



City of Westminster

# General Purposes Committee

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>General Purposes Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 January 2019</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>For General Release</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Constitutional Issues: Establishment of New Policy and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Wards Involved:</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	<b>There are no financial implications</b>
<b>Report Author and Contact Details:</b>	<b>Reuben Segal Acting Head of Committee &amp; Governance Services Tel: 020 7641 3160 Email: <a href="mailto:rsegal@westminster.gov.uk">rsegal@westminster.gov.uk</a></b>

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to the establishment of a further Policy and Scrutiny Committee. The reasons for this are set out in the body of the report.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council be recommended to agree the establishment of a new Policy and Scrutiny Committee (Communities and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee) with the terms of reference and proportionality as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.2 That the Council be recommended to amend the membership of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission by one Member to enable the Chairman of the other new P&S Committees to be a Member.
- 2.3 That the Council authorise Officers to adjust the terms of reference of those Policy and Scrutiny Committees whose Cabinet Member reporting lines are impacted as shown in paragraph 4.9 below.

## 3. Reasons for Decision

- 3.1 To ensure the effective scrutiny of two newly established Cabinet Member portfolios (Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community and Cabinet Member for Digital and Customer Services) and to provide sufficient capacity for the Housing, Finance and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee to effectively monitor the Council's Housing Management functions which are due to be returned in-house.

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

- 4.1 On the 19 December 2018 the Leader of the Council created two new Cabinet Member posts (Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community and Cabinet Member for Digital and Customer Services) which took effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. These portfolios previously sat within the portfolios of the former posts of Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education, Community and Place Shaping and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Customer Services respectively.
- 4.2 The Policy and Scrutiny functions in respect of the aforementioned matters are currently exercised by the Economic Development, Education, Community and Place Shaping Housing and the Finance and Customer Services and Policy and Scrutiny Committees. It is not considered conducive for the effective function of these Committees to widen their scrutiny to 3 Cabinet Members each as this would limit the available time to adequately consider other agenda items.
- 4.3 From the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 the Council's Housing Management functions currently overseen by CityWest Homes will return in-house. It is considered that the Housing, Finance and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee will want to allocate much more of its time to scrutinising the new arrangements and the Council's housing performance.
- 4.4 It is therefore proposed to establish a new Policy and Scrutiny Committee (Communities and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee) to carry out the Policy and Scrutiny functions in respect of matters relating to all those duties within the terms of reference of the Cabinet Member for Culture, Community and Sports and the Cabinet Member for Digital and Customer Services.
- 4.5 The Communities and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee will have the same proportionality as exists for the Council's other policy and scrutiny committees; namely 5 majority party members and 3 minority party members.
- 4.6 In accordance with standing orders relating to committees, the membership will be appointed by the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the Political Groups. As is customary, the Leader of the Council will not nominate the chairman of the committee, this will be determined by the committee itself at its first meeting.
- 4.7 A report elsewhere on this agenda includes proposals to amend the Members Allowances to allow an SRA to be paid to the Chairman of the proposed new Committees.
- 4.8 The proposals in this report accord with the principles of the Committee proportionality agreed by the Council. There will be a further full review reported to the next Annual Council meeting.

- 4.9 The establishment of a new Policy and Scrutiny Committee will impact on the reporting lines of the existing P&S Committees. The new proposed reporting of Cabinet Members is as follows:

<b>Policy and Scrutiny</b>	<b>Cabinet Member</b>
Westminster Scrutiny Commission	Councillor Nickie Aiken, Leader of the Council
City Management and Public Protection	Councillor Tim Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Environment and City Management  Councillor Ian Adams, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing
Family and People Services	Councillor Heather Acton, Cabinet Member for Family Services and Public Health
Housing, Finance and Customer Services	Councillor Andrew Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing  Councillor Rachael Robathan, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Regeneration
Economic Development, Education, Community and Place Shaping	Councillor David Harvey, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Skills  Councillor Richard Beddoe, Cabinet Member for Placeshaping and Planning
Communities and Customer Services	Councillor Iain Bott, Cabinet Member for Sports, Culture and Community  Councillor Paul Swaddle, Cabinet Member for Digital and Customer Services

## 5. Legal Implications

These are set out in section 4 of the report.

## 6. Other Implications

There are no other implications.

**Please contact Reuben Segal: 7641 3160;**  
**Email: [rsegal@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:rsegal@westminster.gov.uk)**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Communities and Customer Services Policy and Scrutiny Committee Membership:**

8 Members of the Council (5 Majority party Members and three Minority Party Member), but shall not include a Member of the Cabinet.

#### **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 Member for Sports, Culture and Community and the Cabinet Member for Digital and Customer Services.
- (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) 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.
- (e) To scrutinise any Bi-borough proposals which impact on service areas that fall within the Committee's terms of reference.
- (f) Any other matter allocated by the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.
- (g) 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.
- (h) To oversee any issues relating to Performance within the Committee's terms of reference.
- (i) To have the power to scrutinise those partner organisations that are relevant to the remit of the Committee.
- (j) To consider any Councillor Calls for Action referred by a Ward Member to the Committee.