



City of Westminster

Council Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 15th November, 2023**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5PT**

Members: **All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting
for the transaction of the business set out.**

In line with legislation Committee members will attend the meeting in person. This meeting will be live streamed through the Council's website.

Limited admission to the public gallery is available from 6.30pm. Please telephone if you are attending the meeting in a wheelchair or have difficulty walking up steps. There is wheelchair access via the Sammy Ofer Centre.

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Janis Best, Committee and Councillor Support Manager.

**Email: jbest@westminster.gov.uk Tel: 07971 920521
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

1. APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

To appoint a relief Chairman.

2. MINUTES

To sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 20 September.

3. LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Saturday 23rd September, she attended the Vitality Westminster Mile on the Mall.
2. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Sunday 24th September, she attended the Costermongers Harvest Festival at The Guildhall.
3. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Wednesday 27th September, she attended the Pimlico Musical Foundation event at St Gabriel's, Pimlico.
4. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Friday 29th September, she attended a Eucharist for the Ordination and Consecration of three new Bishops, at The Abbey and that she also attended the CIAC Mid-Autumn Festival Lunch on Newport Place.
5. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Saturday 30th September, she attended the St Peter's Eaton Square Michaelmas Fair and the launch of the Mental Health Hub at Pimlico Library.
6. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Sunday 1st October, she attended Silver Sunday events at Leonora House and the Wallace Collection and attended the Japan Matsuri Opening Ceremony in Trafalgar Square.
7. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Tuesday 3rd October, she attended Evensong and a Tour of The Abbey.
8. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Thursday 5th October, she attended an Evening with The Passage event, at The Passage.
9. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Saturday 7th October, she attended the 50th Anniversary Prayer Book Society Holy Communion at The Abbey.
10. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Sunday 8th October, she

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attended the Pimlico Puffins Swimming Gala at the Queen Mother Sports Centre.

11. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Wednesday 11th October, she attended the Annual National Service for Seafarers at St Paul's Cathedral.
12. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Thursday 12th October, she attended the Edith Cavell Wreath Laying Ceremony on St Martin's Place, the National Day of Spain reception at the Spanish Embassy and the Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Chamber of Commerce Business Awards at One Great George Street.
13. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Sunday 15th October, she attended the Lord Mayors' Association Civic Service at The Abbey.
14. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Monday 16th October, she attended a Georgian Embassy event at St Saviour's Church, Pimlico
15. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Tuesday 17th October, she attended the Dance Westminster Grand Final at Porchester Hall.
16. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Saturday 21st October, she attended the London Westminster Lions Club 20th Charter Anniversary at Browns Restaurant.
17. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Sunday 22nd October, she attended the Trafalgar Day Parade and Reception at Trafalgar Square and Wellington Barracks.
18. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Monday 23rd October, she attended a Gibraltar Day Celebration at Somerset House.
19. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Tuesday 24th October, she attended a dinner with the Italian Ambassador at the Italian Embassy.
20. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Thursday 26th October, she attended the Royal Cocoa Festival Dinner at Six Park Place.
21. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Friday 27th October, she attended a lunch at Daventry House.
22. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Saturday 28th October, she attended the Centenary Proclamation of Turkey at the

Guildhall.

23. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Thursday 2nd November, she attended The Portman Estate Champagne Reception at The Wallace Collection.
24. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Friday 3rd November, she visited the House of St Barnabas, Soho.
25. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Saturday 4th November, she attended the Royal Automobile Club Lunch at 89 Pall Mall.
26. The Lord Mayor to report that, on Tuesday 7th November, she attended the State Opening of Parliament.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5. STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

With the approval of the Chair of the meeting, the Leader of the Council may make a statement on an urgent matter and the Leader of the Opposition will have an equivalent right of reply.

6. COUNCILLOR PRESENTED PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

7. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Lord Mayor will invite members of the public who have been chosen to present their question or petition. After which the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair will respond.

8. QUESTIONS

The Lord Mayor will call Members who have indicated that they wish to ask a question after the Leader of the Opposition has asked her questions.

9. COUNCILLOR ISSUE

Councillor Robert Eagleton – 'Affordable Housing in Pimlico and Westminster'.

10. PARTY BUSINESS

To consider any items for debate.

11. REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL: APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORARY RECORDER

(Pages 15 - 18)

To receive, consider and debate, if chosen, the following report which contains a recommendation to the Council for approval and adoption.

12. REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2024-25

(Pages 19 - 20)

To receive, consider and debate, if chosen, the following report which contains recommendations to the Council for approval and adoption.

[Programme of Meetings Report](#)

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

To be moved by Councillor David Harvey and seconded by Councillor Mark Shearer.

Heading into the winter, residents are concerned for the rising numbers of rough sleepers across the City.

The Council commits to reenergising its third sector partnerships with urgency to develop a joint plan for action in today's challenging circumstances.

Together, alongside these expert specialist charity partners, Westminster must work even harder to help those on the streets to find and sustain a stable and happy life, ensuring that every penny is spent in the most effective and joined up way to help people at their most vulnerable.

**64 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QP
7 November 2023**

Chief Executive

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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 20th September, 2023 at Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5PT.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Patricia McAllister

COUNCILLORS

Concia Albert	Iman Less
Gillian Arrindell	Patrick Lilley
Barbara Arzymanow	Alan Mendoza
Geoff Barraclough	Tim Mitchell
Liza Begum	Matt Noble
David Boothroyd	Ellie Ormsby
Nafsika Butler-Thalassis	Ralu Oteh-Osoka
Melvyn Caplan	Angela Piddock
Maggie Carman	Robert Rigby
Laila Cunningham	Tim Roca
Lorraine Dean	Ian Rowley
Tony Devenish	Cara Sanquest
Paul Dimoldenberg	Caroline Sargent
Robert Eagleton	Karen Scarborough
Paul Fisher	Mark Shearer
Ed Pitt Ford	Selina Short
Jim Glen	James Small-Edwards
David Harvey	Judith Southern
Sara Hassan	Max Sullivan
Elizabeth Hitchcock	Paul Swaddle
Adam Hug	Jessica Toale
Louise Hyams	Hamza Taouzzale
Ryan Jude	Aziz Toki
Amanda Langford	Jacqui Wilkinson
Aicha Less	Jason Williams

APOLOGIES: Councillors Ruth Bush, Md Shamsed Chowdhury and Rachael Robathan

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 Motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Ellie Ormsby, that Councillor Robert Eagleton be elected as Relief Chair.
- 1.2 Motion put, and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

2 MINUTES

- 2.1 The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 28 June 2023 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

3 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

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

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 Councillor Jim Glen declared that in respect of 13b on the agenda, the Ecological Emergency Motion, he was a Trustee of the Westminster Tree Trust.

5 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

- 5.1 There were no urgent matters.

6 COUNCILLOR PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

- 6.1 There were no petitions or deputations received.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 7.1 Members of the public asked three questions which were responded to by the relevant Cabinet Members. The questions and responses are available on the Council's website.

8 QUESTIONS

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

9 COUNCILLOR ISSUE

9.1 Social Housing in St. James's

Councillor Louise Hyams spoke, and Councillor Liza Begum replied.

10 PARTY BUSINESS

- 10.1 The Opposition Party selected to debate the topic of Sustainable Travel. The debate would be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when reporting on the subject.

11 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: COUNCILLORS PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY

- 11.1 The Lord Mayor put the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations adopted.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Parental Leave Policy for Councillors, attached at Appendix A of the report, be approved and it be adopted into the Council's Constitution as part of an Appendix to the Member's Allowances Scheme.

12 REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE: POLICY AND SCRUTINY REVIEW

- 12.1 The Opposition Party had selected for debate the report on the Policy and Scrutiny Review as set out on the agenda.
- 12.2 Following debate, the Lord Mayor put the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations adopted.

RESOLVED:

That Full Council approve:

- 1) The replacement of the existing Policy and Scrutiny Committee structure with a revised Policy and Scrutiny Committee structure as summarised in the report, and for this new structure to take effect from 27 September 2023, following the current round of committee meetings;
- 2) A revised Chapter 4 ("Policy and Scrutiny") of the Council's Constitution as set out at Appendix A of the report, including revised terms of reference for Policy and Scrutiny Committees, including the North West London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and
- 3) The delegation of authority to the Monitoring Officer to make other minor amendments to provisions in the Constitution consistent with the contents of this report.

13 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 13a - The Gordon Hospital and a Lack of Acute Mental Health Provision in South Westminster

- 13.1 The Majority Party had selected for debate the notice of motion as set out on the agenda. The notice of motion was moved by Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis and seconded by Councillor Lorraine Dean.
- 13.2 Following the debate, The Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote and following a show of hands declared the motion **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

The mental wellbeing of our residents is of the utmost importance to this Council. We are concerned about the loss of Westminster's 51 acute mental health beds since the temporary closure of the Gordon Hospital at the beginning of the Covid pandemic and the consequences this has had for our residents and our staff. We are concerned that patients have to wait much longer to access an acute bed, often in unsuitable environments such as in A&E. When a bed is finally found, it is outside Westminster, and sometimes very far from Westminster which contributes to the isolation of mental health patients from their families and communities.

The temporary closure of the Gordon Hospital has put immense pressure on other parts of the system. St Charles, the acute mental health hospital in Kensington & Chelsea is finding that Kensington & Chelsea patients are having to move out of borough to make way for Westminster patients. St Mary's hospital is having to host several mental health patients at a time for up to 24 hours in beds that are needed for patients who are physically ill. The police are finding that their resources are tied up in escorting mental health patients in A&E for up to 24 hours instead of fighting crime.

The closure of the Gordon Hospital affects all our communities both directly and indirectly. However, the closure of this acute provision has a particular impact on communities least able to access alternative support, such as those who are street homeless and those households in multiple deprivation.

There is no indication that the need for acute mental health beds is reducing. Our data shows that in 2022/23 our staff assessed 1070 people, 49 people more than in 2021/22. Of those 1070 people, 777 were referred for acute hospital care, which is 103 more people than in 2021/22.

We call on the NHS to reopen acute mental health beds in South Westminster to ensure that the acute mental health needs of our residents are met. We very much value community mental health

services but we don't believe that community mental health services should be funded at the expense of acute hospital beds. We need both types of services to support patients with different needs and at different stages of their patient journey. This is the view we will be expressing formally to the NHS when they open their consultation in the Autumn.

Motion 13b - Ecological Emergency

- 13.3 The Majority Party had selected for debate the notice of motion as set out on the agenda.
- 13.4 A procedural motion was moved by Councillor Cara Sanquest and seconded by Councillor Ryan Jude for the Council to receive a deputation. The Lord Mayor put the motion to receive a deputation to the vote and by show of hands declared the motion **CARRIED**.
- 13.5 Mr Simon Cole, representing the Climate Assembly UK, addressed the Full Council.
- 13.6 The notice of motion was moved by Councillor Ryan Jude and seconded by Councillor Cara Sanquest.
- 13.7 Following the debate, The Lord Mayor put the motion to the vote and following a show of hands declared the motion **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

This Council recognises the importance of a healthy and biodiverse environment that ensures the wellbeing of all who live, work and study here and support Westminster's future prosperity. This Council also acknowledges the 2019 State of Nature report, which found that 15% of UK species are classified as threatened with extinction, and 2% are already extinct.

Westminster declared a climate emergency in 2019. The Council notes that the ecological and climate emergencies are intertwined, as burning fossilised carbon places stress on the ecosystems which regulate the climate. If habitats are compromised or destroyed, this has impacts not only on the decline of local species but also on resilience for more extreme weather events such as heatwaves and floods.

In Westminster, there are 33 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs), which cover 22% of the City's land footprint. Some are located on council land, while others are owned by other landowners, such as The Royal Parks. However, the most recent Open Space Audit data that is available found that only 39% of Westminster SINCs demonstrated 'average to rich' or 'rich' species diversity. As well as in our green spaces, there is also significant ability to improve the biodiversity in our built environment and through our planning system. There is an opportunity to learn more about the state of nature in the City of Westminster, and to improve general awareness of and develop actions to reverse biodiversity loss in our City.

We therefore pledge to provide leadership and work with all organisations, departments, partners and our communities to do all that is within the Council's power to reverse the decline in biodiversity and deliver measurable biodiversity net gain within Westminster.

The Council also notes the importance of the work of the newly instated Climate Assembly and the following Cabinet decision to:

- Note the final recommendations from the Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly.
- Approve the initiation of a programme of cross-council work, led by individual Cabinet Members, to develop responses to each recommendation of the Climate Assembly, identifying what action is possible or where the Council may need to influence stakeholders to take them forward.
- Agree that all recommendations brought forward for implementation will be subject to further financial and legal consideration and, where necessary, individual Cabinet or Cabinet Member decisions will need to be undertaken.

In addition to this, the Council will:

- (1) Declare an ecological emergency, which recognises the global ecological emergency and the local impact this has on the communities and businesses we serve, expanding upon the climate emergency declared in 2019;
- (2) Pledge to act during the first year of the Motion being accepted, to secure future measurable biodiversity net gain for Westminster, building on recent achievements such as the 'Greening Westminster' fund, the 'No Mow May' initiative, local projects which support communities to take action to improve biodiversity, the ban on the use of Glyphosate, the Wild Gardens competition and other initiatives;
- (3) Publish a strategy, within the first year of the Motion being accepted, outlining our approach to improving biodiversity within Westminster, which will formally bring together and build upon work happening across the council to support biodiversity net gain;
- (4) Undertake and publish a Green Infrastructure Audit, to assess the current condition and quality of green spaces in Westminster, including our 33 SINC locations in the City;
- (5) Proactively look for opportunities to work in partnership with local groups and stakeholders, to ensure we are all working together to address the ecological emergency;
- (6) Pledge to develop plans for further action in the second year of the Motion being accepted and beyond, based on a full assessment of the scientific evidence on how best to achieve this goal;

- (7) Declare its full support for the Climate and Ecology Bill, and to write to all MPs with constituencies that contain Westminster City Council wards, to encourage them to also support the Climate and Ecology Bill.

In recognition of this ecological emergency Westminster City Council will:

- Make Council housing estates, parks and open spaces more hospitable to a wide range of plants and animals.
- Encourage community engagement with habitat creation through community gardens, improving biodiversity in our streets and pocket parks.
- Identify how the City's open spaces function as part of a Westminster ecological network and prioritise areas for protection and enhancement.
- Work in partnership with institutions, schools, businesses and community groups, to raise awareness and encourage wider biodiversity action across the City through public engagement and advice to residents and businesses on how to protect and enhance habitats within their neighbourhoods.
- Ensure the delivery of biodiversity enhancements through our planning policy and development control functions.
- Review and increase ambition on the Council's target to increase tree canopy cover by 10% by 2050, including working with Westminster Tree Trust to make it easier for residents to propose tree planting. Work with communities to increase tree planting, and where street trees are not appropriate, install green walls, hedges and planters for smaller trees.
- Design new council housing for net gain of biodiversity and opportunities in the form of integral swift boxes and biodiverse green roofs.

The Meeting ended at 9.40am.

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____

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City of Westminster Council Report

Meeting or Decision Maker:	Council
Date:	15 November 2023
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Appointment of the Honorary Recorder
Fairer Westminster/Policy Context:	The post is a ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community.
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications for the decision sought.
Report of:	Director of Law and Governance

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner was appointed as Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark with effect from 1 August 2023 following the retirement of Her Honour Judge Deborah Taylor.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formally invite the Council to approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner as Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To formally approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner as Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster during his tenure as Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark, in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Courts Act 1971 empowers the Council to appoint an Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster.
- 3.2 It has been the practice in Westminster to offer the position of Honorary Recorder to the Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark.
- 3.3 The Lord Chief Justice appointed His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner as the Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark with effect from 1 August 2023.
- 3.4 His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner replaces Her Honour Judge Deborah Taylor, who retired as Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster in December 2022.

4. Other Considerations

- 4.1 An Honorary Recorder is an unpaid, ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community. The functions of Honorary Recorder include attending ceremonial and civic functions and inviting Members of the Council to attend judicial events. The Lord Chief Justice is keen for councils to use the power available to them to make such an appointment.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications for the decision sought.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council has power to appoint a person to the position of Honorary Recorder under Section 54 of the provision of the Courts Act 1971.

7. Carbon Impact

- 7.1 There are no carbon impact implications for the decision sought.

8. Equalities

- 8.1 An EIA is not deemed required for the appointment of this position.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any
of the Background Papers, please contact:
Tristan Fieldsend
Email: tfieldsend@westminster.gov.uk**

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REPORT OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2023

Present: Councillors David Boothroyd (Chairman), Aicha Less, Ellie Ormsby and Mark Shearer

1. Programme of Meetings 2024-2025

- (a) We recommended for approval to the full Council the Programme of Meetings for the Committees and Sub-Committees of the Council for the 2024-2025 municipal year, having regard to the approach we have previously agreed.
- (b) We noted that the principles we previously endorsed for the scheduling of formal meetings, which allows for a more consistent approach, have worked well to date. Accordingly, these principles have been carried forward for the preparation of the 2024-2025 programme of meetings.
- (c) The full Council is required to approve the dates for its meetings, and these are set out in the recommendation for adoption.

We recommend:

- 1) That meetings of the Council be held as follows:

19 June 2024, 18 September 2024, 13 November 2024, 22 January 2025, 5 March 2025, 14 May 2025 (Annual)
- 2) That the Programme of other formal Meetings set out in Appendix A of the General Purposes Committee report be approved.

David Boothroyd, Chair

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972

Report/Minutes: General Purposes Committee (11.10.2023)

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