



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

Economic Development, Education & Place Shaping Policy and Scrutiny

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Economic Development, Education & Place Shaping Policy and Scrutiny** Committee held on **Wednesday 3rd April, 2019**, Rooms 18.01 & 18.03, 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillors Karen Scarborough (Chairman), Geoff Barraclough, Danny Chalkley, Lorraine Dean, Elizabeth Hitchcock, Patricia McAllister, Eoghain Murphy and Tim Roca.

Co-opted Members: Sian Maddrell, Ryan Nichol and Miles Ridley.

Also Present: Councillor Jacqui Wilkinson (Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills).

Apologies for Absence: Simon Atkinson

1 MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The Chairman advised that Councillor Lorraine Dean was substituting for Councillor Christabel Flight and Councillor Patricia McAllister was substituting for Councillor Papya Qureshi.
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Jacqui Wilkinson (Deputy Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills) to the meeting.
- 1.3 The Chairman advised that Councillor David Harvey and Richard Beddoe would not be attending the meeting. Any questions that Members have regarding the Place Shaping and Planning portfolio would be placed on the Committee's Action Tracker.
- 1.4 The Chairman welcomed Roy O'Shaughnessy (Capital College Group), Savros Chirdaris and Denise Largin (The Camden Society) and Naki Hondus (Westminster resident) who took part in the discussion on the Westminster Employment Service.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 No further declarations of interests in respect of items to be discussed were made, other than those noted in the circulated schedule as set out below in paragraph 2.2.

2.2 Table of Member's interests tabled at the Committee Meeting was as follows:

Councillor/Member of the Economic Development, Education and Place Shaping P&S Committee	Organisation	Nature of Interest
Geoff Barraclough	Dorothy Gardner Centre	Partner is a Governor at the school
Danny Chalkley	Burdett Coutts School Foundation	Trustee
Lorraine Dean	City of Westminster College	Employee
	Westminster Adult Education Service	Governor
	LA Governor Nomination Panel.	Member
Elizabeth Hitchcock	St Andrew's Club	Trustee
Sian Maddrell	The Grey Coat Hospital School	Headteacher
Miles Ridley	St Peter's Eaton Square School	Headteacher
Ryan Nichol	St Gabriel's Primary School	Parent Governor
Tim Roca	Paddington Academy	Governor
Karen Scarborough	St Vincent's School	Governor
	St Mary of Angels	Governor
	Young Westminster Foundation	Trustee
	St Marylebone Almshouses	Trustee

3 MINUTES

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2019 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

4 CABINET MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

- 4.1 The Committee received a written update from the Deputy Cabinet Member who responded to questions on the following topics:

- the development of a new Street Markets Strategy which would include improved sustainability, opportunities for young people, improved online and social promotion and the provision of seating.
- the success of STEAM Week (Science, Technology, Electronics, Arts and Media) and how the programme engaged over 2141 young people and ran multiple competitions via social media for only £2 per young person.
- the implementation and launch of the Supported Internship Programme in the Council for young people with special, educational needs and disabilities.
- the difficulties that nurseries and primary schools were facing with the new National Funding Formula, the future pupil role projections, including SEND pupil projections, and capacity within Westminster schools.
- the increase in fixed term and permanent exclusions in schools and the possible link with the growth in gang and knife crime.

4.2 ACTIONS

1. The Committee requested a briefing note on the funding of the Speech and Language Service.
2. The Committee requested a briefing note outlining the funding issues facing Westminster schools.
3. The Committee requested that during the development of the new Street Markets Strategy consideration be given to how people with dementia and autism could be supported when using and working in the markets.
4. The Committee requested to be sent the website link to the Market Strategy.
5. The Committee requested a briefing note on the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions in schools and the ways schools were tackling the growth in knife crime amongst young people.
6. The Committee agreed that the new Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy be reviewed by the Committee before it was published.

5 CABINET MEMBER FOR PLACE SHAPING AND PLANNING

- 5.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member which covered current and forthcoming issues in his Portfolio. Members briefly discussed the new draft City Plan and the further engagement with stakeholders taking place, which included amendments to the heritage and design policies and a different approach to private residential car parking to bring Westminster in line with the rest of London.

6 WESTMINSTER EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

- 6.1 The Committee received a report summarising the progress which had been made by and the impact of the Westminster Employment Service. The Committee noted that the Service had been launched in 2017 to support the City for All ambition – Opportunities and Fairness – and with the objective of transforming the lives of vulnerable residents, including long-term unemployment through an effective back-to-work service.
- 6.2 The Committee discussed how the network of employment coaches had delivered an effective employment service by supporting 1600 residents into employment and that for every £1 invested in the Service via the General Fund, the Service leveraged a further £89. The Committee noted that a cost benefit analysis showed that the Housing and Employment Learning Project (HELP) had provided public bodies with a net saving of around £450,000, through reduced spending on welfare benefits and temporary accommodation.
- 6.3 The Committee welcomed the following witnesses who outlined their particular interest in the Westminster Employment Service:
- 6.4 Roy O'Shaughnessy (Chief Executive, Capital City College Group) commented on how his organisation provided specialist services to help young people and adults gain an education, enter work and develop their career to improve their wellbeing and/or rebuild their lives. He advised that specialist college courses should be developed specifically in mind for employment and targeted jobs. He further advised that if colleges tracked their students they would be able to intervene earlier to help them gain meaningful employment.
- 6.5 Denise Largin and Stravros Chirdaris, (The Camden Society) commented on how the Camden Society generated opportunities for people with disabilities to achieve greater equality and outlined the different approaches they used to employ young people and give them confidence to gain employment. They emphasised the huge difference it would make if all companies committed to employing one person with learning disabilities, as it would improve the person's life opportunities and well-being and the organisation would gain a loyal employee with a sustainable career. They further commented on how more apprenticeship schemes needed to be created in organisations.

6.6 Naki Hondus (Westminster resident) talked about how she had become homeless and ended up in temporary accommodation. She explained how she had approached the HELP Project after thirteen moves into temporary accommodation, including outside of London. She advised that with the support from her caseworker she had graduated with a degree in Education and now lived in Westminster with her family and worked as an Area Manager for a childcare company. She emphasised that without the support of the HELP project, which had given her both support and confidence, she could still be living in temporary accommodation without employment.

6.7 The key themes that emerged from the Committee discussion were:

- the impact that the Westminster Employment Service was having on residents, including those with the most significant barriers to employment.
- the importance of maintaining strong partnership working with Westminster Adult Education Service and the NHS and building new partnerships.
- the importance of maintaining the quality of personalisation offered so this continued to be a key strength of the Service.
- the need for the Westminster Employment Service to continue to meet local need and transform the lives of residents, including vulnerable residents.
- the importance of incorporating Social Value Key Performance Indicators into the Council's contracts and offering the London Living Wage.
- the possibility of the Service getting involved with young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) during critical transition stages.
- the creation of apprenticeships/jobs and the need to develop strategies to encourage Westminster residents to take up employment within Westminster.
- the importance of communicating to residents the work opportunities within the Council and the work carried out by the Westminster Employment Service.
- the possibility of monitoring and tracking the progress of people that the Service had helped and the future funding of the Service.

6.8 The Committee congratulated the Westminster Employment Service on winning the Westminster Staff Team Award of the Year.

6.9 The Chairman thanked everyone who had given up their time to attend the meeting and contribute to the discussion.

6.10 **RESOLVED:** The Committee concluded with the following comments, which will be forwarded to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills:

1. That the Westminster Employment Service continued to reach out to all businesses in Westminster to encourage them to commit to employing a young person with SEN to improve equality within the City in line with City for All priorities.
2. That the quality of personalisation should continue as this enhanced the success of securing and matching the correct employment to the person.

3. That the Council communicated to its residents, especially young people, the work opportunities within the Council of Apprenticeships, the Graduate Intern Programme and the work carried out by the Westminster Employment Service.
4. That the Westminster Employment Service set aside 5-10% of its budget to evaluate the Service and that the full Service evaluation be reviewed by the Committee in 2020.

7 ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKERS AND COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION TRACKERS

7.1.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Action and Recommendation Trackers be noted.

7.2 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

7.2.1 **RESOLVED:** The Committee agreed to review Libraries at its next meeting.

8 TERMINATION OF MEETING

8.1 The Meeting ended at 8.34 pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____