



City of Westminster

Committee Agenda

Title: **Communities, City Management and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting Date: **Thursday 23rd June, 2022**

Time: **6.30 pm**

Venue: **Rooms 18.01 & 18.03, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP**

Members: **Councillors:**

Melvyn Caplan
Laila Dupuy
Iman Less
Mark Shearer

James Small-Edwards
Judith Southern
Jason Williams

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion Part 1 of the Agenda

Admission to the public gallery is by ticket, issued from the ground floor reception. If you have a disability and require any special assistance please contact the Committee Officer (details listed below) in advance of the meeting.



An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Artemis Kassi, Lead Policy & Scrutiny Advisor.

**Email: akassi@westminster.gov.uk
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contacts are shown at the end of each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting. With regard to item 2, guidance on declarations of interests is included in the Code of Governance; if Members and Officers have any particular questions they should contact the Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison in advance of the meeting please.

AGENDA

PART 1 (IN PUBLIC)

Additional papers for Cabinet Member portfolio updates

Stuart Love
Chief Executive
22 June 2022



Communities, City Management and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Thursday 23 June 2022
Portfolio: Communities and Public Protection

The Report Of: Raj Mistry, Executive Director of Environment and City Management
Serena Simon, Director of Communities
On behalf of Councillor Aicha Less, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Protection

Report Author and Contact Details: Patrick Ryan, Portfolio Advisor
pryan@westminster.gov.uk

1. Communities

1.1 Priorities for the coming months

Community investment strategy – engagement with the VCS and Council officers have revealed the need for a centralised approach around defining needs, identifying outcomes, streamlining grant processes, and measuring the impact of the grants. This is the first stage in the development of a community investment strategy.

Engagement Deep Dive – we gathered feedback from residents, amenity societies, and community organisations in January and February on their experience of the Council. Sessions were held online and in person, and the feedback was summarised into six categories and will be used to transform how we involve the community in decision making.

Charter of community participation – the Council would like to introduce a Charter of Community Participation, which sets out key performance standards that Westminster residents can expect from the Council when engaging and consulting with our communities.

Approach to equalities – the service will update our Equality Objectives, setting out our measurable priorities. Engagement will be undertaken with teams to develop priorities over the next two months. We will also be reviewing and transforming our approach to equality impact assessments, making them mandatory for all decision making.

#2035 – this programme is in collaboration with partners in Westminster to reduce the life expectancy gap and improve the health, wealth, and well-being of local communities through a cross-sector place-based strategy.

2. Public Protection and Licensing

2.1 Priorities in the coming months

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) – community and officer consultation on the new ASB strategy is concluded and the objectives identified. Work is underway to inform the 5 strategic pillars of the strategy (Prevention, Early Intervention, Supporting Victims, Perpetrators Brought to Justice, Engaging the Community). Cllr Less will also be undertaking monthly walkabouts throughout the borough to examine hotspots.

Licensing – applications are being accepted for street trading at this year's Notting Hill Carnival. In addition to processing the applications, the team are providing training to the operators on what is expected of them.

2.2 Recent and ongoing activity

Environmental health – the service successfully undertook food hygiene and licensing inspections over the Jubilee weekend. At the British Summer Time concerts in Hyde Park, the service will inspect food hygiene, health and safety (H&S) and noise.

Night Stars – the service now operates in four locations on Friday nights. Volunteer numbers are increasing weekly and there are now more than 70 applications being processed.

Oxford Street enforcement – the service has coordinated enforcement activity to disrupt poorly managed premises, remove dangerous and fake goods and address anti-social behaviour reducing the quality of customer experience on the area and visitors, e.g., all candy and souvenir stores have been visited three times a day over the past three months.

H&S – the service recently prosecuted a company for causing the electrocution of an employee.

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City of Westminster

Communities, City Management and Air Quality,
Policy and Scrutiny Committee

DATE	23 rd June 2022
REPORT OF	Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg
PORTFOLIO	Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality
REPORT AUTHOR AND CONTACT DETAILS	Daniella Bonfanti (dbonfanti@westminster.gov.uk)

The following serves as a brief outline of my key priorities and the work that I have undertaken in the eight weeks that I have held the position of Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality.

Air Quality (AQ)

The improvement of Air Quality across Westminster is a key priority for the new administration. Work is already underway to revise and redraft the current Air Quality Action Plan, more information can be shared on this at the next meeting of this Committee.

Awareness raising - pollution forecast alerts: Together with officers I am currently reviewing options to deliver a programme of social media messaging and email triggers to schools and GP surgeries when pollution is forecast to be high. This would also include adding pollution forecasts to the council's website in July.

Two further projects are currently being scoped out with Public Health funding tentatively secured:

- Staff training: air quality training for health / social care professionals with high levels of face-to-face interactions with residents, to help signpost to information on Air Quality.
- Indoor air quality: awareness raising project on indoor air quality, with potential for indoor Air Quality monitors to be loaned out to schools, community groups, and businesses alongside guidance on reducing indoor pollution.

Defra AQ Grant projects: Work has commenced on two projects WCC are either lead borough or partner on:

Clean Air Logistics for London: WCC led, delivered by Cross River Partnership. £1m, 10 partners (boroughs and BIDs), focusing on non-traditional low emission sources of freight and delivery (including focus on river freight).

Wood burning awareness raising: Camden and Islington led. £300k, 15 partner boroughs. Project split into two parts – commissioned academic research into wood burning stove emissions, then targeted public awareness communication campaign. Phasing out the burning of wood is a clear manifesto commitment and one we will work closely with the GLA on.

Schools' Clean Air Fund (SCAF): around £700k of SCAF is available; officers are looking at providing options for engaging with schools ahead of relaunching the Fund for the start of the next academic year.

Air Quality Events and Community Engagement

National Clean Air Day – 16th June: A new public portal built by Earthsense was launched on Clean Air Day so that the parents and pupils of four schools (St Joseph's Primary, St Saviour's Primary, Wilberforce Primary, Edward Wilson Primary), can access air pollution data in real time. It is hoped that providing access to this type of information will encourage behaviour change towards more sustainable travel habits.

Climate Action Week 25th June – 3rd July: As part of the Council's activities around Climate Action week there will be a mobile real-time air pollution monitoring van aka a "smogmobile" outside of Charing Cross Station from 8.30am -11.00am and in St. John's Wood High Street from 1pm – 4pm.

Community engagement: We are out in the community raising awareness of Air Quality at a number of events this summer. Officers attended the launch of Clean Air Bayswater on the 15th June and will be attending SouthWest Fest on the 24th June and Westbourne Summer Festival on the 25th June.

City Management

Waste, Recycling & Street Cleansing

My priority is to protect bin collections, improve recycling, and crack down on flytipping. To date we have:

- Began work on the Waste and Street Cleansing contract relet, we can share more information on this re-let with the Committee at a future meeting.
- Started to develop a new community-focused Waste Action Team to engage, educate and then enforce, with City Inspectors being seconded into a dedicated team. The focus of this team will be to change behaviours, tackle dumping and the other similar problems that irritate residents.

Cleansing activity – Queens Jubilee

A 24 hour round the clock cleansing operation with 80 additional staff supporting throughout 20 tonnes of sand laid in preparation for the pageant and cleared within 2 hours once ended.

- Litter bins emptied countless number of times
- Additional 1100's placed throughout the area to assist with footfall from royal parks.
- Extra Road Cleansing Vehicle parked in Charles II Street to assist.
- Staff placed at all access/egress points to help with public entering/exiting the park.

Public Conveniences (PC)

- Temporary toilets contract is currently out for re-let, with a 3 + 2 contract rather than a 1-year contract in previous times. We have also changed the contract to be urinals and chemical toilets as opposed to just urinals due to equality.
- Refurb on Broadwick Street APC is soon to be underway, once completed we will start work on refurbs on another 4. These refurbs will make them new APCs in existing cladding.
- Currently working on refurbishment project, with designs almost complete for our 7 central London PCs.
- The existing APC and PC contracts are expected to go out again for tender this summer. However, we will be looking at possibility of what could be in-house services before doing this.

Highways

Cycle Hangars

The increased roll-out of cycle-hangars throughout the city is an absolute priority and look to introduce creative solutions for streets where hangars are not appropriate.

There are currently only 862 secure cycle parking space in Westminster despite an excellent uptake of the service across the City with over 95% of secure storage spaces occupied. Due to such high demand, there are no significant waiting lists for spaces, with the total number of residents waiting for spaces now approaching 1300.

In order to increase the roll-out of cycle-hangars we are looking at new locations to install hangars and will consult on any proposals.

TfL Relations

I want to get TfL relations back on track and have regular engagement with senior management at TfL.

So far we have:

- Confirmed a series of quarterly meetings with myself and senior management colleagues at TfL have been agreed. Raj Mistry and other officers will also be in attendance,
- That the Leader of the Council is to meet Seb Dance, Deputy Mayor of London, and TfL regarding our concerns about the current TfL public consultation on the cutting of Central London Bus routes.
- Engaged with TfL on current consultations, including; proposed expansion of the London ULEZ, the future of new road user charging systems, the future of the Park Lane cycle lane and the future of the Cycleway 8 (Pimlico Road Cycleway).
- Expressed deep concern about the lack of a Government/DfT and Mayor/GLA agreement over a long-term funding settlement for the support of London's public transport network and the funding of Borough on-street schemes and projects.

Flooding Update

- Stage 3 of the Independent Review report was published on 31st May. <https://londonfloodreview.co.uk/stage-3-report/>
- The stage 4 report is scheduled to be published at the end of June 22.

- Thames Water are currently trialing a sewer resilience programme to reduce the incidence of sewer recharge flooding by installing Non-Return Valves and FLIPS in high risk locations with the consent of property owners.
- We expect to finalise the section 19 report in the Autumn once the independent review of the July 21 flooding has been concluded.