

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 24th January, 2018 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Ian Adams

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton	Lindsey Hall
Nickie Aiken	Angela Harvey
Julia Alexander	David Harvey
Barbara Arzymanow	Richard Holloway
Daniel Astaire	Adam Hug
Richard Beddoe	Aicha Less
Rita Begum	Patricia McAllister
David Boothroyd	Guthrie McKie
Iain Bott	Tim Mitchell
Susie Burbridge	Adnan Mohammed
Ruth Bush	Gotz Mohindra
Melvyn Caplan	Jan Prendergast
Danny Chalkley	Papya Qureshi
Paul Church	Suhail Rahuja
Brian Connell	Robert Rigby
Baroness Philippa Coultie	Rachael Robathan
Antonia Cox	Glenys Roberts
Robert Davis, MBE, DL	Ian Rowley
Tony Devenish	Karen Scarborough
Paul Dimoldenberg	Andrew Smith
Christabel Flight	Steve Summers
Jean Paul Floru	Shamim Talukder
Murad Gassanly	Barrie Taylor
Jonathan Glanz	Aziz Toki
Barbara Grahame	Judith Warner
	Jason Williams

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meetings held on Wednesday 8 November 2017 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of proceedings.

3 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor referred to these as set out on the agenda.
- 3.2 The Lord Mayor advised the Council of the deaths of two former Councillors, namely Isla Robertson and Manuela Sykes. The Council stood in their memory.
- 3.3 The Lord Mayor informed the Council of a charity concert on Saturday 23rd February 2018 in aid of his charity.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 Councillor Ruth Bush declared that she was Trustee of the Westminster Tree Trust and would be speaking in the Air Quality Debate.

5 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were no Petitions or Deputations.

6 QUESTIONS

Procedural Motion

Moved by Councillor Tim Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Guthrie McKie and

Resolved:

That Standing Order 9 be suspended to the extent only to allow that rather than Members, entitled to do so, being selected by draw to ask Questions the Lord Mayor call Members entitled to ask a question who indicate when asked by the Lord Mayor by show of hands at the meeting a wish to do so. The Lord Mayor, when calling Members, may have regard to the proportionality of the political groups on the Council. The Leader of the Opposition shall still be entitled to ask up to 3 questions during question time which shall be for a maximum of 45 minutes.

The questions, supplementary questions and replies are included on the Council's website.

7 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

(a) Technology in Westminster

Councillor Gotz Mohindra spoke and Councillor Tim Mitchell replied.

(b) Arts and Culture in Westminster

Councillor Shamim Talukder spoke and Councillor Robert Davis replied.

8 STATEMENT ON AN URGENT MATTER PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 4 (3)

There were no urgent matters.

9 REPORT OF THE APPOINTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

- 9.1 The Majority Party has selected the report of the Appointments Sub-Committee: Appointment of the Chief Executive.
- 9.2 The Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition both spoke in favour of the proposed appointment.
- 9.3 The Lord Mayor put the recommendation to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation adopted.

Resolved: That Stuart Love be appointed Chief Executive and the Head of the Paid Service with immediate effect.

10 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

- 10.1 The meeting debated the items chosen for debate from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party:

Public Health

The Majority Party had selected item number 90 on the Future Policy Plan, Public Health. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

Air Quality

The Majority Party had selected item number 6 on the Future Policy Plan, Air Quality. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 11.1 The Minority Party had selected for debate the Notice of Motion as set out on the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor Aicha Less.
- 11.2 Councillor Rachael Robathan moved and it was seconded by Councillor Murad Gassanly that the Notice of Motion be amended, as follows:

Delete first paragraph and second paragraph remains:

“The Council believes that the regeneration of Church Street is a strategic priority for Westminster and an important opportunity to improve the lives of residents. It believes the regeneration must prioritise the needs of existing local residents, while also focusing on providing new opportunities for Westminster residents in housing need and for local people and families on or

below average incomes as desired by a majority of respondents to the Masterplan consultation”.

Then delete subsequent paragraphs and add:

“The Council commends the high level of engagement undertaken by the Consultation Team at 99 Church Street with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. It notes the need for active ongoing consultation engagement, as set out in the Mayor’s draft Regeneration guidelines. The wide ranging approach and well thought out consultation process was praised by the Housing and Finance Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 6th November and the Council welcomes this.

The Council notes that the masterplan sets out the framework for development in Church Street. It is not a final decision on any demolition proposal or new building locations or heights. The Council further notes that extensive analysis and consultation will be undertaken before the detail of the scale and scope of development proposals come forward.

The Council welcomes the increase in the proposed number of new homes from 776 in the 2012 Futures Plan to more than double (1750) in the current masterplan. This includes over 50% affordable housing to be offered as social rents, supporting the Mayor’s draft good practice guide for regeneration as well as the Council’s City for All vision. It also welcomes the other commitments in the masterplan, such as those around green space, health and well-being and community hubs.

The Council believes that it is a fundamental objective of the masterplan to address the current and future needs of the Church Street residents, this informed the brief to the masterplan team and will continue to be a fundamental objective and consideration as the detail plans progress”.

Following debate, to which Councillor Adam Hug replied, the Lord Mayor put the amendment moved by Councillor Robathan and seconded by Councillor Gassanly to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment **CARRIED**.

The Lord Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote and on a show of hands declared the substantive motion **CARRIED**.

Resolved:

The Council believes that the regeneration of Church Street is a strategic priority for Westminster and an important opportunity to improve the lives of our residents. It believes the regeneration must prioritise the needs of existing local residents, while also focusing on providing new opportunities for Westminster residents in housing need and for local people and families on or below average incomes as desired by a majority of respondents to the Masterplan consultation.

The Council commends the high level of engagement undertaken by the Consultation Team at 99 Church Street with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. It notes the need for active ongoing consultation engagement, as set out in the Mayor’s draft Regeneration guidelines. The wide ranging approach and

well thought out consultation process was praised by the Housing and Finance Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 6th November and the Council welcomes this.

The Council notes that the masterplan sets out the framework for development in Church Street, it is not a final decision on any demolition proposal or new building locations or heights. The Council further notes that extensive analysis and consultation will be undertaken before the detail of the scale and scope of development proposals come forward.

The Council welcomes the increase in the proposed number of new homes from 776 in the 2012 Futures Plan to more than double (1750) in the current masterplan. This includes over 50% affordable housing to be offered at social rents, supporting the Mayor's draft good practice guide for regeneration as well as the Council's City for All vision. It also welcomes the other commitments in the masterplan, such as those around green space, health and well-being and community hubs.

The Council believes that it is a fundamental objective of the masterplan to address the current and future needs of the Church Street residents, this informed the brief to the masterplan team and will continue to be a fundamental objective and consideration as the detail plans progress.

12 REPORT OF THE CABINET: 4 DECEMBER 2017

The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time for debates, then put the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the Cabinet Report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

Resolved:

1. That the Council approve for the financial year 2018-2019.
 - (i) That the Council Tax discount for second homes remains at 0%.
 - (ii) That the Council Tax discounts for empty properties, including the discounts that replaced the previous Class A and C Council Tax exemptions remains at 0%.
 - (iii) That a long term Empty Property Premium is introduced at the maximum percentage allowed for by the relevant legislation.
 - (iv) That the Head of Revenues and Benefits determines any individual local discount applications from vulnerable Council Taxpayers received during the course of the 2018-2019 financial year which will include a 100% Council Tax discount for Care Leavers for a period of 3 years.
2. That the Council approve the same Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018-2019 as operated successfully since 2013-2014 which is based on the Default Scheme Regulations and that War Disabled Pensions, War Widow, Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments are disregarded in full when calculating a claimant's income.

3. That the Council resolve that the Council Tax Base for 2018-2019 for the whole city is 128,833.30 equivalent Band D properties for Montpelier Square alone 95.68 equivalent Band D properties and for Queen's Park 3,406.61 equivalent Band D properties.

13 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: 10 JANUARY 2018

The Lord Mayor then put the recommendation in paragraph 1 of the General Purposes Committee to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation **ADOPTED**.

Resolved:

That the Extraordinary Council meeting on 7 March 2017 be not held but that instead an Ordinary Council meeting be held at 7pm on Wednesday 7 March 2018 with provision on the agenda for all the business usually considered at an Ordinary Council meeting together with provision for a report from the Cabinet containing a recommendation to adopt a formal Council Tax resolution for 2018-2019.

The meeting ended at 10.01pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____