

June 2021



MEMBERS' BRIEFING

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LORD MAYOR

New Zealand Virtual Visit

From 24-25 May, the Lord Mayor undertook a virtual visit to New Zealand. The negotiations for a UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement and the UK preparing to host COP26 provided the context for this visit. Throughout the engagements, it was clear that New Zealand values its strong connections with the UK and has a commonality of interest in fintech, sustainable finance, and Environmental, Social and Governance issues. The Lord Mayor had meetings with the Government (Minister for Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Minister for Digital Economy and Communications, Minister for State Owned Enterprises and Minister of Statistics) and the Financial Regulator. The Lord Mayor also spoke at the Sustainable Finance Forum Leadership Roundtable and a major event for the Financial Services Sector. The visit coincided with New Zealand Tech Week, enabling the Lord Mayor to highlight London's role in fintech to businesses considering expanding into the UK. There was much interest in the UK's work on sustainable finance as well as its work around skills, talent and professional services. The visit also gave the Lord Mayor an opportunity to talk about the City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy and offer to share its approach.

Launch of Green Horizon Summit @ COP26

On 26 May, alongside the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and Rhian-Mari Thomas (CEO, Green Finance Institute), the Lord Mayor spoke at the launch of Green Horizon Summit @ COP26 - the City Corporation's hybrid summit planned to run in parallel with COP26 in Glasgow. The Summit is planned to have elements in London and Glasgow. It is designed to reach wide audiences and be accessible, ambitious and relevant. With the goal of mobilising private finance towards net zero, providing a strong platform for the financial and professional services sector, and being cross-border and cross-sector, it will be aligned with the work of the UK Government and UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance - Mark Carney.

Meeting with Commodore Rob Bellfield

On 28 May, the Lord Mayor met Commodore Rob Bellfield, the new Naval Regional Commander for Eastern England, as he took up his post. It provided an excellent opportunity to reaffirm the links between the City Corporation and the Royal Navy, with an emphasis on the important role played by the Reserve Forces and Cadets, and the ties between the Royal Navy and the Livery.

Christ's Hospital School Speech Day

On 29 May, in the first full ceremonial event since the initial lockdown, the Lord Mayor and a full Civic Party attended Speech Day at Christ's Hospital School in West Sussex. Despite the reduced numbers present, it represented an important step as we start to emerge from lockdown. The Civic Party were able to interact with pupils, as well as hearing a moving oration from the Senior Grecian. All at the School spoke positively of the ongoing support of the City Corporation and Livery companies.

Cardiff Virtual Visit

From 2-3 June, the Lord Mayor undertook a virtual visit to Cardiff. Consisting of 16 meetings plus an interview, it was the most substantial mayoral engagement with Welsh stakeholders in a long time. The first day of the virtual visit focused on the theme of skills and fintech, while the second day focused on sustainability, green finance and innovation. The Lord Mayor met some of the established financial and professional services business in Cardiff, such as Confused.com, Starling Bank and Deloitte. Cardiff is also a hub for growing fintech firms, and the Lord Mayor engaged with Yoello (a mobile payments start-up) and Sero (a tech company capturing data to improve housing retrofits). The visit allowed for significant political and institutional engagement, with the Lord Mayor meeting the Secretary of State for Wales, the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, and representatives from the Welsh Government and Cardiff Capital City Region. The Lord Mayor also met stakeholders from Livery Companies and the cultural and charity sectors, including the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, the Wales Millennium Centre and Skillcert.

Insurance Development Forum Summit

As part of the Insurance Development Forum's two-day Summit, on 8 May the Lord Mayor took part in a roundtable discussion called 'Building Resilience in a Riskier World: taking action towards a climate resilient future'. He delivered the opening remarks speaking on how the Global Insurance Industry can be mobilised to match the urgency of COP26 in addressing climate change.

Video call with Governor of Tokyo

On 15 June, the Lord Mayor held a video call with Ms Yurie Koike, Governor of Tokyo whom he last met in September. The Lord Mayor spoke of the success of the Green Horizon Summit and the City Corporation's plans to deliver it alongside COP26 in November. They also discussed plans for future seminars and roundtable events to be jointly hosted under the auspices of the Tokyo-London Memorandum of Understanding. Governor Koike was joined by Mr Hiroshi Nakaso (Chairman of FinCity Tokyo) who spoke of the work of FinCity Tokyo, the launch of the Tokyo Green Finance Institute and plans for listing Green Bonds.

CHIEF COMMONER

It is hard to believe that the last time we met together in full Court was 5 March 2020, and it is even harder to say for certain when we will be able to meet again in Great Hall. Technically, the Common Council scheduled for 22 July might work, but that date is so close to Prime Minister Johnson's latest Rubicon – 19 July – it is probably both impractical and improvident to aim for then. Our first court after the summer recess on 9 September looks more likely. Officers are, meanwhile, examining options for holding a hybrid, socially distanced, Court on 22 July.

Many members took advantage of the opportunity to catch up with each other in person at the summer parties in Guildhall Yard in June. The three informal gatherings were well attended and much enjoyed. They were held under a tented canopy, which defied England's unpredictable weather by sheltering Members from hot evening sun rather than from rain. In accordance with Government regulations, guests had to be seated.



Government advice is still that where possible we should continue to work from home, and this means that very few officers have returned to Guildhall. Members have not been coming into the building as a matter of course, and only a very limited number of the public have been allowed in. Notwithstanding this strict regime, the Guildhall Club has reopened its doors, and is now taking bookings for tables of up to six. Other recreational services operated by the Club remain closed.

In April, the Court agreed some key changes to the delivery of committee business. Those committees with non-local/police authority functions can now choose whether to continue to operate remotely or hold hybrid meetings. A temporary COVID decision-making process was also introduced which enables the committees exercising local/police authority functions also to meet virtually, but in an informal manner with decisions being taken formally afterwards by the Town Clerk or one of his senior representatives. The number of Members able to attend in person is limited given the need to maintain social distancing. To ensure the safety of those who do choose to come into Guildhall, hand sanitising stations are available throughout Guildhall, and for track and trace purposes, the North and West Wing Receptions are equipped with a QR code stand for those using smartphones; for those without, paper forms are available. Everyone is also required to sign in and out. Masks should be worn when moving around the building and instructions are also in place for use of the stairs and lifts.

The Members Reading Room and Computer Suite are open with restricted numbers until things change. Members wishing to use those facilities must notify the Town Clerks Office by contacting Devika.Persaud@cityoflondon.gov.uk or Rebecca.Muscat@cityoflondon.gov.uk. The temporary facility in the North Wing is being decommissioned as it is rarely used.

While the success of the vaccination programme is having a positive impact on infection rates, it is important to remember that it is not 100% effective. A significant proportion of the population remain vulnerable to infection. Therefore, if you do choose to come into Guildhall, I would encourage you to undertake a rapid flow test. These tests are not mandatory, but it is the responsible thing to do. Free testing kits are available to everyone from pharmacies and from other local testing sites, they can be ordered online; they are also available for collection by Members from the Committee Reception desk.

CHAIR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

Virtual Visit to Switzerland

On 7-8 June, the Policy Chair undertook a virtual visit to Switzerland to discuss the future of British-Swiss financial sector collaboration. She held meetings with stakeholders from government and industry, including the Swiss National Bank, Credit Suisse and the World Trade Organisation, discussing key themes such as multilateral engagement and green finance. These meetings allowed the City of London Corporation to understand the Swiss perspective on where professional services fit into these negotiations. The Policy Chair was also accompanied by Her Excellency Jane Owen, British Ambassador to Switzerland on multiple calls.

TheCityUK Annual Conference

On 15 June, the Policy Chair attended TheCityUK Annual Conference with this year's theme focusing on the future growth of UK-based financial and related professional services. The conference, through series of virtual keynote speeches, panel discussion and Q&A sessions, covered various key issues including, innovation, sustainability and post-COVID economic recovery. The Policy Chair moderated a panel discussion on supporting a sustainable recovery with panellists Mark Lancelott (PA Consulting), Ida Levine (Impact Investing Institute) and Steve Waygood (Aviva Investors). The panel explored the ways organisations can make the most impact in transitioning to a more sustainable world, and the steps UK policymakers can take to facilitating greater green growth.

Brexit Business Taskforce meeting

The City Corporation was invited to join the Brexit Business Taskforce, chaired by Lord Frost, Minister of State in the Cabinet office to reflect on elements of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The Taskforce sought to gain industry insights from the financial services sector to understand how the government can best support the sector following the end of the transition period. The Policy Chair attended this meeting to represent businesses within the Square Mile and champion the work in areas such as green finance which could provide an opportunity for the UK financial services sector to lead.

Roundtable with Centre for Policy Studies

The Policy Chair hosted a virtual private roundtable with the Centre for Policy Studies and a leading American commentator and political strategist. The session was attended by senior representatives from across the financial and professional services sector. The discussion focused on public opinion on business, the political system and social issues, as well as differences in perceptions in the UK and the US.

City-wide Residents' Meeting

The second virtual City-wide Residents Meeting was held on 17 June and was well attended by 92 residents from across the Square Mile, with the majority from the Cripplegate ward. The Policy Chair chaired the event and delivered the first short speech, followed by the Town Clerk and Commander David Evans from the City of London Police. These speeches covered topics such as the City Corporation's COVID-19 response and recovery, Climate Action, our major projects and the planned transport changes, as well as policing in the City. Unlike previous years, residents had the opportunity to post their questions to the panellists on the night for over an hour, using the Q&A box in Zoom. Questions were posed by residents on a broad range of topics, including noise and air pollution; cyclists and electric scooters riding on pavements; dog fouling; climate action; cleanliness in the City; changes at Beech Street and Bank junction; electric vehicle charge points; statues linked to the slave trade; public toilet provision; accessing mental health support; and BAME representation on the Barbican Board, as well as Committees more widely. Additionally, questions asked were answered during the event, and officers will respond to the remaining questions and include these in the minutes of the event. These will be made available within 6 weeks of the event on the [City of London website](#). The recording of the event will also be available to view on our YouTube channel.

Policy Chair and Lord Mayor visit Tower Bridge UEFA Euro 2020 1000 Faces exhibition (credit Ben Broomfield)



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 Measures

The Government saw a rebellion of 51 Conservative MPs over delaying step four of the unlocking roadmap from 21 June to 19 July. Joined by five DUP and six Labour members, the measures to delay passed easily, as the two main parties whipped in favour of the Government's proposals. In setting out the measures, Health Secretary Matt Hancock was asked by regular COVID-19 rebel Mark Harper (Con) what he sought to achieve by the four-week delay. Hancock answered that the Government was "not aiming to eradicate the virus in this country because that is not possible" but would seek to give a second dose to the majority of over 40s by 19 July. Labour MP Chris Bryant questioned the Prime Minister's description of 19 July as a "terminus date," arguing that it was likely that mitigation measures such as masks and test and trace were likely to exist beyond this date. The only mitigation Hancock could offer the House was the removal of "the 30-person gathering limit for weddings, receptions and commemorative events—subject, of course, to social distancing measures—and to run another phase of our pilots for large events at higher capacity, including some, such as the Wimbledon finals, at full capacity."

Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform

The Taskforce on Innovation, Growth and Regulatory Reform (TIGRR) has reported its recommendations to the Prime Minister on the reshaping of the UK's approach to regulation post Brexit. The Prime Minister asked Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP, Theresa Villiers MP, and George Freeman MP to form the Taskforce and identify and develop proposals across a range of areas that will drive innovation, growth, and competitiveness through regulatory reform. The resulting 130-page report covers a wide range of policy areas from financial services and net zero technologies to agri-tech and the use of e-scooters. The report also argues, possibly with the US market in mind, for amendment of the Weights and Measures Act 1985 to restore the use of imperial measurements without the need to have a corresponding metric measurement. The City Corporation met with the Taskforce during its evidence gathering and made a written submission. Boris Johnson has thanked the Taskforce for its work, commenting that its recommendations would "really put a TIGRR in the tank of British business." Johnson also announced that Lord Frost has been asked to establish a new Brexit Opportunities Unit in the Cabinet Office "to engage across society, academia, and industry, generating new ideas and acting as a counterweight to Whitehall orthodoxy."

Economic Crime

The Commons Treasury Committee continued its inquiry into economic crime, taking evidence from a panel of regulators. Committee Chair Mel Stride (Con) asked about the extent to which the pandemic had increased levels of economic crime. Mark Steward, Director of Enforcement at the FCA, told the Committee that there had been a particular increase in online scams. He said fraudsters were exploiting the relative ease with which fraudulent advertising could be placed online through social media. The fact that people were generally spending more time online also meant fraudsters had a greater captive audience. Chris Hemsley, Managing Director at the Payment Systems Regulator, said there had also been an increase in Authorised Push Payment fraud whereby victims are tricked into authorising what they believe to be legitimate payments from their accounts, but which end up in accounts controlled by fraudsters. Stride asked what banks were doing to help reduce fraud. Steward reported that banks were doing more but could be doing still more and said constant vigilance was required. Steward welcomed the inclusion of fraud within the scope of the draft Online Safety Bill but expressed concern that, as currently drafted, the Bill might not go far enough. He said he was in favour of stricter obligations being placed on social media companies to do due diligence on adverts placed on their platforms.

Dasgupta Review

The Government published their response to the independent, global review on the economics of biodiversity led by Sir Partha Dasgupta. Two City Corporation members – Dominic Christian and the late Sir Roger Gifford – served on the review's advisory panel. In a written ministerial statement from Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury Kemi Badenoch, the Government made a number of commitments, including: legislating in England for a binding target for species abundance to be achieved by 2030, aiming to halt the decline of nature; legislating in England for 'Biodiversity Net Gain' for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects through a new amendment to the Environment Bill; committing up to £3m additional support to the development of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures framework, which will support financial institutions and companies to report and act on nature-related risks; working with the Office for National Statistics to improve the way nature is incorporated into national accounts and maximise their use in policy-making; and incorporating biodiversity into the UK Government Green Financing Framework, which will determine which projects are eligible for financing under the UK Government's green gilt programme.

Contact [James Edwards](#)

Innovation & Growth Directorate

Climate Action for SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) course: 4 steps to action

Heart of the City is running a pilot of its 'climate action for SMEs course: 4 steps to action' course this summer for City SMEs. Please spread the word to any SMEs in your ward as there are a few places on the pilot left.

Contact [Andy Melia](#)

Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets

The global Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets has recommended the establishment of a new governance body supporting carbon market integrity. The Innovation & Growth Directorate is working to attract this new body to London.

Contact [Carla Sateriale](#)

Past Precedent and Future opportunities report

This new City of London Corporation report analyses digital trade provisions in recent trade agreements and makes recommendations for the UK's financial and professional services policymakers when negotiating trade deals.

Contact [Tehreem Yusuf](#)

Accelerating the S in ESG - a roadmap for global progress on social standards

The International Regulatory Services Group (IRSG) and KPMG launched their latest joint report on 7 June. The report urges policymakers to adopt a global approach to social principles and standards to improve accountability.

Contact [Corinna Williams](#).

Financial Services Priorities for the UK's G7 Presidency

This new IRSG report outlines details the financial and professional services sector recommendations in four priority areas for the UK's G7 Presidency. These will assist the G7 in its efforts to tackle the most pressing challenges for the global economy. They will also help the sector to contribute to the recovery effort from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact [Anete Andermane](#).

Regions and Nations Future Skills research report launch

The Professional & Business Services Council and the Financial Services Skills Commission would like to invite Members and their contacts to the online launch of the Regions and Nations Future Skills research report taking place on Monday 28 June at 1.30-2.30pm. [Register online](#).

Contact [Sam Lagan](#)

Bridge House Estates and City Bridge Trust

City Bridges in the news

Two of BHE's bridges this month featured in the news: Southwark Bridge celebrated its centenary, with a bespoke light show and a visit from the Lord Mayor, which featured on the BBC. Upriver, at Tower Bridge, the Inside Out Exhibition transformed Tower Bridge Road into a large outdoor art gallery to celebrate the UEFA EURO 2020 football tournament coming to the capital.

Re-prioritising Bridging Divides

The City Bridge Trust team adapted their funding offer and practices in the past year, staying true to their ambition to be progressive and adaptive. The collaboration with the charitable sector via the London Community Response initiative expedited lessons and changes, and prompted a re-prioritisation of their current funding strategy, Bridging Divides. Working with an external consultancy, a dynamic management tool and reiterated strategy will be developed, tested and agreed over the coming months.

LEAP

City Bridge Trust coordinated the LEAP employee volunteering initiative which targeted staff across the City Corporation during Volunteers' Week in early June, as well as charitable and similar organisations looking for volunteer support. The push included daily news updates, videos, an online quiz and webinar, competitions and a podcast featuring the Town Clerk, John Barradell. Many officers are now signed up to LEAP.

Contact [Catherine Mahoney](#)

Open Spaces

Outdoor exhibition for Hampstead 150

An outdoor exhibition has begun on Hampstead Heath as part of the 150th anniversary celebration. The display, runs on Hampstead Heath until 8 August, tells the story of the campaign to save the Heath, which led to the passing of the 1871 Act. It also looks at aspects of the Heath over the past 150 years, including its importance to nature, leisure, sport and culture, and the people and organisations who continue to work to protect it for the enjoyment of everyone. The display is located at the South End Green entrance to the Heath, close to Hampstead Heath overground station.

VIPooch Day and more at reopening of Tower Bridge

It's been a busy few weeks at Tower Bridge since reopening to the public on 17 May. The half term week saw just over 6,000 visitors. During that week the guided tours were sold out and the East Walkway was packed with families enjoying the onsite activities. Sunday 13 June saw the first ever VIPooch Day, a special day to highlight the fact that every day is a dog friendly day at Tower Bridge. It was a busy day with over 100 dogs accompanying their owners. Feedback was really positive and awareness of the fact that Tower Bridge is dog friendly has increased. On the same day, Inside Out London, a GLA event in partnership with the City Corporation, also took place. Portraits of over 1,000 Londoners were pasted on Tower Bridge Road as part of a wider event to celebrate London hosting the UEFA EURO 2020 football tournament.

It's mooovalous

Epping Forest are pleased to have reintroduced grazing cattle to Yates' Meadow in Chingford. Six of the Forest's longhorn herd have moved into their temporary new home, which boasts stunning views across the treetops to the city skyline. It has been many years since cows have roamed in this meadow. Quaint, Kitkat, Lazy, Answer, Patience and Prudence will enjoy their time in one of the most popular areas of the Forest. The cattle will be grazing the area through to July and their time in the area will hugely benefit the biodiversity of Yates' Meadow. They will create a range of grass heights and structures that create wonderful microhabitats for insects and less competitive vegetation. The cows convert this vegetation to dung which is fed on by a variety of beetles, flies and microbiology which helps to distribute nutrients back into the soil.

Contact [Roush Islam](#)

Improving the Environment

National Clean Air Day

17 June was National Clean Air Day when activities took place across the country to raise awareness of the impact of poor air quality on health. This year, the main theme of the day was the impact on the health of children. On the day, the City Corporation's Air Quality Team:

- Delivered activities for the children at the Aldgate School and provided information to parents during pick up time.
- Supported Barts Hospital staff with the provision of information to patients and staff.
- As part of our London wide idling engine action work, members of the Idling Action Team were present at Great Ormond Street Hospital and Guy's Hospital and delivered a school workshop at Evelina Children's Hospital.
- Launched an updated version of our free smartphone App 'CityAir' which has been improved to incorporate road closures and, for IOS platforms, enables users to see at a glance what air pollution is currently like where they are.

Contact [Ruth Calderwood](#)

London Circular Economy Week

14-18 June marked London's Circular Economy Week. The Recycling and Clean City Awards Scheme (CCAS) Team hosted a series of events to mark the week which included an "Introducing Circular Economy week" webinar, introduced virtually by the Lord Mayor. The team also hosted a "how to become more circular" workshop and Environmental Best Practice Meeting for CCAS Members which included a presentation from the Resource and Circular Economy winners 2020, Broadgate Estates. All events were well received and garnered London wide publicity

Launch of the City of London Repair Directory

The Recycling and CCAS Team launched the [City of London Repair Directory](#) on 17 June, to coincide with London's Circular Economy Week. The newly launched Repair Directory, created in partnership with the Restart Project, helps residents and workers find a reliable, vetted, electrical repair business in the City and surrounding areas, to repair broken electrical items. The creation of the Repair Directory supports the Circular Economy as repairing broken items, rather than purchasing new, saves resource use, creates less waste and also saves money from not having to purchase new items.

Contact [Karen Marks](#)

Community & Children's Services

Rhyme Times

Throughout the pandemic, our libraries have been posting virtual Rhyme Times on social media alongside some live online sessions. Though extremely popular, we have listened to concerns from parents/carers about screen time and needs for safe space-based activities for their children and so Barbican and Shoe Lane libraries have been holding outdoor Rhyme Times, with Artizan Street Library coming soon. In partnership with Open Spaces, we hold a Rhyme Time in:

- St Andrews, Holborn - Tuesday 11am.
- Burnhill Fields - Thursday 10.45am.

Staff report that it has been wonderful to interact with customers again (including new faces) in as normal a setting as possible. Parents have told us they feel with this approach and consequently, our outdoor Rhyme Times will continue throughout the summer.

Contact [Sarah Townsend](#)

Bumping Spaces

Barbican Library partnered with the Wellcome Trust and Carnegie Libraries and others to explore reducing social isolation within our community, using '[Bumping Spaces](#)'. Community volunteers helped us hand deliver over 3,000 booklets to residents during lockdown, all COVID-19 compliant, inviting them to take part through surveys and Zoom workshops. The project resonated with many and we had excellent exchanges that helped us design some playful interactive installations that were displayed on the Barbican Estate high walk and in Fortune Park. We had great conversations with people about connection in the community, why it can be difficult and how we might improve it. We look forward to using the experience to facilitate more of these opportunities for people with the help of our newly forged connections with our new 'community champions' (residents keen to do more in the community).

Contact [Helen Tremaine](#)

Small Business Research + Enterprise Centre (SBREC)

SME Strategy

SBREC is leading the development of the City of London Corporation's SME Strategy. A draft vision statement for the Strategy has been developed with the help of various Officers and trade associations. The next step is to run a series of focus groups with City SMEs to ensure the vision for the SME Strategy adds value and drives recovery. The draft Strategy will be presented to Members in September/October 2021 for comment and sign off.

Google Digital Garage

SBREC recently partnered with Google Digital Garage to provide SMEs in the City [free 1-2-1 Digital Skills Mentoring](#). Over the last month alone, 33 people signed up to be paired with a Mentor. The Mentors registered with Google are all professionals from different industries and sectors who have specialisms that can help anyone from any background.

London Careers Festival

Next week, SBREC staff will be supporting the [LCF](#) organised by the Department for Community and Children's Services with two presentations on running your own business, giving young entrepreneurs from secondary and post 16 year groups a flavour of what they will need to think about when starting a business.

COVID Recovery Grant Fund

Staff from SBREC and the Chamberlain's department ran an online support and information session for the City's small businesses looking to access the City Corporation's [Recovery Grant Fund](#), outlining how to apply and the information required for a successful application. This was very well attended with people asking many questions. The recording will be available shortly on the City Corporation website. Staff continue to be extremely busy providing frontline 121 support to applicants.

Contact [Alex Leader](#)

City of London Academies and Schools

Adult Community Learning Conference

The City of London Adult Skills and Education Service (ASES) are hosting a virtual Skills & Learning Community Conference on Wednesday 14 July, 10am-1pm, to promote the wide array of courses that the City Corporation offers. It will be an interactive event aimed at families and residents in the City. ASES will be hosting live course demos, quizzes and Q&As with Tutors. ASES offer a wide range of courses to aid learning and career development and personal growth. ASES aim to support the local community achieve their personal aims. For more information and to book visit [eventbrite](#). Members and residents can also request further information about the Community Conference and courses by emailing adulteducation@cityoflondon.gov.uk or call 0786 496 5540.

City Schools' Conference

On Monday 14 June, part two of the annual City Schools' Conference was held virtually and focused on Reimagine (using the pandemic as an opportunity to reflect and possibly transform the education system) and Reform (using the lessons learnt to reflect on the future of education and skills development). As with previous years, the Conference was a practical and interactive meeting focused on implementable strategies and approaches. The Conference was well attended with 92 participants representing school leaders, middle and curriculum leaders and partner organisations including Culture Mile Learning and business and research partners.

City Schools' Music Project – Listening Event

The Education Unit hosted a virtual 'listening event' on Wednesday 26 May to showcase the pieces of music the pupils in the Family of schools had created as part of the City Schools' Music Project. The project included workshops with two composers, Paul Griffiths and Sigrun Saevarsdottir-Griffiths who hosted these workshops for eight schools across the Family of Schools from Years 3-9. A sound recordist also took part in the workshops to gather the recordings of individual pupil's work and re-create the music in a studio. The listening event was attended by pupils, staff members, parents, guardians and governors within the Family of Schools. This was a positive and uplifting event which saw pupils cheering on other schools as well as being excited when their piece of music was played in the event and felt very proud with what they had produced.

Fusion 3

The City Corporation made a three-year commitment to convene an annual meeting of London, national and international businesses, education sector, cultural venues and cities of innovation between 2019-21, to explore fusion skills. The [Fusion 3](#) was the third meeting of the series and delivered as a virtual event across 12 different cities from Sydney to California who each hosted international attendees for one hour. Across all twelve sessions, 542 attendees were recorded, however it is estimated that the reach exceeded this number since many sessions have since been viewed online and resources shared more broadly. The London event was opened by the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell live from Mansion House and attended by 189 highly experienced professionals from a range of industries, sectors and countries to share their perspective on fusion skills and systematic change towards fusion skills development across education, the arts, work and lifelong learning and to incite action around fusion skills. This session focused on 'How do we make sure all people have the fusion skills they need to flourish now and in the future?' and 'Where are people taking Fusion next?' The event involved active participation and experiential learning.

London Careers Festival

[London Careers Festival 2021](#) will build on the success of previous years' events in 2019 and 2020 which together connected over 7,500 pupils with more than 120 organisations. The event will be delivered virtually for the third time this year between 28 June to 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.

Contact [Catherine McGovern](#)

City of London School

76 City of London School pupils who have participated in the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art (LAMDA) programme this year have been eagerly awaiting their examination results, and they were certainly worth waiting for! With 50 distinctions and 25 merits awarded, this was our most successful set of results to date. The pupils have worked incredibly hard and shown great resilience as LAMDA classes moved online during the remote period with daily lunchtime drop-in sessions. Equally impressive was the number of pupils who attended the extra sessions run on Teams during the Easter break.

Contact [Georgina Berry](#)

Gresham College

Online Success

2020-21 has been a good year for video views and online attendance at Gresham as we have reached more schools and more groups outside London. For example, Gresham lecture video views to the end of May were up at 5.6m (compared to 4m in 2019-20); online live attendance was 44,800 (plus 20,734 on replay) compared to approximately 12,000 live attendance plus 34,129 'live online' last year. 9895 school students had watched our new programme online up until May this year (compared to 728 who registered and watched in person the year before). We have also had solid media and social media coverage, with some 544 media clips to the end of May, and paid social promotion boosting our video views. Registration for all lectures has boosted our 'customer' mailing list to over 32,000.

Highlights from 2020-21 Lecture Programme

Some highlights of 2020-21's lectures that you can watch now include:

- [Vaccination by Professor Chris Whitty](#)
- [Great Thinkers by Professor Edith Hall](#)
- [England's Reformations and Their Legacies by Professor Alec Ryrie](#)
- [The Powers of the Novel by Professor John Mullan](#) (series continues next academic year)
- [Mathematics in Music and Writing by Professor Sarah Hart](#) especially accessible is the lecture on Mathematical Journeys into Fictional Worlds
- [The Psychology of Finance by Professor Alex Edmans](#)

Contact [Lucia Graves](#)

City of London Police Authority Board

The City of London Police Authority Board, in its role as the Police Authority for the City of London, established the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV) Scheme in consultation with the Commissioner of the City of London Police. The operation of the Scheme became statutory with effect from 1 April 2003 and is the responsibility of the Police Authority Board, which has the final responsibility in all matters relating to its operation. The Scheme enables members of our local community to observe, comment and report on the conditions under which persons are detained at police stations and the operation in practice of the statutory and other rules governing their welfare, with a view to securing greater understanding and confidence in these matters. These visiting arrangements also allow for independent check on the way police officers carry out their duties with regard to detained persons. The City of London has one Police custody suite at Bishopsgate Police Station and we have up to 11 ICV's that visit this custody suite unannounced on a regular basis. The Police Authority Board has worked with the City of London Police to ensure that the Scheme has continued to uphold its statutory duty during the pandemic; and we have continued to ensure that a balance has been struck between the need to monitor police custody and maintain the safety of all. The introduction of mandatory and consistent use of risk assessments, social distancing, and personal protective equipment has been vital to this work. Further information on our ICV Scheme is provided in the Police Authority pages of the [City of London website](#).

Contact [Alex Orme](#)

City of London Police

Phishing annual campaign

The beginning of June saw the return of the annual campaign to warn the public about 'phishing' emails. With the Euros kicking off this month, the public were also warned about ticketing fraud and fake Euros merchandise. Officers from the City of London Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit, and the Metropolitan Police, seized counterfeit football shirts worth £80,000.

Fishmongers' Hall Attack Inquest

The second inquest into the attack at Fishmongers' Hall on 30 November 2019 concluded. Following the inquest into the deaths of Jack Merritt and Saskia Jones, this inquest examined the circumstances around the death of Usman Khan. The jury found he was lawfully killed and His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft QC commented on the officers: "they showed commendable bravery. Lives were saved as well as lost in this terrible attack."

Contact [Amanda Malyon](#)

Culture Mile

Business Partnership: *Transitioning Culture Mile to a mixed economy model by 2023/24*

The new business partnership met in June, chaired by Tijs Broeke on behalf of the Culture Mile Working Party. Confirmed supporters include Norges Bank, BDB Pitmans, NLA, Landsec, Tenacity, Helical Bar, Brookfield Properties, PellaREP, British Land and the Haberdashers Company with several more in discussion.

Creative Learning: *A partnership of 27 cultural organisations, supporting learning and social mobility through a schools and young people programme*

The Fusion Futures workshop, which connects secondary schools, with artists and industry partners to explore collaboration and adaptability, culminated with a challenge day led by Hawkins\Brown – the architects leading Smithfield public realm.

Creative Spaces: *developing the spaces within Culture Mile*

Culture Mile branding will appear across the area, including Beech Street, the Moor Lane Lift, as well as bollards and planters to improve wayfinding, and increase the visibility of the Culture Mile brand. Installation begins w/c 28th July,

Creative Collaborations: *developing the City's creative ecology and deeper relationship between commerce and culture*

Barbican Opticians [Cult Vision](#) will display a series of original artwork commissions from the *Fuelling Creative Renewal* report in their shop windows in June.

Culture & Commerce Taskforce

The Culture & Commerce Taskforce's Action Plan has been submitted to City Corporation Committees for approval. Pilot projects are planned from the summer with a showcase in September.

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

[The Ideas Feast](#) celebrated the Imagine Fund project, which offered £500 micro-grants to the community to develop their creative ideas Watch a [short film](#) about each project. The Forget Me Not charity have launched the Blooming City Quilt project, collaborating with groups across the City to create a beautiful handmade quilt this summer. A series of live play events are planned this summer, including Middlesex Street and Golden Lane Estates as well as den-making workshops with Timbuktu Adventure Playground.

Contact [Anna Dabrowski](#)

Barbican Centre

Claudia Andujar: The Yanomami Struggle opens in The Curve

Barbican Art Gallery has opened *Claudia Andujar: The Yanomami Struggle* – an exhibition in The Curve and The Pit at the Barbican dedicated to the work and activism of Brazilian artist Claudia Andujar. For over five decades starting in the 1970s, she devoted her life to photographing and defending the Yanomami, one of Brazil's largest indigenous peoples. At a time when their territory is threatened more than ever by illegal gold mining, and as COVID-19 continues to sweep the globe, this major exhibition is especially relevant in the context of the humanitarian and environmental crises exacerbated by the pandemic. The exhibition has been the subject of an eight page [preview](#) in the Financial Times Magazine, a [feature](#) and a [preview](#) in The Guardian, a 4 star [review](#) in the Evening Standard, and an interview with exhibition's curator Thyago Nogueira on the Monocle [podcast](#).

Live from the Barbican concert series

The Live from the Barbican concert series in the Barbican Hall continued in June, welcoming back socially distanced live audiences alongside the global livestream audience online. This included the world premiere of *Dido's Ghost* on 6 June – a new opera by composer Errollyn Wallen co-commissioned by the Barbican, Dunedin Consort, Mahogany Opera, and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and Chorale.

Regenerate by Barbican Creative Learning's Young Visual Arts Group programme

The Barbican has announced the launch of Regenerate, a digital group exhibition featuring newly created artworks by 14 emerging artists who are part of this year's Barbican Creative Learning's Young Visual Arts Group programme. Working together virtually since November 2020, the artists have created powerful works that try to make sense of today's world, how we got here and how we look to the future. The artists and their works can be viewed online at [regenerate.digital](#).

Contact [John Kelly](#)

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

Jonathan Vaughan becomes Interim Principal of Guildhall School

Following the recent announcement of Lynne Williams's retirement, Jonathan Vaughan (Vice-Principal and Director of Music) becomes Interim Principal of Guildhall School for the academic year 2021/22 while a recruitment process for Lynne's successor is underway.

Guildhall School alumni and staff recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours 2021

Congratulations to Guildhall School alumni and staff recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2021. These include Visiting Professor of Piano Imogen Cooper, made a Dame for services to music; alumna and saxophonist Jess Gillam (Saxophone 2020; MBE for services to music); and alumnus and Professor of Conducting, Orchestration and Academic Studies Dr Noël Tredinnick (Music 1970; BEM for services to Church Music and to Music Education).

Guildhall School ranked second in Complete University Guide Arts, Drama and Music League Table 2022

Guildhall School has been ranked second in the Arts, Drama and Music Complete University Guide League Table 2022, moving up from third last year. Guildhall School is also the highest ranked university in the Guide.

Guildhall School alumni among the winners at the BAFTA Awards 2021

Congratulations to Guildhall School alumni who were among the winners and nominees at the 2021 Virgin Media British Academy Television Awards and British Academy Television Craft Awards. Successes included *I May Destroy You*, which was written, produced, and directed by Michaela Coel (Acting 2012) and picked up five wins from its eight nominations, and Steve McQueen's *Small Axe* which received six wins from its 15 nominations, and featured final-year actor Sheyi Cole and Liam Garrigan (Acting 2003).

Guildhall School announces more online events in free summer season

A mixture of live and pre-recorded events from across all departments of the School will be broadcast for free via the [Summer 2021 pages](#) of the website. Newly announced highlights include the Drama department presenting Gorky's *Barbarians*; Jonathan Dove's opera *The Little Green Swallow*, transformed for the digital stage; the return of Guildhall Chamber Music Festival; and three jazz concerts.

Guildhall School wins the Performance Venue category in the mondo*dr Awards 2021

The mondo*dr awards were launched in 2017 to recognise and celebrate the best installation projects from around the globe. This year Guildhall School has won the Performance Venue category for its installation of ground-breaking low-latency technology that allows for large-scale musical collaboration between spaces whilst ensuring social distancing.

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

London Metropolitan Archives (LMA)

LMA's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion is fundamental to our vision and core values, ensuring our future as a dynamic and relevant archive with a positive and supportive culture, where all staff and people who engage with us feel empowered and respected. We have set out this commitment in a new [LMA Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy](#). As a core service of the City Corporation, LMA fully supports its wider strategies to promote equality, diversity and inclusion. LMA also operates within a framework provided by our professional bodies and others including the International Council on Archives and key partner Culture&. In this context, LMA recognises that concerted action to remove existing and potential barriers to inclusion is required to build an environment where opportunities are open to all, diversity is valued, and everybody can reach their full potential without fear of harassment, prejudice, or discrimination, and where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and supported. LMA has always been fully committed to race equality; however, in response to the Black Lives Matter movement we recognise the need to go further. We are re-examining the collections we hold, the stories we tell and the role we can play in engaging critically with the colonial legacy of London both through the collections and our work with the wider public, organisations and community groups. Sitting alongside the policy, LMA's [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan 2021-22](#) presents what we are doing over the next year and our key partnerships, and will be refreshed annually.

Contact [Tim Harris](#) or [Charlotte Scott](#)

Museum of London

A film celebrating grassroots football in London

The Museum of London, in partnership with the Greater London Authority, has created a short film, [Eleven](#), celebrating the importance of grassroots football in London to celebrate the UEFA EURO 2020 championships. The film highlights eleven personal stories of Londoners to create a contemporary London line-up and highlight the empowering nature of the 'beautiful game.' Free screenings of the film are taking place daily, every 20 minutes, in the Museum's Ellipse Hall, or it can be watched online from home.

ZSL London Zoo's NHS sign acquired

The Museum of London [announced that it acquired](#) the well-known giant sign erected by ZSL London Zoo on their Giraffe House in April 2020. It was donated by Kathryn England, Chief Operating Officer ZSL London Zoo to the Museum as part of the ongoing Collecting COVID initiative. The sign was created as a symbolic 'thank you' to all NHS staff on the front lines of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and will be considered for potential display in the Museum's future new home in West Smithfield in the coming years. The news was covered by [Evening Standard](#) and BBC Breakfast.

Ensemble inspired by the creativity of the Windrush generation

The Museum of London marked Windrush Day 2021 [by announcing the acquisition](#) of an ensemble from London fashion designer Tihara Smith's 'Windrush collection' along with a suit owned by her grandfather. Smith's outfit specifically references the story of her grandfather Lazare Sylvestre, who arrived in the UK from St. Lucia in 1958 as part of the Windrush generation. Both outfits and oral histories with their family have been made available to explore on the [Museums' ebsite](#). Smith's designs will also go on display in the Museum's future new home in West Smithfield as part of an exhibit showcasing the creativity of London's fashion.

Contact [Emily Brazeem](#)

In the News

- Policy Chair was quoted in [Financial News](#) (£) about an IRSG report calling on G7 finance ministers to embrace regulatory cooperation. Further coverage in [Politico Pro newsletter](#) [viewable internally only] [London Loves Business](#), [Law360](#) (£), [Thompson Reuters Practical Law](#) (£) and [World News Monitor](#).
- Policy Chair wrote in [City A.M.](#) about the G7 finance ministers meeting and the launch of the IRSG report calling for greater global regulatory cooperation.
- The Lord Mayor wrote in New Zealand's [National Business Review](#) (£) about his virtual visit to the country. Excerpts of an interview with the Lord Mayor were also published on [NewstalkZB](#).

- The Policy Chair was interviewed on [BBC Radio London](#) about the Government's decision to delay the end of COVID-19 restrictions. [listenable internally only]
- The Lord Mayor was quoted [ITV London](#) (skip to 5:00) in a piece about the re-opening of the Waterloo & City line and future of the City. The Policy Chair was also quoted in over 200 pieces of national, international and regional coverage on the reopening of the Waterloo and City line. This included [The Guardian](#), [Daily Mail](#), [Metro](#), and [City A.M.](#), [BBC Radio London](#) [link unavailable] and [Daily Mail](#). The Lord Mayor also wrote in [City A.M.](#) about the reopening. Further coverage in [MSN](#).
- The Policy Chair was quoted in [CityA.M.](#), [City Matters](#), [London Loves Business](#) and [MSN](#) following news the Government has agreed a new £1.08bn funding package for TfL. The Policy Chair was quoted in a [Politico](#) article about the release of a new report by the City Corporation calling for greater UK-US cooperation in climate-related financial services regulation. [viewable internally only] Further coverage in [City AM](#) and [Politico](#).
- The Lord Mayor was quoted in a [Bloomberg](#) article about the reopening of the Square Mile and his confidence about City workers returning to the office. An interview with the Policy Chair was aired on [BBC Radio 4's Today Programme](#), where she talked about the return of office workers to the City. [jump to 21.09]
- The Lord Mayor and the Policy Chair were quoted in widespread coverage of the City Corporation's reaction to the UK-Australia free trade agreement in hundreds of outlets, including [AP News](#), [Asian Voice](#), [Japan Today](#), [ABC News](#), [Spectrum News](#) and [San Francisco Chronicle](#). [Bloomberg TV](#) interviewed the Policy Chair in advance of her speech at City Week (viewable internally only).
- Several elected Members were quoted in a [Property Week](#) (£) piece about the publication of The Square Mile: Future City report.
- The [FT](#) (£) wrote an obituary on former Lord Mayor, Chair of the Green Finance Institute and UK head of SEB Sir Roger Gifford. The Lord Mayor was quoted. Further coverage in [City AM](#), [City Matters](#), [London Loves Business](#), [Environmental Finance](#), [Responsible Investor](#), [edie](#) and [Sunday Times](#) [viewable internally only].
- The Lord Mayor paid tribute to Sir Roger Gifford in [City A.M.](#) and also wrote about an event being held at the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in November.
- The Lord Mayor and Policy Chair were quoted in a story in [Property Funds World](#), on the launch by the New Diorama Theatre in partnership with British Land in July of a major new artist development complex, supported by the City Corporation. Also in [The Times](#), [Broadway World](#), [Theatre Weekly](#), [What's On Stage](#), [Arts Professional](#)(£) and [Europe Real Estate](#).
- [City A.M.](#) and [City Matters](#) carried a column by Policy Chair, writing about the importance of the City's cultural and creative sectors and how they are reviving as COVID-19 measures continue to ease.
- [The Guardian](#) ran an article about the Barbican being accused of institutional racism by its staff. The piece mentions that the Barbican has launched an independent review into the allegation. Further coverage including in [The Telegraph](#) (£), [Evening Standards](#), [Daily Mail](#).
- [Evening Standard](#) featured a piece about the City Corporation's plans to join the London e-scooter rental on July 5. A spokesperson for the City of London Corporation was quoted. Further coverage in over 35 media outlets including [ITV News](#)...
- [City AM](#) reported the City Corporation has donated £25,000 to the Disasters Emergency Committee for its Coronavirus Appeal in India and is urging others to follow suit. Finance Committee Chairman was quoted. Also in [City Matters](#), [Outlook India](#) and [London Post](#).
- [City AM](#) and [City Matters](#) reported on the City Corporation's Biodiversity Action Plan consultation. Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee Chairman and Planning and Transportation Committee Chair were quoted.
- Director of Open Spaces was interviewed on [BBC Radio Berkshire](#) [Skip to 1.16.56] about work to repair damage to Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. Further coverage in [Horticulture Week](#) (£) and [Bucks Free Press](#) reported [Slough Express](#) and [Maidenhead Advertiser](#). Chair of the City Commons Committee was quoted.
- Chairman of the Epping Forest and Commons Committee wrote in the [Epping Forest Guardian](#) about the historical and environmental importance of cattle to the forest.
- Curator of the Guildhall Art Gallery, was interviewed on [BBC Radio London](#) (skip to 1:50:00) about the launch of the Noel Coward: Art & Style exhibition.
- [BBC London News](#) featured the 100th anniversary of the opening of Southwark Bridge. Lord Mayor was interviewed. Further coverage in [Daily Telegraph](#) an, [City A.M.](#)