



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# MINUTES

## General Purposes

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **General Purposes** Committee held on **Wednesday 24th February, 2016**, Rooms 3 & 4 - 17th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6 QP.

**Members Present:** Councillors Tim Mitchell (Chairman), Robert Davis, MBE, DL (Vice-Chairman), David Boothroyd and Melvyn Caplan

#### 1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 There were no changes to the membership.

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### 3 MINUTES

- 3.1 The Chairman, with the consent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2015 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

#### 4 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2016/17 (SEE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES)

- 4.1 The Committee noted the reason for the change as requested by the Chief Whip of the Minority Party which was to allow a Member who is used as a regular substitute on Planning Application Committees to also receive a Special Responsibility Allowance. This was agreed with a similar provision being included in the Majority Party.
- 4.2 Noted that in paragraph 4 the reference to "4 Members" should read "3 Members".
- 4.3 **Resolved:** That the Council be recommended to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme, amended as set out in paragraph 4.1 above.

**5 CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS (SEE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES)**

5.1 The Committee considered the report and supported the proposed changes. It was noted that should two petitions, of opposing views, be submitted these would still be considered even if submitted within six months of each other and not ruled out in accordance with the provisions in paragraph 3.7 of the report.

**5.2 Resolved:**

1. That the Council be recommended to approve the following changes:
  - (a) That the period of time in which e-petitions hosted by the Council can run is shortened to a maximum of 6 weeks.
  - (b) That petitions submitted, with the exception of those referred to in paragraph 3.7 with 500 signatures or more result in a report to full Cabinet.
2. That the position in respect of petitions containing opposing views set out in paragraph 5.1 above be noted.

**6 AUDIO BROADCASTING OF COUNCIL MEETINGS (SEE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMITTEE AND GOVERNANCE SERVICES)**

6.1 The Chairman advised that this was being proposed to enable the audio recording of the Council meeting to be placed on the website.

**6.2 Resolved:**

That the Council be recommended to approve the following revised Standing Order 46:

1. With the exception of those meetings referred to in Standing Order 46 (3), meetings of the Council, its Committees and their Sub-Committees will generally be recorded for the purposes of assisting with the recording of decisions. The sound recording of full Council meetings shall be placed on the Council's website for as such time as the Director of Policy, Performance and Communications shall consider appropriate. The recording of other meetings to be raised as soon as the minutes of the relevant meeting have been approved.

The Meeting ended at 6.13 pm

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

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