

# CITY OF WESTMINSTER

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 13th July, 2016 at Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London W2 5DU.

### PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Steve Summers

### COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton  
Ian Adams  
Nickie Aiken  
Julia Alexander  
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, MBE, DL  
Tony Devenish  
Paul Dimoldenberg  
Nick Evans  
Christabel Flight  
Jean Paul Floru  
Murad Gassanly

Jonathan Glanz  
Barbara Grahame  
Angela Harvey  
David Harvey  
Richard Holloway  
Adam Hug  
Louise Hyams  
Aicha Less  
Patricia McAllister  
Guthrie McKie  
Tim Mitchell  
Jan Prendergast  
Suhail Rahuja  
Robert Rigby  
Rachael Robathan  
Glenys Roberts  
Philippa Roe  
Tim Roca  
Ian Rowley  
Karen Scarborough  
Andrew Smith  
Shamim Talukder  
Barrie Taylor  
Cameron Thomson  
Aziz Toki  
Judith Warner  
Jacqui Wilkinson  
Jason Williams

## **1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN**

Motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Tim Mitchell that Councillor Jan Prendergast be elected as Relief Chairman.

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

## **2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the proceedings at the Annual Council meeting held on Wednesday 18 May 2016 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

## **3 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance at the Civic Service.
- 3.2 The Lord Mayor advised that he had, on behalf of Councillors, staff and residents of Westminster, written to HM The Queen on the occasion of her official birthday celebrations, held this year in honour of her own 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Queen replied thanking everyone and forwarding her own best wishes.
- 3.3 The Lord Mayor advised that it was intended to offer those Members who wish to the option of receiving all their papers for full Council meetings electronically. He asked Members to watch out for further information.

## **4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 4.1 Councillor David Boothroyd declared, in respect of Item 10, that he is the Head of Research and Psephology for Thorncliffe, whose clients are companies applying for planning permissions from various local authorities. If any clients applied for premises relating to Westminster he would be precluded from working on them under the company's Code of Conduct.

## **5 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)**

- 5.1 There were none.

## **6 QUESTIONS**

- 6.1 The questions, supplementary questions and replies are included in the recording on the Council's website.

## **7 COUNCILLOR ISSUES**

### **(a) Youth Inter-generational Issues in Westminster**

Councillor Rita Begum spoke and Councillor Danny Chalkley replied.

**(b) A West End for All**

Councillor Paul Church spoke and Councillor Philippa Roe replied.

**8 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS**

There were no urgent matters.

**9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN**

- 9.1 The meeting debated the item chosen for debate from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party – Licensing. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when next reporting on the subject.

**10 CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

- 10.1 The meeting debated the second item chosen for debate by the Majority Party the report of the Cabinet Member for Built Environment. The Basement Revisions and Mixed Use Revisions to the City Plan. The Lord Mayor referred to the note which had been included on the Order Paper which stated the urgency involved.

The Inspector's report was only provided to the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> June following which Council officers had to consider the report and the modifications to the policies proposed by the Inspector before making a recommendation to the Cabinet Member.

The Cabinet Member had to approve the proposed policies to be recommended to Council to adopt.

This meant that the report could not be despatched by the despatch deadline date.

The report was then published as soon as practicable to the public and Members, as required, at the same time.

It is important that the policies are adopted as soon as possible to give them full statutory weight as local plan policies and therefore to provide certainty for planning decisions.

The adoption of the basement policy will enable the new Code of Construction Practice regime to be implemented to minimise the disruption that can be caused by basement developments and the adoption of the policy on mixed use is required to stop the loss of offices from our internationally important commercial areas.

Following debate, the Lord Mayor put the recommendations in the report to the vote a

## RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Draft Basement Revision to Westminster's City Plan and the Draft Mixed Use Revision to Westminster's City Plan, together with the changes requested by the Inspector be adopted as "Westminster's City Plan, July 2016" and be used henceforth for development management purposes.
- (ii) That the Director, Policy, Performance and Communications, be authorised to undertake all necessary procedural steps in relation to the adoption of the Basement Revision and Mixed Use Revision to Westminster's City Plan, including the following:
  - (a) to take the steps required by Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012, including issuing an adoption statement and making it available on the Council's website.
  - (b) To send the adoption statement to the Secretary of State as required by Regulation 26 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012 together with the adopted "Westminster's City Plan, July 2016" and send the adoption statement to all relevant persons.

## 11 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 11.1 The Minority Party had selected for debate the Notice of Motion – EU Referendum result impact as set out on the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg.

Councillor Nickie Aiken moved and it was seconded by Councillor Suhail Rahuja that the Notice of Motion be amended, as follows:

That the words struck through in the text below be deleted from the original Notice of Motion:

Following from the result of the EU Referendum this Council seeks to ensure that the impact of this has a minimal impact on our residents. To that end we will:

- ~~Ensure that public services are protected from any further cuts.~~
- Reassure EU citizens who have chosen to work and live in Westminster of the important contribution they make to our City and their place in our future, noting the important planned work of the Community Cohesion Commission. We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our city. We will ensure council bodies and local groups are supported to fight and prevent any upsurge in racism and xenophobia.

- ~~Commit to an ever greater house building programme, particularly for those who cannot meet the financial commitments of existing opportunities.~~
- ~~Work with contractors and service providers to develop employment and career opportunities for younger people who live in the City.~~
- ~~Support calls for greater devolution of powers to London and local authorities.~~

After debate, to which Councillor Adam Hug replied, the Lord Mayor put the amendment moved by Councillor Nickie Aiken and seconded by Councillor Suhail Rahuja to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment **Adopted**.

The Lord Mayor then put the Substantive Motion to the vote and on a show of hands declared the Substantive Motion **Adopted**.

**Resolved:**

That following from the result of the EU Referendum this Council seeks to:

Reassure EU citizens who have chosen to work and live in Westminster of the important contribution they make to our City and their place in our future, noting the important planned work of the Community Cohesion Commission. We are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in our city. We will ensure council bodies and local groups are supported to fight and prevent any upsurge in racism and xenophobia.

**12 TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time allocated for the items selected for debate, put the remaining business to the vote in accordance with Standing Order 18.

**2015-2016 Annual Accounts:** Noted.

**2015-2016 Treasury Outturn Report:** Noted.

**Members Code of Conduct:** The Lord Mayor put the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation **Adopted**.

**RESOLVED:** That the Members Code of Conduct, as attached to the report of the General Purposes Committee report as Appendix C be adopted with effect from 1 September 2016.

The Meeting ended at 9.47 pm

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

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