

## **Policy and Scrutiny Topic Selection Campaign 2018/19**

### **Housing, Finance and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee**

#### **High Priority Topics**

##### **Budget**

- Annual review of the budget proposals
- Task Group
- September 2018

##### **Sprinklers**

- Second meeting of the task group investigating retrofitting sprinklers into tall building.
- Task Group
- July 2018.

##### **Fire safety**

- First annual report of fire safety in council properties.
- Committee meeting or continuation of sprinklers task group.
- June 2019

#### **Medium Priority**

##### **CityWest Homes**

- Review of CityWest Homes performance and structure.
- Task group
- Summer 2018

##### **Temporary accommodation**

- Review the council's needs with regards to temporary accommodation and the difficulties securing enough supply.
- Committee meeting

##### **Digital Transformation Strategy**

- Review the implementation of the Council's digital transformation strategy and the effects it has had on residents' satisfaction with services.
- Committee meeting

##### **Transfer to universal credit (with Family and People Services Committee)**

- Review the effect of the transfer to universal credit on Westminster's residents
- Committee meeting
- Timing – after universal credit has been in place in Westminster for a year.

##### **Homelessness (with City Management and Public Protection Committee)**

- Review proposed changes to homelessness strategy in response to new statutory responsibilities
- Committee meeting

- April 2019

### **Housing and community cohesion**

- How do the council's housing related policies affect community cohesion? Could focus on difference between intermediate and social housing.
- Task group

### **Tenant Management Organisations**

- What is the role of TMOs in Westminster, are they well run, do they pose a risk to the Council meeting its obligations? Are these risks well mitigated? How effective is resident engagement in properties run by TMOs?
- Committee meeting

### **Digital infrastructure strategy**

- Review how council policies affect the procurement of technologies such as broadband and 4G/5G. Identify how better aligning policies to providers needs could affect residents and businesses.
- Task group

### **Business rates retention scheme**

- To review the London business rates retention pilot, assess the impact on Westminster's finances and identify any changes on which Westminster or London might want to lobby.
- Committee meeting

### **Low Priority**

#### **Treasury report**

- Annual report on treasury management
- Committee meeting
- January 2019

#### **Green paper on social housing**

- Review green paper with a view to influencing the council's response.
- Briefing

#### **Empty properties in Westminster**

- Investigate the prevalence of empty properties in Westminster. How many are they? Do they affect the City in a significant way? Could the Council intervene to reduce the number of empty properties?
- Task group

#### **General Data Protection Regulations**

- Review the council's implementation of GDPR
- Briefing note