



City of Westminster

Committee Agenda

Title: **Environment Policy & Scrutiny Committee**

Meeting Date: **Tuesday 8th September, 2015**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Rooms 1A, 1B & 1C, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP**

Members: **Councillors:**

Ian Adams (Chairman)
Thomas Crockett
Paul Dimoldenberg
Louise Hyams
Karen Scarborough
Cameron Thomson
Jacqui Wilkinson
Jason Williams

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting and listen to the discussion Part 1 of the Agenda

Admission to the public gallery is by ticket, issued from the ground floor reception at City Hall from 6.00pm. If you have a disability and require any special assistance please contact the Committee Officer (details listed below) in advance of the meeting.



An Induction loop operates to enhance sound for anyone wearing a hearing aid or using a transmitter. If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Jonathan Deacon, Senior Committee and Governance Officer.

**Tel: 7641 2783; Email: jdeacon@westminster.gov.uk
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

Note for Members: Members are reminded that Officer contacts are shown at the end of each report and Members are welcome to raise questions in advance of the meeting. With regard to item 2, guidance on declarations of interests is included in the Code of Governance; if Members and Officers have any particular questions they should contact the Head of Legal & Democratic Services in advance of the meeting please.

AGENDA

PART 1 (IN PUBLIC)

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| a) | Update - Cabinet Member for The Built Environment | (Pages 1 - 10) |
| b) | Update - Cabinet Member for City Management | (Pages 11 - 16) |
| c) | Update - Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Parking | (Pages 17 - 24) |
| a) | Action Tracker | (Pages 25 - 26) |

Charlie Parker
Chief Executive
3 September 2015



Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: Tuesday 8th September 2015

Briefing of: Cllr Robert Davis MBE DL, Deputy Leader and
Cabinet Member for the Built Environment

Please contact: Matt Greet ext. 2852
mgreet@westminster.gov.uk

1. Neighbourhood Planning

Designated Neighbourhood Forums

- 1.1 The Mayfair Neighbourhood Forum was designated in January 2014. The forum held a series of consultation events during June and July in order to seek views on the proposed plan objectives. These relate to housing, local retail, amenities, public space, traffic and architecture.
- 1.2 The Soho Neighbourhood Forum was designated in July 2014. An officer attended the inaugural forum general meeting on 8th July. This was attended by over 150 residents and business representatives. At the meeting, attendees elected sixteen steering group representatives (eight resident representatives and eight business representatives). Some initial discussions of key issues took place, in relation to living in Soho, working in Soho, and the built environment.
- 1.3 The Westbourne Neighbourhood Forum was designated in July 2014. They have begun work on their neighbourhood plan with our officers and have engaged with consultants appointed by the Government fund, known as Locality, to assist.
- 1.4 The Church Street Ward Neighbourhood Forum was designated in August 2014. The forum is looking to hold their inaugural community meeting. The forum has successfully received a £8,000 grant from Locality. The forum is also hoping to use a vacant unit on Church Street as a 'pop-up' consultation space in September and October to help engage with the local community.
- 1.5 The Belgravia Neighbourhood Forum was designated in October 2014. Officers are assisting the forum in communicating its role to local residents.
- 1.6 The Notting Hill East Neighbourhood Forum was designated in October 2014. The key issues that the forum is currently interested in are public realm, housing unit sizes and community cohesion. Members of the steering group met with officers in August to discuss development control issues and, in particular, recent decisions regarding mansard roof extensions. Further assistance has also been provided in relation to applying for Locality grant funding.
- 1.7 The St. James's Neighbourhood Forum was formally designated on 5th February this year. The forum's steering group was formally elected at a public meeting on 2nd June with a City Council officer providing support. In addition to a general discussion of neighbourhood planning procedure, the group highlighted the need to further publicise and promote the forum within the area, culminating with a 'launch' meeting (and AGM) in November.
- 1.8 The Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forum was formally designated on 5th February. The key issues the forum will be looking into include affordable housing, development pressures, independent businesses, public realm, transport, greening, and night time activity. The forum have organised separate working groups to assess these issues.

- 1.9 The Victoria and Knightsbridge Neighbourhood Forums were designated on 20th July, whilst the Marylebone and Maida Hill Neighbourhood Forums were designated at the end of August.

Neighbourhood Forum Applications

- 1.10 The Cabinet Member Report designating the Pimlico Neighbourhood Forum will shortly be submitted to me following changes the forum has made to its constitution.
- 1.11 Following a low response rate to the initial consultation, the decision was taken to undertake an additional three week period for representations on Churchill Gardens Neighbourhood Forum. This was completed on 12th June and generated an improved response, the majority of which were positive. The designation report to approve the forum will be published shortly.

2. Westminster's City Plan

- 2.1 I have previously outlined our intention to enact non-immediate Article 4 Directions to help combat both the loss of office space to residential accommodation and the proliferation of basement extensions. An Article 4 Direction is an order made by the Council which withdraws permitted development rights for certain works, thereby requiring a planning application to be submitted.

In July we submitted our two Article 4 directions to the government which will restrict developers' ability to undertake both basement developments throughout Westminster, when directly beneath the footprint of the building, and restrict office to residential conversions within the currently exempted area. These will take effect one year from their publication on 22nd July 2016.

- 2.2 As highlighted in my previous reports to the committee, in light of certain immediate pressures on the built environment in Westminster, I have sought to fast-track certain elements of the overall City Plan revisions which we have been consulting on since October 2013. These elements which I have brought forward cover basements, mixed use and office to residential conversion, Special Policy Areas and energy.
- 2.3 The basements revision is currently out for its statutory consultation which we then intend to submit to the Secretary of State. This consultation will close on 9th September. This revision is to be combined with the non-immediate Article 4 Direction which I outlined above. The new policy itself will be in place by the end of the calendar year.
- 2.4 The mixed use and office to residential conversion revision is also out for its statutory consultation, which closes on 9th September. In the meantime, as I have said publically for the past six months, in light of the damaging losses of office space seen in Westminster we have enacted an interim position as of 1st September. This new approach will seek to determine applications under a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Given the impact of the office losses we have seen on jobs and growth, conversions to residential within the Core Central Activities Zone, Paddington Opportunity Area and our named key commercial streets will not be

assessed as constituting sustainable development. Therefore office to residential conversions will not be permitted in these areas, although applications validated before 1st Sept will continue to be assessed under our prior framework.

- 2.5 The Special Policy Areas revision covering Harley Street (for medical uses), Portland Place (institutional), East Marylebone (wholesale showrooms), Savile Row (tailoring), St James's (art galleries, private members' clubs and unique retail) and Mayfair (art galleries and antiques) is anticipated to be published for statutory consultation in October or November this year.
- 2.6 The energy revision relates to reducing energy consumption and delivery of local energy infrastructure. It is anticipated that statutory consultation will begin in late autumn this year.
- 2.7 Our single local plan document entitled the Westminster City Plan, which will unify all those different policies we have proposed, is expected to be ready for consultation in the New Year.

3. Development of a Westminster Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 3.1 Consultation on the CIL draft charging schedule closed on 24th July. Officers are currently in the process of analysing these responses, as well as arranging meetings with those local residents groups who have responded in order to explain the issues and answer questions.
- 3.2 In parallel to this, the consultation on the draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) covering use of s106 planning obligations and other planning mechanisms has opened, with documentation being sent out to all members and external stakeholders for comments.
- 3.3 Work on governance options for the CIL is continuing. Proposals covering monitoring, collection and spend will be reported to me shortly.

4. Crossrail

Crossrail Line 1

- 4.1 A decision is imminent on the application to reinstate the London Underground worksite at Marylebone Lane to provide improved public realm adjacent to the new entrance to Bond Street Underground Station. This will include hard and soft landscaping and provision for the ventilation for a beneath-ground substation. The upgrade of London Underground's Bond Street Station is being undertaken in conjunction with the Crossrail works and will provide access to and interchange with Crossrail when it opens in December 2018.
- 4.2 Applications for other Crossrail public realm reinstatement works at Bond Street, Paddington and Tottenham Court Road stations are expected this summer.

- 4.3 Great Portland Estate have also commissioned the public realm consultancy Publica to develop a public realm strategy for Hanover Square and the gardens, including the surrounding area, as part of longer term public realm improvements to the area. I am working closely with all parties to develop these proposals and ensure their proper implementation. Public consultation on these schemes will follow early next year.

Crossrail Line 2

- 4.4 The revised Crossrail Line 2 Safeguarding Directions were issued on 24th May with immediate effect. Many of the City Council's concerns have been met, specifically the removal of Soho Square Gardens as an Area of Surface Interest. The revised safeguarding now includes the roads around the Square but not the Gardens.
- 4.5 TfL are developing the route within the updated safeguarded boundaries, as well as the branch lines at either end of the Crossrail 2 route, in readiness for a further round of public consultation this autumn. The next round of consultation will provide more detail on the scheme and stations, reflecting the concerns expressed during the safeguarding consultation.
- 4.6 Officers will continue to work closely with TfL in developing the proposals in Westminster, a series of meeting have taken place TfL in the lead up to the autumn and the public consultation.
- 4.7 TfL is keen to provide key stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views and identify key local issues prior to the next formal consultation in the autumn. TfL are working with the City Council to set up two Crossrail 2 Community Working Groups in Victoria and Tottenham Court Road. Those meetings are now scheduled for 14th and 22nd September respectively. The groups will be separate from the Crossrail 1 Community Liaison Panels. A briefing for all Members on Crossrail 2 is also being held on 3rd September.

5. Victoria Area Schemes

- 5.1 London Underground's Victoria Station Upgrade works are progressing as planned, with the new northern ticket hall due to open in 2016, alongside Phase 1 of Land Securities' Nova scheme. The original pedestrian crossing on Bressenden Place by Victoria Street will be brought back into use in mid-September. Officers are currently reviewing the options for retaining the temporary pedestrian crossing on Victoria Street by the Cathedral piazza. This crossing had been intended to be removed upon reintroduction of the original crossing, but given its benefit to pedestrians a funding arrangement is being finalised to bring it up to permanent standard.
- 5.2 TfL are reviewing options for the possible relocation of Victoria Coach Station to make way for Crossrail Line 2 works to the departures hall site in the early 2020s. Whilst Network Rail continue to develop their masterplan for improvements within the Station, their bridge strengthening works to Ebury, Elizabeth and Eccleston Bridges are due to start soon.

- 5.3 Together these works will allow for further consideration to be given to the future of the Inner Ring Road around and through Victoria and the operation of buses to improve traffic flows and enhance the pedestrian experience. We await details of TfL's proposals later this year.

6. Victoria – Nine Elms Bridge

- 6.1 Following the Bridge Design Competition organised by the London Borough of Wandsworth, a shortlist of four design teams was announced on 17th March.
- 6.2 Stage 2 of the competition began on 11th May and at its completion Wandsworth will announce their preferred landing site. Although this process is scheduled to be finalised in September with a winning design team announced, this is still not a live development project and there is no commitment in place from Wandsworth, TfL or others that the bridge will actually be built.
- 6.3 Officers continue to reiterate the City Council's strong objections to the proposals. We continue to receive letters of objection to the bridge.

7. Proposals for Introducing a Two-Way Operation to Baker Street

- 7.1 The consultation on the proposed Baker Street Two Way project closed on 31st July.
- 7.2 The committee is to receive a verbal update on the project from Graham King, Head of Strategic Planning and Transportation, at its meeting on 8th September.

8. Marble Arch Observation Wheel

- 8.1 Since its installation on 14th July, close to 25,000 people have made the trip around the Marble Arch Observation Wheel. Following this extremely successful summer tenure, the wheel will be dismantled on 7th September.
- 8.2 A further 20,000 people also entered the free event site at Marble Arch during this period, taking advantage of the additional seating and the hot and cold snacks also available on the site, creating a family friendly and welcoming environment in what has become an under-appreciated public space and area of historical significance in Westminster.
- 8.3 In that same vein of raising the area's profile, this Christmas we will also be installing a sponsored digital advent calendar at Marble Arch. Plans are also being developed to accompany this with a festive maze and tree, helping to create a link between Oxford Street's Christmas rush and Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park.

9. City of Sculpture

- 9.1 As part of the Shubbak festival of contemporary Arab culture, a series of concrete sculptures by Lebanese artist Ziad Antar have been installed in Riverwalk Gardens and will be in place until November. The pieces are recreations of some the sculptures found in the city of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, which is famous for its public sculpture park.
- 9.2 An application has been approved for Bushra Fakhoury's *Danse Gwenedour* for installation at Marble Arch in early 2017. The piece depicts a traditional dance performed by French villagers in Bretagne.
- 9.3 The two Henry Moore sculptures installed at Berkeley Square have been followed by a piece by Helaine Blumenfeld OBE. The sculpture entitled *Mysteries* was first exhibited at Salisbury Cathedral in 2013.

10. Green plaques

- 10.1 Below is a brief outline of significant forthcoming green plaque commemorations.
- The National Sporting Club in King Street, Covent Garden. The club was founded in 1891 and has been credited with doing more for the sport of boxing in Great Britain than any other organisation. Its first president was Hugh Lowther, the 5th Earl of Lonsdale, after whom the famous title belt is named.
 - Anthony Powell at his birthplace in Ashley Gardens, SW1. Powell was the author of the acclaimed twelve volume work 'A Dance to the Music of Time', as well as working as a celebrated critic and reviewer.
 - William Henry Hudson at 14 Leinster Square in Bayswater. Hudson authored the acclaimed romance novel 'Green Mansions', as well as being an accomplished naturalist and founding member of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.
 - Cecilia Vajda at 105 Hallam Street, W1. Throughout a long and distinguished career in music as a teacher, conductor, performer, lecturer, writer and scholar, Vajda also become the foremost authority on the work of Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály and his famed teaching methods.
 - William Shipley at 25 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. As well as being a celebrated drawing master, in 1754 at site of Rawthmell's Coffee House Shipley founded an arts society which went on to become The Royal Society of Arts.
 - Somerset Maugham at 2 Wyndham Place. As a celebrated playwright, novelist and short story writer, Maugham was reputedly the highest paid author of the 1930s. His most notable works include 'Of Human Bondage' and 'The Letter', whilst many of Maugham's other pieces reflected on his career in the British Secret Intelligence Service during the First World War.

11. West End Partnership Public Realm Working Group

- 11.1 The final session of the West End Partnership Public Realm Working Group took place on 15th June. The meeting discussed the draft delivery plan and the huge contribution made by the public realm working group had made to its fruition. The delivery plan itself was launched on 18th June and outlines a forward programme of public realm schemes to be implemented over the next 15 years.
- 11.2 We are continuing to work with TfL and partners on these schemes, including the associated Crossrail over station developments at Hanover Square and our work with Camden on the Tottenham Court Road Two Way project. The West End Partnership delivery plan also set out our long term aspirations for Oxford Street West, as well as a joint project with the New West End Company, their proposed Property Owner BID, TfL and private partners to improve the streetscape in Bond Street. This project will seek to present proposals for improving the pedestrian environment and servicing capability, whilst maintaining Bond Street's position as one of the world's most prominent retail locations. It is our intention to consult on these proposals later this year.
- 11.3 At its next board meeting on 29th September, the West End Partnership will discuss and agree arrangements for the reconstituting of the former working groups into task groups, focussed on carrying out the delivery plan.

12. Development Planning

Permitted development rights – telecoms

- 12.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) is conducting a consultation on the siting of mobile telecoms antennas, or monopoles, on the public highway. This is largely intended to solve signal issues in more rural locations, but given the proposal is to amend the national planning policy framework there would obviously be implications in Westminster. Our understanding is that the DCLG intends to allow such installations on pavements under permitted development rights, negating the requirement to submit a planning application to the local authority. We have submitted a response to this consultation outlining our strong opposition, should this be the case.

Staffing

- 12.2 Godfrey Woods was appointed as the City Council's Deputy Director of Planning in July. The post was created under the structure agreed through the council-wide reorganisation undertaken earlier this year and I am very pleased that Godfrey accepted this new role. Godfrey will now be John Walker's immediate deputy within Development Planning.
- 12.3 In general, the department is under pressure in terms of recruitment. It is currently proving difficult to recruit to open positions, barring the internal promotions which I have highlighted. Whilst vacancies are increasing, our workload as the busiest

planning authority in the country remains the same. Our senior team are continuing to work with HR to look at new ways to help retain staff and attract new talent.

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City of Westminster

Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: Tuesday 8th September 2015

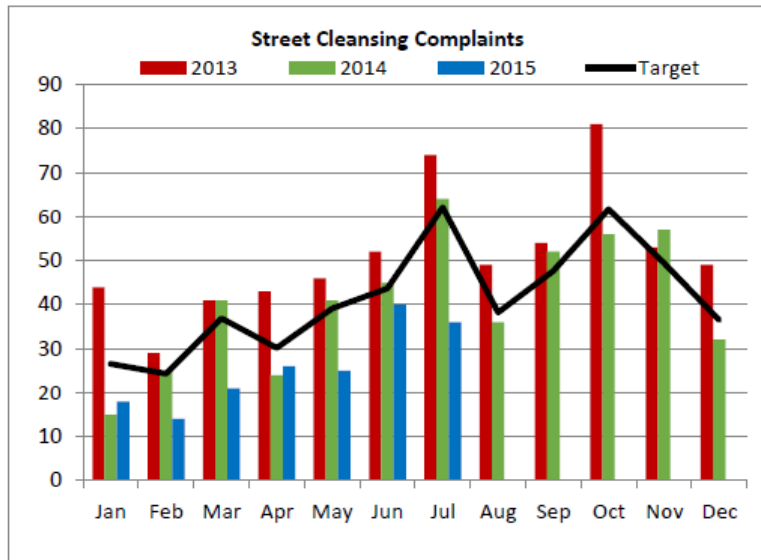
Portfolio: Cabinet Member for City Management

**Briefing Author and
Contact Details:** Councillor Richard Beddoe
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1. Street cleansing

Cleansing Performance

Streets Cleansing	
This Month	
Jul-14	64
Jul-15	36
% Var	-44%
Target	62
Status	Ahead
YTD	
2014	255
2015	180
% Var	-29%
Target	263
Status	Ahead



1.1 Street cleansing services continue to perform to an extremely high level. As shown in the above table, complaints are **29% down** this year against the same period in 2014. Just 180 complaints so far this year against 255 by the same point last year.

Independent Street Cleansing Survey

YEAR	Month of Survey	Litter	Detritus	Graffiti	Fly-posting
2013-14	Feb	4%	2%	1%	0%
2014-15	June	5%	6%	1%	0%
2014-15	Nov	5%	0%	2%	0%
2014-15	Jan	1%	0%	4%	0%
2015-16	July	2%	2%	2%	2%

1.2 The first local environmental quality survey of the year took place in July. The results were very good, with litter and detritus both slightly below 2%, which is excellent for this time of year. Fly posting (illegal advertising) is higher than usual, but remains at a good standard overall, and pavement staining is still the most notable issue in retail areas and other highways.

Cleansing at Special Events

- 1.3 On 27th June, **Pride** involved the annual parade, concert and post event celebrations long into the night in Soho. There was a number of issues that occurred in the cleansing of the parade, most notably pedestrians accessing the parade route before the roads were ready to be reopened. Cleansing had to stop at Waterloo Place in order to reclose the roads and ensure the safety of staff. These lessons will feed into the 2016 event plan. There was also a massive clean-up operation in Soho through the night, involving 27 sweepers, 12 mechanical sweepers and washers and 2 RCVs.
- 1.4 On 12th July 35 sweepers and 10 mechanical sweepers were deployed to ensure that the event route for the **British 10k** was effectively cleansed and ready to be reopened by 1:15pm, ahead of schedule.
- 1.5 On 1st and 2nd August, a weekend event celebrating cycling, **Ride London**, came to the capital. The two days of this event generated very little in the way of litter, which ensured that the roads were able to be reopened to the general public in good time. A number of main roads were closed in the centre of Westminster to accommodate the free cycle event on the Saturday and the Classic and Grand Prix events on the Sunday. In total, 17 sweepers and 10 cleansing vehicles were deployed over the weekend to ensure that the roads were returned to contract standard prior to their reopening.
- 1.6 The **Notting Hill Carnival** over the August bank holiday is always one of the busiest events for cleansing in the calendar year. Veolia will deploy 170 staff and 60 vehicles over both nights of the carnival in order to return roads to an A Grade standard before 8am. We expect to collect in the region of 200 tonnes of waste over the two days. As usual, a free garden and basement clean-up for residents within the carnival footprint has been offered to those who had not used their private land to trade, party, or entertain during the carnival. By Thursday 27th August close to 400 residents had signed up online to receive this service.

2. Waste and recycling

Waste Disposal Contract re-let

- 2.1 The OJEU tender notices for the three new waste disposal contracts (Residual waste, dry recyclables and food waste) were issued on August 10th. Pre-qualification questionnaire responses are due by September 11th with a view to awarding new contracts next spring.

Recycling Reward Scheme

- 2.2 The scheme to encourage more participation and lower contamination is being promoted via door-knocking targeting 41,000 residents will be completed by the end of September. The costs of the door-knocking project are being met by grants from the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Waste Electrical Equipment Producer Responsibility Scheme. 'Bin Weight' monitoring equipment has









been fitted to vehicles and bins, allowing us to accurately measure the quantities of waste and recycling from each estate and mansion block.

Recycling Bag Trial

2.3 The trial aims to support the development of blue bags to offer improved customer satisfaction and better value for money. Volunteer residents will use 6 different bag types and feedback online weekly. The results of the trial will be used to discuss product development with suppliers.

3. Highways





3.1 The following table shows the performance for highways reactive defects compared against the respective targets. For reference, the previous contract targets are also given.

	June and July Avg Performance		July Performance		Target from 1 April 14	Previous Contract Target
Priority 1 (2 hr)	98%		98%		98%	98%
Priority 2 (24 hr)	98%		98%		98%	95%
Priority 3 (10 day)	96%		98%		98%	90%
Priority 4 (28 day)	98%		98%		98%	83%

3.2 Performance has improved between 2% and 4% on the previous period for all priorities and only 10 day priority remains slightly under target. The 10 day priority is particularly sensitive to works that require input from other services such as parking suspensions and whilst still under target, the current performance is still higher than the previous contract target.

4. Public Lighting

- 4.1 Reactive performance has continued at the required level or higher for 48 hour responses. The 2 hour priority level dipped in June 2015 due to higher than normal volumes bringing the period performance slightly below target.

	June and July Avg Performance		July Performance		Target from 1 April 14	Previous Contract Target
Priority 1 (2 hr)	97%		98%		98%	98%
Priority 3 (48 hrs)	98%		99%		98%	90%

Outages

- 4.2 The year to date percentage of outages as of the end of July 2015 is recorded as 0.35%. This is lower than normally expected and is due to resourcing issues with the night scout. The average time to fix a light under local authority control is also well within the target 12 days at 7.4 days. The total time to fix a light where UKPN also need to carry out work is 43 days, which is outside of the 40 day target. This has not changed since my last report and officers continue to work with UKPN to bring this figure down.

Long Term Faults

- 4.3 At the end of June, there were 38 jobs more than 40 days old, an increase of 5 jobs against the previous report. 25 of these jobs require work by UKPN and the increase is reflective of the current UKPN response times. It should be noted that there are always a small number of more complex cases to fix which will take longer and this number is small in comparison to the 14,000 lighting columns that make up our network.

Remote Monitoring System ('Smart Lights')

- 4.4 The project team to implement the change to generating works orders to our Service Provider remotely is now in place. The full end to end process required is expected to be completed by the end of September 2015 to pilot in October 2015.

5. Highway Capital Programme Delivery

2015/16 Carriageway Programming

- 5.1 The 15/16 programme is progressing well with some more challenging schemes being successfully delivered in the last two months, such as Grosvenor Crescent and Harrow Road. We have received positive feedback from Grosvenor Estates commending us on the good work that was carried out at Grosvenor Crescent. The main resurfacing programme is scheduled to complete by October. The completion of

some schemes which contain anti-skid works could be delayed as this process is weather dependant. However it remains the intention to deliver these within this financial year.

2015/16 Footway Programming

5.2 Again, as per the carriageway programme a large number of schemes have now been successfully delivered. The programme is scheduled to complete by December.

6. Gully Service

6.1 The routine programme is on target with 35.1% of the network cleaned to date and 50% of the network visited as of July 2015.

6.2 Our service provider has been in discussions with the city council's cleansing service to look at how their work impacts on the gully service. A collaborative approach will be taken in terms of how cleansing use weather information to adjust their programme reactively to cope with seasonal variations in respect of leaf fall and wind patterns.

6.3 In order to achieve a lower number of abortive visits on the routine programme, a targeted approach was trialled in Warrington Crescent. This involved additional advance notice leaflets and collaboration with the parking team. The result was very positive with a far lower number of abortive visits that we have experienced in the past. This approach will be adopted moving forward in other areas where high abortive rates are seen.

7. Gully Further works

7.1 When a gully cannot be fixed by cleaning alone, further investigation is needed. A list of these gullies is maintained by the service and works are put into delivery phases to resolve, subject to prioritisation and budgets. The current phase of works is at the following stage:

1. Maida Vale (Randolph Road) – Works still in progress.
2. Westbourne Grove o/s 4. – Works still in progress.
3. Bishops Bridge Road (NEW) - Date to be confirmed.
4. Conduit Street - Works Completed
5. Knightsbridge (141) - Works Completed
6. John Adam Street – Works Completed
7. Allsop Place – Works Completed



Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee Briefing

Date: 8th September 2015

Briefing of: Cabinet Member for Parking and Sustainability

**Briefing Author and
Contact Details:** Sion Pryse x2228
spryse@westminster.gov.uk

1 Greener City Action Plan

- 1.1 The Greener City Action Plan has been formally approved and is available to view online. A formal launch event will be held shortly with support from the Victoria BID. Progress on the plan will be reported annually to Policy and Scrutiny.

2 Biodiversity and Open Spaces

- 2.1 Officers and Historic England are working with The Northbank BID on their Tree Strategy. This will include an assessment of the current situation in terms of tree cover and health, and will propose a future strategy. The strategy will be presented at the next public realm steering group.
- 2.2 Links have also been made with the Wild West End (partnership of five land holders) working on environmental health, habitat and waste.

3 Public Health (PH) / Sustainability projects

- 3.1 Food growing at the pilot sites in Church Street continues to go well. At the Fisherton Estate, there are 20 plots and the first crop of potatoes was harvested last week. The Hammersmith Community Gardeners Association is running the community gardener sessions fortnightly. A "smoothie bike" by the food growing plots generated interest from local children. They hope to engender further enthusiasm by organising a trip to Spitalfields City Farm.

4 Air Quality Lobbying

- 4.1 After sending a joint lobbying letter from Westminster City Council (WCC) and Corporation of London (CoL) to DEFRA asking for more Government action to improve air quality in the capital, with a member of CoL and an officer from WCC and CoL, I met with Parliamentary under Secretary of State for DEFRA, Rory Stewart. I highlighted the need for DEFRA to take firmer legislative action on air quality, including a review of the UK Air Quality Plan (a plan submitted by DEFRA detailing how to limit Nitrogen Dioxide levels) and financial support for zero emission vehicles and low emission infrastructure.
- 4.2 The City Council responded to amended consultation for Transport for London's (TfL's) proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone having initially responded to the first request for consultation in January 2015. The preferred option in this second round of consultation is weaker than originally proposed. We are very clear that the proposals do not go far enough and fall short of the necessary levels required to improve the air quality in central London.

5 Low Emission Neighbourhood bid

- 5.1 In July the City Council submitted an application for £25,000 seed funding from the Greater London Authority to pull together a full bid for a 'Low Emission Neighbourhood' which would focus on Bryanston and Dorset Square and Marylebone High Street wards. The initiative would include freight/waste consolidation, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and encouraging cycling and walking. BIDs and landowners are supportive of the proposal.

6 Neighbourhood for the Future

- 6.1 The City Council submitted has also submitted a bid for a funding stream available to London Councils focused on supporting the uptake of Low Emission vehicles. The WCC element of the bid focuses on the use of zero emission capable taxis, particularly around our transport hubs of Marylebone, Paddington, Victoria and Charing Cross stations.

7 Residential Electric Vehicle Recharging Proposal

- 7.1 The Council is in the final stages of developing a scheme with a potential investor to pilot a residents-only electric vehicle recharging network. Three areas have been identified (based on market demand and requests from residents), providing two recharging bays at each location for resident use. Dates for the installation programme are yet to be confirmed.

8 Zip Car (car club) Electric Vehicle Charging points

- 8.1 A number of car club bays have been identified as locations for installation of an Electric Vehicle charging point to support a hybrid electric car club vehicle. The feasibility work for fully determining which sites are suitable is underway and the intention is for 25 double posts to be installed to service 50 car club bays. A timetable for installing the charging points is being drawn up.

9 Blue Point London (Source London) / Point to Point (Car Club)

- 9.1 The City Council continues to meet with Blue Point London to discuss key points of their proposal to ensure the scheme is suitable for Westminster. Officers do liaise with our neighbouring boroughs to ensure that the offer and terms are, where appropriate, consistent. Officers are also continuing to engage with other EV charging point suppliers.

10 Car Club Strategy

- 10.1 Following the release of TfL's Car Club Coalition Strategy, the City Council is now looking at how that strategy sits alongside the aims and objectives of its own transport and sustainability policies, particularly given the changes in the car club marketplace, an evolving 'point to point' and more flexible model, and the challenges of an aspirational purely electric fleet.

11 Connected Vehicle Pilot

- 11.1 The City Council has tested a new parking system which will allow a "One Click Parking" payment system for vehicles. The technology uses a device that effectively connects the car to a user's smartphone. Users confirm their location on arrival and start their parking session using an app; when they return to their car they can simply drive off and their parking session will stop automatically. External funding financed the trial.
- 11.2 This pioneering work and innovative technology such as bay sensors and pay by phone has created opportunities to enhance parking.

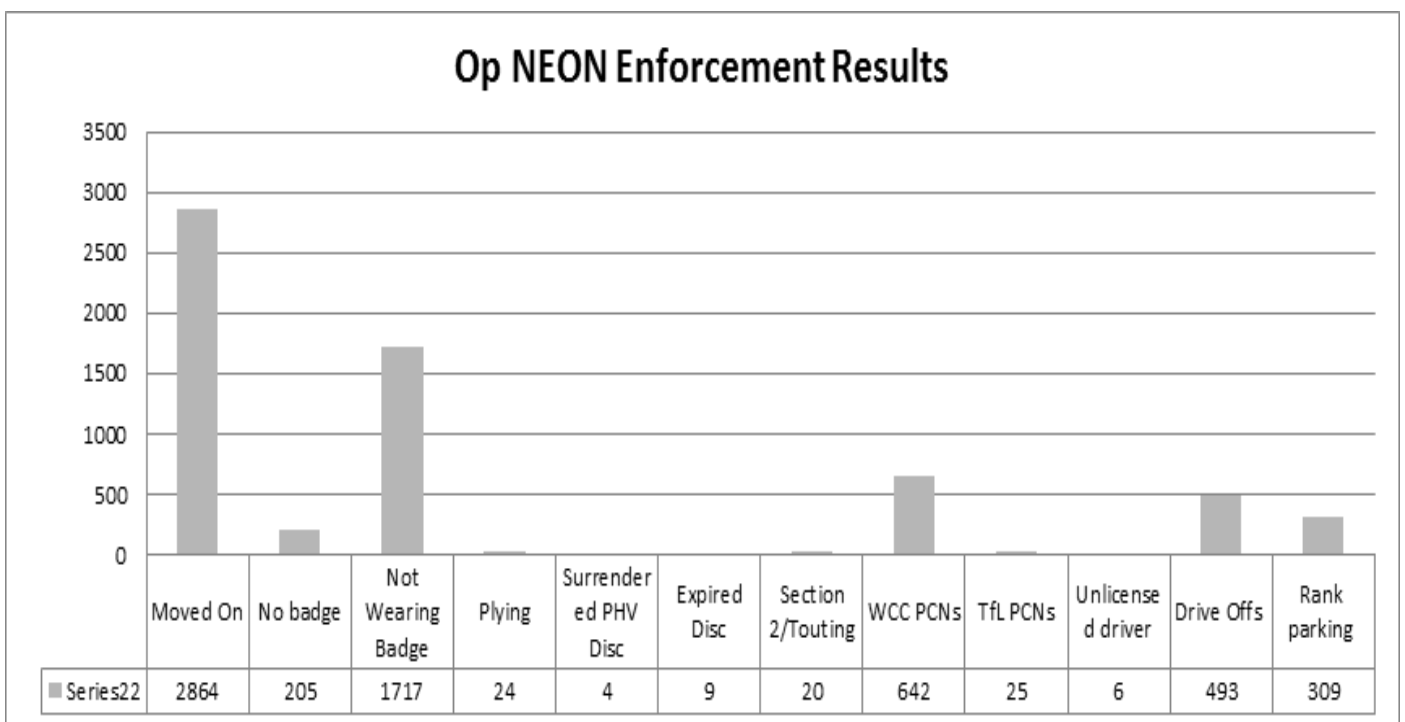
12 Operation Neon

- 12.1 Operation Neon, the partnership between TfL, Westminster City Council's Parking Services, The Metropolitan Police Service and the City of London Police, supporting the licensed taxi and private hire trade by deterring and disrupting illegal cab activity has been extended until the end of December to focus on;

- Tackling touting and illegal plying for hire
- Taking action against parking and idling contraventions
- Protecting taxi ranks

12.2 The operation focuses on known ‘hotspot’ locations throughout the City including Berkley Square/ Street, Langham Street, Ganton Street and Stratton Street. Operation Neon has increased the levels of visible enforcement in central London, combating touting and other illegal activity and tackling engine idling. It is keeping ranks clear to support legitimate taxi and private hire drivers and has received positive feedback from the trade associations.

12.3 The chart below details the actions taken to 15th August.



13 White Disabled Badge Bay - Electronic Permit Trial

13.1 A ‘Proof of Concept’ of Electronic permits at 100 White Badge Disabled bays is currently in the testing phase. Permit holders will be issued with Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) tags which have had sensors installed in their bays.

13.2 The system will transmit real-time bay status reports to Marshals to ensure more efficient management of the kerb-side space and improve access for the customer to their dedicated parking space. The scheme is being supported and part funded by TfL.

14 2015 Parking Occupancy Survey

- 14.1 A final version of the 2015 Parking Occupancy Survey summary report should be approved for publication during September.
- 14.2 The next stage of the commission is now underway, which is the downloading of the survey's substantial database onto the City Council's Parkmap system. This will enable Parking, Planning and Transportation colleagues to make invaluable use of such data when developing schemes or assessing local planning applications.
- 14.3 The survey will become a key source of evidence, alongside other sources, to the future work of the Task Group of this Committee. A separate report will be submitted for the first meeting on 21st September.

15 The Walking Strategy

- 15.1 Steer Davies Gleave was appointed to lead on the walking strategy and consultants have met with officers and road safety campaigners (including 20's Plenty for us, Westminster & London Living Streets, Westminster Cycling Campaign & Vision Zero London) in a series of pre-consultation meetings. The next meetings are with local business groups, land owners and estates and amenity groups. The consultants will also meet the Policy & Scrutiny Task Group at the end of September.

16 Cycle Schemes

- 16.1 After the successful launch of the bike loan pilot where local residents interested in learning to cycle were loaned a folding bike and given a programme of support. The scheme has been revised and implemented in a few locations.
- 16.2 The refreshed programme of themed led-rides is proving successful with Westminster's Christmas ride expected to be popular.
- 16.3 Officers are seeking a new venue for the bike building scheme as a potential scheme using Westminster Academy has not progressed.
- 16.4 The first video informing the public about our cycle training programme as well as messaging all road users about good practice was released on the 4th August and a second on the 25th August. The videos have been widely promoted and viewing figures have been high for a local council video, with the first receiving 1,300 views. Officers are monitoring cycle training sign up numbers.

16.5 In conjunction with Public Health, officers are in the process of developing a smartphone app providing an incentive scheme to encourage walking and cycling. A pilot is expected to be launched with Tri Borough staff in the autumn.

17 Central London Cycle Grid

17.1 Design development is continuing on the ten quietway cycle routes within the City.

17.2 Consultation on the first three quietway cycle routes has been completed and Cabinet Member reports are being prepared with a view to progress each route to implementation.

17.3 Consultation on two further routes is due shortly. Details of the proposals will be available online at <https://www.westminster.gov.uk/cycling-consultations>.

17.4 Consultation on Cycle Superhighway 11 (Avenue Road, Outer Circle and Portland Place) is being led by TfL. Public consultation has been postponed from August 2015 to Autumn 2015 whilst TfL undertake further design and modelling on the route outside of the City. As part of CS11, Westminster City Council supports the introduction of a 20mph zone in The Regent's Park, with camera enforcement technology.

17.5 A Cabinet Member Report for the East West Cycle Superhighway has been approved. Based on the decisions in the report, work will commence soon at Parliament Square and the Lancaster Gate gyratory.

18 Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge

18.1 Stage 2 of Wandsworth's Nine Elms to Pimlico Bridge Design Competition launched in May and asked the 4 selected design teams to develop their proposals for a bridge between the site of the American Embassy and Pimlico Gardens.

18.2 The Stage 2 designs were displayed at public exhibitions in Wandsworth and at 51 Broadway in July – each attracting over 100 visitors, after which the Stage 2 teams were subject to technical, resident and jury panel assessment.

18.3 WCC officers have reiterated Westminster's significant concerns regarding the bridge's likely impact, including but not limited to, the loss of trees and public open space, impact on the highway and on residential amenity.

18.4 Wandsworth Council are due to announce their chosen winning team in late September/October this year.

19 Lambeth Bridge Roundabout

19.1 I have a meeting with TfL later this month to discuss their proposals to improve the safety of this junction.

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Monday 22 nd June (Round One)		
Agenda Item	Reasons & objective for item	Follow up:
Item 5 – Cabinet Members	That the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Parking write again to TfL to request that works are undertaken to improve the junction of Horseferry Road and Millbank (Councillor Action and Martin Low, City Transport Advisor)	Response emailed to Committee on 7 th July 2015
Item 5 – Cabinet Members	That it be investigated whether Floral Street shall be included as a location for Operation Neon (Councillor Acton and Mr Low to contact TfL).	To be circulated before Committee
Item 5 – Cabinet Members	That information be sought on whether there is a current Private Members’ Bill relating to pedicabs	Not currently but wider strategy in place.
Item 5 – Cabinet Members	That it be checked whether the Police have any powers to remove pedicabs from the street	No specific powers in relation to pedicabs. Generic issues such as obstructing the highway and antisocial factors may apply
Item 5 – Cabinet Members	That the Cabinet Member for City Management investigate the circumstances at the building sites in Paddington Street / Chiltern Street, particularly in the light of the accident which took place in the locality and assess whether specific action needs to be taken	Response emailed to Committee on 10 th July 2015
Item 5 – Cabinet Members	That Councillor Crockett contact Councillor Beddoe with details of his question on whether there was a provision within the contract for those undertaking repair of the highway to indemnify the Council	Response emailed to Committee on 30 th July 2015

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