



City of Westminster

# Committee Agenda

Title: **General Purposes Committee**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday 7th September, 2021**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Venue: **Room 18.12 - 18th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6 QP**

Members: **Councillors:**  
Paul Swaddle (Chairman)  
David Boothroyd  
Tim Mitchell  
Gotz Mohindra

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



**Admission to the public gallery is by ticket, issued from the ground floor reception at City Hall. If you have a disability and require any special assistance please contact the Committee Officer (details listed below) in advance of the meeting.**



**An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Tristan Fieldsend, Senior Committee and Councillor Co-Ordinator.**

**Email: [tfieldsend@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:tfieldsend@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 Director of Law in advance of the meeting please.

## **AGENDA**

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

**1. MEMBERSHIP**

To note any changes to the membership.

**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 sign the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2021.

**(Pages 3 - 4)**

**4. POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW**

Report of the Director of Strategy and Intelligence.

**(Pages 5 - 10)**

**Stuart Love  
Chief Executive  
27 August 2021**



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

## MINUTES

### General Purposes

#### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the **General Purposes** held on **Tuesday 23rd February, 2021**,

**Members Present:** Councillors Paul Swaddle (Chairman), Melvyn Caplan (Vice-Chairman), David Boothroyd and Gotz Mohindra

#### **1 MEMBERSHIP**

1.1 There were no changes to the membership.

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

2.1 There were no Declarations of Interest

#### **3 MINUTES**

3.1 That the Chairman, with the consent of the Members present, signed the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2020.

#### **4 MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME 2021-2022 AND CREATION OF PLANNING AND LICENSING VICE-CHAIR POSITIONS**

4.1 The Head of Committee and Governance Services introduced the report and advised that the proposed scheme, effective from 1 April 2021 for 2021-2022 had been prepared on the basis of the current scheme subject to the inclusion of new Special Responsibility Allowances for proposed Vice-Chairmen posts for the Planning and City Development Committee and Licensing Committee. As in previous year's regard had been given to the findings and recommendations detailed in the report of the London Council's Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors which was last published in January 2018.

4.2 The committee had previously endorsed the principle of increasing members' allowances as a minimum in line with the increase awarded to all staff each year. As there is less certainty on the settlement of any pay increase to be awarded to staff in 2021, a specific increase had not been put forward in the report. It was proposed that any increase to the Basic and Special

Responsibility Allowances will be applied in line with any increase in salary for council staff agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services and that this will be backdated from the 1 April 2021.

- 4.3 The report also proposed the establishment of Vice-Chairmen posts for the Planning and City Development Committee and the Licensing Committee for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.14 of the report.
- 4.4 In considering the proposals the committee noted the views of both political parties of the council including those in relation to the creation of the vice-chairmen posts for both the Planning and Licensing committees and the proposed related Special Responsibility Allowances. Councillor Boothroyd, on behalf of the Minority Party, sought further clarification on the specific work that the post holders would undertake and raised concern about the additional proposed Special Responsibility Allowances associated with the posts. On balance the majority of members considered that it is justifiable to create the proposed posts given the nature and function of the committees and Westminster's position of being one of the largest planning and licensing authorities in England.

**RESOLVED:**

That Full Council:

1. Approve the Members' Allowances Scheme for 2021-2022 as set out in Appendix A to the report from 1 April 2021 subject to the inclusion of an uplift for both basic and special responsibility allowances in line with the approach outlined in paragraph 3.6 of the report.
2. Establish the positions of Planning and City Development Vice-Chair and Licensing Committee Vice-Chair with immediate effect.

Councillor David Boothroyd dissented from the decision.

The Meeting ended at 6.11 pm

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

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



## General Purposes Committee Report

<b>Meeting or Decision Maker:</b>	General Purposes Committee
<b>Date:</b>	7th September 2021
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Polling District and Polling Places Review – Westminster
<b>Report of:</b>	Annelie Drabu and Sophie Shore, Director of Strategy and Intelligence (jobshare)

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report updates progress with respect to the Polling District and Polling Places review within the Westminster City Council boundary.

1.2 This paper provides information on:

- The recommendations made in response to all submissions received during consultation
- The next phase of the process after any recommendations have been approved.

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the committee:

- note the proposals
- approve the Polling Districts and Polling Places recommendations made in this report
- note that the Chief Executive has delegated powers to designate alternative polling places in the event of any polling place not being available at any election or better provision being identified, following consultation with the Party Whips and respective ward councillors.

### **3. Background, including Policy Context**

- 3.1 The City of Westminster (Electoral Changes) Order 2020 implemented final recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for new electoral arrangements in Westminster Council. This Order was made on 5 November 2020. New ward arrangements for Westminster Council successfully completed a 40-day period of Parliamentary scrutiny and will come into force at the City Council local elections on 5 May 2022.
- 3.2 As a result of the above ward changes, under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council is required to divide its new wards into polling districts and review all polling places. Therefore, the review process of redrawing new polling district boundaries within wards and re-designating new polling places commenced shortly after the GLA elections held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.
- 3.3 The principles underlying the approach to establishing polling districts and polling places in the review were:
- To optimise (i.e. reduce) the amount of time that it requires as many residents as possible to walk to vote (initially to be based around a concept of 8 minutes), using a reasonable number of polling places.
  - To look to shape new polling districts to fit polling places (whether existing or new polling places) and to seek new places where necessary to allow for this.
  - To ensure, that any new polling places are accessible to people with disabilities.
  - To aim to have three polling places per ward except where only doing so would compromise the above.
  - To try and minimise disruption to schools.
- 3.4 The Council conducted a 30-day public consultation, between 5th July and 3rd August, where any person or organisation could make representations on the Acting Returning Officers initial proposals for new polling districts and new polling places.
- 3.5 The new polling places and districts will come into effect for the first time for voting purposes at the City Council local elections on 5 May 2022.

### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 The Notice of Review was published on the Westminster City Council website and in the residents newsletter. All Westminster councillors were provided with a copy of the Acting Returning Officer's initial proposals shortly before the review was commenced. Other political parties, from beyond the majority party and the minority party on Westminster City Council, were also notified that a review would be commenced.
- 4.2 The following parties submitted counter proposals which differed in some respects to parts of the Acting Returning Officer's initial proposals:

a. Political Groups and Councillors:

- An all-wards representation from the Labour group on Westminster City Council.
- Queen's Park ward representation from the Queen's Park ward councillors.

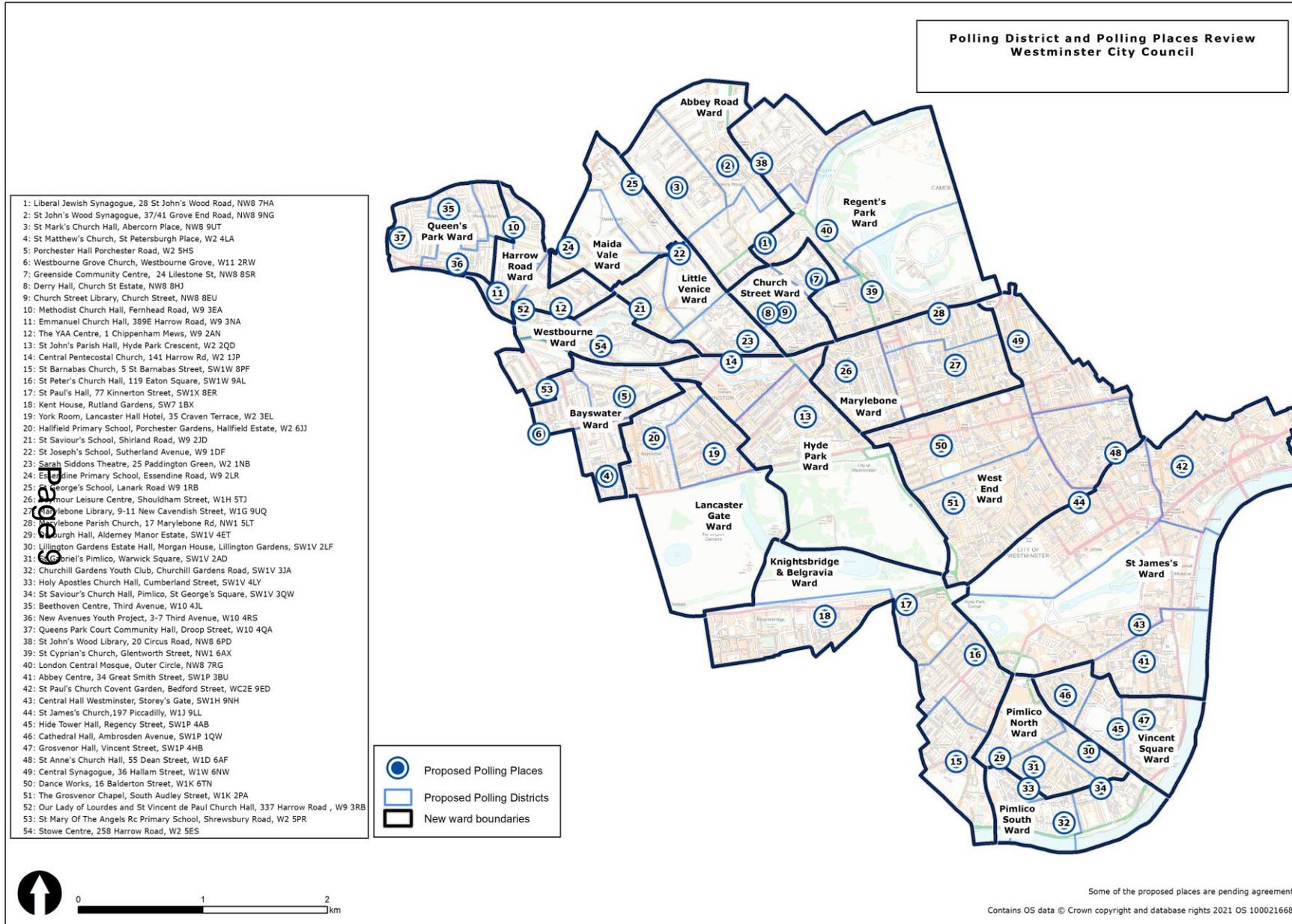
b. Acting Returning Officer Initial Proposals:

- The Acting Returning Officer published their initial proposals on the new polling districts and new polling places on the 5th July.
- A total of 54 polling places are proposed, with most wards having 3 places. Due to their size and shape, Hyde Park, Lancaster Gate and Maida Vale have 2 polling places each, and West End, St James's and Knightsbridge & Belgravia have 4 polling places each.
- The polling district boundaries in Queen's Park have remained unchanged, which ensures that the current electoral arrangements of the parish council are maintained (the 4 polling district areas of Queen's Park ward represent the 4 ward areas of the parish council). However, it is proposed that the ward has three polling places, co-locating two districts in the north east of the ward to one polling place.
- The difference between the WCC's proposals before and after the public consultation are laid out in the table and map overleaf.

Table 1 – Summary of changes between the WCC proposals before and after the public consultation

Ward	Status post consultation	Details of change	Polling district naming
Abbey Road	Unchanged		ARA ARB ARC
Bayswater	Changed	The boundary of the polling districts has changed, to follow Westbourne Park Road and then the back of the houses between Kildare Terrace/Kildare Gardens and Alexander Street.	BWA BWB BWC
Church Street	Changed	The boundary of the polling districts has changed, in order to join Swanbourne House and Jordans House with the rest of Lisson Grove estate.	CSA CSB CSC
Harrow Road	Unchanged		HRA HRB HRC
Hyde Park	Unchanged		HPA HPB
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	Unchanged		KBA KBB KBC KBD
Lancaster Gate	Unchanged		LGA LGB
Little Venice	Unchanged		LVA LVB LVC
Maida Vale	Unchanged		MVA MVB
Marylebone	Unchanged		MBA MBB MBC
Pimlico North	Unchanged		PNA PNB PNC
Pimlico South	Changed	Churchill Youth Club is decided to be more appropriate, instead of Churchill Gardens Residents Hall, as it has a better wheelchair access.	PSA PSB PSC
Queen's Park	Unchanged		QPA QPB QPC QPD
Regent's Park	Unchanged		RPA RPB RPC
St. James's	Unchanged		SJA SJB SJC SJD
Vincent Square	Unchanged		VSA VSB VSC
West End	Unchanged		WEA WEB WEC WED
Westbourne	Unchanged		WBA WBB WBC

Figure 1 - Map of final polling districts and polling places post consultation



## 5. Next Steps

- 6.1 The proposals will be adopted, subject to approval by the Committee. When the revised electoral register is published on 1 December 2021 a version of that register will need to show the new polling district boundaries.
- 6.2 The new wards, polling districts and polling places arrangements will be implemented for the first time, for voting purposes, at the 5 May 2022 all-out City Council elections.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers please contact:**

*Veni Tzampoura, [etzampoura@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:etzampoura@westminster.gov.uk)*