



City of Westminster

Council Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 29th April, 2015**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London, W2 5DU**

Members: **All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting for the transaction of the business set out.**

Admission to the public gallery is from 6.30pm.



Please telephone if you are attending the meeting in a wheelchair or have difficulty walking up steps. There is wheelchair access by a side entrance.



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, Mick Steward, Head of Committee and Governance Services.

**Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk Tel: 020 7641 3134
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

1. APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

To appoint a relief Chairman.

2. MINUTES

To sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council meeting held on 4 March 2015.

3. LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Lord Mayor to report that on Sunday 1 February she attended the Solemn Commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz at Westminster Abbey.
- (b) The Lord Mayor to report that on Thursday 19 February she represented the City of Westminster at a visit by HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall to Chinatown.
- (c) The Lord Mayor to report that on Friday 20 February she presented certificates to young people participating in Westminster Take-Over week.
- (d) The Lord Mayor to report that on Tuesday 24 February she attended the Metropolitan Police Borough Commander's commendation ceremony and presented certificates to the police officers being recognised for their bravery and diligence.
- (e) The Lord Mayor to report that on Wednesday 25 February she hosted a dinner for the Ambassador of Mexico to mark the forthcoming State Visit of the President of Mexico.
- (f) The Lord Mayor to report that on Friday 27 February she hosted a fund raising evening for the Sir Simon Milton Foundation at the Hippodrome, raising £76,000 for the Foundation.
- (g) The Lord Mayor to report that on Tuesday 3 March she attended the State Banquet in honour of the President of Mexico and Senora Rivera at Buckingham Palace in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
- (h) The Lord Mayor to report that on Thursday 5 March she hosted a reception to mark the conferral of the title of Honorary Alderman upon Alan Bradley, Michael Brahams and Dr. Cyril Nemeth MBE.

- (i) The Lord Mayor to report that on Sunday 8 March she attended, in Civic State, the Evensong Service to mark the 50th anniversary of the re-organisation of Local Government in London, and afterwards she hosted a reception for guests from all the London Boroughs, the GLA and the City of London in Westminster School.
- (j) The Lord Mayor to report that on Monday 9 March she presided at the ceremony to raise the Commonwealth Flag on the roof of Westminster City Hall to mark Commonwealth Day.
- (k) The Lord Mayor to report that on Monday 9 March she received a delegation from the Chinese Community Centre and accepted on behalf of Westminster City Council a gift of 12 Chinese zodiac bronze statues signifying the friendship between the Chinese community in London and WCC.
- (l) The Lord Mayor to report that on Monday 9 March she attended the annual Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey in the presence of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.
- (m) The Lord Mayor to report that on Wednesday 11 March she hosted a reception to thank the Chair of School Governing Bodies and Local Authority School Governors in Westminster.
- (n) The Lord Mayor to report that on Saturday 14 March she represented the City of Westminster at a ceremony to mark the unveiling of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Parliament Square.
- (o) The Lord Mayor to report that on Sunday 15 March she attended the Jack Petchey Foundation Festival of Youth at the Theatre Royal, marking the 15th anniversary of the Foundation.
- (p) The Lord Mayor to report that Tuesday 17 March she attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Work of The Lord Attenborough CBE at Westminster Abbey.
- (q) The Lord Mayor to report that on Monday 23 March she hosted the ceremony, in the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms, for the announcement of the 2015 Youth MP and the Deputy Youth MP

- (r) The Lord Mayor to report that on Wednesday 25 March she hosted a visit by the Marylebone Association to the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms.
- (s) The Lord Mayor to report that on Wednesday 25 March she hosted in the Lord Mayor's Reception Rooms the ceremony to unveil the bust of Sir Simon Milton.
- (t) The Lord Mayor to report that on Friday 27 March she attended the Annual Award evening of 291 (Westminster & Chelsea) Squadron RAF Air Cadets at 76D Rochester Row.
- (u) The Lord Mayor to report that on Saturday 28 March, with the Mayors of Camden and Islington, she attended the Camden and Regent's Park Youth League Annual Presentation Day in Regent's Park to mark the league's 15th Anniversary.
- (v) The Lord Mayor to report that on Sunday 12 April she attended the Society of London Theatre's Olivier Awards at the Royal Opera House.
- (w) The Lord Mayor to report that on Tuesday 14 April she hosted a 'thank you' lunch for the marathon runners who will be running the London Marathon on 26 April to raise funds for the Sir Simon Milton Foundation.
- (x) The Lord Mayor to report that on Thursday 16 April she attended, as guest of honour, the annual Licensing Committee dinner of the City of London Corporation.
- (y) The Lord Mayor to report that on Sunday 19 April she will attend a celebration of Bangladesh Independence Day (marking the 44th year since Independence) in the Churchill Gardens Estate.
- (z) The Lord Mayor to report that on Tuesday 21 April will host a dinner to thank representatives of organisations such as the Emergency Services for their work in maintaining public safety and order within Westminster.

4. VOTE OF THANKS

To the retiring Lord Mayor and Consorts Councillor Audrey Lewis and Ms Victoria Lewis, Miss Frances Gladwin and Miss Nancy Gladwin.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

To receive any declarations of interests from Members and Officers of the Council.

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

7. QUESTIONS

(Standing Order 9 limits the questions to matters relevant to the general work or procedure of the Council).

8. COUNCILLOR ISSUES

- (a) Councillor David Harvey – Improving the NHS through Scrutiny.
- (b) Councillor Christabel Flight – Silver Sunday/Sir Simon Milton Foundation.

9. STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

With the approval of the Chairman of the meeting, the Leader of the Council may make a statement on an urgent matter and the Leader of the Opposition will have an equivalent right of reply.

10. FUTURE POLICY PLAN

To consider items chosen for debate from the attached Future Policy Plan.

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

- (a) Mansion Tax

To be moved by Councillor Melvyn Caplan and seconded by Councillor Lindsey Hall.

'Westminster City Council and our residents appreciate local property prices have increased substantially over the years. Many residents have lived in their home for decades, many on relatively low fixed incomes and pensions. The majority of these homes would be considered modest in much of the UK.

The notion of a 'Mansion' Tax is misleading, divisive and economically illiterate. Such a tax on ordinary family homes - by default of their location - would hurt Westminster residents who have bought their home with

already taxed monies who may no longer have the income to afford such a 'tax bombshell'.

A 'Mansion' Tax on a property takes no account of a person's income and their ability to pay year on year. Property tax is already levied at the point of purchase through Stamp Duty, through Capital Gains on secondary properties and on death through Inheritance Tax.

Such a tax in a fluctuating market could lead to many of our elderly residents and those on fixed incomes being forced out of their homes or families being saddled with major debts. A likely 'capital flight' will impact on our local economy, break up communities and will not raise substantial monies to fund public services.

Councils and many MP's of all political colours across London have major concerns with this ill thought out policy. Westminster City Council resolves to lobby against any 'Mansion Tax' on homes deemed to be worth more than £2m which would impose unrealistic, unworkable and unaffordable property tax burdens on our residents".

(b) Planning Committees

To be moved by Councillor David Boothroyd and seconded by Councillor Ruth Bush:

"This Council agrees to allow the public to speak at the weekly Westminster Planning Committee meetings – in the same way as the public are allowed to speak at practically every other Planning Committee in London and the rest of the UK. This would be a small but significant step forward in the process of restoring public confidence in local democracy in Westminster.

Adopting this simple and straightforward change in the way in which Planning Committee meetings operate will enable those residents most directly affected by planning proposals (and those promoting them) to state their case directly to the Committee members when applications are being determined.

The Council appreciates that, given the high volume of planning applications received by the Council, introducing speaking rights for the public needs careful thought. However, we believe that this can be managed without difficulty as it is in other inner London boroughs and the Council hereby instructs officers to report on how the detail of this can be implemented."

**Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1
17 April 2015**

Head of Legal & Democratic Services