



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES

Climate Action, Environment and Highways Policy and Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Climate Action, Environment and Highways Policy and Scrutiny Committee** held on **Tuesday 16th January, 2024**, 18th Floor Meeting Rooms, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillors Jason Williams (Chair), Laila Cunningham, Patrick Lilley, Tim Mitchell, Ed Pitt Ford, James Small-Edwards and Judith Southern

Also Present: Councillors Paul Dimoldenberg (Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality), Adam Hug (Leader of the Council), Aicha Less (Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Safety). Officers: Michael Carson (Principal Solicitor - Employment, Criminal and Commercial Litigation), Mark Chalmers (Head of Community Safety and Specialist Services), Francis Dwan (Policy and Scrutiny Advisor), Frances Martin (Executive Director of Environment and City), Philip Robson (Interim Director of City Highways), Mark Wiltshire (Director of Public Protection and Licensing) and Fatima Zohra (Bi-Borough Data Protection Officer and SRO Westminster CCTV).

1 MEMBERSHIP

1.1 There were no changes to the membership.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 Councillor Tim Mitchell declared that in respect to item 5, he was Chair of Trustees of the Safer Business Partnership.

2.2 There were no other declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES

3.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its previous meeting held on 6th December 2023.

3.2 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2023 be agreed as a correct record of proceedings.

4 WORK PROGRAMME

4.1 The Chair of the Committee drew attention to the amended Committee Terms of Reference, thanked Members for participating in the work programming meeting on 3rd November 2023 and reminded Members that the Committee on 29th February 2024 will scrutinise the Sustainable Transport Strategy.

4.2 Members referenced the items for consideration and requested consideration be given to the Air Quality Action Plan and the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (P.D.H.U). If not as items, then as updates provided to the membership.

4.3 Actions

1. To consider the Air Quality Action Plan and the Pimlico District Heating Undertaking (P.D.H.U) as items for future Committee meetings.

5 CCTV IN WESTMINSTER

5.1 The Leader of the Council, Councillor Adam Hug, introduced the report on the operation of CCTV in Westminster, thanking Members for their patience in receiving the report and the officers work in preparing it. The Committee heard a summary of the history of CCTV in Westminster and an outline on the context and existing capacity. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Protection, Councillor Aicha Less, added about the importance of CCTV as a deterrent tool in tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB), including issues such as fly-tipping and nuisance noise. The Leader and Cabinet Member, assisted by senior specialist officers then were asked questions on:

- Leaseholder charges: whether leaseholders could find themselves financially responsible for cameras placed outside their properties.
- Existing stock: the status of the existing stock of CCTV cameras in Westminster and whether there was any danger that any injection of new cameras would only replace older existing ones.
- Consultant report on CCTV in Westminster: whether a version of the report could be shared with the Committee.
- Partnership work: how the work might intersect with the work of partners such as the police and how this relationship will be managed. Members also requested clarity on ward budget funding being used for nomadic cameras.
- Legal advice: the considerations required for deployment of CCTV cameras and available locations in the public realm with consideration to the regulation of investigatory powers act (RIPA).

- Legislating balance: what procedures and frameworks would be required to balance the aim of public safety with concerns about public privacy and regulated surveillance.
- Camera types: what types of cameras might be available, whether they were nomadic, mobile, or re-deployable. Members also asked about the mobility and range of cameras once they are in place and the degree to which they might be able to pivot.
- Selecting locations: whether locations would be intel-led with opportunity for resident request. Clarity was also sought on appropriate locations in that these cameras could not be deployed on housing estates. Members asked whether high streets could be considered an appropriate location for cameras.
- CCTV in lifts: the output from CCTV cameras positioned in lifts in housing estates and whether these could be considered for redeployment.
- Housing estate CCTV: clarity on whether live-feed CCTV existed in any housing estates in Westminster and whether it would be possible in the future.
- Ease of redeployment: the frequency and ease associated with redeployment of proposed CCTV cameras. Members also enquired as to who would be the decision makers in terms of validating the legitimacy of potential requests.
- Value as a deterrent: the signage that would accompany CCTV and how effective this might be in acting as a deterrent.
- Ease of access: the process associated with providing the footage to residents, but particularly when requested by the police and how the Council can ensure this is not a burdensome process.
- Prevention of damage, what would be done to keep the cameras from being damaged or defaced and how the Council will ensure that they keep working.
- CCTV signage: the information that would be listed on any signage that accompanies CCTV cameras. Members also asked about the consideration of balancing signage acting as a deterrent with the potential implication that it could inadvertently highlight areas that are not covered.
- Contact points: if residents, councillors, or the authorities wanted access to footage whether they would have a clear point of contact to request access.
- Spread of cameras: what consideration is being given to the distribution of cameras across Westminster and whether this would be equally split across wards of Westminster.
- Data storage: how long footage would likely be held for.
- Feedback from CCTV pilots: how pilot CCTV programmes for fly-tipping and nuisance noise from vehicles had progressed to date. Clarity was sought on

whether public space protection orders (PSPOs) were required to extend these to any other areas of the city. There was also a question of whether noise cameras risk displacing nuisance onto other streets and areas of the city rather than solving the problem.

- Use of CCTV: whether cameras could be used for issues such as illegal parking and noisy deliveries or works outside of the permitted hours.
- Measuring success: how success would be measured considering the potential expenditure proposed.
- Ward panel involvement: Members asked whether ward panels might be involved in the process of identifying locations or re-deploying cameras.
- Tackling crime: Members suggested that crimes against the person should be seen as one of the main priorities of the scheme, particularly issues such as thefts and muggings.
- Location determining: Members suggested that resident intel should feed into locations being sought for CCTV, possibly through a bid system and quieter parts of Westminster be considered. This would identify and potentially combat issues such as drug-dealing and graffiti. Members identified how businesses historically have potentially under-reported crimes to the relevant authorities and this shouldn't mean they are prioritised for CCTV, hence the need for a resident led solution.

5.2 Actions

1. To provide Committee Members with a version of the Consultant Report on CCTV in Westminster.
2. For CCTV developments to be available to engage with the Policy and Scrutiny process again as details are being finalised and frameworks being drawn up.

5.3 Recommendations

1. The Committee recommended that the Council considers prioritising locations with high incidence of crimes against the person, particularly thefts and muggings.
2. The Committee recommended that the Council considers installing cameras on quieter streets, away from businesses, to combat issues faced by residents such as drug-dealing.
3. The Committee recommended that the Council consider permitting residents to feed into the locations being selected, possibly through a bid system.

4. The Committee recommended that the Council consider using cameras, in part, to monitor and try to reduce graffiti at hotspots.
5. The Committee recommended that the cameras be mobile and reactive to whenever issues might be flagged up.

6 HIGHWAYS SERVICES PROCUREMENT

6.1 The Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality, Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, introduced the report on Highways Services Procurement, assisted by the Interim Director of City Highways, Phil Robson. The Cabinet Member thanked the work of officers and the Committee for shaping the future direction of travel. The Committee heard a summary of the assets owned and length of work that goes into the procurement process. The Cabinet Member, assisted by senior specialist officers then received questions on:

- Extreme weather preparedness: how the Highways Service could ensure any new contract would be better prepared to deal with extreme weather conditions that Westminster might face going forward.
- Start and end of contract: whether it was appropriate that all elements of the contract start and end at the same time as each other.
- Economies of scale: what the benefits of grouping so many aspects together were and whether Westminster benefits from economies of scale in terms of the size of services.
- Insourcing: how seriously insourcing of aspects of the contract was being considered and realistically the ability of the Council to do this.
- Improving drainage: how drainage and surface run-off could be streamlined to be more efficient and whether this is something that could specifically be sought in the contract.
- Electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure: whether the highways contract would include EV infrastructure across the City.
- Net-Zero carbon commitments: given the contract is set to run past the Council's 2030 target of being carbon neutral, Members asked and recommended the Council consider incorporating net-zero and emission reduction commitment into the award of contracts.
- Contract length: the advantage of the long contract length, whether it would be advantageous to shorten it and what the advantages and disadvantages of this would be.
- Response to inadequate service: the degree to which the Council could drop poorly performing contractors or even individuals within a service during the lifetime of the contract.

- Quality of choice: the confidence in a strong and financially reasonable set of options when the final bidding for the contract is done. Members also asked how the Council ensured value for money.
- Scrutiny of decision making: whether the service would be willing to return to the Committee at the point of offer or decision making.

6.2 Recommendations

1. The Committee recommended that the Council considers incorporating net-zero commitments to contracts.

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 20.01.

CHAIR: _____

DATE _____