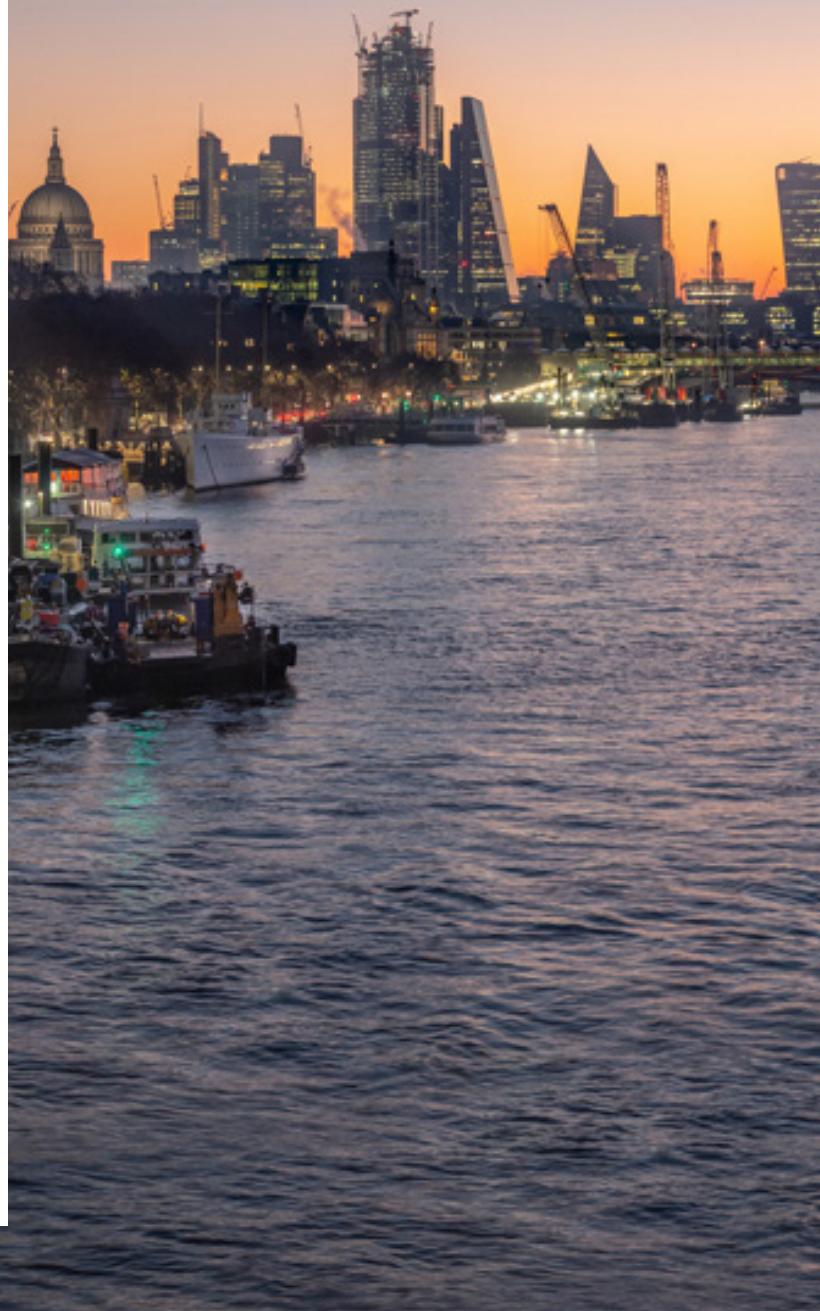


July 2020



# MEMBERS' BRIEFING



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# LORD MAYOR

## Virtual visit to Japan

The Lord Mayor took part in a virtual visit to Japan, from 29 June to 1 July, joined by Lord Grimstone, Minister for Investment. The visit enabled the Lord Mayor to strengthen relationships with a key trading partner and offer current and future investors reassurance over the future of the City. The pandemic, the recovery from that, and current Free Trade Agreement negotiations set the context for the visit. The visit also highlighted the opportunities arising from green finance, climate action and a chance to advocate a move away from coal financing. Preparations for COP26 and plans for the November Green Horizon Summit were shared. The UK's offer in asset management was another key theme. Tangible evidence of the continued belief of Japan in London post-Brexit was apparent. The Lord Mayor was also able to build on his Virtual Engagement Programme with key Japanese financial institutions in meetings with Tokyo-based executives.

## Canada ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Roundtable

On 2 July, the Lord Mayor, alongside the British High Commission in Ottawa, hosted a UK-Canada ESG roundtable with British and Canadian businesses in attendance. The context of the roundtable focussed on the importance of integrating ESG into financing especially in light of COVID-19. The roundtable was chaired by the Lord Mayor and included contributions from Susan le Jeune d'Allegeersheque CMG (British High Commissioner to Canada), Sir Roger Gifford (Chair of the Green Finance Institute) and Canada's Expert Panel on Sustainable Finance. The event was attended by over 40 UK and Canadian business representatives including senior figures from Canadian pension funds. Conversations centred around the upcoming Green Horizon Summit in the lead up to COP26, as well as the impact of regulation on the greening of finance in addition to emphasising the importance of financing green projects and companies. Attendees discussed the need for transition and how this might affect Canada as a nation that depends heavily on natural resources for its energy, and the UK's experience and expertise in the sector.

## India Global Week

As part of India Global Week, on 10 July the Lord Mayor spoke at a panel session focused on strengthening the UK-India partnership and how the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic can inject new impetus into this relationship. Joined by the recently appointed High Commissioner of India to the UK, the Lord Mayor highlighted the excellent work being done by both governments in fostering collaboration. He also touched upon the City of London Corporation's strong interest and work in promoting financial services partnerships and creating a platform for sharing knowledge, opportunities, and connections.

## Virtual visit to Singapore

The Lord Mayor conducted a virtual visit to Singapore, from 13 to 15 July. As with the virtual visit to Japan, Lord Grimstone accompanied the Lord Mayor for parts of the programme. The visit helped to strengthen relationships with a key trading partner and highlighted opportunities in green finance, along with digitisation and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. As a core theme for the visit, ESG featured in most engagements, especially in bilateral meetings with Temasek, DBS Bank Ltd, GIC Private Ltd and OCBC Bank. These meetings with key financial institutions highlighted opportunities to work closely with them as the UK prepares for the COP26 summit. Throughout the visit, the Lord Mayor promoted the Green Horizon Summit to further these discussions and leverage international partners to make progress in advance of COP26. Building on the Memorandum of Understanding signed last year by the City Corporation and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), the Lord Mayor spoke during a webinar on skills joined by representatives from the UK Government and from several Chartered Institutes and their Singaporean counterparts, as well as Mark Hoban, Chair of the Financial Services Skills Taskforce. Key discussion points included workforce transformation and how the pandemic had accelerated the pace of change, metaskills, retraining, and potential areas of future UK-Singapore cooperation. The Lord Mayor also took part in a Fintech webinar on connecting UK and Singaporean Fintech companies at which the MAS demonstrated their APIX system. With the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) also providing an update on the FCA-City Corporation digital sandbox, it was clear the systems were complementary, with opportunities to connect them together.

## Virtual visit to Australia

From 20 to 24 July, the Lord Mayor took part in a virtual visit to Australia. For this he was joined at points by John Glen MP (City Minister), Lord Grimstone and Bruce Carnegie Brown (Chair of Lloyds of London and Vice-chair of Santander Bank). Engagement centred on future trade in the context of the current discussions of the Free Trade Agreement, Green Finance, and Investment. During the visit, the Lord Mayor engaged with both federal and state government representatives such as Senator Jane Hume (Australian Treasury), Paul De Jersey (Governor of Queensland), and Chris Barrett (Invest Victoria). Additionally, he met representatives of the Superfund and Investment Management communities (including QSuper, AustralianSuper, and IFM). There were also a series of events including an Asset Owner roundtable, Future Trade webinar and Investment into Innovation webinar. The Lord Mayor also spoke to an audience of 3,000 on the Committee for Economic Development of Australia livestream, in partnership with Griffith University, which focussed on Green Finance, Climate Change and utilising innovation in the recovery from COVID-19.

Contact [Chloe Waterman](#) on ext. 2676

# CHIEF COMMONER

Life is creeping back to normal. I attended a live event in June – a passing out parade for new police constables in Guildhall Yard – and I accompanied the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress on non-virtual visits to Epping Forest and the City of London Cemetery and Crematorium. In truth, the police event wasn't entirely real – it was hybrid, with a socially distanced parade presided by the Lord Mayor and live-streamed to parents, relatives and friends of the 31 new recruits to our City of London Police. But it sounded pretty real with stirring music from the Welsh Guards band, and it was held under an all too real midday sun, which – as three people fainted – inescapably brought to mind Noël Coward's observation about 'mad dogs and Englishmen'. Visits to Epping and the City of London Cemetery were timely; they provided a delegation headed by the Lord Mayor and Open Spaces Chairman Oliver Sells with an opportunity to recognise the enormous strain that COVID-19 has imposed on staff in these two very different operations. Visitor numbers to Epping Forest soared under lockdown, creating logistical challenges and a mountain of extra litter. With appropriate social distancing, the Lord Mayor greeted and thanked a cross section of the 79 staff who look after this jewel in the City of London Corporation's portfolio of open spaces. The number of burials and cremations at the City of London's Cemetery and Crematorium at Manor Park has likewise increased exponentially with the spike in deaths from Coronavirus, and the Lord Mayor and his party conveyed a similar message of thanks to the 60 staff there who have made titanic efforts to keep everything functioning smoothly throughout the crisis. Not an easy task.



Following relaxation of Government guidelines, we are planning a phased and partial reopening of Guildhall offices in mid-September, and there are tentative targets to re-start City Corporation social events, albeit small, from the beginning of October. I intend to hold the first of my official Chief Commoner's 'dinners' then – even though it might well have to be a lunch. But with only partial re-opening of the West Wing and with social distancing the new normal, very few people will be able physically to attend meetings. Committee meetings will have to continue to be virtual, or at best become hybrid. No one can be quite sure when the Court will meet again in Great Hall. More details will be circulated shortly.

Meanwhile, most of us have been embracing another facet of new technology, casting our first e-votes for committees. As one of the scrutineers, I can vouch for both the robustness and confidentiality of online voting. It worked well, and above all it seems to have encouraged a larger 'turnout' than normal. Although this is probably not achievable without primary legislation, there are many members, including myself, who would like to see City voters also being offered an online ballot in future elections. The date of the next elections is to be decided by the Court in the autumn with the probability that, despite some misgivings about postponement, they will be pushed back to 2022.

The Court, meanwhile, has engaged in constructive debate on a number of important issues. Concern about the plight of Hong Kong once again challenged the limits of our mandate. Despite some deeply held convictions to the contrary, which must be listened to and respected, there would appear to be broad consensus that the City Corporation does not make foreign policy and should therefore should not comment on international affairs. With some 200 countries in the world, if we started censuring unsavoury dictatorships and abusive governments we would be sailing into troubled waters.

The IT department has a continuing programme of training workshops for Members operating remotely from home and has redoubled efforts to resolve issues with the few 'walking wounded' who are still encountering problems. Members have been surveyed with a view to establishing a detailed census on the home IT front. Uptake for the Equally Yours diversity and inclusion on-line training in the wake of the Black Lives Matters movement has been most encouraging, and I urge anyone who has not taken part in similar training at their workplace to sign up. It is a rewarding experience. Discounting those who have received such training elsewhere, it would be magnificent to achieve one hundred per cent participation.

The Financial Assistance Working Party has made further progress in devising a tax-friendly scheme to pay Members a basic allowance or stipend, and in all likelihood a proposal to give Members the option of drawing the equivalent of the London Weighting paid to staff – currently £6,710 – will be put to the Court in the autumn. I wish you all a happy and above all healthy summer break.

**Deputy Brian Mooney MA CC**

Contact [Devika Persaud](#) on 3460

# CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

## TheCityUK Leadership Committee Council Meeting

On 7 July, the Policy Chair attended TheCityUK (TCUK) Leadership Council with Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England, and John Glenn MP, City Minister, attending as guest speakers. The main topics of discussion included the financial services sector's response to COVID-19, including TCUK's work on recapitalisation; the on-going UK-EU future relationship negotiations; and HM Treasury's priorities, including work on Fintech and international engagement.

## Trade Association Roundtable Meeting

On 7 July, the Policy Chair also attended the monthly roundtable gathering of Trade Associations. The purpose of this meeting is to share information on issues of common interest. The discussion focused on an update on the on-going UK-EU future relationship negotiations, and reactions to the recent European Commission announcement on equivalence decisions. The group also discussed the work that the City of London Corporation is doing with the Financial Services Skills Commission and the Professional and Business Services Council on identifying and resolving skills challenges. Finally, the group discussed concerns relating to COVID-19, the current and future impacts of crisis (including the consequences of concerns around return to work) and the financial services sector's role in the recovery.

Contact [Rebecca Wood](#)

## New Spitalfields and Billingsgate Market Virtual Visit with Tenants.

The Policy Chair joined a virtual meeting with tenants from New Spitalfields Market and Billingsgate Market on 10 and 17 July, respectively. Due to lockdown measures the series of scheduled visits needed to be undertaken online, to comply with social distancing guidelines. In these virtual meetings, the Policy Chair met market tenants and their representatives to discuss the future relocation to Dagenham Dock and to answer questions tenants have about the move. Billingsgate tenants confirmed they were in favour of the move and have invited the City Corporation to pilot initiatives intended for the new site at Billingsgate.

Contact [Gary Webb](#) on ext. 2285

## Shenzhen Financial Roundtable

On 15 July, the Policy Chair spoke at the City of London-Shenzhen ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Investing Virtual Dialogue, co-hosted by the City Corporation and Shenzhen Financial Regulatory Bureau. In her speech, the Policy Chair highlighted the importance of a green-led recovery post COVID-19 and the UK's leadership in sustainable investment leading to COP26 next year. The meeting discussed the recommendations from the latest ESG report '[Resilience: Lessons to Scale Responsible Investing](#)', published by the City Corporation, including topics on stewardship code, ESG evaluation framework and full integration of ESG into investment portfolio as well as how the UK could support the development of ESG investing in China to be more aligned to international standards. The event was attended by over 50 financial services firms from the UK and Shenzhen.

Contact [Winnie Seow](#) on ext. 3740

## London Transition Board

The Policy Chair attended virtual meetings of the London Transition Board on 1 and 22 July, chaired by the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and attended by several senior stakeholders from across London. The Board's work on the next phase of the London-wide response to the COVID-19 crisis continues, particularly as restrictions are lifted and the economy has begun to reopen. Discussions have focused on a number of issues facing London as the situation progresses, with the Board meeting every three weeks. Through both the Transition Board and the London Recovery Board the Policy Chair will ensure that the City Corporation is involved with the ongoing work to ensure the recovery across the capital.

Contact [Sarah Bridgeman](#)

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 [Richard Messingham](#).

# PARLIAMENTARY/GLA

## Business and Planning Bill

The Business and Planning Bill, which introduces a new temporary regime for table and chair licences intended to help food and drink outlets trade and comply with social distancing guidelines, has passed its Commons and Lords stages and now awaits Royal Assent. The Bill also automatically extends “on-sales” alcohol licences to “off-sales” licences, allowing the sale of alcohol for consumption off-premises. The City of London Corporation circulated a briefing to MPs and Peers on the Bill, noting the principles it would seek to take into account when reinstating pavement seating licences and issuing new ones: putting safety first, recognising the need to nurture a thriving economy in the City, no privatisation of public space, having regard to the space required for queuing, and to new or existing public seating nearby.

## COVID-19 and Culture

The City Corporation submitted evidence to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee's inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on culture, tourism and sport. The City Corporation's submission noted the importance of culture and tourism to making the Square Mile an attractive place to live, work and visit, and discussed the impact of reduced footfall on cultural attractions such as Tower Bridge and the Barbican. The submission made the case for increased government support for the cultural and hospitality sectors, which will face a slower recovery from COVID-19 than some others. Recovery across the country, but particularly in London, is dependent on increased consumer confidence among both domestic and international visitors and consumers. The submission touched on some of the work being done to encourage Londoners to rediscover their City, as well as to increase access to culture online.

## COVID-19 and Public Services

The Remembrancer's Office coordinated a response to the Lords Public Services Committee inquiry into the lessons of coronavirus for public services. The submission highlighted how the Department for Community and Children's Services, among others, adapted to deliver services to residents during the COVID-19 lockdown, during which face-to-face delivery was generally not possible. The submission also discussed how the City Corporation identified and met the needs of vulnerable residents during the COVID-19 lockdown, and worked with health and voluntary sector partners to address the crisis. The submission also discussed the experience of the City Bridge Trust and the Funders, Community and Voluntary Sector Cell in responding to the pandemic.

## COVID-19 and Apprenticeships

Evidence was submitted by the Office to an Apprenticeships All-Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into the impact of COVID-19. The submission noted the City Corporation's work to increase the take-up of apprenticeships in the City and raised concerns that the COVID-19 crisis could result in a reduction in the availability of apprenticeships and in apprenticeship completions. Working with the Professional Business Services Council, the City Corporation has made three suggestions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19: to use the apprenticeship levy to offset salary and administration costs so as to support the retention and completion of apprenticeships, to use the levy to support pre-employment training or work experience to develop the pipeline of new entrants, and to make some levy funds available for retraining or reskilling. The submission also advocated the development of ‘fusion skills’ in apprenticeship programmes to add further value to the experience.

## COVID-19 and Digital Skills

In response to a Digital Skills All-Party Parliamentary Group inquiry into the impact of COVID-19 on skills, the City Corporation submitted evidence highlighting its fusion skills initiative, which identifies them as a mix of technical and creative skills which go beyond STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, mathematics) classifications to encompass a broader ‘bundle’ of skills categories including digital, creative, social, interpersonal competencies as well as a range of cognitive skills such as judgement and decision making, critical thinking and problem solving. While fusion skills, the submission notes, are a distinctive feature of the UK's digital industries and are more resilient to economic shock and automation than others, many learners lack access to the means to develop them. The submission also noted the skills, including digital skills, needed in the financial and professional services sector, and the City Corporation's work with the Professional and Business Services Council. Improving digital skills is vital to the future growth of the financial services sector, the submission observed. The submission also raised concern over the ‘digital divide’, which would have consequences for the UK's global competitiveness and the diversity of talent in the sector, and the need to take forward consumer education initiatives to improve digital literacy.

Contact [James Edwards](#) on ext. 1202

# Committee and Member Services

## Members' Post

The Post Room will continue to forward post onto your home/preferred address throughout the recess. Post will continue to be sent to you on a Tuesday and/or a Thursday. This arrangement will continue throughout the recess period into September, at which point it will be reviewed.

## Members' Drop-Down Zone (North Wing) & Track and Trace

Members are able to continue using the drop-down zone throughout the recess but anyone wishing to use the room must book a place prior to arrival at Guildhall, North Wing. This is not simply to manage the number of Members wishing to use the space but, most importantly, to ensure that all Members are compliant with the **Track and Trace requirements**. Please book a place with [Rebecca Muscat](#) or [Devika Persaud](#). Your booking will then be passed to the security team in the North Wing so they can provide access. You should be aware that your booking details will be held on file. The Security Team will log which Members access the space each day and, if there is an outbreak of the virus, it is likely that the City of London Corporation will share the data with the NHS. Such sharing of data will be covered by the City Corporation's Privacy Notice which can be found on our website: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/privacy)

## Members' Car Park

A reminder that the Members' Car Park at Guildhall remains inaccessible. However, alternative arrangements can be made available on request. If parking is required, access can be arranged by appointment via [Jill Mahony](#) or [Simon Causer](#).

## Members' IT Training - Building Confidence for Virtual Meetings

Since 10 July, twice weekly interactive training sessions have been held to build Members' confidence around participation at virtual meetings. These 45-60 minute sessions will continue throughout the summer on Tuesdays only at 11am. Invitations have been sent to all Members and those who have not yet "joined" a session are encouraged to do so at a convenient time.

## Equally Yours Training - equality, diversity and inclusion

Two interactive Equally Yours Training sessions were held in July and two further sessions are scheduled to take place: Thursday 3 September, at 1-4.30pm and Monday 14 September, 1.30-5pm. All Members are strongly encouraged to do this important training. Places are available for each session and a place can be reserved by emailing [Lorraine Brook](#).

Contact [Polly Dunn](#) on ext. 3726

# Innovation & Growth Directorate

## Digital Sandbox

The City Corporation has strategically partnered with the Financial Conduct Authority on its launch of the [Digital Sandbox: COVID-19 pilot](#). The sandbox will focus on COVID-19 related fraud prevention, supporting financial resilience of vulnerable consumers, and SME access to finance. It enables tech providers to test how products would perform in the real market. Following the pilot, assets will be open-sourced for further testing and innovation. The sandbox will also provide a collaboration platform allowing participants to showcase and access digital solutions, and test interoperability with existing tech products.

## Treasury commissioned Independent Review of UK Fintech

For UK Fintech to continue to translate into economic growth, we need to ensure start-ups can scale up, expand internationally and level up the whole country. The Review will determine what is required to accelerate this change, to create a financial services ecosystem that is above all, sustainable, inclusive and world leading. The Review will be led by Ron Kalifa, with the City Corporation and Innovate Finance providing secretariat.

Contact [Heather Wilson](#)

## One year of the Green Finance Institute (GFI)

July marked the [first anniversary of the GFI](#). Highlights from this year include work on how to finance carbon neutral, climate-resilient homes. The GFI will now be looking to expand its approach to include other sectors of the economy.

Contact [Simon Burns](#)

## UK Cross-Border Trade in Services with Australia

The UK and Australia enjoy a strong trading relationship with growing opportunities for financial and professional services firms. As trade negotiations open, we published [UK cross-border trade in services with Australia](#). The report identifies policy areas where joint focus could address common goals and support growth in both markets.

Contact [Tehreem Yusuf](#)

## **Virtual Engagement Programme**

Engagement with our UK partners has continued with the Policy Chair and the Lord Mayor undertaking productive calls with Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland, and Andy Burnham, Metro Mayor of Greater Manchester, alongside representatives of other devolved governments, combined authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships. These discussions moved beyond immediate challenges of COVID-19 and sought to cement long-term, substantive partnerships to sustain the recovery through supporting financial and professional services.

Contact [Andrew McGowan](#)

## **Emerging Trends in Tax Policy webinar**

This webinar was moderated by Chris Sanger (EY) and included high-level experts from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Association for Financial Markets in Europe, Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association, UK Finance and academia. Panellists reflected on the economic and fiscal impact of COVID-19, emerging tax policy trends and competitiveness.

Contact [Hannah Connaghan](#)

## **Heart of the City resources**

In response to the pandemic and the changing priorities of its members, Heart of the City is developing new resources to support SMEs through new challenges. Its [freely accessible resource hub](#) offers guidance for small businesses on working remotely, looking after teams' wellbeing and supporting communities through the pandemic.

Contact [Grace Shadbolt](#)

## **The Global City Lawtech campaign**

Innovation in the UK's legal sector is creating new roles, skills, and uses for technology. Our Global City [campaign on lawtech](#) highlights how collaboration between technology and the legal sector is leading to greater UK competitiveness.

Contact [Isabelle Almeida](#)

## **City Business Library**

### **Support for SMEs and Start-ups during lockdown**

The [City Business Library](#) has been continuing its effort to ensure we are able to support start-ups and SMEs during the lockdown, working closely with partners to provide informative events, reliable data, Business Start-up consultations and ongoing support.

### **Taking the lead on the SME Survey**

The City Business Library has developed and published the [SME survey](#) to help guide the future SME Strategy. The survey is designed to help the City of London Corporation understand the challenges present for City SMEs in those sectors most impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The survey will also help to establish what sort of assistance SMEs need from the City Corporation.

### **Building a Diversity Strategy as a small business**

The City Business Library will be hosting a [panel of speakers](#) on 5 August at 12pm, who will talk about developing a robust and actionable diversity strategy as a Start-up and SME. They will offer advice on engaging with diversity networks, talk about their personal experiences and provide actionable steps to embodying diversity and inclusion in small businesses.

### **Finding Investors with Beauhurst**

The City Business Library recently brought on board a new database called [Beauhurst](#). The database offers business data, and specialises in showcasing opportunities for start-ups and high-growth SMEs. Jim Saggers from Beauhurst, Eddie George from New Finance and Alex Leader from the City Business Library will be talking attendees through the [Beauhurst platform and finding the right investor](#).

Contact [Alex Leader](#) on ext.1849

## **Open Spaces**

### **Epping Forest**

After four months on site, by the end of July, the Temporary Mortuary Facility on Epping Forest land at Manor Park will have been removed from site. The site will now be restored, and the opportunity is being taken not only to restore the grassland but to create a natural wildflower habitat to benefit pollinating insects. By this time next year, the site should be returned to a flower-rich grassland for both visitors and wildlife to enjoy. Since re-opening on 18 May, Epping Forest's directly managed golf course in Chingford, has seen a significant rise in people playing with the number of rounds up by 46%. The course has taken double the income compared to the same period last year.

## **Sports at West Ham Park**

The amount of tennis being played since reopening the courts on in May is tremendous with nearly 1,900 court bookings in the first month alone representing an increase of 111% compared to the same time last year. Coaching has increased too, with courses available for every age and ability. West Ham Park opened its cricket pitches for play from 25 July. The groundsmen have incorporated a new layout of lines on the pitch as running lanes for batsman following the governing body of cricket guidance on how to play safely. The weekends are fully booked for the season with three regular teams and Capital Kids Cricket Summer Camp returning for their cricket festival in August.

Contact [Roush Islam](#) on ext. 3571

## **Improving the Environment**

### **Clean City Awards Scheme - applications open on Monday 7 September**

The new look Clean City Award Scheme (CCAS) is still accepting membership from any business operating within the Square Mile. As part of the new CCAS, fee-paying members will be able to apply for an award in the following new award categories; "Resources and Circular Economy", "Plastic Free City", "Air Quality and Climate Action" and "Communication and Engagement". This will enable any business or facilities management site operating within the Square Mile to be rewarded for their hard work in these high-profile areas, whether they are just starting out to make improvements or are already a high achiever. CCAS Members will also receive Resource Packs which provide guidance and support in the new category areas, monthly e-newsletters, invites to Best Practice Meetings and annual award ceremony (which for this year will be dependent on COVID-19). CCAS Members can apply for an award from Monday 7 September 2020. Closing date is Friday 16 October. Any business interesting in joining the CCAS should visit:

[www.ccaslondon.co.uk](http://www.ccaslondon.co.uk)

### **Recycle Week 2020**

National Recycle Week will take place 2- 27 September 2020. The theme for this year is to thank the nation for continuing to recycle despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, under the banner 'Together - We Recycle.' Recycle Week 2020 will recognise the sacrifices that key workers and citizens have made to keep recycling going and create positive change in the world around us. The campaign week will be supported by a social media campaign.

Contact [Karen Marks](#) on ext. 4975

## **City of London Academies and Schools**

### **Newham Collegiate Sixth (NCS) - inspired by the NHS, pupils secure university places to study medicine**

NCS, part of the City of London Academies Trust, has had 52 of its pupils offered places at leading universities, including Oxford and Cambridge, to study medicine in September. They include identical twins Emmanuel and Edoard Beltazar, both 18, who barely spoke a word of English when they moved to the UK from Italy just four years ago. The pair are due to take their place on the same medicine course at University College London in September. "People who live in our neighbourhood and from our ethnic background, which is south Asian, have been very badly affected. It makes the whole thing so much more personal. It is frustrating because if this had happened in five years' time, me and my brother could be there on the front line helping. It will be such a proud moment for us when we finally join the NHS." Whilst Rafiah Niha, 18, has won a place to study medicine at Magdalen College, Oxford. She said: "At times it has had me in tears overcome with emotion. Newham is an area which has been really badly affected by the pandemic. The work the doctors and NHS staff are doing to help people is so inspiring. These people are my heroes, I want to be like them one day." NCS is led by headteacher Mouhssin Ismail, who grew up in the London Borough of Newham and gave up a six-figure salary as a City lawyer to become a teacher in his old neighbourhood in 2015. NCS opened in September 2014 and are based in stunning Grade 2 listed buildings in East Ham with excellent resources and facilities to support outstanding A Level teaching and learning. 95% of their most recent cohort received offers from Russell Group universities. Many of their students gain offers for Oxbridge and they recently sent their [first student to continue studies at MIT](#) in America. They welcome applications from pupils from secondary schools in the Borough or from other areas. Please visit the [City of London Academies Trust website](#) to find out more about the schools that are part of it.

### **City of London School - summer term highlights**

At the start of the Summer Term, City of London School's Art Department launched a project entitled 'Inside Outside - A response to the world from within'. Open to the whole school community, including alumni, pupils, parents, staff and new joiners, we received a wonderful range of submissions. Responses included famous landscape paintings that were recreated using objects from around the home, encouraging banners, sculptural forms created from household recycling, delivery box theatres and nature photographs taken in and around the home. The project's aim was to inspire participants to take on a creative task, to focus the mind on something artistic and to try their hand at different medias. We were particularly excited

by the quality and range of entries from pupils who will be joining CLS in September. We received over 150 entries, all of which are available to view in the online gallery. Another highlight was a special edition of the Citizen Magazine, receiving a Highly Commended Award at the annual Shine Media Awards. The Award was for a stand-out version of our weekly publication, which the editorial team managed to write and design in lockdown.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#) on 020 3680 6300

### **City of London Freemen's School**

Many children have not enjoyed the familiar routine and structure of the School day for months, which may present some young people with wellbeing issues. To support students at City of London Freemen's School, the staff have developed a [Wellbeing Toolkit](#) that offers practical advice and support for pupils and parents during the summer holidays. Covering topics such as structure and routine, eating and drinking, as well as how to manage social media and sleep, the publication aims to empower children to take responsibility for their mental health and wellbeing over the long summer break. While the toolkit offers advice on things pupils can try to manage some of these issues, it also focuses on the science behind the advice, to help students better understand the benefits. To explore the Wellbeing Toolkit, please visit the [Freemen's School website](#).

Contact [Jason Harrison-Miles](#)

## **Gresham College**

Gresham College is launching its new 2020-21 lecture programme online, which you can find on the [Gresham College website](#). We have three new Visiting Professors at Gresham in 2020-21. Professor Martin Daunton will be giving a fascinating and timely series on Intergenerational Justice, which is especially relevant in light of COVID-19 which has had a huge impact on young people's jobs and futures. Thomas Grant QC, who is also a best-selling writer, is giving a series on The Politics of the Courtroom, looking at the 'Political Lawyer' from apartheid South Africa to modern-day Britain, at the politics of the jury, and at the possibility of the state appointment of judges. And Professor John Mullan is giving a three-part series on the Powers of the Novel which will touch on both contemporary literature and classic novels by Austen, Sterne and Defoe. For the 2020-21 lecture series, we are operating an online-first policy until Christmas and asking people to register online for those they want to see, so that we can let people know when they can come to a lecture in person. We continue to [encourage schools](#) to make use of our lecture programme. We have also rebranded the College's visual materials this summer based on the traditional grasshopper in Sir Thomas Gresham's coat of arms.

All lectures are live-streamed online and are also made available afterwards on the [Gresham College website](#). Tickets can be booked for schools or colleges for all lectures.

Contact [Lucia Graves](#) on 020 7831 0575

## **Culture Mile**

### **Supporting communities through COVID-19**

As our cultural institutions begin their phased re-openings, Culture Mile is supporting its partners to work with our local communities - residents, workers and businesses - returning to the City in the 'new normal'. In July, Culture Mile and its partners delivered the next in its series of [Play Packs](#) for young people and families at home, with 5,000 distributed through foodbanks and community centres across the City and neighbouring boroughs this summer. Inspired by Culture Mile's recent photography exhibition [The Hidden City](#), Culture Mile Learning worked with sixth formers at City of London Academy Highbury Grove. The award-winning photographer Emile Holba held workshops with students to capture their personal lockdown stories on camera. Culture Mile Learning launched an Online Mentoring Pilot matching creative professionals with Looked After young people from Islington.

### **Annual Report**

Culture Mile's first Annual Report is published this month, looking back on its achievements in 2019/20. Since its launch in 2018, the founding partners, the City of London Corporation, with the Barbican, Guildhall School of Music & Drama, London Symphony Orchestra and Museum of London have been working together to develop Culture Mile as a vibrant, cultural, creative and learning destination in the north-west corner of the Square Mile, stretching from Farringdon to Moorgate. This review outlines some of the imaginative collaborations and events that took place last year, and outlines the project's four central themes, which are shaping the emergence of a compelling new cultural district for London. [Download](#) the full report. To receive a copy by post or email, email [Johanna Taylor](#).

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#) on 07921219144

## **Barbican Centre**

### **The Barbican begins to reopen**

The Barbican successfully reopened to the public on Monday 13 July, with its Art Gallery and Conservatory admitting visitors for the first time since the centre's temporary closure due to coronavirus. In line with government guidelines, new safety measures are in place including operating at reduced capacity, timed entry slots to ensure a safe flow of visitors through the space, and tickets needing to be booked online at [barbican.org.uk](http://barbican.org.uk) in advance of a visit. The reopening was very well received, with over 2,500 people visiting the Art Gallery and almost 2,000 people visiting the Conservatory in the opening week, and 92% of surveyed visitors reporting that they would be happy or very happy to visit again. As it becomes safe to do so the Barbican will continue to reopen its other venues as part of a phased approach. This includes a series of concerts that will be streamed live from the Barbican Hall from October to December, with the hope to welcome reduced live audiences for some of these concerts depending on the government's advice at the time.

### **Walthamstow Garden Party in the Air**

Walthamstow Garden Party, the annual east London summer festival which had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis, was reimagined as Walthamstow Garden Party In The Air this July. The festival became a free community-powered programme developed by the Barbican alongside local artists and organisations that encouraged residents to get creative at home. Participants were encouraged to share their creations in their windows, on their balconies, in their gardens, and on social media by using the hashtag #WGPInTheAir. An extensive programme of digital content from artists and organisations due to have appeared at the festival was also made available for all at [www.walthamstowgardenparty.com](http://www.walthamstowgardenparty.com)

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

## **Guildhall School of Music & Drama**

### **National Student Survey**

Guildhall School has ranked in the top 10 UK universities for overall student satisfaction in the 2020 National Student Survey results. Graduating students gave a 90% overall satisfaction rate for their time spent at the School in this year's National Student Survey, with an 88% overall satisfaction rate for teaching across the School and an 89% overall satisfaction rate for academic support. Over 310,000 students from 396 universities, colleges and other providers in the UK completed the survey this year, with 84% of graduating Guildhall School students responding. The School's Production Arts faculty received a 94% overall satisfaction rate. Overall satisfaction was at 95% for Acting students, and 89% for Music students, the School's largest undergraduate cohort.

### **Gold Medal Winners**

Guildhall School is delighted to announce the winners of the School's most prestigious prize, the Gold Medal, in both Acting and Production Arts. Daniel Adeosun is the recipient of the Acting Gold Medal. Daniel played the role of Ira Aldridge in the year's opening production of Red Velvet. The winner of the Production Arts medal is Matthew Dean who leaves the School to work as a Technician at Lamp and Pencil, who 'create the theatrical magic that brings your idea into reality' and specialise in complex practical lighting effects and installing electric infrastructure for entertainment.

### **Guildhall School partnership with Kingston University**

Through a collaboration between Guildhall School and the School of Nursing at Kingston University a set of drama-based resources have been put together to help nursing students working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The free online learning materials came as a result of a partnership between the institutions, inspired by nurses whom doctoral programme leader at Guildhall School Dr Alex Mermikides met while her brother Milton was treated for blood cancer. They were put together digitally for the first time as part of a research initiative due to the coronavirus crisis, which has seen teaching move online. The resources include the Drama Out of a Crisis online pack, which includes activities, videos and podcasts exploring how to manage unexpected situations and cope with a new environment. The materials have been rolled out to nursing schools across the UK.

Contact [Rebecca Driver](#), Rebecca Driver Media Relations on 020 7247 1894  
Contact [Jo Hutchinson](#), Guildhall School of Music & Drama on 020 7382 6130

## **London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)**

### **Re-opening on 7 September**

LMA is looking forward to welcoming back users on a pre-booked basis for access to original documents only from 7 September 2020. Details of how to book and opening times will be made available on [the LMA web pages](#) in mid-August. We are determined to reopen in a way which is safe for staff and users; we will

have social distancing in place and we are redesigning our systems and building to operate safely and smoothly. Browsing of books and catalogues, use of the public computers and Mediatheque, and printing facilities will not be available for now. For those unable to visit we have many online resources which we are adding to and improving all the time.

### **Events programme moves online**

LMA has moved its Events programme online starting with a series of talks called *Long Views of London* looking at London through the eyes of artists, planners, and map makers using LMA's existing digital resources. It has been popular with over a hundred participants joining recent sessions, not only LMA regulars, but also newcomers from across the world. It will be followed by a series called *A City and its People*. Details on [Eventbrite](#). LMA's popular monthly book group has gone virtual. The group meets to explore London writing, fiction and non-fiction, for all periods in London history, accompanied by a display of archival material relating to the title. On 12 August at 6pm the group will be looking at Natasha Pulley's *The Watchmaker of Filigree Street*. Please do [join us](#).

Contact [Geoff Pick](#) on ext. 3833

## **Museum of London**

### **Re-opening**

Museum of London sites will reopen their doors on Thursday 6 August 2020. At the Museum of London [The Clash: London Calling](#) exclusive exhibit will be extended for four weeks until 6 September and at the Museum of London Docklands [The Krios of Sierra Leone](#) display will be extended until 14 March 2021. Visitors to each museum will be required to book a free ticket online, in advance, for a time slot of their choosing, via the [Museum of London website](#). For information on opening hours, safety measures in place and what will be open on site please visit the [Museum of London](#) and [Museum of London Docklands](#) safety measures pages.

### **Soundscapes of London and Collecting COVID project**

The first ever recorded soundscape of London was captured in September 1928 as part of a campaign led by the Daily Mail calling for noise restrictions on London's increasingly loud streets. Now, almost 100 years later, as part of the Museum of London's ongoing [Collecting COVID project](#), the same five locations were re-captured to contrast, the rare sound of an extraordinarily silent London in lockdown. Both the historic and modern recordings are available to listen to on the Museum of London's website in entirety for the very first time on the [recording soundscapes of London page](#).

Contact [Emily Brazee](#)

### **The Caretakers at the Museum of London**

The Museum of London's Security Operation Centre Supervisor, Marta Duleba, featured in a series of interviews as part of *The Caretakers* project. *The Caretakers* offers listeners a sneak peek of their beloved collections. Each episode centres on one object, chosen and narrated by a member of a security or maintenance team. The series offers rare access into the hidden world of museums and galleries and the people that have been looking after them during the COVID-19 pandemic. The video of Marta's first-hand account of her favourite object, the Lord Mayor's Coach, is on the [Museum of London YouTube channel](#). It has received widespread media coverage and featured on BBC Radio 4's Front Row programme.

Contact [Laura Bates](#)

## **Community Safety**

### **London Drug and Alcohol Policy Forum (LDAPF)**

Since being established in 1991 the LDAPF has produced a wide range of resources in response to drug and alcohol problems. Many have been innovative, some, such as Safer Nightlife have become not just the acknowledged national best practice guidance but have also influenced work around the world. However, the single most popular publication was produced to help parents talk to their children about drug issues. Previous iterations saw over 300,000 hard copies distributed in London alone. So, we were delighted that despite lockdown, working in collaboration with the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation and Adfam, we have been able to complete and launch an updated, digital, version. This has attracted attention from across the UK and beyond, being well received by a range of professionals and the public. Once the COVID-19 situation allows there will also be a number of hard copies to distribute. It is also hoped to host a drug education event in February. Members can view the digital version at <http://parentsdrug.info/>

Contact [Jane Anson](#) on ext. 3084

# In the News

- [The Financial Analyst](#) reported on the City Corporation's collaboration with the Financial Conduct Authority to pilot a digital sandbox to support innovative firms in tackling COVID-19 challenges, quoting the Policy Chair. Further coverage in [Insurance Edge](#), [FS Tech](#), [Peer2Peer Finance News](#), [FinExtra](#), [Fintech Insight](#), [Crowdfund Insider](#), [IBS Intelligence](#), [The Industry Spread](#), [Fintech Futures](#) and [Only Strategic](#) and [Business Insider](#).
- Lord Mayor was interviewed for [BBC TV](#), [London's Evening News](#) [skip to 12.07] about the Freedom of the City for staff at St. Barts Hospital for their work during the COVID-19 pandemic, with one of the five recipients interviewed on [BBC Radio London](#) [jump to 1.49.00]. Further coverage in [City Matters](#) and [NZ Herald](#).
- Lord Mayor's virtual visit to Australia was included in [Australian Fintech](#), [Crowdfund Advisor](#), [Traders Zone](#) and [Fintech Insight](#). An interview with the Lord Mayor was also published in the [Australian Financial Review](#) (£).
- Policy Chair was interviewed by [Handelsblatt](#) (in german) and pictured and quoted in [Les Echos](#) (in french) on UK-EU trade negotiations.
- Policy Chair was quoted in a [City AM](#) story about the UK and Switzerland pledging to negotiate a financial services trade agreement.
- Policy Chair quoted in [London Loves Business](#), reacting to news the Treasury has launched a review of the UK's fintech sector. Further coverage referencing the City Corporation in [Financial News](#) (£), [FS Tech](#), [Sky-News](#), [Financial Planning Today](#), [Relocate Magazine](#), [Fintech Zoom](#), [Accounting Web](#) and [Fintech Bulletin](#).
- Policy Chair wrote in [City A.M.](#) and [City Matters](#) about the launch of a survey asking City residents, workers and businesses for their views on climate change. Further coverage in [City A.M.](#), [City Matters](#) and [The Independent](#) (£).
- Policy Chair was quoted in [Construction Enquirer](#) about the City Corporation plans for a new 18 room Court and Police Station on Fleet Street. Further coverage in [The Times](#) (£), [EGI](#), [Sky-News](#) and [Law Gazette](#).
- [Forbes](#), [City Matters](#) and [LondonLovesBusiness](#) reported on the additional space being made for cyclists in the third phase of the City Corporation's transport recovery plan. Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, was quoted. Also in [Transport Xtra](#).
- [My London](#) and [City Matters](#) reported the City Corporation has approved the trial of rentable e-scooters in the Square Mile. Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, was quoted. Further coverage in [London Loves Business](#).
- [City Matters](#) reported pubs, cafés, restaurants and bars reopening in the Square Mile, quoting the Chair's of the Planning and Transportation Committee, and the Licensing Committee.

Contact [Aisha Musad](#) on ext. 3328

- [City Matters](#) reported plans to redevelop Millennium Bridge House have been approved by the City Corporation, quoting the Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee. Further coverage in [Estates Gazette](#) (£) and [Property Week](#) (£).
- Chair's of the Education Board and the City of London Academies Trust, were quoted in [City Matters](#) in a piece on 850 pupils at City Academies being given summer catch-up sessions. Further coverage in [FE News](#).
- Chair of the City Bridge Trust Committee was quoted in [Jewish News](#) following a donation to a Jewish women's charity facing a surge in demand from domestic abuse victims. Further coverage in [City Matters](#).
- Chair of the Finance Committee Jeremy Mayhew was quoted in a [City Matters](#)' story about a £20k grant from the City Corporation to the Disasters Emergency Committee to help the world's disadvantaged communities fight COVID-19. Further coverage in [London Post](#).
- Coverage of the reopening of Hampstead Heath's swimming facilities appeared in over 650 media outlets across the UK and globally, including [The Guardian](#), [LBC News](#), [ITV](#), [Sky News](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Evening Standard](#), [New York Times Post](#) and [Swimmers Daily](#). Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, was interviewed and quoted in the coverage. The Chair also wrote in the [Ham&High](#) about the re-opening.
- Chair of the Hampstead Heath Management Committee, was interviewed by Vanessa Feltz on [BBC Radio London](#) about the new charges for the swimming facilities at the Heath. Further coverage in the [Telegraph](#) (£), [Yahoo](#) and [Camden New Journal](#) [viewable internally only].
- The [Londonist](#) and [Horticulture Week](#) reported on the reopening of London's first public park, Finsbury Circus Gardens, after over a decade of closure and the architectural competition to generate new design proposals for the space.
- The Lord Mayor wrote in [City AM](#) about the virtual London Careers Festival, which had been due to take place at Guildhall again this year.
- The [Evening Standard](#) published a story about 52 pupils from Newham Collegiate Sixth Form being offered university places, including at Oxford and Cambridge, to study medicine. Headteacher Mouhssin Ismail was quoted. Also in the [Newham Recorder](#).
- The [Financial Times](#) featured a video about the effect of COVID-19 on air quality and commuters, particularly in the City. Chair of the Port Heath and Environmental Services Committee, was interviewed in the story.

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

- [City Corporation intranet](#)

- [YouTube](#)

- [Twitter](#)

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