



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# DRAFT MINUTES

## Adults, Health & Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Adults, Health & Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held on **Wednesday 1 February 2017**, Rooms 6 & 7, 17th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP

**Members Present:** Councillors Jonathan Glanz (Chairman), Susie Burbridge, Ruth Bush, Gotz Mohindra, Jan Prendergast and Barrie Taylor.

**Also Present:** Councillors Antonia Cox and the Lady Christabel Flight.

#### 1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Barbara Arzymanow, Patricia McAllister and Glenys Roberts. Councillor Ruth Bush attended the meeting as replacement for Councillor McAllister.
- 1.2 Councillor Jonathan Glanz was nominated to be the new Chairman of the Committee and was duly appointed.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 The Chairman sought any personal or prejudicial interests in respect of the items to be discussed from Members and officers, in addition to the standing declarations previously made.
- 2.2 Councillor Jonathan Glanz declared that he was a former paid consultant to MOPAC, and was also formerly a member of the MOPAC Challenge and Business Crime Board. He also declared that he was Chairman of the Safer London Business Crime Reduction Partnership.
- 2.3 Councillor Jan Prendergast declared a non-prejudicial interest in that her husband was an outpatient at St. Mary's Hospital.

### **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016 be approved.

### **4. CABINET MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **4.1 Cabinet Member for Public Protection & Licensing**

- 4.1.1 The Committee received a written update on key issues, which included problems associated with the ongoing rise in the use of the synthetic drug Spice; the Licensing Charter; and the Notting Hill Carnival.
- 4.1.2 Councillor Antonia Cox attended the meeting as the new Cabinet Member, and commented on the City Council's response to the new London Police & Crime Plan, which would need to be submitted by 23 February. Councillor Cox highlighted the need for clarity in the potential impact on the police budget and on future numbers of police officers, and on how policing priorities would be determined. Councillor Cox also considered that the new Plan made inadequate reference to crime caused by foreign offenders, and suggested that the City Council's finalised response should be signed by the Cabinet Member and the Chairman of the Committee.
- 4.1.3 Councillor Cox commented on the proposed consolidation of existing command areas into 12 Metropolitan Police Basic Command Units (BCU's), and expressed concern over the impact of Westminster, RB Kensington & Chelsea and LB Hammersmith & Fulham being combined into one Unit, which could lead to neighbourhoods being neglected.
- 4.1.4 The Committee noted that the London Police & Crime Plan, and proposals for BCU's, were to be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.
- 4.1.5 Councillor Cox highlighted the successful combined operation that had been taken in connection with a number of problem sites for rough sleepers in Westminster, which had included Cathedral Plaza. The operation had included the police, officials from the Home Office and the Romanian police, and had identified 16 European nationals who were to be removed from the UK. The Committee noted that there were currently approximately 260 rough sleepers in Westminster each night, and that a 50% reduction in East European rough sleeping had resulted in displaced indigenous rough sleepers now returning. Sara Sutton (Director of Public Protection & Licensing) confirmed that the City Council sought to prevent rough sleeping and help the individuals concerned who often had complex needs, while also protecting Westminster's communities. The Committee requested statistical details of the regular street counts that were being made.

- 4.1.6 Committee Members discussed the Westminster Rough Sleeping Strategy, and suggested that the availability of hostels should be more widely advertised. The Committee noted that many rough sleepers had complex needs that were being aggravated by the ongoing rise in the use of the synthetic drug ‘Spice’, which could provoke anti-social behaviour which caused problems for outreach workers. Members suggested that many rough sleepers avoided hostels as they wanted single rooms, and highlighted the need for more innovative thinking. The Director of Public Protection & Licensing confirmed that new approaches were being considered, and the Committee requested a substantive update on Westminster’s Rough Sleeping Strategy prior to the re-commissioning of outreach services in 2018.
- 4.1.7 Other issues discussed included the success of No Second Night Out and Operation Unite, and Committee Members commended the valuable service that was being provided by The Passage and the Homelessness Prevention Team.

#### 4.2 Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Public Health

- 4.2.1 The Committee received a written briefing on key issues within the Adult Social Services & Public Health portfolio, which included the Better Care Fund; Public Health; and the work of the Westminster Health & Wellbeing Board. Councillor Lady Christabel Flight (Deputy Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services & Public Health) also provided an update on the Oral Health Campaign, and the Committee noted that the Heads of primary schools were to be involved in highlighting the importance of diet and the need for dental checks.
- 4.2.2 Committee Members also commented on the provision of Specialist Housing, and on measures that could be taken to help reduce childhood obesity. Members noted that the draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan would be referred to the Committee for comment.

### 5. **STANDING UPDATES**

#### 5.1 Air Quality Task Group

- 5.1.1 The Committee discussed the progress of its Task Groups, and received an update on the meeting of the Air Quality Task Group on 30 January which had been attended by the Chairman. The Committee noted that problems in air quality in Oxford Street had been reduced by 38%, and it had been proposed that the timescale for the introduction of the ultra-low emission zone be brought forward a year. Changes in parking charges for diesel cars in Zone F to the north of Oxford Street had also been publicised and were due to be introduced in April 2017.
- 5.1.2 Members of the Committee were sought to act as deputy for the Task Group.

## 5.2 Community Independence Task Group

- 5.2.1 A Member of the Committee was also being sought to take forward the work of the Community Independence Task Group, which had been begun by Councillor Ian Rowley.

## 5.3 Budget Task Group

- 5.3.1 Members noted that Councillor Barbara Arzymanow was representing the Committee on the Budget Task Group.

## 5.4 Healthwatch Westminster

- 5.4.1 Helen Mann (Healthwatch Programme Manager) presented a summary of progress on the work priorities that had been identified by local residents, which focused on the reconfiguration of Mental Health Services and the Care Co-ordination Service. The Programme Manager highlighted that more work could be undertaken to improve public understanding of the North West London Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STP).

- 5.4.2 The Committee noted that Westminster's Health & Wellbeing Strategy had been published in December 2016, and that Members would have the opportunity to comment on the Implementation Plan before it came into effect in March.

## **6. MOPAC FUNDING & PROPOSALS FOR METROPOLITAN POLICE BASIC COMMAND UNIT CHANGES**

- 6.1 The Committee received a report from Sara Sutton (Director of Public Protection & Licensing) and Mick Smith (Head of Community Safety) on the outcome of discussions with the Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC) about future funding; and on proposals for changes to the Metropolitan Police Basic Command Unit (BCU). The Committee also heard from Chief Superintendent Peter Ayling (Borough Commander), and Sam Cunningham (MOPAC - Acting Director of Integrated Offender Management, Programmes & Neighbourhoods).

- 6.2 As the current Safer Westminster Partnership (SWP) Strategy was coming to an end in 2017, a full Strategic Assessment had been produced to identify the key crime and anti-social behaviour issues that affected the borough. The Assessment had recommended that the new SWP Strategy focused resources on a number of priorities, which included early intervention; reducing repeat victimisation; and targeting prolific offenders.

- 6.3 The London Crime Prevention Fund (LCPF) was also to be re-profiled, with a review of the level of need between boroughs. The Committee noted that although the funding allocation for the first year was to be ring-fenced, a 56%

reduction would be put in place over the following three years. In year 2, 30% of the LCPF would also be set aside to create a pan London commissioning pot, which boroughs would have to bid into. A review of activities and current and future spend was taking place, to understand future delivery and how partnership and cross-border working could be improved.

- 6.4 The new Police & Crime Plan had shifted from setting crime reduction targets, to working closer with police and local authorities to set priorities that were relevant to local communities. The three issues of highest concern and harm had been identified as:
- keeping children and young people safe.
  - tackling violence against women and girls.
  - standing together against extremism, hatred and intolerance.
- 6.5 Action taken to address these issues would be supported by a better police service for London, and by a better criminal justice service. The City Council's submission to the consultation would need to be made by 23 February, prior to publication of the new plan at the beginning of April. The Acting Director of Integrated Offender Management, Programmes & Neighbourhoods agreed to provide Committee Members with copies of the draft Performance Framework and the London Formula.
- 6.6 The Borough Commander commented on police funding and the forthcoming budget reductions, which would be made against an ongoing rise in demand for services in connection with areas such as the marked upturn in protests, and the prolonged security situation. Additional resources also needed to be invested in armed capability and responding to the increase in the problems associated with Spice, while also tackling the huge increase in cybercrime. The Borough Commander acknowledged that it was increasingly unlikely that the Metropolitan Police would be able to sustain the current level 32,000 police officers.
- 6.7 The Borough Commander also commented on the proposals for changes to the Metropolitan Police Basic Command Unit (BCU), under which the existing 33 command areas would be consolidated into 12 BCU's, with Westminster being combined in one Unit with RB Kensington & Chelsea and LB Hammersmith & Fulham. The Borough Commander recognised that Westminster had unique elements for policing, but considered that the proposals offered a number of distinct benefits, which included gaining greater levels of equity between different sized boroughs; and in bringing together specialist and localised levels of child abuse investigation. The proposal would also provide economies of scale in areas such as emergency calls and in the deployment of vehicles. Although the Borough Commander was optimistic about what larger spans of command could offer, he considered it critical that a coherent support structure was developed that would enable that command to work.

- 6.8 MOPAC highlighted the opportunity for the Committee to lobby on behalf of the Metropolitan Police in an extremely challenging time. The Committee noted that the Home Office was still making decisions, and that a united front was needed to promote the needs of London for police funding.
- 6.9 The Committee discussed the need to strengthen co-commissioning with the NHS England and reduce the demand for police involvement to avoid the loss of NHS services through the cut in police budgets.
- 6.10 Committee Members also commented on the risks and benefits of the ongoing growth in private security, which offered a reassurance of safety and security within different environments in the West End. The Borough Commander highlighted the benefits that could be gained from bringing together the security services with some uniformity, and with proper information sharing that was coordinated by the police.
- 6.11 The Committee discussed the future provision of CCTV in Westminster, which was in the process of being decommissioned, and noted that discussions regarding CCTV and wider crime prevention were continuing, with MOPAC considering a London wide proposal.
- 6.12 Other issues discussed included the wider criminal justice system and need to reduce the number of young people held in police custody; and to reduce reoffending through segregation in prisons and youth institutions. Committee Members also commented on the prevalence of foreign nationals in the supply of Spice, and on the overlap between victims and perpetrators.
- 6.13 The Committee acknowledged the ongoing demographic changes and significant increase in population and demand for police services that were taking place, and supported lobbying to ensure that funding for the police in London was maintained and improved, and that Westminster's position as the centre of the capital was recognised in the funding formula.
- 6.14 Committee Members were not convinced that the amalgamation of borders would better address crime issues, and expressed concern that difficulties in effective communication between BCU'S could be exacerbated by differences between policy and procedure. Members also highlighted the need for collaboration in work with gangs; and for joint working to be seamless in the protection of children and young people.
- 6.15 The Committee agreed that it was important that the police had the tools to operate effectively, and were grateful for what the police were able to achieve given the challenges of resources.
- 6.16 The Chairman thanked Chief Superintendent Peter Ayling (Borough Commander), and Sam Cunningham (MOPAC - Acting Director of Integrated

Offender Management, Programmes & Neighbourhoods) on behalf of the Committee, for attending the meeting and for their valuable contributions.

## **7. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION TRACKER**

- 7.1 Muge Dindjer (Policy & Scrutiny Manager) presented the Committee's Work Programme for the remainder of the current municipal year, together with the Committee's Action Tracker.
- 7.2 Members discussed the Agenda for the next Committee in March, and agreed that the issues relating to Children's Healthy Weight and the Health & Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan could be considered outside of the meeting. Committee Members also agreed that issues to be included in the Agenda papers would be determined when more information was available.
- 7.3 The Committee agreed to establish a Health & Wellbeing Centre Task Group later in the year, which would be led by Councillor Barrie Taylor, and which would consider the provision of integrated care, acute and secondary care, and mental health.

## **8 ITEMS ISSUED FOR INFORMATION**

- 8.1 The Committee noted that the following papers had been circulated for information separately from the printed Agenda:
- The Notting Hill Carnival – update on activity and options for scrutiny.
  - Better Care Fund - update to Quarter 3 2016/17.
  - Concerns of the Human Trafficking Foundation over child trafficking in Westminster - response from Tri-borough Children's Services.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 9.1 No further business was reported.

The Meeting ended at 9.26pm.

CHAIRMAN:\_\_\_\_\_

DATE:\_\_\_\_\_

<b><i>Actions Arising</i></b>	
<b>Item 4 Cabinet Member Updates: Public Protection &amp; Licensing</b>	The City Council's response to the draft London Police & Crime Plan to be signed by the Cabinet Member and the Chairman of the Committee.
<b>Item 4 Cabinet Member Updates: Public Protection &amp; Licensing</b>	The Committee to be provided with statistical details of the regular street counts of rough sleepers in Westminster.
<b>Item 4 Cabinet Member Updates: Public Protection</b>	The Committee to be provided with a substantive update on Westminster's Rough Sleeping Strategy, prior to the re-commissioning of outreach services in 2018.
<b>Item 4 Cabinet Member Updates: Adult Social Services &amp; Public Health</b>	The draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan to be referred to the Committee for comment.
<b>Item 5 Standing Updates: Air Quality Task Group</b>	A Member of the Committee is sought to act as deputy for the Task Group.
<b>Item 5 Standing Updates: Community Independence Task Group</b>	A Member of the Committee is sought to take forward the work begun by Cllr Ian Rowley.
<b>Item 6 MOPAC Funding &amp; Proposals for Metropolitan Police Basic Command Unit Changes</b>	That MOPAC provide Committee Members with copies of the draft Performance Framework and the London Formula.
<b>Item 7 Committee Work Programme</b>	The Committee to determine the Agenda items that will be considered at the next meeting on 29 March.