



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# MINUTES

## Cabinet

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held on **Monday 11th September, 2023**, Rooms 18.06 & 18.07 - 18th Floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

**Members Present:** Councillors Adam Hug (Chair), Aicha Less, Nafsika Butler-Thalassis, Geoff Barraclough, David Boothroyd, Paul Dimoldenberg, Liza Begum, Matt Noble and Cara Sanquest

**Also Present:** Bernie Flaherty, Parveen Akhtar, Frances Martin, Pedro Wrobel, Sarah Newman, Debbie Jackson, Gerald Almeroth, Sarah Warman, Manisha Patel, Richard Cressey

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Tim Roca

#### 1 WELCOME

Cllr Adam Hug welcomed people to the meeting and noted the Cllr Tim Roca had sent apologies for the meeting.

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### 3 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Councillor Adam Hug, with the consent of the Members present, agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July were a true and correct record of the proceedings

#### 4 OXFORD STREET PROGRAMME

Cllr Hug introduced the item, noting that appendix 2 is exempt from publication and any Cabinet Members wishing to raise comments relating to that appendix should request that the meeting be moved into private session. No Cabinet Members notified that they wished to discuss the contents of this appendix.

Cllr Hug introduced Manisha Patel, Programme Director, Bernie Flaherty, Deputy Chief Executive, to the meeting before handing over the Cllr Barraclough to speak to the report.

Cllr Barraclough noted the changes that have been made to the Oxford Street Programme over the past year, including improved working relationships with key stakeholders and delivery partners.

Cllr Barraclough noted that a consultation had recently closed and analysis was being undertaken before the results would be reported back.

Cllr Barraclough highlighted that funding had previously been an issue but that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had been signed with the New West End Company for the contribution of private sector funding towards the programme.

Cllr Barraclough, Bernie Flaherty and Manisha Patel emphasised the recommendations before Cabinet; to approve the business case and to approve the draw down of money from the approved capital budget for stage 2 design work.

Manisha Patel detailed how the business case had been developed, with input from a range of internal and external experts, noting the robust nature of the process undertaken and the high return on investment which is considered likely.

Cllr Boothroyd added his thanks for the work of officers and Members to develop these proposals and noted that he had reviewed documents as they developed but also in these papers and confirmed that he supported the proposals as robust and thoroughly tested.

Cllr Hug concluded by adding his support and thanks for the work undertaken before inviting Cabinet to vote on the recommendations.

**RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the following recommendations:**

1. Approve the full business case for the Oxford Street and Oxford Circus projects;
2. Approve the draw-down of £7.767m from the OSP budget for Stage 2 of the Oxford Street project, Stage 1 of the Oxford Circus project and all associated costs for both.

**5 NEIGHBOURHOOD CIL APPLICATIONS (GREENHOUSE SPORTS CENTRE)**

Cllr Hug introduced the item, noting that this decision was being brought forward in line with the approach to Neighbourhood CIL approved by Cabinet last year which requires that any single decision on an application over £250k, must be approved by Cabinet.

Cllr Hug further noted that the application relates to critical repair works which have kept the building at 35 Cosway Street closed for nearly two years and that the

amount requested is 10% of the overall cost, most of which the charity will fund directly itself.

Cllr Hug concluded his opening remarks by noting that the proposed investment is consistent with the principles emerging from ongoing work to develop a third-party community asset investment policy, which itself will be considered in the coming months.

Pedro Wrobel noted detail on the extent of building repair work required as well as small amounts of additional external funding the charity has sourced, in addition to the majority of the funds coming from the charity's own sustainability reserve fund.

Pedro Wrobel further noted that it is proposed that monies would come from the Church Street NCIL Budget and the Outside Neighbourhood Areas part of the NCIL structure in a 50:50 split, which was justified based on the activity and reach of the charity.

Pedro concluded his remarks by noting the applicant have worked closely with the Council on this and thanked them for doing so, including on maximising their green credentials as part of the project.

Cllr Butler-Thalassis noted that it is important to get this building back into community use for the benefit of residents and families.

Cllr Noble lent his support for the proposal as a Ward Cllr for Church Street.

**RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the following recommendations:**

1. Approves in principle £0.45m of NCIL funding to Greenhouse Sports.
2. Delegates authority to the Executive Director of Innovation & Change to produce a final funding agreement in conjunction with the Director of Law and Governance that ensures value for money and safeguards the investment for community benefit.

## **6 CITIZENS CLIMATE ASSEMBLY - RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cllr Hug introduced the report and invited Cllr Noble to speak to the report.

Cllr Noble thanks the residents who sat on the Citizen's Climate Assembly and the officers who supported its work.

Cllr Noble set out how the Assembly went about its work and the journey that the resident group had been on as part of the exercise which has produced a set of actions for the Council as well as actions where the Council may need to engage with partners across the city and in Government to take forward.

Cllr Noble concluded by noting that this is an ongoing piece of work and the Assembly will continue to be engaged as the Council proceeds with its work in this area.

Cllr Hug added his thanks to the residents who participated.

Frances Martin noted the enthusiasm of the participants and echoed Cllr Noble's comment that some of the recommendations are for the Council to respond to whereas others require engagement with partners.

**RESOLVED: Cabinet approved the following recommendations:**

1. Notes the final recommendations from the Westminster Citizens' Climate Assembly, as set out under Appendix 1 of this report.
2. Approves 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.
3. Approves 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 be undertaken.

**7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The Meeting ended at 19.02

**CHAIRMAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_