

Public Document Pack

COUNCIL MEETING: 24 JUNE 2020 - ADDITIONAL PAPERS

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1. **Priority Order of Business**
2. **Item 6: Briefing Note: Future Policy Plan - COVID-19 Response and City Renewal**
3. **Order Paper**

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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JUNE 2020

AGENDA ITEMS 6 & 10 PREFERRED ORDER OF ITEMS FOR DEBATE (STANDING ORDER 11)

MAJORITY PARTY

No	Agenda Item 6	Issue	Cabinet Member Portfolio
1.	Future Policy Plan Item 23	The Council's Response to Covid-19 and City Renewal	Leader of the Council

MINORITY PARTY

	Agenda Item 10	Subject	Cabinet Member Portfolio
2.	Notice of Motion	Health Inequalities	Adult Social Care and Public Health

Stuart Love
Chief Executive
24 June 2020

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Council Meeting: 24 June 2020

Subject: COVID-19 response and City Renewal – Background Paper

Background

- 1.1 COVID-19 has resulted in numerous challenges for Westminster and for London.
- 1.2 Westminster City Council has adapted its services and ways of working at pace to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Within a short space of time we have seen the majority of our workforce demonstrate resilience and high levels of commitment, either in performing critical frontline services or working from home to support both our frontline services and our communities.

COVID-19 Response

- 1.3 To help meet the social, economic and health challenges, the following actions were taken by the council as part of the council's COVID-19 response:
 - 1.3.1 Establishment of Westminster Connects: This officer and volunteer-led initiative was established to provide support to the official NHS shielding residents and other residents who, as a result of COVID-19, were in need of help. This has included services such as urgent food and medication delivery, ongoing food support and social support for those at risk of isolation.
 - 1.3.2 Rough Sleeping: We have a record number of rough sleepers in Westminster, either in council provided accommodation or still on our streets. Most of these rough sleepers have no connection to Westminster. We have housed significant numbers of rough sleepers in commercial accommodation (hotels and serviced apartments) as well as in hostels and other council supported accommodation.
 - 1.3.3 Care Homes: To reduce the possibility of infection spreading in the homes, Westminster Council asked all care homes to cocoon its residents nearly two weeks before an instruction to shield from government. Our care homes are contacted daily to offer our support and ensure clear understanding of changes as they occur, to help target interventions and to observe trends.
 - 1.3.4 Supporting Businesses: Westminster Council was the first local authority nationally to complete all Small Business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants administered on behalf of the Government. We are also the first of all London boroughs to launch the top up discretionary grant scheme recently announced by Government.
 - 1.3.5 Virtual Committees & Governance: Having successfully made the case to Government to give councils the ability to run committee meetings virtually, Westminster has operated its governance function remotely throughout the crisis.

Using Microsoft Teams Live Events, the council has hosted more than 25 virtual committees, including reintroducing public speaking at licensing and planning meetings and the appointment of the new Lord Mayor at the Annual Council meeting. This has been a technological challenge but Westminster has now run more virtual committee meetings than any other council in London.

- 1.3.6 Finance: Please see the Period 2 report which was circulated to all Councillors on 19 June for details.
- 1.3.7 Test, Track & Trace: On 28 May the government launched the Test, Track and Trace (TTT) programme, a central component of the recovery strategy, and began contact tracing all confirmed cases. Westminster Council's role is to help provide support for those identified through the TTT programme.
- 1.3.8 Staff: Throughout the crisis, our staffing levels have remained strong and as at 15 June, the council has lower staff absences than this time a year ago.

City Renewal

- 1.4 As the COVID-19 crisis recedes there will be an incremental lifting of lockdown restrictions by Government to try to limit the impact of a resurgence in COVID-19.
- 1.5 Westminster Council must now grasp the opportunities and meet the challenges that the response to the pandemic has provided. We must do this with the understanding that there will be no return to what was business as usual.
- 1.6 It is critical that we continue to provide leadership to the City, its communities, residents, businesses, workers and visitors through recovery and renewal. As we turn our attention to the phase of recovery, innovation and transformation, there are opportunities to capitalise on the positive changes made in response to the crisis, such as:
 - 1.6.1 The council: Revolutionise how we work, including agile working, meetings, digitisation and increased collaboration. This presents opportunities to reduce council costs, as well as our property and carbon footprint at whilst at the same time improving services.
 - 1.6.2 Revisit our City for All strategy and stretch our ambition in the new context.
 - 1.6.3 Climate Change: Relentlessly pursue the council's climate change targets by ensuring that the environmental improvements seen during lockdown are not lost.
 - 1.6.4 Businesses: Rethink how we invest in the City, particularly how we support businesses and jobs, with the aim of restoring GDP to post-crisis level. An example of this is with the movement strategy where at a very fast pace, the council has undertaken significant public realm adjustments to facilitate businesses reopening in Westminster in a safe and socially-distanced way.
 - 1.6.5 Partners and communities: Consider how we financially and socially invest in our communities. We will build on the legacy of Westminster Connects and look at how we can sustain volunteering activity throughout the City. We will continue to show leadership across the City by capitalising on our strengthened relationships with strategic partners to deliver a City for All.

CITY OF WESTMINSTER
COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JUNE 2020

ORDER PAPER

Agenda Item 6: Future Policy Plan

Note: The Lord Mayor has adjusted the usual agenda order so that this item is taken immediately following the Statement on Urgent Matters (Agenda Item 5)

Majority Party Business:

Future Policy Plan – The Council's Response to Covid-19 and City Renewal

Councillor Melvyn Caplan (to open)	Councillor Tim Roca
Councillor Tim Mitchell	Councillor Pancho Lewis
Councillor Matthew Green	Councillor Geoff Barraclough
Councillor Heather Acton	Councillor Rachael Robathan (to reply)

Agenda Item 8: Questions

Note: Prior to the commencement of Question Time the following procedural motion will be moved by Councillor Paul Swaddle and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble.

Procedural Motion

That Standing Order 9.9 be suspended to the extent that rather than members indicating to the Lord Mayor at the start of the item that they wish to ask a question, the Lord Mayor will call members from a list compiled prior to the meeting. This list will be formed from requests received from members prior to the meeting expressing a desire to ask a question. 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.

List of Councillors to be invited to submit a question:

Councillor Adam Hug, Leader of the Opposition (x3)

1. Councillor Selina Short
2. Councillor Tony Devenish
3. Councillor Geoff Barraclough
4. Councillor Karen Scarborough
5. Councillor Elizabeth Hitchcock
6. Councillor Hamza Taouzzale
7. Councillor Jacqui Wilkinson
8. Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg
9. Councillor Louise Hyams
10. Councillor Andrea Mann
11. Councillor Robert Rigby
12. Councillor Pancho Lewis
13. Councillor Barbara Arzymanow
14. Councillor Aicha Less
15. Councillor Papya Qureshi

Agenda Item 9: Councillor Issues

- (a) ZSL/London Zoo – Why it needs saving”.

Councillor Robert Rigby

Councillor Paul Swaddle (to reply)

Minority Party Business

Agenda Item 10: Notice of Motion

1. Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis (to move) Councillor Pappya Qureshi (to second)

Councillor Tim Mitchell (to move amendment)

Councillor Tim Barnes (to move amendment)

Councillor Butler-Thalassis (to reply)

Amendment to be moved by Councillor Tim Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Tim Barnes

That the Notice of Motion be amended as follows:

“This Council notes that according to the Office of National Statistics and Public Health England, COVID 19 has killed disproportionately many more BAME people than white people.

This Council notes that some of the higher death rates in BAME communities relate to pre-existing health problems particularly diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and obesity.

This Council notes that, while many people during this crisis have had the opportunity to work from home it was our poorest households that continued sending people out to work. The highest COVID 19 death rates have been among security guards, care workers, bus drivers, taxi drivers and retail workers.

This Council notes Westminster’s history as a place of arrival for many BAME communities, who make up at least 40% of our City’s population today.

The Council also notes the positive initiatives by WCC such as the Community Cohesion Commission, efforts to improve opportunities for BAME staff and City Hall commemorating George Floyd and Grenfell, but also appreciates the scale of the work still to do to achieve equality in our city.

Add words in italics:

The Council also notes the role WCC has played in working with partners on equality issues including the recent WCC BAME Staff Network webinar event, hosting representatives from 22 London local authorities, MOPAC, the LGA, NHS, and MIND, to discuss the disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BAME communities and work towards practical solutions to help these communities recover.

The Council believes health inequalities have their roots in the social determinants of health – in this case overcrowded or insecure housing, poverty, and employment in occupations with high exposure to COVID 19.

This Council resolves to take active measures to reduce the structural disadvantage and racism faced by BAME communities in Westminster.

Add words in italics:

“The Council resolves to publish a presentation produced by its Public Health department, which looks at disparities in the risks and outcomes of COVID 19. This presentation including the analysis will be scrutinised by the Health and Wellbeing Board at the 9 July 2020 meeting. The presentation will promote a shared understanding of health inequalities, including those that impact across Westminster and RBKC, the NHS, and other key partners.

The Council resolves that the Director of Public Health should conduct an in-depth study of health inequalities in Westminster as part of the Annual Public Health Report for 2020-21. This report will review the findings of the “Marmot Review: Ten Years On” publication from March 2020 - a core focus of which is how social and economic factors lead to poor health and premature death for the most deprived. The report will identify ~~The Council resolves to carry out a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on~~ the needs of BAME communities in Westminster, looking at access to decent housing (particularly addressing overcrowding and homelessness), employment prospects, health inequalities, education, and the wider determinants of health.

The Council resolves to allocate the resources needed to implement the findings of the **JSNA Annual Public Health Report 2020-21** while taking urgent action now to address known problems including local public health led efforts to improve Covid-19 testing and access to healthcare in BAME and other excluded communities.

The Council resolves to review the findings and recommendations from the recent Public Health England report on COVID 19 and ethnicity and incorporate these into the Council’s recovery strategy.”

Note by Head of Committee and Governance Services

In the event that the amendment is adopted the substantive motion will read:

“This Council notes that according to the Office of National Statistics and Public Health England, COVID 19 has killed disproportionately many more BAME people than white people.

This Council notes that some of the higher death rates in BAME communities relate to pre-existing health problems particularly diabetes, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and obesity.

This Council notes that, while many people during this crisis have had the opportunity to work from home it was our poorest households that continued sending people out to work. The highest COVID 19 death rates have been among security guards, care workers, bus drivers, taxi drivers and retail workers.

This Council notes Westminster’s history as a place of arrival for many BAME communities, who make up at least 40% of our City’s population today.

The Council also notes the positive initiatives by WCC such as the Community Cohesion Commission, efforts to improve opportunities for BAME staff and City Hall commemorating George Floyd and Grenfell, but also appreciates the scale of the work still to do to achieve equality in our city.

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The Council resolves to allocate the resources needed to implement the findings of the *Annual Public Health Report 2020-21* while taking urgent action now to address known problems including local public health led efforts to improve Covid-19 testing and access to healthcare in BAME and other excluded communities.

The Council resolves to review the findings and recommendations from the recent Public Health England report on COVID 19 and ethnicity and incorporate these into the Council’s recovery strategy.”

Stuart Love
Chief Executive
24 June 2020

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