, William Russell, said: "I know that many people across the City and beyond will be greatly saddened by the news of Sir Roger's death. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this time. Sir Roger served the City faithfully for many years. This included showing leadership in ensuring the financial sector plays its part in the fight against climate change. The City of London Corporation joins together in sending our sincerest condolences and paying tribute to his life."

Contact [Lorraine Brook](#)

COVID-19

Rapid COVID-19 tests

To support City businesses and their workers to access free rapid COVID-19 tests, collections of up to 54 kits (containing seven home tests) at a time have been made available from the City's Rapid [COVID-19 Testing site at Aldermanbury](#). Available without pre-booking, the aim is to make it easier for businesses to collect home testing kits to provide to their staff, alongside existing channels, such as the local collection points from all City branches of Boots, and home delivery. Many City firms continue to provide rapid testing to their workforce through the Department for Health and Social Care's workplace testing programme. Twice-weekly testing for COVID-19 for everyone without symptoms is one of the key tools to reducing the risk of asymptomatic transmission of the virus.

COVID-19 vaccine insights work with City firms

As part of its engagement with City firms to support them to ensure their business operations are COVID secure, the City Corporation's Public Health team has been promoting the important role that employers play in encouraging their workforce to access the COVID-19 vaccine when they are invited to. This includes, for example, sharing accurate information about the vaccine and its benefits from reputable sources to workers, as well as signposting to FAQs, information about how to access the vaccine, and providing them with time off to attend vaccination appointments. In addition, the delivery of an online roundtable session for cleaning, security and facilities management contract companies operating within the Square Mile was hosted by Business Healthy. The session and an associated small survey gathered insights on how access to the vaccine by routine, service and manual workers in the City can be further encouraged.

Contact [Ryan Jones](#)

City-wide Residents Meeting

All Members are invited to attend the Virtual City-wide Residents' Meeting which will be held on 17 June, 6-7:30pm. The meeting offers residents the chance to hear updates from the City of London Police and the City of London Corporation. Residents will also have an opportunity to ask questions or raise issues about living in the City of London. Please check the [website/social media](#) for details and joining instructions. It would be greatly appreciated if Ward Members could notify their constituents of this opportunity, as we would like to encourage as many residents as possible to attend virtually. For more details, email [residents@cityoflondon.gov.uk](#).

Contact [Jackie Foster](#)

Equalities Annual Performance Summary (EAPS) 2020

The [EAPS 2020 summarises](#) the range of Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) activity undertaken across the City of London Corporation in the last 12 months, fulfilling the requirement of the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to report on how the organisation complies with the Duty on an annual basis. The document has now been formally published on the City Corporation website. Should Members have any queries about the data presented in the document please email [Tracey Jansen](#) Assistant Director – Human Resources regarding employment data and [William Coomber](#) ED&I Manager – Corporate Strategy and Performance Team regarding service delivery and community data.

Contact [William Coomber](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

London's Equity Capital Markets Ecosystem report

The ['London's Equity Capital Markets Ecosystem' report](#) was published detailing London and the UK's strengths as a listing venue and what the challenges and opportunities are for raising equity in London. The report follows swiftly after the UK Listings Review, at a time when London's ecosystem for raising equity is ready to embrace change.

Contact [Marco Cioa](#)

Green Horizon Summit (GHS)

The formal launch of our approach to the UN Conference on Climate Change COP26 took place on 26 May. GHS@COP26 will be an ambitious hybrid summit, co-hosted with the Green Finance Institute, bringing together private finance and the financial and professional services industry. It will build upon the success and partnerships of the 2020 Green Horizon Summit, and will look to deliver an accessible, challenging and relevant programme across sectors and borders. The launch will also outline how individual firms and institutions can partner with us on GHS@COP26.

Contact [Simon Burns](#)

Climate for SMEs: 4 steps to action

Heart of the City has launched the pilot for its new course, '*climate for SMEs: 4 steps to action*'. Funded by the City Corporation, City SMEs can apply for a place on the pilot course to learn how to set targets for net zero.

Contact Interim Director, [Andy Melia](#).

Data, Direction, Dialogue

The ['Data, Direction, Dialogue: opportunities for UK-US collaboration in climate-related financial services' report](#) was published outlining various recommendations for UK and US policymakers in the area of climate-related financial services regulation. The backbone of these recommendations is for the UK and the US to collaborate to establish high-quality science-based data as a foundation for standardised disclosure frameworks. These include comparable metrics and risk assessment mechanisms.

Contact [Alexandra Mills](#)

Place-Based Impact Investing

The City Corporation supported research into the barriers and opportunities of Place-Based Impact Investing, which culminated in the publication of a [White Paper](#) on 26 May. The white paper offers a place-based approach to scale up institutional capital, including pension fund investment, into opportunities that enhance local economic resilience and sustainable development and create tangible benefits for people, communities and businesses across the UK.

Contact [Ines Righi](#)

Digital Sandbox Pilot Lessons Learned

A new report ['A lesson learned' report](#) was published about the digital sandbox pilot, evaluating its success and sharing learnings on data, format, and sandbox features. The report makes recommendations for future iterations, which will be taken into consideration for phase two of the project.

Contact [Theresa Yurkewich Hoffmann](#)

Bridge House Estates and City Bridge Trust

On May 4, the Bridge House Estates (BHE) Board met for the first time. The new BHE Board, chaired by Deputy Dr Giles Shilson, with the support of Deputy Chair Dhruv Patel, is responsible for the day-to-day governance, management and administration of BHE. As part of this, it is responsible for delivering the charity's overarching strategy Bridging London 2020-2045, which was approved by the Court of Common Council in October 2020. It was a key moment for the charity, presenting BHE with an opportunity to increase the reach and impact of the charity's activities for its beneficiaries. BHE has always existed for the benefit of London, anchored by the needs of London's communities. BHE's role is perhaps more important than ever in bridging and connecting London – both physically via its five bridges, and through supporting causes at the heart of London's communities that help bridge divides in society. Enhancing the governance, management and impact of the charity is vital in ensuring that BHE is a modern and progressive charity that can continue to respond to the issues of today. Under the vision to ensure "every person in London to become truly connected", the strategy outlines three aims to be catalytic, sustainable and impact driven in its approach to becoming a world-class bridge owner, charitable funder and responsible leader. Bridging London is also supportive of the vision set out within its corporate Trustee's, the City Corporation, Corporate Plan for 2018-23.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Reopening London's defining landmark

Tower Bridge reopened its doors to the public on Monday 17 May. It welcomed over 100 visitors on the first day and just over 2,000 during the first week. Local visitors and families have been enjoying the visitor

experience and there has been a significant uptake on the £1 Community Ticket for residents of the City of London, Southwark and Tower Hamlets. Press coverage has been positive with Tower Bridge featuring as part of the wider indoor hospitality reopening message. [See Daily Mail](#), images of visitors enjoying the Glass Floor in the walkways, which have also been featured in articles by [Sky News](#), [The Guardian](#), and [Indy 100](#). Being one of London's only dog friendly visitor attraction the attraction has also received coverage including a standalone piece in the online [Daily Express](#) and in the Sunday Telegraph. Feedback from visitors after the first week has been positive with 96% of people being satisfied with their visit. Furthermore, staff are delighted to be welcoming the public back inside one of London's defining landmarks.

Open Spaces donations – now live

The Open Spaces donations on a range of campaigns are now live. Please share the links below and help 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](#)

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) still 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 CCAS, organised by the City Corporation's Recycling and CCAS Team. CCAS Members receive a range of benefits including access to resource packs and invites to environmental best practice workshops with the next meeting scheduled for 16 June. If a business or organisation is reducing plastic use, cutting carbon emissions or just going that extra mile to be more environmentally friendly and work towards the goals in the Climate Action Strategy, they can enter the Scheme and be rewarded. To sign up, apply and find out more visit [ccas london website](#).

Lord Mayor visits CCAS winners and thanks key workers as part of #CityReopening

As part of the #CityReopening programme, the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs visited two recent CCAS winners on Monday 17 May to demonstrate some of the initiatives in place which helped them win awards in recent years. At the Bank of England, the Lord Mayor and his party visited the cavernous Engine Room, where Bank staff detailed their impressive efforts to improve Air Quality and reduce their carbon emissions. At Bow Lane Dental Surgery, the Lord Mayor saw first-hand how technology and responsible purchasing of items has reduced plastic consumption and unique waste streams such as gypsum, demonstrating the steps all industries can take to reduce waste. On Tuesday 18 May, the Lord Mayor met representatives from the City Corporation's waste contractor, Veolia Environmental Services, outside St Paul's Cathedral. The Lord Mayor thanked the waste and street cleansing operatives, who were designated as key workers, for their hard work throughout the pandemic and for their continued hard work to ensure the City is kept clean, ready to safely welcome back workers, visitors and businesses.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Circular Economy Week

Circular Economy Week (14-18 June) is a showcase and celebration of the work being done to accelerate the transition to a Circular Economy, an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources. The Circular Economy is important to the City Corporation and the future of the Square Mile. A Circular Economy Strategy is to be published at the end of 2021. The Recycling Team have organised the following events to celebrate the week.

- [Introducing Circular Economy](#) on Monday 14 June, join the Recycling Team to learn about what circular economy means, the importance of it and what we are doing to drive circularity.
- [How to become more Circular](#) on Tuesday 15 June, [Sunny Jar](#) will provide a workshop, giving attendees tips on how to lead a circular lifestyle.
- CCAS Environmental Best Practice Meeting, on Wednesday 16 June join our CCAS members as they learn how to drive circularity within their businesses.

The Recycling Team will also be launching a 'Repair Directory' in collaboration with [The Restart Project](#), a tool which helps people to find reliable repair shops.

Contact [Halle Sprott](#)

Community & Children's Services

Local sexual and reproductive health services

As COVID-related restrictions are eased across the UK, everyone is being encouraged to familiarise themselves with free health services available. NHS sexual health services delivered by [Homerton Sexual Health Service](#) have been reinstated at the clinic at 80 Leadenhall Street. In addition, City residents, workers and students can access a wide range of services, including [NHS PrEP \(HIV prevention\)](#), at-home STI testing, and contraception through their GP. [A full list of local services is available](#). The Open Doors service for Commercial Sex Workers (CSWs), which is jointly commissioned by the City Corporation and Hackney Council, has expanded its operations to provide support and outreach to off-street CSWs in the City and Hackney, in addition to on-street CSWs.

Contact [Xenia Koumi](#)

Domestic Abuse and COVID-19: One year on

To mark one year on from the announcement of the first national lockdown, the Community Safety Team have written an article reflecting on the past year and the impact it has had on victims and survivors of domestic abuse. The article will be included in the Barbican and City of London estates resident newsletters in June, the residents' bulletin, Business Healthy and the City of London intranet.

Contact [Ayesha Fordham](#)

Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre

The Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre (SBREC) reopened to its members on 10 May to provide on-site support for small businesses and start-ups with a wide range of resources and advice. SBREC has partnered with [Google Digital Garage](#) to provide free 1-2-1 mentoring in digital skills for small businesses. Experienced mentors who specialise in specific areas provide help with topics ranging from digital marketing and social media to business strategy and optimising websites. SBREC also partnered with Google to provide a Social Media Strategy webinar for anyone needing digital skills to support the growth of their business. Business advisers are continuing with a wide range of free training events for groups of entrepreneurs, including a session on Business planning tools for creative freelancers hosted by Culture Mile and a session for the [Bounce Back Project's No Going Back](#) scheme in which 14 Livery Companies support ex-offenders into trades. Sessions for Kingston Libraries self-employment programme, The Entrepreneur Refugee Network (TERN) and Islington College are planned for June. As part of the SBREC's wide range of [free webinars](#) we partnered with colleagues from the Chamberlain's department and Heart of the City to deliver a webinar on Green Strategy for Small Businesses to help businesses think about how they can embed good environmental practices into their operations. SBREC continues to support small businesses applying for the City Corporation's [Covid Recovery Grant Fund](#) and to handle loan enquiries for the [Samuel Wilson Loans Trust](#).

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

Find Fusion

The Education Strategy Unit at the City Corporation have recently launched a new digital platform called Find Fusion to connect and promote learning opportunities from the City Corporation and its partner schools, businesses and cultural organisations. 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 [findfusion website](#). Find Fusion Workshops have taken place in the past couple of weeks for teachers within the Family of Schools as well as City Corporation departments, both well attended and well received by attendees.

Arts Exhibition project

In collaboration with Culture Mile Learning, pupils from across the City Family of Schools, from Reception to Year 11, have come together to contribute to a dynamic digital artwork. Working alongside professional artist Stuart Faromarz Batchelor, the project, #MOOD, has captured how young people are feeling at this unique moment in history. Pupils have created individual digital memes with a #hashtag expressing their feelings during the pandemic. The project has brought together the artwork of hundreds of individual pupils, across 10 city schools. Teachers across the Family of Schools have been the driving force behind this project and have supported each other, and their pupils, in order to ensure its success. The final artwork was released, along with a launch video, on 12 May during Mental Health Awareness Week. Pupils and their families can now interact with the collective artwork, finding their own individual art within the wider piece. Find more information on the [Culture Mile website](#).

London Careers Festival

London Careers Festival 2021 will build on the success of previous years' events (2019 & 2020) which together connected over 7,500 pupils with more than 120 organisations. The event will be delivered virtually this year between 28 June and 2 July. 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. For more information visit the [London Careers Festival website](#).

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School

We are always working on extending our partnership reach and last year, two Year 9 pupils, as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, undertook the task of sourcing books through donations to establish a library for the [City of London Primary Academy Islington](#) (COLPAI). What began with them hoping for one or two hundred books, ended up with them collecting thousands of books for the school, as well as over £3,000 (through a JustGiving page), to fund gaps in essential literature and furniture for the library. The pupils have even devised a cataloguing system for the books by age, using various labels and coloured stars, and will begin to move the books into the final location of the new COLPAI site. The project has been incredibly rewarding, and we both look forward to seeing the impact the library has and the children of the school enjoying the books that this new facility has to offer.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

City of London School for Girls

As our year 11 and 13 pupils continue to concentrate on their assessments over at Salters' Hall this month, a new year 12 student leadership team took the reins. At one of our most recent City@6 Monday evening lectures, incoming head girl Ishara compered a Q&A with barrister, human rights activist, and politician Baroness Shami Chakrabarti. At the following City@6 lecture, deputy head girl Stella led a conversation with musical theatre creative Lucy Moss, of *Six the Musical* fame. Together, the head girl team installed a bra donation bank to recycle unloved bras and raise funds for Against Breast Cancer. A group effort, meanwhile, saw six year 12s mark World Heritage Day with a virtual trip around the world, and a sartorial celebration of their own internationalism. This international theme was mirrored by our International Committee's latest magazine edition, which charted how students around the world experienced the pandemic through a series of interviews with pupils and teachers in different countries. Our debaters, too, found international success in the Nordic Schools competition. A team of year 9 and 10 pupils, who were competing against much older teams, stormed through to the quarter finals and impressed with their knowledge of everything from social media to stakeholder capitalism.

Contact [Sam Robson](#)

City of London Freeman's School

The City of London Freeman's School hosted the inaugural Shakespeare Conference just a few days after the famous bard's birthday. With the theme of '*Liberty and Tyranny*', the conference was dedicated to celebrating the wonderful world of Shakespeare. The School was delighted to welcome several esteemed academic keynote speakers to the event: Professor Emma Smith (Hertford College, University of Oxford) Professor Brian Cummings (University of York) and Professor Nicholas Grene (Trinity College Dublin). The event included sharing research papers written by Freeman's students and staff, as well as students from invited schools. The quality of the submitted papers was hugely impressive and students left the conference buzzing with a plethora of new ideas about the famous playwright. We are pleased to have hosted such a unique opportunity for students and staff to collaborate with university professors and share their ideas and their own research on the literary works of Shakespeare. Indeed, it prompted one of our Sixth Form Students, Charlotte Richardson, to submit [an article to the Young Reporter Scheme](#), examining Shakespeare's influence on the presentation of female characters in 20th Century literature. "Being at heart a jobbing English teacher who has advocated Shakespeare's importance in opening young minds to still-relevant issues, we are proud to provide an environment which encourages our Freeman's students to develop a love of learning, enquiring minds and to extend their critical thinking and experience beyond the curriculum." - Roland Martin, Headmaster, City of London Freeman's School.

Contact [Sarah Sergeant](#)

Gresham College

2021-22 Lecture Programme

Gresham College is currently working on the 2021-22 lecture programme, which includes a series from Professor Chris Whitty on *Infections and their Routes of Transmission*, Professor Joanna Bourke on *Sex: A Modern History* and Professor Alex Edmans on the *Principles of Finance*, which will give a primer on everything from how to save to risk management and everything else in between. There are also law lectures on '*Race, Colonialism and Power in the Legal System*', by Professor Leslie Thomas QC, which will look at the Immigration Act 1971, the Brixton Riots, Judicial racism, and colonial legal hangovers in the Caribbean; and *The Misrule of Law: A History* by Visiting Professor Thomas Grant QC.

[Caroline Herschel: Discoverer of Comets](#) 2 June, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later).

Caroline Lucretia Herschel (1750-1848) was the first woman professional astronomer, and by the time of her death she had been awarded the Royal Astronomical Society Gold Medal and had discovered eight comets. In this talk Dr Sheila Kanani combines the story of a pioneering woman astronomer, with an account of the science behind comets, asteroids and meteors. This talk will end with a demonstration of how to make a comet model using kitchen ingredients.

[The Barbican at 40: Past, Present and Future](#) 10 June, 6-7pm, online, free (or watch later).

Sir Nicholas Kenyon is Managing Director of the Barbican Centre and was previously responsible for the BBC Proms (1996-2007). An influential figure in the UK's musical and cultural life, he will be speaking about the Barbican at 40.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

Police Authority Board

At the Court of Common Council on the 13 May, the Chair of the City of London Police Authority Board set out the refreshed priorities for policing the City of London for 2020/23. James Thomson CC said that over the forthcoming year, the Policing Plan will ensure that the force prioritises:

- the reduction of violent crime and public disorder
- preventing serious and organised crime
- a neighbourhood policing model which focuses on tackling antisocial behaviour and roads policing.

He also said that our vision for the City is to make it the safest business district in the world, and for the City of London Police to continue to be the leading specialist force for protective security and at a national level, for tackling economic crime and cyber security. A secure Square Mile is one of the reasons businesses choose to locate to London and the City. The City Police's expertise in tackling economic and cyber enabled crime is a vital component of the City of London Corporation's work to promote the UK as a place to invest and do business, especially on behalf of financial and professional services and the fintech sector. In addition, our National Lead Force role in the policing of economic and cybercrime is vitally important in maintaining the UK's competitiveness, and for helping protect many thousands of victims. The Police Authority Board will be monitoring delivery of these priorities over the coming year and will report back to the Court of Common Council in September 2022.

Contact [Alex Orme](#)

Culture Mile

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

Nine businesses, with several more in discussion, are confirmed for the initial phase of forming a new business partnership, that will lead to a ballot on Business Improvement District status in spring 2023. Led by Primera Corporation, the first meeting will take place on 8 June, chaired by Tijs Brooke on behalf of the Culture Mile working party and the Property Investment board.

Creative Learning: A partnership of 30 cultural venues, supporting learning and social mobility

City of London schools took part in an [interactive digital artwork](#) last week, #Mood, creating digital and hand drawn memes to represent their feelings, coinciding with Mental Health Awareness Week. The project was developed during lockdown, allowing students to communicate how they are feeling at this pivotal moment in history.

Creative Collaboration: Developing the City's creative ecology

A new report, commissioned by Culture Mile, [Creativity: The Commercial Superpower](#) released on 19 May, evidences the benefits of creativity within corporate business and the potential for cross-sector collaboration between sectors.

Creative Spaces: Developing the spaces within Culture Mile

Culture Mile branding has been implemented in the Smithfield Area with temporary seating and greening measures introduced to support the City's recovery, make the area more welcoming, and provide new outdoor spaces close to businesses. Further measures are being considered for this summer, including branding and wayfinding vinyls along the culture spine between Farringdon and Moorgate in early July.

Creative Communities: Strengthening connections with our neighbours and the culture on their doorstep.

[The Ideas Feast](#) – a celebration for Imagine Fund recipients took place on **26 May**. The fund offered £500 micro-grants to members of the community to develop their ideas for the area.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

How We Live Now installation on Level G of the Barbican

With the reopening of the Barbican Centre to the public on 17 May, visitors can now see the new installation from the Barbican's Level G programme – *How We Live Now: Reimagining Spaces with Matrix Feminist Design Co-operative*. The project comprises an installation, publication and events programme exploring a series of important questions about our public spaces and designed environments – who they are designed for, who is excluded from the design process, and what effect this has on the communities who live there. The project has been the subject of major features in [The Guardian](#), [Financial Times](#) and *ICON* magazine.

Jean Dubuffet: Brutal Beauty opens in Barbican Art Gallery

Barbican Art Gallery's major new exhibition *Jean Dubuffet: Brutal Beauty* opened on 17 May. The first major UK exhibition of the work of French artist Jean Dubuffet (1901–1985) in over 50 years, it brings together more than 150 works: from early portraits, lithographs and fantastical statues to enamel paintings, butterfly assemblages and giant colourful canvases. The exhibition has received 5* reviews from [The Guardian](#), [The Telegraph](#) and the [Independent](#), and 4* reviews from the [Evening Standard](#) and [The Times](#).

New Barbican Centre Trust appointments

The Barbican has announced Farmida Bi as the new Chair of the Barbican Centre Trust, the charitable arm through which the Barbican raises vital funds for its arts and learning programme. Taking up the role on 25 May, Bi succeeds Emma Kane, who has served as Chair for the past nine years, while Robert Glick takes up the newly created role of Vice Chair. Committed to championing diversity and social mobility, Bi is the UK's first female Chair of a major law firm and has been named as one of Britain's top five most powerful Muslim women.

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Lynne Williams to retire as Principal

After nearly five years in post, Lynne Williams has announced that she plans to retire and will step down as Principal at the end of August. Williams joined Guildhall School as Principal in January 2017 and over her tenure has overseen a number of major developments and successes including; developing a new strategic plan and business model for the institution, with a focus on the conservatoire in the 21st century; Guildhall School ranked as the top UK conservatoire in the 2021 Guardian music and drama league tables, and in the top 10 of all UK universities for student satisfaction in the 2020 National Student Survey; implementing an anti-racism action plan and a plan to boost equality, diversity and inclusion; and overseeing the School's move to online teaching during the pandemic. Guildhall School's Board of Governors will now consider its next steps in appointing the School's next Principal.

Tom Mole wins Music Gold Medal 2021

Guildhall School is delighted to announce baritone Tom Mole as the winner of this year's Gold Medal, the School's most prestigious prize for outstanding musicians. The final of the prize, which is awarded to singers and instrumentalists in alternate years, took place on 6 May, and was broadcast on the School's website. Mole's winning performance included songs by Rachmaninov, Finzi and Moss, accompanied by pianist Inês Costa. His programme also featured works from Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*, Verdi's *Macbeth* and Bizet's *Carmen*, accompanied by the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Natalie Murray Beale.

New online arts festival, DISRUPT, launches 8-9 July 2021

DISRUPT is a new digital arts festival, taking place virtually on 8-9 July, co-ordinated by Guildhall School and Barbican in partnership with Culture, Health & Wellbeing Alliance, Culture Mile, Lived Experience Network, Maya Productions, and Slung Low. The festival has been created in response to the global pandemic and aims to explore the ways in which COVID-19 has intensified socio-economic inequalities, deprivation, and isolation. With a programme of discussions, panels and workshops, DISRUPT will lift the lid on the ways the performing arts have supported communities during this time and how a year of uncertainty and change has encouraged new and radical ways of working. Tickets are available on a 'Pay What You Can' basis from the [DISRUPT festival website](#).

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

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

Geoff Pick, LMA's Director, retires on 31 May

Geoff has had a long career in archives. He has been at LMA (or the Greater London Record Office part of it) since the 1980s and before that worked at Lambeth Palace Library. Geoff spent several years at

County Hall as part of the team which transferred the archives of the GLC to the archive service. From the mid-1990s Geoff was based at Clerkenwell where he took over managing public services, developing the LMA Enquiry Service and establishing the Adoption and In Care Enquiry Service. Geoff was instrumental in introducing volunteering as a major initiative to LMA, starting with the Saturday Volunteers. It was also a time when Geoff had Keats House in Hampstead as part of his portfolio and in the early 2010s he was responsible for Guildhall Art Gallery. In 2013 Geoff became LMA Director, steering us through the rigours of archive accreditation, opening the City of London Heritage Gallery, hosting the 2016 Archives Libraries Museums Special Collections international conference for LGBTQ+ collections, and latterly being Head of both City Business and Guildhall Libraries. Geoff was awarded an OBE for services to London Archives in the December 2019 New Year Honours; this reflects not just his work within the City and LMA, but across the wider archival sector in London. Geoff was also one time Chairman of the Archives and Records Association and is on the Panel of the National Heritage Memorial Fund. We wish Geoff all the very best in his retirement. Contact [Tim Harris](#) or [Charlotte Scott](#) Assistant Directors LMA

Museum of London

HRH Prince Charles visits the new Museum of London in West Smithfield

On 11 May HRH Prince Charles was welcomed by Museum of London Director, Sharon Ament; Executive President of SAVE Britain's Heritage, Marcus Binney; Lord Mayor William Russell; as well as representatives of the award-winning design team including Stanton Williams, Asif Khan and Julian Harrap Architects. He was given a tour of the construction site in the Victorian General Market, the recently discovered Lockharts Cocoa Rooms and what will be the museum's main show-stopping public space 'Our Time', where he had a roof-top view across the whole of Smithfield. Clarence House shared [a tweet from the visit](#).

Mayor of London launches Dementia Friendly Charter at the Museum of London

On 18 May the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, hosted the launch of the GLA's [Dementia Friendly Venues Charter](#) at the Museum of London. It was launched in partnership with the Alzheimer's Society and the [Museum of London's Memories of London programme](#). The launch was covered By BBC London Evening News and BBC Radio London.

Museum of London sites now open!

Both Museum of London sites opened as planned on 19 May. The Museum of London had the pleasure of welcoming the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and the Policy Chair as the doors reopened to the public. All major programming has been extended at both sites including [Dub London: Bassline of City](#) and [Havering Hoard a Bronze Age Mystery](#). The reopening was covered by [Mail Online](#), [Times](#), [Telegraph](#), Metro, the Press Association and more.

Contact [Emily Brazeem](#)

In the News

- The Policy Chair and the Planning and Transportation Chair wrote in the *Financial Times* about the importance of offices to the City's recovery and strong demand from developers and investors. (£) Further coverage in *EG*. (£)
- Extensive coverage of the launch of the Recovery Taskforce's final report quoting the Policy Chair, featured in *Financial Times* (£), *Financial Times* (viewable internally), *Bloomberg*, *The i*, *Financial News* (£), *BBC News*, *The Times* (£), *The Guardian*, *Daily Mail*, *New York Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, *Yahoo Finance*, *Financial Times* (£), *My London*, *BBC London News*, *City AM*, *NewsArchyUK*, *Daily Telegraph* (£), *On London* and *City AM*. The Lord Mayor and the Planning and Transportation Committee Chair were also quoted in some. Additionally, the Lord Mayor wrote in *City A.M.* and the Policy Chair wrote in *City Matters* about the report.
- The Policy Chair was interviewed about the future of the City on *Sky News's Ian King Live* [viewable internally only] following the launch of the Recovery Taskforce's final report. She was also interviewed by *New London Architecture*.
- *Financial Times* (£) reported on the Lord Mayor marking the reopening of the Square Mile by arriving at the Old Dr Butler's Head pub in a horse drawn cart with barrels of beer. The Lord Mayor then undertook a tour of other Square Mile hospitality venues. Further coverage in *The Telegraph* [viewable internally], *City AM*, *MSN*, *Financial News*, *The Citizen* (South Africa), *Beer Today*, *Beer Guild*, *News Binding*, *Verity News Now*, *Honest Columnist* and *Market Screener*. The Lord Mayor also wrote in *City A.M.* on the City of London further reopening, in line with step three of the Government's roadmap to ease lockdown restrictions.
- *Daily Express* reported on the Lord Mayor welcoming HRH The Prince of Wales to the future home of the new Museum of London in West Smithfield. Prince Charles toured the site with the Lord Mayor and met Director of the Museum of London, Sharon Ament. The City Corporation was referenced. Also reported by *Yorkshire Post* [viewable internally], *City Matters*, *Press and Journal*, *The National (Scotland)*, *MSN New Zealand* and *Kent Live*.

- The Lord Mayor was interviewed by [Times Radio](#) (2:22:10) to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the City of London and the future of office working.
- The Lord Mayor was quoted in an article in [the Times](#) [viewable internally only] which reported that the City Corporation has published a new research report calling on policymakers to take vital steps to improve the UK's attractiveness as a destination for new listings. Further coverage quoting the Policy Chair in [Bloomberg](#), [POLITICO](#) [viewable internally only], [Daily Telegraph](#) [viewable internally only], [Law 360](#), [Financial News](#), [BNN Bloomberg](#), [Bloomberg Law](#), [Yahoo Finance USA](#) and [Yahoo Canada Finance](#).
- [Evening Standard](#) quoted the Policy Chair in an article about plans for a new 18-room courthouse and police headquarters in the Square Mile, after the Salisbury Square development was given the go-ahead. Also in [Yahoo News](#), [Press Gazette](#), [Planning & Construction News](#), [Construction Enquirer](#), [PBC Today](#) and [New Steel Construction](#).
- [CNBC](#) ran an extended interview with the Lord Mayor about the impact of exiting the EU on London and the UK financial sector. [Evening Standard](#) reported that the City Corporation has published new images showing what the Square Mile's skyline will look like in the mid-2020s. Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee was quoted. Further coverage included [City AM](#), [City Matters](#), [Smart Cities World](#), [Construction News](#), and [City Matters](#). The Policy Chair also wrote in [City AM](#) following the release of the images.
- [Estates Gazette](#) quoted Planning and Transportation Committee following the appointment of Gwyn Richards as the City Corporation's Planning and Development Director. Further coverage in [City Matters](#) and [Public Sector Executive](#).
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) reported that Muslims held their first ever call to prayer on Tower Bridge last Friday evening. The City Corporation was referenced. [viewable internally]. Further coverage featured in over 25 international media outlets including [Arab News](#), [Khaleej Times](#), [Pakistan Observer](#), [World Today News](#), [UAE News](#) and [Aljazeera.net](#). Social media videos from the event have gone viral across four platforms, led by Tower Hamlets Homes and London Borough of Tower Hamlets. They are estimated to have reached over 20 million views so far with numbers increasing daily.
- [City AM](#) reported that Jamie Ingham Clark has been elected as the new Chairman of the Finance Committee. Further coverage in [Financial News](#).
- [BBC](#) reported on TfL announcing that it will reopen the Waterloo & City tube line on 21 June. The line has been closed since March last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Policy Chair was quoted. Also covered by [The Telegraph](#), [Bloomberg](#), [City AM](#), [Business Times](#), [MSN](#), [Yahoo](#), [HeadTopics](#), [London Loves Business](#), [Rail UK](#), [Rail Business Daily](#), [City Matters](#) and [City Matters](#) (ii) also quoted the Planning and Transportation Chair.
- Epping Forest and Commons Committee Chairman wrote in the [Epping Forest Guardian](#) to explain why parking charges are needed at the forest and on COVID-19. The City Corporation was also mentioned in a [letter](#) in the same outlet on the same issue [both viewable internally only].
- The Chairman of the West Ham Park Committee wrote in the [Newham Recorder](#) about apprentices and how sports facilities reopening at West Ham Park.
- [Evening Standard](#), [Ham&High](#) [both viewable internally], [Ham & High](#) (ii) and [Camden New Journal](#) reported on how the City Corporation is being challenged by law firm, Leigh Day, on behalf of Kenwood Ladies' Pond Association, over charging at Hampstead Heath's Bathing Ponds. A City Corporation spokesperson was quoted. The story was mentioned in [BBC London TV](#) and [BBC London Radio](#) news bulletins [both viewable internally only]. Further coverage about the heath swimming charges featured in [Ham& High](#). A City Corporation spokesperson was quoted.
- [Ham & High](#) also carried a letter from Hampstead Heath Management Committee Chair, responding to comments made on swimming charges on the Heath (viewable internally).
- [City Matters](#) reported on comments made by Port Health and Environmental Services Committee Chairman as he promised the City Corporation would continue to work tirelessly to eliminate dirty air.
- Chair of the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee was interviewed by [BBC Radio London](#) (viewable internally only) and [London Live](#) about the City Corporation-commissioned 'Celebrating City Women' documentary. Further coverage [London News Time](#) and [We are the City](#).

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

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