

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 23rd January, 2019 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Lindsey Hall

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton	David Harvey
Ian Adams	Elizabeth Hitchcock
Nickie Aiken	Adam Hug
Barbara Arzymanow	Louise Hyams
Timothy Barnes	Aicha Less
Geoff Barraclough	Pancho Lewis
Richard Beddoe	Andrea Mann
David Boothroyd	Patricia McAllister
Iain Bott	Guthrie McKie
Margot Bright	Tim Mitchell
Susie Burbridge	Gotz Mohindra
Ruth Bush	Eoghain Murphy
Nafsika Butler-Thalassis	Matt Noble
Melvyn Caplan	Emily Payne
Maggie Carman	Papya Qureshi
Danny Chalkley	Robert Rigby
Antonia Cox	Rachael Robathan
Lorraine Dean	Tim Roca
Tony Devenish	Ian Rowley
Paul Dimoldenberg	Karen Scarborough
Richard Elcho	Mark Shearer
Christabel Flight	Selina Short
Peter Freeman	James Spencer
Murad Gassanly	Paul Swaddle
Jonathan Glanz	Shamim Talukder
Jim Glen	Hamza Taouzzale
Matthew Green	Aziz Toki
Lindsey Hall	Judith Warner
Angela Harvey	

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 It was moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Tim Mitchell that Councillor Louise Hyams be elected as relief chairman.

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

2 MINUTES

- 2.1 **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting on Wednesday 7 November 2018, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as true records of the proceedings.

3 COUNCILLOR FOR LANCASTER GATE WARD

- 3.1 The election of Councillor Margot Bright to the Lancaster Gate ward following the by-election on the 22nd November was noted.

4 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 4.1 There were no urgent matters.

5 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 5.1 The Lord Mayor referred to these as set out on the agenda.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

7.1 (a) Petitions

Councillor Karen Scarborough presented a petition from Luxborough Save our Space requesting the Council to not proceed with any proposal to build on the Luxborough Tower playground. As the petition had received more than 500 signatures it was referred to the next Cabinet meeting on the 18th February.

Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg presented a petition on behalf of the Dorset Square Trust calling on the Council to move the coach station from Dorset Square to a non-residential location. The petition was referred to the Executive Director for Growth, Planning and Housing for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Councillor Aicha Less presented a petition from Church Street businesses and residents calling for CCTV for Church Street and Lisson Grove. The petition was referred to the Executive Director for City Management and Communities for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Councillor James Spencer presented a petition from St James the Less Church seeking support from the Council for their plan to turn the old school building into an education centre for vulnerable people. The petition was referred to the Executive Director for Children's Services for reporting to the relevant Cabinet Member.

(b) **Deputations**

There were no deputations.

8 QUESTIONS

- 8.1 The questions, supplementary questions and replies are included as an audio recording on the Council's website.

9 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

(a) **Using the expertise of local partners to grow employment pathways with local employers for Westminster adults with learning disabilities**

Councillor Lorraine Dean spoke and Councillor David Harvey replied.

(b) **The proposed relocation of Victoria Coach Station to Royal Oak**

Councillor Maggie Carman spoke and Councillor Tim Mitchell replied.

10 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

- 10.1 The meeting accordingly debated the item chosen from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party:

Policing

- 10.2 The Majority Party had selected item number 83 on the Future Policy Plan: Policing. The debate will be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 11.1 The Minority Party had selected for debate the notice of motion as set out on the agenda. The notice of motion was moved by Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble.

- 11.2 The Majority Party had submitted an amendment to the notice of motion as set out on the order paper.

- 11.3 Councillor Matt Noble raised a point of order that in the Minority party's opinion the proposed amendment to their motion constituted a breach of the Council's standing orders, namely SO 13 paragraph (5)(c), and should therefore be rejected. Having taken advice from the Chief Executive and the Director of Law, the Lord Mayor determined that the amendment was within the law and in compliance with the Council's Constitution and therefore rejected the request.

- 11.4 Councillor Iain Bott moved and it was seconded by Councillor Matthew Green that the notice of motion be amended, as follows:

Remove from “the gridlock” in the first paragraph to “it also believes” in the final paragraph then delete “that, if achievable, such a vote would be open to 16-18 year olds and to residents who are EU citizens”.

Then add:

“And recognises the contribution of the thousands of friends and neighbours who are citizens from other European Union countries who live in Westminster.

The Council believes that EU nationals who live in Westminster deserve assurances over their future in the UK in order to feel certain that Westminster can remain their long-term home.

The Council recognises the proactive work already undertaken to engage with EU citizens and to provide them with practical support in the run-up to Brexit.

The Council notes the importance of providing funding to the service run by Citizens Advice to support EU nationals living in Westminster with guidance in person, online and by telephone and resolves to request that the Cabinet continues funding this service beyond Brexit.

The Council welcomes the high level of participation by Westminster’s EU citizens at a series of seminars organised by the Council in co-operation with the Home Office which have proved successful in providing opportunities for EU citizens to ask questions and to discuss their concerns.

The Council resolves to remain committed to Westminster’s EU residents, they are an essential part of our community. We shall to continue to offer them support to ensure that EU citizens feel that Westminster continues to be their home both now and after the UK has left the European Union.”

- 11.5 Following debate, to which Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis replied, the Lord Mayor put the amendment moved by Councillor Bott and seconded by Councillor Green to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment **CARRIED**.
- 11.6 The Lord Mayor then put the substantive motion to the vote and on a show of hands declared the substantive motion **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the wide range of Westminster communities whose futures will be shaped by Brexit and recognises the contribution of the thousands of friends and neighbours who are citizens from other European Union countries who live in Westminster.

The Council believes that EU nationals who live in Westminster deserve assurances over their future in the UK in order to feel certain that Westminster can remain their long-term home.

The Council recognises the proactive work already undertaken to engage with EU citizens and to provide them with practical support in the run-up to Brexit.

The Council notes the importance of providing funding to the service run by Citizens Advice to support EU nationals living in Westminster with guidance in person, online and by telephone and resolves to request that the Cabinet continues funding this service beyond Brexit.

The Council welcomes the high level of participation by Westminster's EU citizens at a series of seminars organised by the Council in co-operation with the Home Office which have proved successful in providing opportunities for EU citizens to ask questions and to discuss their concerns.

The Council resolves to remain committed to Westminster's EU residents, they are an essential part of our community. We shall to continue to offer them support to ensure that EU citizens feel that Westminster continues to be their home both now and after the UK has left the European Union.

12 REPORT OF THE CABINET: 10 DECEMBER 2018

- 12.1 The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time for debates, then put the recommendation of the Cabinet report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation be **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

1. The Council approved:
 - (i) That the Council Tax discount for second homes remains at 0%.
 - (ii) That the Council tax discounts for empty properties, including the discounts that replaced the previous Class A and C Council Tax exemptions remains at 0%.
 - (iii) That a long term empty property premium continues at the maximum percentage allowed for by the current legislation, which is a 100% premium for 2019/20 (an increase on the 2018/19 level).
 - (iv) That the Head of Revenues & Benefits determines any individual local discount applications received from vulnerable Council Taxpayers during the course of the 2019/20 financial year.
2. The Council approved the same Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 as operated successfully since 2013/2014 which is based on the Default Scheme Regulations and that War Disabled Pensions, War

Widow, Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments are disregarded in full when calculating a claimant's income.

3. The Council resolved that the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 for the whole city is 130,319.70 equivalent Band D properties, for Montpelier Square alone 97.61 equivalent Band D properties and for Queen's Park 3,496.10 equivalent Band D properties.
4. The Council resolved that the figures set out in Recommendation 3 above for the Council Tax Base for 2019/20 be used by the Council to make a determination pursuant to the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

13 REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CITY MANAGEMENT: 18 DECEMBER 2018

- 13.1 The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time for debates, then put the recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Environment and City Management report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the London Local Authority and Transport for London Act 2013 – Part 2 Section 4 Lighting Attachments and Street Signs be adopted.
2. That the Executive Director of City Management and Communities be delegated the authority to exercise the functions bestowed by the legislation referred to in paragraph (i) to the report.

14 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: 16 JANUARY 2019

- 14.1 The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time for debates, then put the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

1. Programme of Meetings 2019-2020:

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the programme of meetings set out in Appendix 3 to the Council agenda be approved.
- (ii) That the Council approved the programme for full Council meetings, as follows:

15 May 2019 (Annual); 26 June 2019; 18 September 2019; 13 November 2019 (Leader's Speech and Budget); 22 January 2020; 4 March 2020 (including Council Tax); 20 May 2020 (Annual).

- (iii) That the Council approved the revised procedures for the Leader's Speech and budget proposals set out in Appendix 3 to the Council agenda, including the associated changes to standing orders.
 - (iv) That the Council, for the reasons set out in paragraph (e) to the report, agreed that the Extraordinary meeting programmed to be held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 now be held as an Ordinary Council meeting.
2. Members Allowances Scheme 2018-2019 (amendment) and Members Allowances Scheme 2019-2020:

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council approved the amended Members' Allowances Scheme with immediate effect as set out in paragraph (c) to the report.
 - (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2019-2020 attached in Appendix 4 to the Council agenda with effect from 1 April 2019.
3. Establishment of an Additional P&S Committee:

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Council agreed to establish a new Policy and Scrutiny Committee (Communities and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee) with the terms of reference and proportionality as set out in Appendix 5 to the Council agenda.
- (ii) That the Council amend the membership of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission by one Member to enable the Chairman of the new P&S Committee to be a Member.
- (iii) That the Council authorised officers to adjust the terms of reference of those Policy and Scrutiny Committees whose Cabinet Member reporting lines are impacted as shown in paragraph 4.9 of Appendix 5 to the Council agenda.

The Meeting ended at 9.55 pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____