



# MINUTES

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

**CABINET MEETING – 1 June 2015**

## **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at 7.00pm on **Monday 1 June 2015** in Committee Rooms 6 and 7, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP

**Cabinet Members Present:** Councillors Philippa Roe (Chairman), Heather Acton, Nickie Aiken, Daniel Astaire, Danny Chalkley, Robert Davis, Tim Mitchell, Rachael Robathan and Steve Summers.

### **1. MEMBERSHIP**

- 1.1 Councillor Philippa Roe (Leader of the City Council) welcomed those present, and welcomed Councillor Tim Mitchell (Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate & Customer Services) to his first Cabinet meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Richard Beddoe (Cabinet Member for City Management).
- 1.3 The Cabinet wished to formally thank Councillor Melvyn Caplan for his valuable work as Cabinet Member for Finance over the past 7 years, particularly in his management of budgets during times of financial constraint.

### **2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

- 2.1 There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **3. MINUTES**

- 3.1 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2015 were approved as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

### **4. 2014/15 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

- 4.1 Steven Mair (City Treasurer) presented the City Council's Annual Accounts for 2014/15.
- 4.2 The final accounts for 2014/15 had been submitted to Westminster's external auditors, KPMG, for audit on 16 April 2015, and had been subsequently

approved by the Audit & Performance Committee on 18 May, which had enabled them to be published over 4 months in advance of the statutory deadline. The closure of the accounts and the accounts themselves had benefited from radically improved financial management, and the Cabinet noted that KPMG had commented on an improvement in their quality.

- 4.3 The revenue outturn had shown an underspend of £2.830m against budget, and it was hoped that an on overspend in the budget for temporary housing accommodation would improve over the forthcoming year. The Capital Programme also had an underspend of £19.55m against the Capital Review Group (CRG) forecast.
- 4.4 As a consequence of the improved financial position for the year, the City Council had been able to increase its General Fund Reserves by £0.74m to a closing balance of £36.04m, which would provide Westminster with on-going financial resilience in an increasingly austere economic climate over the medium-term.
- 4.5 Councillor Philippa Roe (Chairman, and Leader of the City Council) and Councillor Tim Mitchell (Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate & Customer Services) thanked the City Treasurer and his staff, on behalf of the Cabinet, for their work in producing the Annual Accounts.
- 4.6 **RESOLVED:** That the 2014/15 Annual Accounts be noted, and be referred to full Council for information.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The report sets out the Annual Accounts for the 2014/15 financial year.

#### **5. 2014/15 TREASURY OUTTURN (see report of the City Treasurer)**

- 5.1 Steven Mair (City Treasurer) presented the City Council's annual Treasury Outturn Report for 2014/15.
- 5.2 Total cash balances during 2014/15 had varied considerably, and Westminster's investment balance had ranged between £478m and £904m, with an average of £683m. Borrowing had remained well within the limit set prior to the start of the financial year with no new borrowing; and total borrowings had decreased by £1.3m as loans had matured during the year.
- 5.3 Capital Expenditure had been slightly below the estimate for the year, mainly as a result of slippage. The net surplus for the authority had also moved down from £343m to £322m over the year; with the cash outflow of £21m being predominantly as a result of capital expenditure, off-set by positive reserve movements and working capital.
- 5.4 The Cabinet noted that during the financial year to March 2015, Westminster had operated in full compliance with treasury limits and prudential indicators.

- 5.5 Officers were currently exploring a range of options to improve on the treasury management and related investment strategies, to ensure the best use of the available resources, and a report would be submitted to Cabinet later in the year that would consider options for future improvements.
- 5.6 **Resolved:** That the outturn position for the 2014/15 financial year be noted and that the report be referred to full Council in accordance with regulatory requirements.

**Reason for Decision**

The report sets out the outturn position for the 2014/15 financial year.

**6. CLOSE OF MEETING**

- 6.1 The meeting ended at 7.06pm.

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**CHAIRMAN:**

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**DATE**