

# **CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on  
Wednesday 4th March, 2015 at Porchester Hall.

### PRESENT: COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton  
Ian Adams  
Nickie Aiken  
Barbara Arzymanow  
Daniel Astaire  
Richard Beddoe  
Rita Begum  
David Boothroyd  
Iain Bott  
Susie Burbridge  
Ruth Bush  
Melvyn Caplan  
Danny Chalkley  
Paul Church  
Brian Connell  
Antonia Cox  
Thomas Crockett  
Peter Cuthbertson  
Robert Davis  
Tony Devenish  
Paul Dimoldenberg  
Nick Evans  
Christabel Flight  
Jean Paul Fluor  
Peter Freeman  
Murad Gassanly

Jonthan Glanz  
Barbara Grahame  
Angela Harvey  
David Harvey  
Richard Holloway  
Adam Hug  
Louise Hyams  
Patricia McAllister  
Guthrie McKie  
Tim Mitchell  
Gotz Mohindra  
Nilavra Mukerji  
Papya Qureshi  
Suhail Rahuja  
Vincenzo Rampulla  
Robert Rigby  
Philippa Roe  
Ian Rowley  
Andrew Smith  
Steve Summers  
Shamim Talukder  
Barrie Taylor  
Aziz Toki  
Judith Warner  
Jason Williams

## **1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND RELIEF CHAIRMAN**

Moved by Councillor Melvyn Caplan and seconded by Councillor Robert Rigby that Councillor Judith Warner be elected Chairman and Councillor Angela Harvey, Relief Chairman.

Motion put and on a show of hands declared **CARRIED**.

## **2 MINUTES**

The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2015 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Chairman as a true record of the proceedings.

## **3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (IF ANY)**

The Chairman advised that there was no requirement on Members to declare an interest on account of being a Council taxpayer and in the Members' Allowances item as these were noted on behalf of all Members. There were no other declarations.

## **4 CABINET REPORT**

The report of the Cabinet on 23 February 2015 was submitted. Paragraphs 1 and 2 were considered together.

Councillor Philippa Roe delivered the Leader's speech and Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg made the first opposition speech.

Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg moved the following amendments which were seconded by Councillor David Boothroyd.

Amendment 1: Paragraph 1

To amend the Cabinet Recommendation by restoring the following cuts in services to Children Centres, Play Services and Youth Services:

Children's Centres - £474k  
Play Service - £152k  
Youth Service - £125k

to be funded by a reduction of £400,000 in the Communications budget for publications and a further £351,000 reduction on staffing in the Policy, Performance and Communications Department focusing in the areas of press and campaigns in particular.

Amendment 2:

Paragraph 1: To be moved by Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg and seconded by Councillor David Boothroyd:

To amend the Cabinet Recommendations so that the Cabinet Member undertake a review of parking charges. A review is suggested as paid for parking charges have not been changed in the Inner Zone since 2009 and the Outer Zone since 2011 and it is important that charges reflect current environmental and traffic management requirements of the Council.

Such a review would have to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. Although there is no certainty over the likely outcome of a review on parking, as an example, if a review of charges were to lead to changes equivalent to 2% of current income, this would generate an additional £1.1m.

Any additional income from parking service could be used on restoring cuts of £450,000 in road and pavement maintenance and parks; funding additional expenditure of £400,000 on road and pavement maintenance; £50,000 on consulting on introducing 20mph zones and £200,000 on implementing 20mph zones.

All above income and expenditure falls within scope of the parking places reserve account/Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 55.

Following debate

The Chairman put amendment one moved by Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg and seconded by Councillor David Boothroyd and on a recorded vote, there voted:

**For amendment one:** Councillors Begum, Boothroyd, Bush, Dimoldenberg, Gassanly, Grahame, Hug, McAllister, McKie, Mukerji, Qureshi, Rampulla, Talukder, Taylor, Toki and Williams.

**Against amendment one:** Councillors Acton, Adams, Aiken, Argar, Arzymanow, Astaire, Beddoe, Bott, Burbridge, Caplan, Chalkley, Church, Connell, Cox, Crockett, Cuthbertson, Davis, Devenish, Evans, Flight, Floru, Freeman, Glanz, David Harvey, Holloway, Hyams, Mitchell, Mohindra, Rahuja, Rigby, Roe, Rowley, Smith and Summers.

**Absence or not voting:** The Lord Mayor, Councillors Hall, Angela Harvey, Mohammed, Prendergast, Roberts, Robathan, Scarborough, Thompson and Warner.

The Chairman declared amendment one to be **LOST**.

The Chairman put amendment two and on a recorded vote, there voted:

**For amendment two:** Councillors Begum, Boothroyd, Bush, Dimoldenberg, Gassanly, Grahame, Hug, McAllister, McKie, Mukerji, Qureshi, Rampulla, Talukder, Taylor, Toki and Williams.

**Against amendment two:** Councillors Acton, Adams, Aiken, Argar, Arzymanow, Astaire, Beddoe, Bott, Burbridge, Caplan, Chalkley, Church, Connell, Cox, Crockett, Cuthbertson, Davis, Devenish, Evans, Flight, Floru, Freeman, Glanz, David Harvey, Holloway, Hyams, Mitchell, Mohindra, Rahuja, Rigby, Roe, Rowley, Smith and Summers.

**Absence or not voting:** The Lord Mayor, Councillors Hall, Angela Harvey, Mohammed, Prendergast, Roberts, Robathan, Scarborough, Thompson and Warner.

The Chairman declared amendment two to be **LOST**.

The Chairman advised that the voting was on the unamended recommendations of the Cabinet in paragraph 1. The Chairman put the recommendations to the vote and on a roll call vote undertaken by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services there voted:

**For the recommendations:** Councillors Acton, Adams, Aiken, Argar, Arzymanow, Astaire, Beddoe, Bott, Burbridge, Caplan, Chalkley, Church, Connell, Cox, Crockett, Cuthbertson, Davis, Devenish, Evans, Flight, Floru, Freeman, Glanz, David Harvey, Holloway, Hyams, Mitchell, Mohindra, Rahuja, Rigby, Roe, Rowley, Smith and Summers.

**Against the recommendations:** Councillors Begum, Boothroyd, Bush, Dimoldenberg, Gassanly, Grahame, Hug, McAllister, McKie, Mukerji, Qureshi, Rampulla, Talukder, Taylor, Toki and Williams.

**Absence or not voting:** The Lord Mayor, Councillors Hall, Angela Harvey, Mohammed, Prendergast, Roberts, Robathan, Scarborough, Thomson and Warner.

The Chairman declared the recommendations to be agreed. **Resolved:**

- (a) That the 2015/16 budget, as set out in the report, attached as Appendix A, that the Council Tax levels as set out in the Council Tax resolution, as attached as Annex (1) be approved.
- (b) That the capital expenditure programme as set out in Schedule 11 of Appendix A be approved for the period to 2016/17 with years 2017/18 to 2019/20 only proceeding where projects costs can be afforded including the cost of financing.
- (c) That the capital financing costs be paid for from service budgets from 2017/18.
- (d) That the estimated level and use of Earmarked Reserves in Schedule 6 of Appendix A as at the budget monitoring position for month 10 2014/15 be approved.
- (e) That the local element for Band D properties be confirmed at the same level as 2014/15 (ie £377.74) in 2015/16 and that Westminster accordingly take advantage of the 1% (£0.5m) Council Tax Freeze grant for 2015/16.
- (f) That the Council Tax for the City of Westminster, excluding the Montpelier Square area and Queen's Park Community Council, for the year ending 31 March 2016, be as specified in the Council Tax Resolution in Annex 1 and as summarised in Schedule 6 of Annex B. That the Precepts and Special Expenses be as also specified in Annex B for properties in the Montpelier

Square and Queen's Park Community Council areas as summarised in paragraph 6 of Annex B.

- (g) That the views of the Budget and Performance Task Group set out in Annex A of the report (Appendix A) be noted.
- (h) That the cash limited budgets for each service with overall net expenditure for 2015/16 of £194,808k be approved.
- (i) That the members of the Executive Management Team be responsible for managing their respective budgets including ensuring the implementation of savings.
- (j) That the City Treasurer be required to submit regular reports as necessary to the Cabinet on the implementation of the savings proposals and on the realisation of pressures and mitigations as part of the regular budget monitoring reports.
- (k) That the City Treasurer be delegated responsibility for any technical adjustments required to be made to the budget.
- (l) That the cost of inflation be issued to service budget if and when it materialises to the limits as contained within Schedule 5 of Appendix A, Corporate Pressures.
- (m) That the use of £1.1m one off reserves to part fund the gap in DHP funding be approved.
- (n) That the views of consultees and consultation approach, as set out in Section 19 of Appendix A be noted by the Council.
- (o) That the Equality Impact Statement as part of his report, Annex D to Appendix A be received and noted.
- (p) That the Council receive the Leader of the Council's speech on Council priorities and financial aims.

### **Paragraph 2: Treasury Management**

The Chairman then put the recommendations set out in paragraph 2 of the Cabinet report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations to be **CARRIED**.

**Resolved:** That the recommendation in paragraph 2 be **AGREED**.

### **Paragraph 3: Council Pay Policy 2016/17**

The Chairman then put the recommendation in paragraph 3 to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations to be agreed:

**Resolved:** That the recommendations set out in paragraph 3 of the Cabinet report be agreed.

**General Purposes Committee: Members Allowances Scheme 2016/17**

The Chairman put the recommendation in paragraph 1 of the General Purposes Committee to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation to be **AGREED**.

**Resolved:** That the recommendation in paragraph 1 of the report of the General Purposes Committee be **AGREED**.

The Meeting ended at 9.44 pm

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

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_