

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CORPORATE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2026

Councillors Present:	Cllr Richard Lufkin in the Chair
	Cllr Michael Desmond, Cllr Alastair Binnie-Lubbock, Cllr Jon Narcross, Cllr Ali Sadek, Cllr Faruk Tinaz Cllr Jessica Webb, and Cllr Penny Wrout.
Apologies:	Cllr Clare Potter, Cllr Sharon Patrick, Cllr Sheila Suso-Runge, and Cllr Carole Williams
Officers in Attendance:	Natalie Broughton, Assistant Director Planning and Building Control Louise Humphreys, Louise Humphreys. Director Legal Democratic Electoral Services and Monitoring Officer (virtual) Gerry McCarthy, Assistant Director, Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation Nkencho Okonta, Lawyer Kieran Read, Director of Corporate Strategy and Transformation Josephine Sterakides, Senior Lawyer (Virtual) Natalie Williams, Senior Governance Officer
Also in Attendance:	Cllr Susan Fajana-Thomas (virtual)
Absent:	Cllr Humaira Garasia, Cllr Clare Joseph, Cllr M Can Ozsen, Cllr Ifraax Samatar and Cllr Ian Sharer.

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Patrick, Potter and Suso-Runge.
- 1.2 Councillors Garasia, Joseph, Oszen. Samatar and Sharer were recorded as being absent from the meeting.

2 Declarations of Interest - Members to Declare As Appropriate

- 2.1 None.

3 Consideration of Minutes Of The Previous Meeting and actions from the previous meeting

- 3.1 Minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12 November 2025, were considered.

Resolved:

To approve the minutes of their previous meeting, held on 12 November 2025, as an accurate record of those meeting's proceedings.

Matters arising

12 November 2025 meeting

- 3.2 The Planning Code of Conduct was on the agenda for the 18 March 2026 meeting.

19 May 2025 meeting

- 3.3 An update on the Corporate Peer Challenge Conduct was on the agenda for the 18 March 2026 meeting.

4 Questions/Deputations/Petitions to the Committee

- 4.1 No questions, deputations or petitions were submitted in advance or at the meeting.

5 Annual Performance Report of the Noise Service 2024/25

- 5.1 The Council's Assistant Director, Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation presented the annual noise nuisance performance report for 2025. The noise service involved three teams: Community Safety, Enforcement, and Business Regulation. Noise reports were split between commercial operations, handled by specialist Environmental Protection Officers, and residential sources, managed by uniformed generalists handling reactive complaints.
- 5.2 Environmental Protection Officers had additional duties, including assessing licensing applications, temporary event notices, and planning consultations. The community safety and enforcement officers handled complex domestic noise complaints, anti-social behaviour, and crime prevention initiatives, which could involve protracted investigations.
- 5.3 The noise service conducted weekly commercial noise analysis to identify problem areas and repeat locations, informing their priorities for night-time economy work. They used an intelligence-based approach, including creating a top 10 list of problem commercial noise premises to target in collaboration with the police.
- 5.4 In 2025, the service received 1,932 temporary event applications, and it was noted that dealing with these applications required substantial work. The application fee remained £21, unchanged since 2005.
- 5.5 During a discussion on the report a number of points were raised including the following:
- Working from home increased daytime noise complaints. Notably, Thursday nights, especially in Shoreditch, now exceeded Friday nights for activity. Regarding complaints about noise from children, the service stressed the need for sensitivity, particularly for those with special needs, committing to individual case assessments;

- Springfield Ward was identified as generating the highest number of residential noise reports, specifically related to music, with statistics indicating that most of these reports originate from a single resident in the Ren Park area;
- It was clarified that noise reports could include air conditioning units and that low but constant noise could potentially be considered a statutory nuisance, with the investigating officer making a determination;
- The Assistant Director, Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation would provide the committee, post-meeting, with figures on the outcome of noise complaints and details of a commercial noise prosecution on Hackney Road.

Action:

The Assistant Director, Community Safety, Enforcement and Business Regulation to provide the Corporate Committee with:

- 1. Figures on the outcome of noise complaints;**
- 2. Further information on a commercial noise prosecution on Hackney Road.**

Resolved:

To note the contents of the report.

6 Corporate Peer Challenge update

- 6.1 The Council's Director of Corporate Strategy and Transformation introduced the report providing a final progress update on the Council's response to the recommendations arising from the Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge (CPC).
- 6.2 The peers found that the Council had responded positively to the 11 recommendations, demonstrating a renewed sense of energy commitment and partnership working and showing progress in aligning priorities and corporate delivery. They noted that while progress was made, key plans like the transformation plan and associated savings had yet to be delivered, and adult social care's budget significance was not sufficiently reflected in the strategic plan.
- 6.3 During a discussion on the report a number of points were raised including the following:
 - Work addressing cross-borough opportunities, as outlined in recommendation nine of the report, focused heavily on economic development, including the publication of the growth strategy and the accreditation of creative enterprise zones;
 - A financial improvement board was set up to manage significant budget pressures and oversee service delivery in adult social care. Increased demands, largely due to people living longer with complex conditions, which was acknowledged as a challenge to the Council's total budget.

Resolved:

To note the contents of the report.

7 Annual Performance review of Markets, Shop Fronts & Street Trading

The agenda item was deferred until the 2026/27 municipal year.

8 Planning Code of Conduct (for the Hackney Constitution)

- 8.1 The Council's Assistant Director Planning and Building Control introduced the report outlining the planning code of conduct for Councillors. The code had been considered at the previous Corporate Committee meeting and a number of amendments had been made following committee members' suggestions.
- 8.2 The committee noted that the Council's Monitoring Officer confirmed that the item did not need to be referred back to the Constitution Committee, as the changes were minor.
- 8.3 The new code of conduct was approved. The previously raised concern about the burden on Councillors regarding meetings with lobbyists was addressed by amending the wording to state that a planning officer may be advisable to attend, rather than being a mandatory requirement.

Resolved:

1. To approve the new planning code of conduct for Councillors (appendix 1)
2. To delegate authority to the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Assistant Director Planning and Building Control to make any changes to the Code including changes to comply with statutory requirements in relation to future training for Councillors on planning matters.

9 Fees and charges review

The agenda item deferred until the 2026/27 municipal year.

10 Corporate Committee Work Programme 2025/26

- 10.1 The committee noted the latest draft of the Corporate Committee work programme for the 2025/26 municipal year.

Resolved:

To note the latest draft of the Corporate Committee work programme for the 2025/26 municipal year.

11 Any Other Business the Chair Considers to be Urgent

- 11.1 The next Corporate Committee meeting was scheduled for early June 2026 (date to be confirmed).

CLOSE OF MEETING

Duration of the meeting: 6.30pm - 7.16pm