



City of Westminster

# Committee Agenda

Title: **Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday 6th July, 2021**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **This will be a virtual meeting**

Members: **Councillors:**

Andrew Smith (Chairman)	Barbara Arzymanow
Antonia Cox	Guthrie McKie
Elizabeth Hitchcock	Matt Noble
Ian Rowley	Hamza Taouzzale

**Members of the press and public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion of Part 1 of the Agenda.**

[Link to live meeting](#)



**If you require any special assistance, please contact the Committee Officer (details listed below) in advance of the meeting.**

**If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Artemis Kassi (Lead Scrutiny Advisor/Statutory Officer).**

**Email: [akassi@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:akassi@westminster.gov.uk)**

**Corporate Website: [www.westminster.gov.uk](http://www.westminster.gov.uk)**

**Note for Members:** Members are reminded that Officer contacts are shown at the end of each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting. With regard to item 2, guidance on declarations of interests is included in the Code of Governance; if Members and Officers have any particular questions, they should contact the Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison in advance of the meeting please.

## **AGENDA**

### **PART 1 (IN PUBLIC)**

**1. MEMBERSHIP**

To note any changes to the membership of the Committee.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive declarations by Members and Officers of the existence and nature of any pecuniary interests, or any other significant interest in matters on this agenda.

**3. MINUTES**

To agree the minutes of Committee's meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

**(Pages 5 - 10)**

**4. UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND REGENERATION**

Councillor Heather Acton, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration, to provide an update to the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in her portfolio.

**(Pages 11 - 14)**

**5. UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING**

Councillor David Harvey, the Cabinet Member for Housing Services, to provide an update to the Committee on current and forthcoming issues in his portfolio and to answer questions from Members.

**(Pages 15 - 18)**

**6. REPORT ON NUISANCE CAUSED BY NOISY VEHICLES AND CAR MEETS**

To receive a report outlining the issue of nuisance caused by noisy vehicles and car meets in Westminster. The report outlines the enforcement options for both the Council and Metropolitan Police Service, including the limitations of current legislation; current evidence; current activity to mitigate the issues in Westminster; and a proposed plan of action.

**(Pages 19 - 32)**

**7. WORK PROGRAMME**

**(Pages 33 - 40)**

To receive a report on the Committee's work programme for the municipal year 2021/2022.

Stuart Love  
**Chief Executive**  
**28 June 2021**

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**CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

## **MINUTES**

**Communities, Regeneration and Housing  
Policy & Scrutiny Committee  
10 May 2021**

### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held virtually on Monday 10 May 2021 at 7.00pm via **Microsoft Teams**.

**Members Present:** Councillors Andrew Smith (Chairman), Antonia Cox, Elizabeth Hitchcock, Ian Rowley, Barbara Arzymanow, Guthrie McKie, Matt Noble, Hamza Taouzzale

**Also Present:** Councillor Heather Acton (Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration), Malcolm Davidge (Chair, Mayfair & St James's Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel), Lizzie Grumbach (Lord Mayor's Office), Councillor David Harvey (Cabinet Member for Housing Services), Artemis Kassi (Lead Scrutiny Advisor/Statutory Officer), Raj Mistry (Executive Director of Environment & City), Elizabeth Virgo (Chair Little Venice Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel / volunteer at the Metropolitan Police Service), Superintendent Michael Walsh (Metropolitan Police Service).

#### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

1.1 No changes to the membership and no apologies received.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 No further declarations of interests in respect of items to be discussed were made.

#### **3. MINUTES**

3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021 be approved for signature by the Chairman as a true and correct record of the proceedings with the below amend:

That the Membership for the minority party constituted Councillors Matt Noble, Hamza Taouzzale and Guthrie McKie, as a correction for the names listed (Councillors Paul Dimoldenberg, Aisha Less and Pancho Lewis).

#### **4. UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING SERVICES**

4.1 The Committee received an update from Councillor David Harvey (Cabinet Member for Housing Services) on key issues within his portfolio. The Committee discussed the following topics in detail:

- the current trialling underway of Smart Homes Technologies in homes and on Westminster estates, including automatic leak detection sensors in order to deal with problems prior to emergencies occurring.
- the Churchill Gardens Estate and the shared space innovation, including the opportunities and support being given to vulnerable residents to ensure that service users receive the help needed to sustain their tenancies and how to find the right links to community involvement.
- the rise in anti-social behaviour on Westminster's housing estates and how this was being addressed, including the new legal procedures and referral pathways.
- the current rough sleeping levels in Westminster, including current low rates of rough sleeping and how the Council was exerting considerable pressure on the Government for additional funding.
- the current use of public buildings as Covid-19 testing centres and when the return to intended use was planned.
- the building of new housing stock and the placement of residents where anti-social behaviour issues were involved.

4.2 The Committee discussed anti-social behaviour and was advised about challenges with the allocation policy, including that the framework needed revision.

4.3 The Committee was advised by Councillor David Harvey that the decision about the return of use of public buildings following their use as Covid-19 testing centres would come from the NHS. Cllr Harvey confirmed that he would update when the NHS intended to release the sites.

**ACTION:** Cllr Harvey to update when community centres will be released from NHS from usage as Covid-19 testing centres.

#### **5. UPDATE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND REGENERATION**

5.1 The Committee received an update from Councillor Heather Acton (Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration) on key issues within her portfolio. The Committee discussed the following topics in detail:

- the successful planning permission for Ebury where several new homes would be built.
- the consultation in Church Street and the visits to infill sites.
- the good working relationship between WCC and the Metropolitan Police Service, which had improved over the lockdown period and the increase in frequency of meetings largely enabled by being able to meet virtually.
- the increase on knife crime and strategies for dealing with it. This included the policing schemes in place and the interaction with community organisations, and the work being done across borders with Brent and RBKC.
- the progress of building new housing stock.
- the Council's regeneration programme and how to ensure children have the best possible pathways.
- the future of Westminster Connects.
- the air quality in Westminster Schools and how parents were being informed about the measures.

5.2 The Committee heard that the new housing stock programme was going well and that a large number of new homes were being built. The Committee was also advised about the investment in early years intervention and the work being done with schools to prevent serious youth violence, which was resulting in a positive impact.

5.3 The Committee heard that for Westminster Connects, whilst the priority had initially been Covid-10 focused, a number of volunteers were now being linked into Business As Usual (BAU) volunteering. The Committee was advised that the Council was keen to maintain this and to offer other opportunities, with great enthusiasm and backing from individuals, BIDs and businesses. Concerning air quality measures in schools, the Committee also heard about the monthly environmental newsletter and how schools and parents were being encouraged to sign up to receive it.

**ACTION:** Cllrs Acton and Harvey to provide a report on the regeneration programme and the progress of building new housing stock for a future Committee meeting.

## 6. REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE

6.1 The Committee received a report by the Metropolitan Police Service on policing in Westminster. The Committee welcomed Superintendent Michael Walsh (Head of Neighbourhoods Policing, Metropolitan Police Service) to present the report. The Committee also welcomed the following Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel Chairs: Elizabeth Virgo (Little Venice), Malcolm Davidge (Mayfair and St James) and Frances Blois (Knightsbridge and Belgravia). The Committee discussed the report, including the decrease in crime as a result of the Covid-19 lockdowns.

6.2 The Committee held a discussion where the following themes emerged:

- the sustainability of decreased crime rates as a result of Covid-19 lockdowns. They heard how the partnerships between the Met Police, local authority and business community have been strengthened.
- the challenges faced from the increases in large gatherings during Covid-19 and issues arising.
- the Harrods incident and whether this could be replicated elsewhere in Westminster. They heard this incident was specifically linked to Harrods.
- knife crime, in particular specific types of knives being used. They heard about the different types of knives and how the Met Police are discouraging people from carrying knives of any type by working with gangs and youth engagements teams to communicate this.
- the new approach to stop and search with a view to reducing anxiety amongst communities by uploading to social media. They heard that the officers conduct stop and search with professionalism, integrity and respect, therefore building trust and confidence.
- the projected future patterns of crime once the phased emergence from the Covid-19 lockdown. They heard that inevitably crime will rise as we come out of lockdown and will further increase when full tourism returns to the West End. The ambition is to control crime to a level lower than pre Covid-19. Members heard about the dedicated West End policing team who are working with BIDs and additional assets from across the Metropolitan Police Service.

6.3 The Committee acknowledged the dedicated work of those involved in various ways in policing within Westminster.

## **7. REPORT ON THE WARD BUDGET PROGRAMME**

7.1 The Committee received a report on proposed reform of the ward budget programme.

7.2 The Committee held a discussion on the following topics:

- the steps being taken to revitalise and relaunch engagement and communications around the ward budget programme targeting different forums.
- the changes seen over lockdown period.

7.3 The Committee heard that the Ward Budget had faced new demands, but that the pattern had been for funding requests for smaller events as groups had had fewer opportunities to organise events and spend money.

7.4 **RESOLVED:** The Committee noted the report.



**8. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

- 8.1 The Committee reviewed and discussed its work programme for the municipal year ahead. The Committee also discussed rescheduling its next meeting, currently scheduled for 9 June, to a date in early July.
- 8.2 The Committee agreed to examine air quality at its next meeting and that additionally directorates would be canvassed for suggested items for future meetings.
- 8.3 The Committee noted the Work Programme report.

**9. TERMINATION OF MEETING**

- 9.1 The meeting ended at 9.21pm.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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Date: Tuesday 6 July 2021

Report Of: Councillor Heather Acton

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration

Report Author and  
Contact Details: Alexandra Severino (adseverino@westminster.gov.uk)

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### **1. City for All – Communities and Regeneration Priorities**

#### **1.1 Vibrant Communities**

##### **1.1.1 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy**

We are in the early stages of developing a new ASB strategy that will set out how we are continuing to work towards reducing the number of incidents, the impact of ASB, and to ensure that victims and perpetrators receive support and justice relevant to their needs and circumstances. Following this an inclusive stakeholder engagement plan will be developed, so that further insights and views to support the Council in developing the strategy and action plan can be considered. A formal consultation will be held on the draft strategy and it is anticipated a launch will be Summer 2022.

##### **1.1.2 Westminster Connects**

Westminster Connects ended the pandemic response team in May and is now focusing on volunteers and volunteering. Work is underway to increase the range of volunteering options, and to engage actively with residents who are involved in volunteering. Two community pantries have opened, one in the north and one in the south of the City. A review of core voluntary sector contracts is underway, with stakeholder engagement and surveys of community organisations and volunteers. This review will shape future contracts to support the voluntary sector and volunteering.

##### **1.1.3 Rough Sleeping Commissioning Strategy**

The Council continues to assess the longer-term impact of accommodating people previously sleeping on our streets and people at risk of sleeping rough during the pandemic. Current provision must be retained, while future options are developed for post-pandemic services. A commissioning working group is being set up in June 2021 to support the Divisional Head of Housing Needs, Support and Safety. This will develop a Commissioning Strategy and review future options for service commissioning. Officers from across the Council and procurement business partners will form part of this group. The scoping of this work will start in July 2021.

##### **1.1.4 Church Street**

Stage Two of the pre-planning consultation for Church Street Site A is planned to open on 30 June 2021. In addition to the phone calling that generated a high response in Stage One (which took place in March 2021) we will carry out some face-to-face activity in the form of 'pop-up' market stalls.

Venture 382 is now home to Interim Workspace on a "meanwhile use" let. They have subdivided the space in to two wings. The West Wing is now home to six artist studios with eight members and a total workforce of around fourteen members of staff and volunteers. The creative studios are truly affordable being licensed to occupiers at £1 per square foot per month. The studios have yet to launch officially but are fully let with 50% occupancy by Westminster residents.

##### **1.1.5 Ebury**

The Council achieved approval for the Ebury Bridge Estate hybrid planning application. Construction on the detailed part of the approval (Phase 1) is expected to start on site this autumn, building the first 226 new homes across two blocks. In order to facilitate this work, the current Children's playground will be relocated to the sports pitch, which will allow for both temporary play and ball games until the construction of the first new public square due to be conducted as part of Phase 1, expected to complete in Spring 2024.

Businesses at Ebury Edge have reopened following the lifting of non-essential retail lockdown on 12 April 2021. To date, 18 start-up businesses have taken up occupation in the new units on Ebury Bridge Road. Existing Ebury Bridge Estate residents are being invited to come forward with their own business ideas, with the opportunity to work with the Ebury

Regeneration Team and Westminster's Business Support Team to test their idea formally at Ebury Edge. A formal launch event of Ebury Edge is being planned for August 2021 subject to Government restrictions.

### **1.1.6 Balmoral/ Darwin House Redevelopment**

The Council has recently achieved planning permission for its proposals to build 52 affordable homes on the site of a former pub, garage site and through the redevelopment of Darwin House. A new Community Supportive Block, built to HAPPI (Housing for Aging Population Panel for Innovation) standards, will be delivered as a first phase. This will enable the residents of Darwin House to move into significantly improved accommodation, while staying together as a community. The new homes will help our older residents to age well through the provision of homes twice the size than currently occupied, with more flexible living space for a carer or family member to stay over and benefit from dementia friendly design.

18 new intermediate homes will be built in a second phase. These 1 bed homes will be prioritised for local residents and are targeted at households with incomes of between £32,000 and £60,000. The homes are aimed at those who do not qualify for social housing but are priced out of the private rental market. All homes will be owned and retained by the Council.

### **1.1.7 Harrow Road**

The site at 300 Harrow Road has been granted planning permission and the children at the Harrow Road Nursery have been relocated to a new cabin on Westbourne Green. Hoardings are up and the construction contractor has demolished the former buildings and is working to clear the ground.

## **1.2 Cleaner and Greener**

### **1.2.1 Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)**

The CoCP has been drafted and will be discussed at an upcoming Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy and Scrutiny committee. There will be a six-week public consultation period, in order to consult with the developer community and other stakeholders to ensure their input is fully integrated into the plan. The CoCP allows us to work closely with large development sites and monitor their day-to-day activities, including noise, dust and vibration but it also enables the Council to influence the hours of work, waste and vehicle movements to and from the site. The process also gives guidance to developers in a way which enables us to recover our costs.

### **1.2.2 Air Quality Action Plan**

We are revising some of the actions in the Air Quality Action Plan to reflect the impact of the pandemic. Cross-portfolio discussions will take place to ensure that the plan reflects the full range of steps that can be taken by the Council, including public health measures.

### **1.2.3 Westminster Schools Air Quality Programme**

The Council's Schools Clean Air Programme has provided every school with the opportunity for a bespoke Air Quality Audit which recommends measures which will help to mitigate the impact of poor air quality for students and staff at the school. This programme has been supported by environmental consultants WSP who carried out the audits and collated the results. All the schools that participated have now received their audit reports. WSP have collated the findings and the final report and the next steps of the programme will be finalised shortly.

## **2. Major Decisions**

Since my last report to Committee, I have formally approved the following decisions:

- Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Marylebone High Street
- Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Maida Vale
- Approval of Expenditure from the Ward Budget of Warwick Ward
- Approval of Extension of Borough-wide Street Drinking and Dog Control Public Space Protection Orders

## **3. Areas of Focus**

### **3.1 Serious Youth Violence and Gang Activity**

The Council and Metropolitan Police Service continue to work closely in preparing for the lifting of COVID-19 lockdown conditions in order to prepare for any potential increase in gang offending. A high visibility policing plan has been put in place, with both BCU and centrally deployed police resources in areas of high risk.

Work has commenced between Westminster City Council and London Borough of Brent officers and police to ensure maximisation of cooperation required to deal with any cross-border gang issues. Employment coaches attached to the

Integrated Gangs & Exploitation Unit (IGXU) have supported 7 young people into work at Westminster Wheels, and several are being supported into KickStart roles including within the council. Whilst the borough has seen a slight increase in gang-related offending since lockdown was eased, Westminster has not seen anywhere near the number of offences experienced pre-pandemic.

### **3.2 Modern Slavery**

The bi-borough Ending Modern Slavery and Exploitation strategy is due to be launched at the end of June 2021. The new 5-year strategy details the incidence of Modern Slavery that has been found within Westminster and contains a Coordinated Community Response required to eradicate this often hidden and serious crime. The voice of the victim is central to our approach.

### **3.3 Rough Sleeping**

The last street count took place on 27 May and 167 rough sleepers were accounted. This was an increase of 61 people (57%). We consider there was a significant increase in European Economic Area (EEA) nationals and Roma cohorts on the streets since the March 2021 count due to the relaxing of lockdown measures, and the refusal of offers of accommodation and placements from the Council, and rejection of offers of move-on pathways from the Greater London Assembly and Glasdoor.

The Council has now received confirmation on our allocation of Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) 4 funding for 2021/22 from MHCLG which is £5,299,469 and an increase of £1,074,349 of funding allocated in 2020/21. The mobilisation of this funding during June and July will allow the rough sleeping team to increase our focus on the areas of substance and alcohol dependency and the work with specialist partners in these fields.

### **3.4 Infill Sites – Regeneration**

The programme is entering a busy construction period, with multiple sites seeing main construction works underway or shortly commencing works on site. These schemes will provide 100 affordable homes, making a significant contribution to the Council's affordable delivery pipeline. Schemes of note include Queens Park Court (23 homes), Torridon House (21 homes) and Adpar St car park (20 Community Supportive Homes). It is recognised that construction can be disruptive for residents. Our construction partners are tasked with minimising disruption impacts wherever possible and undertake work in line with Covid 19 Government guidance and advice from the Construction Leadership Council. The Infill programme is seeking further new opportunities to provide affordable homes.

### **3.5 Smogmobile – Clean Air Day**

On June 16<sup>th</sup> we hosted an air quality action day on the Strand and Regent Street with a special visit from the 'Smogmobile', an electric van fitted with monitoring equipment to track air pollution, providing real time measurements of nitrogen dioxide emissions. This event was well received and showcased our commitment to improve air quality for our communities, as well as reducing carbon emissions to meet the UK's national climate targets.

### **3.6 COVID-19 Safety During European Football Championship**

City Inspectors will visit licensed premises to ensure businesses are operating in compliance with coronavirus regulations and licence conditions. There will be a Euro 2020 'Fanzone' in Trafalgar Square for the duration of the tournament, showing 7-9 matches in total. The first two matches (13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> June) to be shown at the fan zone are ticketed events with limited capacity due to COVID restrictions and tickets were made available to frontline workers via a ballot.

### **3.7 Hospitality Licensing**

City Inspectors have worked throughout the reopening through Step 2 on April 12, Step 3 on May 17 and building towards the now delayed Step 4 on 19 July. Although shops and hospitality venues have reopened throughout the City, the focus from 12 April has been West End ward, and in particular Soho, where the highest concentration of licensed premises is located, and where the al fresco outdoor hospitality scheme has had the biggest impact.

Generally, premises have reopened safely and in a Covid secure manner, however enforcement action has been taken where compliance issues were not resolved or deemed serious enough to issue fines. In total, 10 fixed penalty notices for £1000 each have been served since April 12, a further 3 prohibition notices have been served, and 2 pavement licences have been revoked.

### ***3.8 Busking Updates***

Following the launch of the Busking and Street Entertainment Policy, to enable engagement with performers in the regulated area, we have deployed a dedicated team of City Inspectors working 7 days a week from 12:00 – 22:00. Since the policy came into force, we have received 120 complaints and recorded 89 proactive engagements, resulting in 7 verbal warnings and 2 remedial letters. Apart from Covent Garden, we have seen a high level of compliance with the policy with most performers applying for a licence after engagement with our officers or not returning. Around 90 licences have been issued already. A Street Entertainment Forum is due to be held soon.

### ***3.9 Europeans Living in Westminster***

We welcome all EU citizens who have chosen to live and work in Westminster. On May 19<sup>th</sup> I sent a letter reminding residents to apply to the EU settlement scheme before the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline set by Central Government. We have teamed up with Citizens Advice Westminster to assist those who need support in completing their application and provided links to access this advice in multiple languages. We have had some appreciative responses, which have led to some becoming volunteers with Westminster Connects.

### ***3.10 Updates the Shisha Local Authority Working Group***

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June Westminster hosted a meeting of the Shisha Local Authority Working Group. We had over a dozen authorities represented as well as Imperial College London and the LGA. It was a productive and positive meeting. Our fellow authorities are engaged in wanting to address issues and there was some detailed discussion. As a group we agreed to collaborate on the following work streams: refreshing the evidence base on a national scale, developing best practice guidance for managing/enforcing against shisha premises, and drafting a number of potential legislative amendments.



## Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 6 July 2021

Report of: Councillor David Harvey

Portfolio: Cabinet Member for Housing

Report Author and Contact Details: Alexandra Severino (adseverino@westminster.gov.uk)

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### **1. City for All Vision and Strategy (2021 – 2022) – Housing Services Priorities**

#### ***1.1 Greener and Cleaner***

##### ***1.1.1 Leverage Energy Efficiency Measures in Housing***

Progress is underway to test new low carbon heating systems and explore opportunities to install PV and solar thermal systems in our housing stock. Currently the procurement of sustainability engineers to model and test heating systems is in progress, insulation upgrade installation is being tested in a small test group of empty properties and internal wall insulation and storage heater upgrades are in progress throughout our housing stock.

#### ***1.2 Vibrant Communities***

##### ***1.2.1 Supporting Vulnerable Residents***

Work is progressing well on our pilot between Housing and Children's Services which aims to work with our partners to establish multi-agency frameworks to manage complex Housing management cases including those needing interventions. A referral process and membership of the panel has been agreed for this pilot, and the panel will meet monthly to discuss cases requiring escalation. To date there have been two meetings of the panel and we have seen several positive outcomes. A similar pilot is in the works for cases where there is overlap with Adult Social Care.

##### ***1.2.2 Redesign of Service Model Through Shared Space and Maximising the Use of Public Buildings – Churchill Gardens Pilot***

This pilot seeks to strengthen partnerships, co-ordinate council and community services with better use of local assets. The project intends to review how services are currently delivered, and how we can improve experiences for our residents, eventually rolling out successful initiatives across the city. Results of our survey that ran at Churchill Gardens from March – April showed that respondents expressed the need to access a wider range of local activities such as exercise classes and access to advice services regarding housing, welfare, and wellbeing. The project is now in the design phase and we are beginning to look at several interventions, including better utilization of the Churchill Gardens Community Hall.

### **1.2.3 Resident Engagement – Survey Results**

We began this initiative after a significant rise was seen in community outreach and engagement during the pandemic. This project seeks to enhance participation and involvement using a bottom-up approach by tailoring our services to meet residents needs. It also ensures residents are empowered to address local issues, establish a consensus on neighbourly behaviour, and better tailor services to residents' needs. We received 1677 responses (overwhelmingly positive) to our survey which ran for four weeks and closed on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Our next steps include communicating our findings to residents, following up on complaints/service requests raised in survey returns, and establishing a co-ordinating policy and performance group of members, residents and officers.

### **1.3 Smart City**

#### **1.3.1 Trial Smart Homes Technologies**

The housing service is looking to test a range of technology to improve service effectiveness. Due diligence has been completed for the installation and testing of the following in a small number of estates during June and July: drones to survey upcoming major works, digital noticeboards, fire door closure sensors, damp and mould sensors and smart tags.

#### **1.3.2 Facilitating Broadband Connections**

80% of council homes are now covered by the citywide wayleave and now have access to gigabit capable broadband with 15% of homes now having access to a choice of broadband provider. Works currently on site will see a connectivity rise to 86% by July 2021.

## **2. Cabinet Member Decisions (May – June 2021)**

Since the last report was made, no notifiable decisions have been made by the Cabinet Member for Housing.

## **3. Areas of Focus**

### **3.1 Housing Contact Centre**

As part of the Housing Services restructure the contact centre will see a phased reduction in the overall number of Customer Service Adviser posts from 77 to 55. The impact of this has been mitigated by basic repair calls being handled by Agilisys (the Councils Corporate Contact Centre). System improvements via the 8 by 8 phone system, whereby front-line officers will be able to have direct connections with residents who will no longer need to go through the call centre and by having the flexibility to recruit an additional 10 staff over the winter months.

### **3.2 Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation**

Homeless approaches to the housing solutions service during April and May 2021 were 14% higher than the same period in 2020, with homeless applications up 17%. This increase is due to the significantly lower demand the service had in Q1 2020 due to the impacts of COVID-19. Placements in Temporary Accommodation have seen an 8% increase so far, this financial year compared to the same period the previous year, this increase also being correlated to the impacts of COVID-19.

### **3.3 Major Works Update**



New reporting systems for our major works projects means that simplified ward by ward data should be available for members this autumn. Presently all 11 active major works projects, are broadly on schedule, allowing for some of the supply and labor issues emerging as the economy moves out of the pandemic.

#### **4. Key Performance Indicators**

##### ***4.1 Housing Management Contact Centre***

**70%** of calls were answered within 30 seconds (performance in target range), with the longest call waiting time 22 minutes during the April reporting period. **68%** of calls were resolved during first contact and resident satisfaction with call handling is at **91%** which is above target.

##### ***4.2 Satisfaction with Repairs Service***

Overall tenant satisfaction with repairs has remained steady at **79%** in April 2021. **72%** of repairs in this period were completed on the first visit, and positively **79%** of tenants were satisfied with their repairs.

##### ***4.3 Overall satisfaction with Housing Services***

Tenant satisfaction that WCC provides a safe and secure home remains steady at **79%** for tenants and **64%** for leaseholders in April. Satisfaction with cleaning of communal areas is at **87%** for tenants and **66%** for leaseholders, while satisfaction with grounds maintenance is above target at **91%** for tenants and **81%** for leaseholders.

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## Policy and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	25/06/2021
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Nuisance noisy vehicles and car meets
<b>Report of:</b>	Calvin McLean – Director, Public Protection & Licensing
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolio</b>	Communities and Regeneration
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	Principally St James’s and Knightsbridge & Belgravia
<b>Policy Context:</b>	Noise
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	Alex Juon - 07890380509 <a href="mailto:ajuon@westminster.gov.uk">ajuon@westminster.gov.uk</a>

### 1. Executive Summary

This report outlines the issue of nuisance caused by noisy vehicles and car meets in Westminster. Whilst we receive sporadic reports about noisy vehicles and car meets (groups of car owners meeting up at a specific location) across Westminster, we know that this is an issue that our residents and businesses regularly report to their Ward Members, often relating to individual vehicles. Evidence points towards infrequent car meets being a particular issue in some hotspot locations. RBKC have responded to similar issues with a PSPO and the use of acoustic cameras, an approach we wish to follow.

This report outlines the enforcement options for both Council and Police, including: limitations of current legislation; the current evidence picture; the experience of the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea; current activity to mitigate the issues in Westminster; and a proposed plan of action for hotspot locations and asks whether the Committee supports this proposed approach, given the constraints identified in the report.

In March 2021 the Metropolitan Police (MPS) produced an Car Meet Police response (MPS) in relation to policing car meets at Waterloo Place, one of our hotspots, which includes a number of short, medium and long term responses from the MPS and WCC, including many of the approaches discussed in this report.

This issue has been regularly reported back to Cllr's Acton and Hyams as part of their oversight of PPL activity under the Communities and Regeneration Portfolio.

## **2. Key Matters for the Committee's Consideration**

- Does the committee support the current approach to enforcement given the legislative constraints?
- Does the committee support the potential use of a PSPO as an additional tool to enforce the issues?
- Does the committee support the use of acoustic cameras to support the above?

## **3. Background**

### **3.1. Noise from vehicles – background and enforcement**

There is currently limited legislation available to Local Authorities to enforce vehicle noise. Statutory nuisance legislation (Environmental Protection Act 1990) does theoretically allow enforcement of traffic/vehicle noise however it is generally superseded by other primary legislation and considered by local councils an ineffective tool for dealing with moving traffic due to the need to witness the noise and also identify which vehicle it originated from.

Ordinarily, vehicle noise (from exhausts) should be enforced by the Police or Vehicle Inspectorate under The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, with the current legal noise limit for new cars within the EU area being 74dB (though through modification there are ways of getting around this). In addition, noise emissions from existing vehicles are checked during an MOT annually. However, the existing legislation is limited, and it is virtually impossible for the police to enforce the noise regulation as they either don't have the dedicated equipment<sup>1</sup> or the expertise or both. In addition, the measurement procedure is very precise, cannot accurately be performed at the roadside (meaning the police would need a reason to seize the vehicle) and this approach is resource intensive.

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<sup>1</sup> Only one police force out of 16 responses to a national survey has the specific equipment to measure vehicle noise

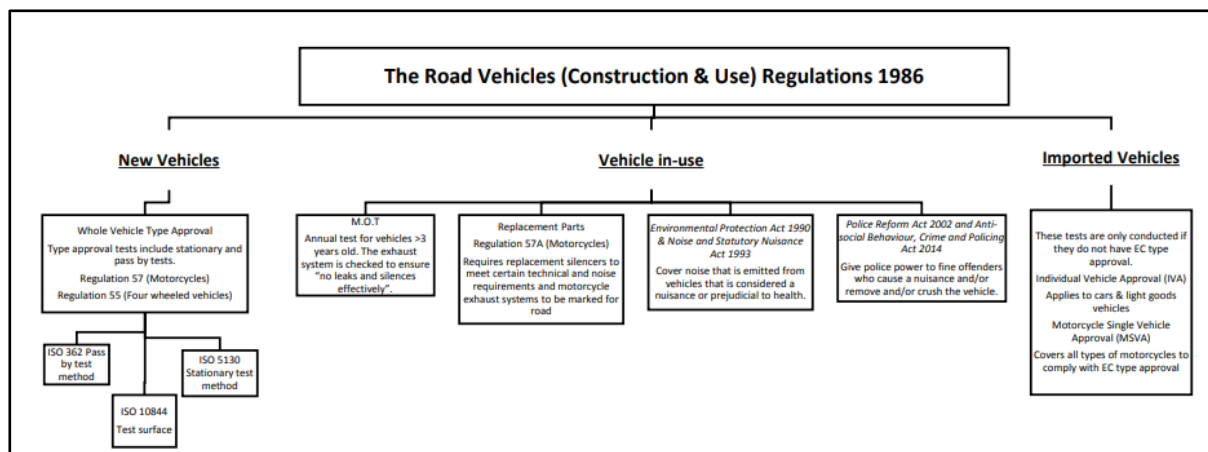


Figure 1. Current UK legislative framework to control and mitigate noise from motor vehicles<sup>2</sup>

### 3.1. Current enforcement tools

As evidenced above enforcement tools specifically relating to noise emitted by vehicles are ineffective. Therefore, local authorities and Police tend to rely on other pieces of legislation to deal with vehicles causing noise nuisance, focused more on the nuisance and/or relating to the manner in which the vehicle is being driven.

For local authorities the alternative enforcement options are limited, though RBKC have shown that in conjunction with the use of policing powers there is the ability to provide a comprehensive toolkit of enforcement options and that a joined-up approach is likely to be the most effective. As previously stated, the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 requires specific equipment and expertise to enforce, and therefore is rarely used however the following powers in conjunction with use of a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) and acoustic cameras have been shown to impact on the issue of nuisance noise –

#### Section 59 Police Reform Act 2002

Police have powers under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 to seize a vehicle where they believe it is being used in a manner causing or likely to cause alarm, distress, or annoyance to the public and contravenes Section 3 (careless / inconsiderate driving). Traditionally, use of this power requires significant police resource to gather evidence and enforce, though using CCTV and body worn cameras it has been discussed as a potential enforcement tool in relation to Westminster’s hotspots. Often a warning highlighting this power can be enough to persuade vehicle owners to comply.

#### Section 35 Dispersal ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014

Police can implement a dispersal zone where they have reasonable belief that use of such a power will reduce the likelihood of crime or disorder taking place. This

<sup>2</sup> [2019 report on Roadside Vehicle Noise Measurement prepared for DfT March 2019](#)

power has been successfully used in RBKC in relation to supercars and is in the toolkit of options for the MPS to use in Waterloo Place.

### **3.2. Capturing evidence – noise and related issues**

To identify the scale of the issue of vehicle noise, we regularly review the number of complaints/issues reported to both WCC and the MPS.

Westminster categorises noise complaints in several different ways and people wishing to report noise nuisance can choose at point of contact which type of noise to report. As noise from vehicles is not a statutory nuisance there is not currently a specific reporting category for vehicles. Therefore, to identify vehicle noise complaints in Westminster we undertake a manual search of a data extract from Uniform, our line of business system. The period most recently extracted covered May 2020 – October 2020, and a key word search is used to identify complaints relating to cars.

Of 11767 noise complaints, 60 appeared to relate to noise from vehicles, with a further 52 relating to music coming from vehicles, some of which may have related to the plethora of unlicensed music events (UMEs) seen in the latter half of 2020. Of the 60 vehicle related noise complaints, over a third (22) related to Waterloo Place or Carlton House Terrace, consistent with our understanding of the hotspot for vehicle related noise and car meets.

Similarly, there is no specific category of reporting noisy vehicles to the police, with the most likely proxy being vehicle nuisance/improper use. For the period December 2019 to November 2020 there were 528 reports of vehicle nuisance across Westminster. With no detail to this data, we are unable to examine how many of these related to noisy vehicles, however the locations with the highest number of calls were Knightsbridge & Belgravia (99), Strand & Whitehall (54) and Mayfair & St James's (49) – locations that include our known hotspots.

More recently, as we have started gathering evidence to support further enforcement action, we know that between January 2020 and the end of May 2021 police had received 80 reports of vehicle nuisance specific to Waterloo Place/Carlton House Terrace. In addition to noise reports the MPS and our own ASB caseworkers have been obtaining victim impact statements from residents and businesses in Waterloo Place.

The relative lack of formal noise complaints around noisy vehicles may relate to one or all of the following scenarios:

- It is a type of noise that some/many of our residents expect/are used to and only in key locations such as Waterloo Place do residents/businesses report this issue.
- The lack of a dedicated reporting category might dissuade reporting of the issue altogether.

- Residents/businesses are aware it is an issue that may be better investigated by the police as the dangerous driving/anti-social driving may be more concerning than the noise alone.

### 3.3. Key locations/type of activity

It is important to differentiate between the different types of activity which may lead to vehicle noise affecting our residents and businesses.

**Individual vehicles** - In most circumstances vehicle noise from unmodified vehicles, including mopeds and motorbikes cannot be deemed a nuisance. There are also other factors that may increase the impact of noise from vehicles, relating to the urban environment, such as building height, road surface and lack of ambient noise (very much linked to the night-time but also the significant reduction in vehicle traffic witnessed in 2020 during the pandemic).

**Car Meets** – Car meets generally involve groups congregating in a set location to show off their vehicles. It should be noted that car meets may be perfectly legitimate, however some can involve dangerous driving, including excessive speed and dangerous manoeuvres such as ‘doughnuts’ and burn outs. Though once the preserve of out-of-town retail parks and industrial units, we have evidence of these meets taking place in Westminster, most commonly Waterloo Place and Exhibition Road. Footage we have seen shows the potential for serious accidents and injuries/death is ever present when these events take place. These meets or ‘cruising’ events have a large social media presence.

### 3.4. Car meets in Westminster

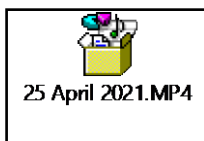
Car clubs/car meets have been identified as a particular nuisance in Westminster, particularly in relation to specific locations and at specific times of day. Historically we were aware of a group known as the Piccadilly Boy Racers<sup>3</sup> who for at least the last five years have driven into Westminster, often on a Sunday afternoon, to show off their vehicles to members of the public and supposedly raise money for charities. They would use Waterloo Place to park up and display their vehicles. Whilst this group would cause congestion in the West End as they moved in procession, and there was some suggestion of noise nuisance in the Waterloo Place area, there is nothing to suggest anything more untoward was happening.

More recently we have become more aware of car meets taking place late at night in both the Waterloo Place (and West End) and Exhibition Road areas. These car meets cause residents, us and the police more concern, as in addition to vehicles travelling into Westminster en-masse we have evidence of dangerous driving, along with the noise nuisance heightened by these events taking place in the early hours.

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<sup>3</sup> [‘Secret’ boy racer society clog up Piccadilly Circus](#)

It is believed that some or all these groups originate in East London and also travel onto other locations as well as Westminster, in the same night.



*Video footage of a car meet in  
Waterloo Place – 25<sup>th</sup> April  
2021*

We believe that the hotspot locations of Waterloo Place and Exhibition Road are used as they present a wide road space along with obstacles, which provide a perfect space to undertake dangerous manoeuvres such as doughnuts and sudden acceleration as well as the associated noise nuisance.

### **3.5. WCC approach to date**

WCC are working closely with the MPS (both local officers and the Roads and Transport Policing Command) to ensure a comprehensive enforcement plan for our hotspot locations, as well as securing evidence to support a PSPO. However, given our limited powers at present, enforcement has relied on the MPS to take action in the first instance.

*Example - On 25<sup>th</sup> April, MPS were made aware of a car meet taking place in Waterloo Place. Through use of the MPS CCTV in the area, 32 vehicle registrations were captured. 30 vehicle owners were sent warning letters whilst 2 are currently being prosecuted for dangerous driving. Since this date there have been no further car meets at this location.<sup>4</sup>*

With the ultimate threat of seizing these often very expensive and/or highly personalised vehicles (through Sec 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002) it is hoped this may dissuade a number of this group from returning. Indeed, a comprehensive communications campaign between ourselves and the MPS is another tool in alerting those who would want to travel into Westminster and cause nuisance that they ultimately risk having their car seized, if not there and then at a later date.

Use of acoustic cameras to gather evidence of noise nuisance and dangerous driving would still be used in conjunction with other approaches such as police dispersal powers, evidence capture via body worn cameras and potential design-out solutions<sup>5</sup>.

### **3.6. Measures taken in other boroughs - RBKC**

Our neighbouring borough, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea (RBKC) have reported anti-social behaviour and noise issues linked to supercars over at least the last 6-7 years, particularly in the Brompton and Hans Town Ward which borders

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<sup>4</sup> However Waterloo Place was the location for a series of vehicle led Palestinian protests on the weekend of 14/15/16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

<sup>5</sup> City Highways have also been engaged in conversations, particularly around Waterloo Place (hotspot 1)



Westminster (Knightsbridge and Belgravia Ward). Issues experienced by residents and businesses related to noise, revving of engines, racing and other anti-social activities. These issues were generally experienced in the Summer months and linked to visitors from the Middle East coming to London post-Ramadan and bringing their high-performance vehicles with them. These issues received significant local and national press coverage.

Enforcement action with the police had been undertaken for some time but with limited impact on the issue. However, the evidence gathered, showing a significant and sustained impact of supercars and their drivers on residents and the locality allowed RBKC to introduce a [RBKC PSPO](#) in 2015. The PSPO prohibited several activities relating to the driving of vehicles within a designated geographical zone (Brompton and Hans Town ward specifically). It is worth noting that according to the team that implemented the PSPO, RBKC received hundreds if not thousands of complaints about super cars in one ward alone.

The RBKC PSPO has the following conditions -

- Revving of engine(s) (as to cause a public nuisance)
- Repeated sudden and rapid acceleration (as to cause a public nuisance)
- Racing
- Performing stunts (as to cause a public nuisance)
- Sounding horns (as to cause a public nuisance)
- Playing music from a vehicle (as to cause a public nuisance)
- Using threatening, intimidating behaviour towards another person
- Causing obstruction on a public highway, whether moving or stationary, including driving in convoy

Enforcement of this PSPO has been carried out with the Police in conjunction with other activity and enforcement has generally been contained to dedicated operations which continue to be undertaken, however these are understandably resource intensive.

Following further complaints around anti-social activities by drivers of high-performance vehicles RBKC commenced a pilot using acoustic cameras that record exhaust noise above a certain limit. Offending drivers are enforced against with the potential for Fixed Penalty Notices to be issued and prosecution along with the potential for vehicles to be seized through applications to court.

Given that vehicle noise is not a statutory nuisance, the RBKC pilot does not specifically enforce against exhaust noise but is used as a tool against the requirements of the PSPO. The RBKC cameras record noise above 80dB, higher than the legal limit.

There has been some concern that the PSPO and Acoustic Camera enforcement would displace activity into Westminster, especially as the key RBKC hotspot directly borders Westminster. Between May and October 2020 there were 7 complaints relating to Knightsbridge and Belgravia with some of these relating to

our Exhibition Road hotspot. As last year was somewhat an anomaly, we will need to continue to monitor this potential displacement.

### **3.7. WCC proposed actions**

In addition to the continuation of the partnership work and development of an operational plan between ourselves and the MPS we are currently gathering evidence to support a PSPO for the Waterloo Place and Exhibition Road locations. We have also had approval to purchase two acoustic cameras to support evidence gathering and existing enforcement approaches. We have sought the advice of RBKC and will continue to work closely with them on the issue of noise nuisance from vehicles.

#### **3.7.1. PSPO**

Following discussions with RBKC and the MPS regarding their approach to noise nuisance from vehicles, we were asked to investigate replicating their approach through making a PSPO to restrict similar activities in our hotspot locations. Working closely with the MPS, we have collected statements and other evidence and provided those to legal services, who are currently drafting the PSPO for sign off and consultation. PSPOs relating to car meets of 'cruises' are a relatively common approach to the problem with a number of boroughs across the UK having them in place<sup>6</sup>. A PSPO would allow WCC to take enforcement action and/or support further action by the MPS.

For a PSPO to be made, we must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that we have met the statutory test provided for in the Act. This test states that:-

1. the activities carried out in a public place within the authority's area have had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality; or it is likely that activities will be carried on in a public place within our area and that they will have such an effect.
2. the effect, or likely effect, of the activities is, or is likely to be, of a persistent or continuing nature,
3. is, or is likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable;
4. and justifies the restrictions imposed by the order.

It is important to highlight the need for these activities to be of a persistent nature, which makes a PSPO unsuitable for individual incidents of noise nuisance. The impact of a PSPO is also limited by the ability to enforce prohibited activities. As we have seen from both RBKC and WCC, enforcement can be heavily reliant on a significant number of police officers to be available and the ability to react quickly to incidents.

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<sup>6</sup> Thurrock, Stockport, Trafford, Tamworth, Huntingdonshire, Enfield, Sandwell, Barking & Dagenham and Broxtowe Council

Currently apart from some footage and a handful of complaints, there is limited evidence to support extending the PSPO to Exhibition Road, however there is provision within the legislation to include likely displacement.

### PSPO timeframes

Current timeframes for a PSPO are as follows:

Milestone Name	Planned Delivery Date	Forecast Delivery Date	RAG
Evidence for PSPO Gathered	04/06/21	04/06/21	Delivered
Acoustic Cameras Installed	17/09/21	30/07/21	On track (see earlier delivery date)
Policy and Scrutiny	06/07/21	06/07/21	On track
Decision to Consult (Key Decision)	13/07/21	13/07/21	On track
Consultation Go Live <sup>7</sup>	21/07/21	21/07/21	On track
Results of Consultation Published	29/10/21	29/10/21	On track
Key Decision	02/11/21	02/11/21	On track
PSPO Go Live	09/11/21	09/11/21	On track

Table 1 – Current PSPO delivery timeframe

It is anticipated that any consultation will potentially identify other locations of concern to residents, and we would endeavour to gather evidence around the issues in any additional hotspots.

#### 3.7.2. Acoustic cameras

Between 23<sup>rd</sup> September and 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 RBKC carried out their own pilot using acoustic cameras as a tool to enforce against their PSPO. The pilot was deemed a success (see appendix 1) and whilst initially rented, RBKC have gone on to purchase acoustic cameras and are currently looking to use them to gather evidence to justify geographical extension of their existing PSPO.

Whilst the option to enforce using these cameras is not currently open to WCC as we have no PSPO in place, we did consult with RBKC on the use of these cameras to gather evidence of breaches to support justification of a PSPO. They have confirmed it was considered (subject to cost) and that this would allow the gathering of data to show volume of breaches though not allow us to identify vehicle keepers through the DVLA (for this to happen an offence must be proven).

<sup>7</sup> It is Council practice to not consult in August due to the likely unavailability of potential respondents. Hence the consultation period is longer than the usual 6 week period in order to maximise responses.

RBKC and the police have also been able to use the acoustic cameras to capture incidents of dangerous driving which the police are able to enforce<sup>8</sup>. Conversations with police around implementing a similar process in Westminster have been positive.

It is important to note that whilst acoustic cameras can be used as an enforcement tool, it is not necessarily the most effective enforcement tool at present. RBKC have advised that the process of enforcement is entirely manual and takes considerable officer time due to having to individually review all potential breaches and the volume of vehicles breaching the noise limits set (likely at a cost higher than the money retrieved through FPNs). Currently we do not have any dedicated resource available to carry out this activity.

There are some mitigations against this, in that Westminster is unlikely to see the same volume of vehicles as RBKC and the option is there to increase the trigger level of the cameras to capture only the very noisiest of vehicles. As evidenced by RBKC Enforcement Statistics enforcement is an entirely subjective matter based on the evidence and not all vehicles that have breached the decibel limit in RBKC have been warned or issued FPNs (approximately 10-15% of breaches result in further action).

We have been able to identify capital funds for the purchase of two acoustic cameras, and we have obtained the necessary waiver<sup>9</sup> from our procurement team in order to progress this. We propose that these cameras be piloted in the known hotspot locations to initially gather evidence to support enforcement activity, to support police operations and to provide any evidence of driving offences to the MPS to prosecute or warn vehicle owners (something that RBKC also does with their cameras).

The cameras are mobile (though there are installation costs every time they are moved) and so if evidence identifies other hotspots we can move them to support further evidence capture.

Table 1 (below) shows the cost of two acoustic cameras (both capital and revenue costings) without the installation cost as this is site specific (estimated at around £2-5k depending on location).

Should the pilot be successful and additional cameras be purchased, additional capital funds will need to be sought.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Yr 1</u>	<u>Yr 2</u>	<u>Y3</u>	<u>Total</u>
2 x Acoustic Cameras	34,200	0	0	34,200
Quarterly Service Fee @ £1,995	7,980	7,980	7,980	23,940
Annual Calibration	4,750	4,750	4,750	14,250

<sup>8</sup> RBKC identify the incidents and supply footage to the police.

<sup>9</sup> 24Acoustic are the only known company to produce a commercial product in the market.

Totals:	46,930	12,730	12,730	72,390
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Table 2 – costings for purchase of two cameras

### 3.7.3. Highways schemes

One of the potential solutions to be explored, particularly at Waterloo Place would be a Highways scheme that redesigned the space to reduce the opportunity to carry out some of the most anti-social aspects of the car meets, by raising and narrowing the entrance. However, this would only be a partial solution and would not necessarily stop car meets from attending the location. In addition, this scheme alone would cost around £800,000, which falls outside of current budgets. Given the cost of such schemes it is not recommended that they alone be used to reduce or remove the impact of car meets.



Figure 2 – Proposed Waterloo Place highways scheme (sketch)

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the  
Background Papers, please contact Alex Juon - 07890380509  
[ajuon@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:ajuon@westminster.gov.uk)**

**APPENDICES:**

For any supplementary documentation; especially from external stakeholders or documents which do not fit this template.

**1. RBKC Enforcement Statistics**

Camera Enforcement Statistics RBKC (Trial 22nd Sept to 23rd Dec 2020)

	September	October	November	December	Totals
Triggers	97	835	720	296	1948
Actions	32	85	98	47	262
%	33.0%	10.2%	13.6%	15.9%	13.4%

FPNs	14	40	59	31	144
Warnings	12	24	27	6	69
NFA	6	21	12	10	49
Pending	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>262</b>
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**2. Car Meet Police response (MPS)**

**Short Term**

- MO8 have four (4) dedicated vehicles tasked with attending car meets Fri – Sun evenings. Funding has been authorised for the weekends of 26-28<sup>th</sup> March, 2-4<sup>th</sup> April and 9-11<sup>th</sup> April for an additional four (4) cars. The unit is not dedicated solely to AW so can be deployed elsewhere. MO8 have a dedicated OP to tackling these car meets based on the Intel they have.
- GSZ have a tasking, on their internal transfer, to respond to any gatherings of cars on WATERLOO PLACE to record all vehicles VRM's and the actions of the vehicles. This footage is to be sent to NPT who will crimint the footage and forward to MO8 who will summons the registered keeper and prosecute for any offences and issue S.59 notices.
- AW400 has a briefing pack on Box that has been updated with victim personal statements (VPS) to support authorisation of a S.35 dispersal. The pack also

includes the details of the MO8 unit who are to be contacted through the control room.

- WEPT have been requested to assist with both engaging with the participants of the car meet and carrying out enforcement and also gathering BWV to assist with issuing S.59 notices.

### **Medium Term**

- NPT is engaged in taking VPS from local residents and businesses in order to support both the S.35 order and to assist Westminster City Council evidence the need for a PSPO for the area. WCC are holding a meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March regarding PSPO and enforcement cameras.
- Install temporary speedbumps on the carriageway leading to CARLTON HOUSE TERRACE to deny the area for drag racing and tyre burnouts.
- A Design Out Crime officer is attending WATERLOO PLACE on 25<sup>th</sup> March to carry out an EVA on the surrounding area and report findings.

### **Long Term**

- Acoustic Cameras are to be sourced by WCC if cost is not prohibitive and will be installed in the area. These are not permanently fixed and could be relocated to other areas on WCCV if the need arose. PSPO to be considered by WCC dependant on the potential offences caught on the Cameras and necessity of PSPO to deal ie: no legal framework under existing legislation (driving or C&U/ Sec 59 offences)
- WCC have already commissioned a remodelling of WATERLOO PLACE which is to raise the entry walkway and narrow the entrance to the carriageways. The plans have been drawn up but at present there is no timeline for when this will happen due to cost.
- Continuation of Short and Medium term plans.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

This section is for any background papers used to formulate the report or referred to in the body of the report.

1. Atkins Jacobs joint venture – Task 696 – [Roadside Vehicle Noise Measurement](#). Prepared for the Department of Transport, March 2019
2. [RBKC PSPO](#)

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## Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy & Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	6 July 2021
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	<b>2020/21 Work Programme</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Governance and Councillor Liaison
<b>Cabinet Member Portfolios</b>	Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration Cabinet Member for Housing Services
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	All
<b>Policy Context:</b>	All
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	<b>Artemis Kassi</b> <a href="mailto:akassi@westminster.gov.uk">akassi@westminster.gov.uk</a>

### 1. Executive Summary

1. This meeting begins the cycle of meetings for this Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022. This report asks the Committee to discuss topics for the work programme.

### 2. Next meeting date for the 2021/2022 year

2.1 The next meeting date for this Committee 2021/2022 year will be 6<sup>th</sup> October.

### 3. Suggested topics

3.1 The Committee requested to discuss topics for the work programme for the next municipal year, 2021/2022. Some suggested topics are:

- Air quality
- Rough sleeping
- Modern slavery
- Domestic violence

- 3.2 The Committee is requested to confirm that the main agenda item for the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October will be air quality. The Committee is advised that this will be timely, as the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021.

**If you have any queries about this report or wish to inspect any of the background papers, please contact Artemis Kassi.**

**[akassi@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:akassi@westminster.gov.uk)**

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Appendix 1 – Work Programme**

**Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference**

**COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND HOUSING POLICY and SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Work Programme 2021 - 2022**

<b>ROUND ONE</b> <b>6 July 2021</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by:</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor David Harvey – Cabinet Member for Housing Services
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the Committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor Heather Acton – Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
<b>Nuisance and PSPOs</b>	To receive a report on nuisance caused by noisy vehicles and car meets	Calvin Maclean
<b>Work Programme</b>	To receive a report on the Committee's work programme for 2021/2022	Artemis Kassi

<b>ROUND TWO</b> <b>6 October 2021</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Reasons &amp; objective for item</b>	<b>Represented by:</b>
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor Heather Acton – Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor David Harvey – Cabinet Member for Housing Services
<b>Air Quality</b>	To receive a report on the Council's air quality work	Raj Mistry
<b>Work Programme</b>	To receive a report on the Committee's work programme for 2021/2022	Artemis Kassi

ROUND THREE 17 November 2021		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor David Harvey – Cabinet Member for Housing Services
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor Heather Acton – Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
<b>Work Programme</b>	To receive a report on the Committee's work programme for 2021/2022	Artemis Kassi
<b>To be confirmed</b>		

ROUND FOUR 26 January 2022		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor Heather Acton – Cabinet Member for Communities and Regeneration
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor David Harvey – Cabinet Member for Housing Services
<b>Work Programme</b>	To receive a report on the Committee's work programme for 2021/2022	Artemis Kassi
<b>To be confirmed</b>		

ROUND FIVE 17 March 2022		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor Melvyn Caplan – Cabinet Member for City Management
<b>Cabinet Member Q&amp;A</b>	To update the committee on key areas of work within its remit and the Cabinet Member's priorities	Councillor Paul Swaddle – Cabinet Member for Finance and Smart City
<b>Work Programme</b>	To receive a report on the Committee's work programme for 2021/2022	Artemis Kassi
<b>To be confirmed</b>		

UNALLOCATED ITEMS		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Represented by:
<b>N/A</b>		

TASK GROUPS AND STUDIES		
Subject	Reasons & objective	Type
<b>To be confirmed</b>		Task Group

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## **COMMUNITIES, REGENERATION AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

#### **Constitution**

Eight Members of the Council (five Majority Party Members and three Minority Party Members).

#### **Terms of reference**

(a) To carry out the Policy and Scrutiny functions, as set out in Article 6 of the Constitution in respect of matters relating to all those duties within the terms of reference of the Cabinet Members for Communities and Regeneration and the Cabinet Member for Housing.

(b) To carry out the Policy and Scrutiny function in respect of matters within the remit of the Council's non-executive Committees and Sub-Committees, which are within the broad remit of the Committee, in accordance with paragraph 13 (a) of the Policy and Scrutiny procedure rules.

(c) Matters within the broad remit of the Cabinet Members referred to in (a) above which are the responsibility of external agencies.

(d) Any other matter allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.

(e) To have the power to establish ad hoc or Standing Sub-Committees as Task Groups to carry out the scrutiny of functions within these terms of reference.

(f) To scrutinise the duties of the Lead Members which fall within the remit of the Committee or as otherwise allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.

(g) To scrutinise any Bi-borough proposals which impact on service areas that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

(h) To oversee any issues relating to Performance that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

(i) To have the power to scrutinise those partner organisations whose services fall within the Committee's terms of reference.

(j) To consider any Councillor Calls for Action referred by a Ward Member to the Committee.

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