

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the virtual Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on
Wednesday 3rd March, 2021

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Jonathan Glanz

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton	David Harvey
Ian Adams	Elizabeth Hitchcock
Nickie Aiken	Adam Hug
Barbara Arzymanow	Louise Hyams
Timothy Barnes	Aicha Less
Geoff Barraclough	Pancho Lewis
Richard Beddoe	Andrea Mann
Rita Begum	Patricia McAllister
David Boothroyd	Guthrie McKie
Iain Bott	Tim Mitchell
Margot Bright	Gotz Mohindra
Susie Burbridge	Eoghain Murphy
Ruth Bush	Matt Noble
Nafsika Butler-Thalassis	Emily Payne
Melvyn Caplan	Papya Qureshi
Maggie Carman	Robert Rigby
Danny Chalkley	Rachael Robathan
Antonia Cox	Tim Roca
Lorraine Dean	Ian Rowley
Tony Devenish	Karen Scarborough
Paul Dimoldenberg	Mark Shearer
Richard Elcho	Selina Short
Christabel Flight	Andrew Smith
Peter Freeman	James Spencer
Murad Gassanly	Paul Swaddle, OBE
Jim Glen	Hamza Taouzzale
Matthew Green	Aziz Toki
Lindsey Hall	Judith Warner
Angela Harvey	Jacqui Wilkinson

APOLOGIES: Councillor Shamim Talukder

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 It was moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Paul Swaddle that Councillor Angela Harvey be elected as Relief Chair.
- 1.2 Motion put, and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

2 MINUTES

- 2.1 **RESOLVED:** The minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting on Wednesday 20 January 2021 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4 CABINET REPORT

- 4.1 The report of the Cabinet on 15 February 2021 was submitted. Paragraphs 1-6 were considered together.
- 4.2 Councillor Rachael Robathan spoke in favour of the recommendations set out in the Cabinet report which was seconded by Councillor Melvyn Caplan.
- 4.3 Following debate, to which Councillor Robathan replied, the Lord Mayor put the amendment to the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor David Boothroyd to a vote and on a recorded vote there voted:

Paragraph 1: Text of amendment to be moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor David Boothroyd

1. In recommendation 1) of the Cabinet, paragraph 1, leave out from "£463.90" to the end, and insert "£461.66 for 2021/22, an increase of £13.45 (3%) for the Social Care precept and frozen for general purposes;"
2. In paragraph 8, add at end "be reduced to £182.445m following the following amendments:

Additional savings

Senior Management Review £175,000

Review of the Communications function £115,000

Deletion from the Members' Allowances budget of the posts of Vice Chair of Planning and Vice Chair of Licensing £10,000

Vote 1 - Amended

For the recommendations: Councillors Dimoldenberg, Boothroyd, Toki, Noble, Hug, Bush, Lewis, Roca, Carman, Mann, McKie, Butler-Thalassis, Taouzzale, Freeman, Begum and McAllister

Against the recommendations: Councillors Swaddle, Mitchell, Mohindra, Spencer, Robathan, Glen, Beddoe, Caplan, Aiken, Gassanly, Green, Rigby, Dean, Short, Payne, Hall, Wilkinson, Smith, Barnes, Elcho, Burbridge, Acton, Shearer, Murphy, Bott, Hitchcock, Arzymanow, David Harvey, Angela Harvey, Hyams, Warner, Chalkley, Rowley, Bright and Cox

Absence or not voting: The Lord Mayor and Councillors Adams, Devenish, Talukder, Barraclough, Less, Qureshi, Flight and Scarborough.

- 4.4 The Lord Mayor then put the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report as unamended to a vote and on a recorded vote there voted:

Vote 2 – Unamended

For the recommendations: Councillors Payne, Green, Swaddle, Mitchell, Mohindra, Elcho, Smith, Murphy, Robathan, Hall, Caplan, Hyams, Short, David Harvey, Barnes, Gassanly, Wilkinson, Freeman, Dean, Bott, Aiken, Hitchcock, Warner, Chalkley, Glen, Cox, Rigby, Angela Harvey, Beddoe, Spencer, Shearer, Bright, Arzymanow, Burbridge, Flight, Adams, Scarborough and Rowley

Against the recommendations: Councillors Boothroyd, Taouzzale, Roca, Toki, Dimoldenberg, Hug, Noble, Less, Begum, Barraclough, McKie, Mann, Lewis, Carman, Bush and Butler-Thalassis

Absence or not voting: The Lord Mayor and Councillors Devenish, Acton, McAllister, Qureshi and Talukder

- 4.5 The Lord Mayor declared the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report as unamended **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

Council Tax

- 1) That the council tax for a Band D property be agreed at £463.90 for 2021/22, an increase of £13.45 (3%) for the Social Care precept and £2.24 (0.5%) for general purposes;
- 2) That, subject to the previous resolution, the council tax for the City of Westminster, excluding the Montpelier Square area and Queen's Park Community Council, for the year ending 31 March 2022, be as specified in the Council Tax Resolution in Appendix 6 to the Section 151 officer's report.

- 3) That the Precepts and Special Expenses be as also specified in Appendix 6 to the Section 151 officer's report for properties in Montpelier Square and the Queen's Park Community Council;
- 4) That the formal resolution for 2021/22 attached at Appendix 6 to the Section 151 officer's report including the council tax requirement of £62.078m be agreed;
- 5) Noted the proposed Greater London Authority precept (Band D) of £363.66, an increase of £31.59 rise in the adjusted Band D Precept;
- 6) That the Council continues the Westminster Community Contribution to allow the most expensive (Band H) properties in the City to voluntarily contribute towards supporting discretionary services that support the three priorities of youth services, helping rough sleepers off the streets and supporting people who are lonely and isolated;

Revenue Budget

- 7) Noted the views of the Budget Task Group set out in Appendix 7 to the Section 151 officer's report;
- 8) That the proposed General Fund net budget requirement of £182.745m summarised in Appendix 4 to the Section 151 officer's report.
- 9) That the savings and growth proposals for 2021/22 to 2023/24 set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3 to the Section 151 officer's report is approved;
- 10) That the Equality Impact Assessments included in Appendix 5 to the Section 151 officer's report be received and noted to inform the consideration of the budget;
- 11) Noted the Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021/22 and 30-Year Housing Investment Plan presented concurrently to Cabinet on 15 February 2021 that recommends the HRA budget and rent levels for 2021/22;

Capital Programme

- 12) Noted the Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26, forecast position for 2020/21 and future years' forecasts summarised up to 2034/35 report also presented to Cabinet on 15 February 2021 that recommends the Council's capital programme and financing;

Reserves, Balances and Budget Estimates

- 13) Noted the reserves policy as set out in section 13 of the Section 151 officer's report;
- 14) Noted the views of the Section 151 Officer with regards to estimates underpinning the proposed budget changes and reserves levels in section 13 of his report;

Treasury Management and Investment Framework

- 15) Noted the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 including the annual investment strategy, borrowing limits and prudential indicators summarised in this report and set out detail in a concurrent report on this agenda;
 - 16) Noted the 2021/22 Integrated Investment Framework report also concurrently on this agenda, which sets out the policies and framework for future investment decisions for the Council.
- 4.6 The Lord Mayor put the recommendations in paragraph 2 of the Cabinet report, Capital Strategy Report 2021-2022 to 2025-2026, Forecast position for 2020-2021 and Future Years' summarised up to 2034-2035 to the vote and there being no objections declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED

That full Council:

- 1) Approved the capital strategy as set out in Appendix 2 to the report.
- 2) Approved the capital expenditure for the General Fund as set out in Appendix A to Appendix 2 for 2021/22 to 2025/26 and future years to 2034/35.
- 3) Approved that all development and investment projects, along with all significant projects follow the previously approved business case governance process as set out in section 8 of Appendix 2 to the report.
- 4) Approved that no financing sources, unless stipulated in regulations or necessary agreements, are ring fenced.
- 5) Approved the council plans to continue its use of capital receipts to fund the revenue costs of eligible proposals (subject to full business cases for each project). This comes under the MHCLG Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts (FCR).
- 6) Approved the proposed financing of the capital programme and revenue implications as set out in section 13 of Appendix 2 to the report.
- 7) Approved the financing of the capital programme being delegated to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources to provide sufficient flexibility to allow for the most effective use of Council resources.

- 4.7 The Lord Mayor put the recommendations in paragraph 3 of the Cabinet report, Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021/22 and 30-Year Housing Investment Plan and there being no objections declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

That the full Council:

- 1) Approved the HRA revenue budget for 2021-22 (Table 2 and Appendix 3 to the report we considered)
- 2) Noted the HRA 5-year revenue budgets for 2021-22 to 2025-26 (Table 2 and Appendix 2 to the report we considered)
- 3) Noted the HRA 30-year revenue budgets for 2021-22 to 2050-51 (Appendix 3 to the report we considered)
- 4) Approved the HRA 5-year Capital Programme for a total of £952.30m (Appendix 4 to the report we considered)
- 5) Noted the 30-year Capital Programme for 2021-22 to 2050-51 (Appendix 4 to the report we considered)
- 6) Noted a rent increase of 1.5% from April 2021 as applicable under the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016.
- 7) Noted the HRA reserves and balances for the 5-year Business Plan (Table 6 to the report we considered).

- 4.8 The Lord Mayor put the recommendations in paragraph 4 of the Cabinet report, Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2021/22 to 2025/26 to the vote and there being no objections declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

That full Council:

1. Approved the Treasury Management Strategy Statement;
2. Approved the borrowing strategy and borrowing limits for 2021/22 to 2025/26 set out in section 6 to Appendix 4.
3. Approved the prudential Indicators set out in section 8 to Appendix 4.
4. Approved the Annual Investment Strategy and approved investments set out in Appendix 1 to Appendix 4.
5. Approved the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy set out in Appendix 2 to Appendix 4.

- 4.9 The Lord Mayor put the recommendations in paragraph 5 of the Cabinet report, Integrated Investment Framework 2021-2022 to the vote and there being no objections declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

That the full Council:

1. Approved and implement the Integrated Investment Framework set out in Appendix 5.
2. Approved that the target for the overall return on Council investments should aspire to match inflation;
3. Approved that the benefits of investing in the Pension Fund should be used as a benchmark when evaluating other investments;
4. Adopted the asset allocation percentages set out in the Framework and work towards achieving these;
5. Agreed that the overarching objective of this Framework is to achieve an overall return on Council investments aspiring to match inflation and to reduce costs and liabilities, whilst maintaining adequate cash balances for operational purposes, and not exposing the capital value of investments to unnecessary risk;
6. Approved that investments allocated to out-of-borough property developments should be considered individually and should outweigh the benefits of investing in-borough (which can have a number of non-commercial benefits, e.g., place making) and in a diversified property portfolio (acquisitions will be made out of borough only on an exceptional basis). Individual decisions should be subject to Cabinet Member approval;
7. Approved that the property and alternative asset allocation should focus on in-borough, with out of borough options being explored on an exceptional basis and subject to Cabinet Member approval;
8. Approved the Investment Executive to implement, monitor and report on the investment strategy.

- 4.10 The Lord Mayor put the recommendations in paragraph 6 of the Cabinet report, Pay Policy 2021-2022 to the vote and there being no objections declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

That the full Council:

Approved the Pay Policy for 2021 – 2022 as revised and attached to the end of this report.

5 LICENSING REPORT: BUSKING AND STREET ENTERTAINMENT POLICY

5.1 The council debated the report. Following debate, the Lord Mayor put the recommendations as set out in the report of the Executive Director for Environment and City Management to a series of votes and following electronic polls declared:

RESOLVED:

1. That the modifications to the Designating Streets Resolution as specified in paragraphs 1.2(1), 1.2(2), 1.2(3) and 1.2(4) of the report be Adopted.
2. That option ii) in relation to Pitch 23 King Charles statue as specified in paragraph 1.2(5) of the report be Adopted.
3. That the designating streets resolution be adopted, subject to the modifications specified in paragraph (4) below, to prohibit busking and street entertainment from all licensed streets save that busking and street entertainment will be permitted under and in accordance with (a) the terms and conditions of designated pitches and (b) the terms and conditions of a busking and street entertainment licence.
4. The designating resolution contains:
 - 4.1 The designated streets and areas where busking and street entertainment is to be prohibited – the licensed streets, namely:

Paddington	Soho	Embankment
Mayfair	Leicester Square	Trafalgar Square
Marylebone	Chinatown	Whitehall
Bayswater	Piccadilly	Parliament Square
Oxford Street	Covent Garden	Victoria
Regent Street	The Strand	Knightsbridge
New Bond Street	Charing Cross	Belgravia

- 4.2. The busking and street entertainment pitches where busking and street entertainment will be permitted (under and in accordance with (a) the terms and conditions of designated pitches and (b) the terms and conditions of a busking and street entertainment licence – the busking pitches, namely:

Pitch 1: Marble Arch	Pitch 14: London Transport Museum
Pitch 2: Old Quebec Street	Pitch 15: St Pauls Church
Pitch 3: Vere Street	Pitch 16: St Martins
Pitch 4: Princes Street	Pitch 17: Trafalgar Square Charing Cross Rd
Pitch 5: Glasshouse Street	Pitch 18: Trafalgar Square North Terrace
Pitch 6: Eros Statue	Pitch 19: Trafalgar Square North Terrace
Pitch 7: Chinatown	Pitch 20: Trafalgar Square North Terrace
Pitch 8: Leicester Square North West	Pitch 21: Trafalgar Square North Terrace
Pitch 9: Leicester Square North East	Pitch 22: Trafalgar Square North Terrace
Pitch 10: Covent Garden James Street	Pitch 23: King Charles Statue
Pitch 11: Covent Garden James Street	Pitch 24 Northumberland Avenue
Pitch 12: Market Square James Street	Pitch 25 Charing Cross Station
Pitch 13: Royal Opera House	Pitch 26 Northumberland/Hungerford Bridge

- 4.3 The modified terms and conditions that apply for each busking pitch;
- 4.4 The modified terms and conditions for a busking and street entertainment licence; and
- 4.5 The application process (and fee) for a busking and street entertainment licence, including the process for applying for a variation of the standard terms and conditions.
5. The designating streets resolution shall come into effect on the 5th April 2021.

6 GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE REPORT

Members Allowances Scheme 2021-2022 and Creation of Vice-Chair Posts for Planning and Licensing Committees

- 6.1 The Lord Mayor put the amendments moved by Councillor David Boothroyd and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble as set out below to the vote.

Text of amendment to be moved by Councillor David Boothroyd and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble:

1. In recommendation 1, at the end add “but with the deletion of the Special Responsibility Allowances for Planning and City Development Vice-Chair and Licensing Committee Vice-Chair”.
2. Delete recommendation 2.

- 6.2 Following an electronic poll the Lord Mayor declared the amendment **LOST**.
- 6.3 The Lord Mayor then put the recommendations as unamended to the vote and following an electronic poll declared the recommendations **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

1. Approved 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 to the report.
2. Established the positions of Planning and City Development Vice-Chair and Licensing Committee Vice-Chair with immediate effect.

The Meeting ended at 9.33 pm

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____