



City of Westminster

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Title: Council Meeting

Meeting Date: Wednesday 23rd January, 2019

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Westminster Council House, 97-113 Marylebone Road,
London, NW1 5PT

Members: All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting
for the transaction of the business set out.

Item 10 Priority Order of Business and Related Briefing Note

(Pages 3 - 12)

**Item 11 Report of the General Purposes Committee 16 January
2019**

(Pages 13 - 16)

**5 Strand
London, WC2 5HR
18 January 2019**

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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

COUNCIL MEETING – 23 JANUARY 2019

**AGENDA ITEMS
FUTURE POLICY PLAN/NOTICE OF MOTION
PREFERRED ORDER OF ITEMS FOR DEBATE (STANDING ORDER 11)**

MAJORITY PARTY

No	Agenda Items 10	Future Policy Plan/No	Issue/Cabinet Member Portfolio
1.	Policing	83	Public Protection and Licensing
	A Briefing Note is attached		

MINORITY PARTY

	Agenda Item 12	Subject	Cabinet Member Portfolio
2.	Notice of Motion	Brexit	The Leader

Stuart Love
Chief Executive
18 January 2019

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Briefing Note – Full Council meeting

23 January 2018

Subject: Policing in Westminster

The purpose of this paper is to provide background and context to the debate at Full Council. It provides overview of the impending Borough Command Unit merger, concerns regarding policing in Westminster and provides a summary of new partnership working initiatives.

1. Context

- 1.1. The Mayor, and Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime have head the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) which serves as London's Police and Crime Commissioner. Operational policing for the Metropolitan Police Services (MPS) remains the responsibility of the Commissioner, Cressida Dick.
- 1.2. MOPAC is directly accountable for police performance in the capital, setting out strategic direction and allocating resources across London in its Police and Crime (P&C) Plan¹. The current plan was published in March 2017, includes measures to tackle these issues, reduce crime and disorder in London and improve police services across the city and outlines five top priorities in London:
 - A better police service for London
 - A better Criminal Justice Service for London
 - Keeping children and young people safe
 - Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls
 - Standing together against hatred and intolerance

In addition, a number of mandatory and local policing priorities are set. The mandatory high-harm crimes are sexual violence, domestic abuse, child sexual exploitation, weapon-based crime and hate crime. For Westminster, the local priorities are anti-social behaviour, non-domestic violence with injury and robbery.

- 1.3. Each local authority area also has a statutory Community Safety Partnership (CSP) in place. Set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, CSP's ensure that public/responsible authorities "do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment) and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area".
- 1.4. The Police and Justice Act (2006) brought in further statutory requirements for Community Safety Partnerships and have been updated by subsequent legislation until the Crime and Disorder Regulations 2011. These include:
 - producing yearly Strategic Assessments and partnership plans
 - sharing information and have an Information Sharing Protocol
 - reporting on work and progress on a yearly basis
 - implementing a strategy to reduce reoffending
 - conducting Domestic Homicide Reviews in relation to incidents of domestic homicide

1.5. The Safer Westminster Partnership (SWP) is the statutory Community Safety Partnership for Westminster and is made up of representatives from the 'responsible authorities', which are:

- Metropolitan Police Service
- Mayor's Office for Policing & Crime (MOPAC)
- Westminster City Council
- London Fire Brigade
- Central London Commissioning Group
- National Probation Service
- Community Rehabilitation Company (MTC Novo)

1.6. The Safer Westminster Partnership has a three-year strategy from 2017/20, refreshed annually based upon evidence from the annual strategic assessment. The vision for the partnership is to ***Make Westminster safer by working in partnership to reduce the risk and harm of crime and anti-social behaviour, focusing on protecting the most vulnerable within our communities.***

2. Basic Command Unit Mergers

2.1. In 2017 the Metropolitan Police announced proposals to turn the 32 policing boroughs, aligned to local authority areas, into 12 Basic Command Units (BCU) under the Strengthening Local Policing (SLP) programme. These operate on the basis of five functional areas, aimed at driving consistency in the delivery of local policing across London:

- Emergency Response Teams – Trying to achieve greater efficiency through borderless deployment.
- Safer Neighbourhood Teams – Streamlined and ring-fenced team of dedicated ward officers.
- CID – Focus on serious and series crime from both reactive and proactive perspective.
- Safeguarding – Bringing together specialist and local delivery.
- BCU HQ – to provide a coherent support structure to deliver business continuity

2.2. This proposal formed part of a wider plan to reduce costs whilst also meeting increasing and more complex demands. The BCU changes are forecast to save £73.4 million alone, part of a wider MPS plan to save £400 million by 2021/22.

2.3. Westminster is to be part of a 'Central West' BCU along with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham. Originally proposed to go live in November 2018, the Central West BCU is now due to launch in February 2019 and is the last merger across the capital.

2.4. The merger will result in:

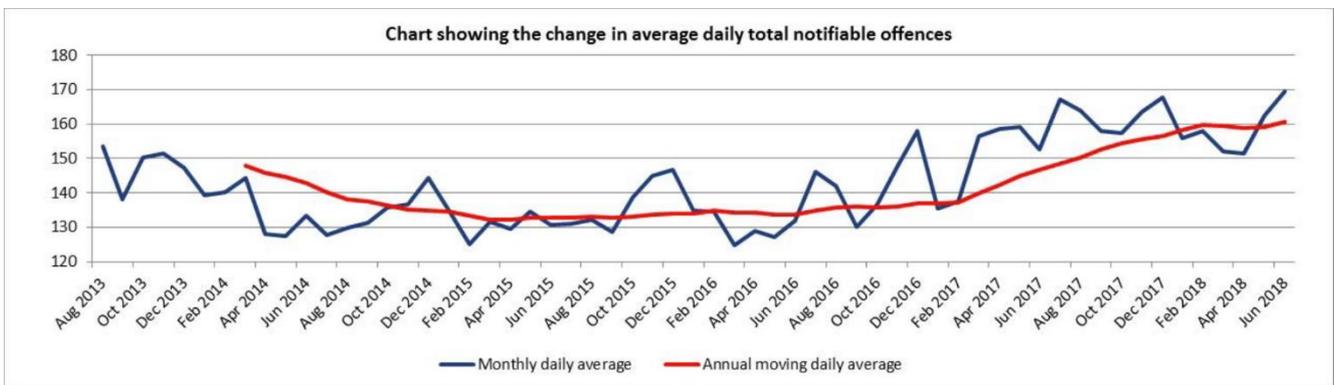
- A reduction in officers of 11.9%, a total of 243 officers across the three boroughs
- Neighbourhood policing will see a reduction of 42.2%, with 225 fewer officers
- Reductions in CID of 34.5% reduction, with 129 fewer officers
- Safeguarding will see a 19% increase in officers, 33 officers

- Emergency Response will see an increase of 4%, 38 officers – these officers will now also be responsible for investigating crimes
- 58 officers allocated to the new HQ function

3. Concerns

3.1. Whilst the City Council acknowledges the need to make significant savings and the potential benefits of cross border working, serious concerns remain regarding the capacity of MPS to deliver an effective policing service given the complexity, in terms of its size, demands and the uniqueness, of Westminster, against a backdrop of increasing levels of crime across Westminster.

3.2. Recent figures show that in 2018 crime in Westminster has increased by 10.1%. Westminster



now accounts for 7.5% of crime across London compared with 6.9% in 2017. There has been an increase in almost all crime types in this period, with the exception of theft of motor vehicles, which has seen a reduction as a result of Operation Venice that targeted the theft of mopeds, and moped enabled crime.

The chart below shows the monthly daily average of total notifiable offences over the past five years, that show an increase in long-term crime trends. The monthly daily average is used to take into account the varying number of days per month and an annual moving daily average is used to provide an overarching trend line.

3.3. Whilst the increase is most pronounced in the West End and St James’s wards, which now account for 4.1% of all crime in London, there have also been a number of concerning violent knife and gun enabled crimes in North Westminster over the last few months. Levels of community concern regarding these incidents and levels of anti-social behaviour in Church Street, Harrow Road and Queens Park are increasingly significantly. There is also a belief that low-level crime and disorder/anti-social behaviour, including drug dealing/taking and aggressive begging groups, are going unchecked and this is a very real concern not only in the West End but across Westminster in general.

4. Scrutiny and Lobbying

4.1. The subject of BCU merger has been considered by the City Management and Public Protection Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 21st November 2018.

4.2. The Leader, Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing and officers have lobbied on numerous occasions to the Mayor of London, Deputy Mayor, the Commissioner and other senior officers within MPS regarding concern at both the proposed BCU and current levels of policing. Key concerns raised include:

- The current lack of visible policing and the ability to meet the unique demands of Westminster, in particular the West End and the evening and night-time economy
- The impact of the implementation of cross border policing on response times
- A loss in community confidence, increased levels of unreported crime and a reduction in community intelligence
- The impact of a reduction in police officer numbers at a time of increasing crime and demand
- Lack of understanding of local SNT's and dedicated ward officers and regularly changes within personnel which are not sufficiently communicated
- The Met's ability and capacity to deliver partnership working and strategic stakeholder and community engagement when working across three boroughs with a reduced management capacity
- Call response times on 101/999
- The impact on aide and abstractions – in particular in relation to policing events, demonstrations and set pieces like Changing of the Guard
- The lack of a co-ordinated approach between the Borough police team and central and specialist resources
- The reduction in sanction dedication rates
- The restriction on London residency and current vacancy levels
- A resultant impact on the ability to prevent of crime

5. Lobbying outcomes to date

5.1. As part of Westminster's response to the BCU proposals, a number of recommendations were made. These are summarised below:

- Lifting the restriction on new recruits having to live in London – Since our lobbying on this point the London residency restriction has been lifted temporarily for the next six months. It is understood that this is already having a positive impact on recruitment across the MPS
- Reducing abstraction (redeployment) of local officers for events. There is a commitment that Dedicated Ward Officers will not be abstracted, however, there is a concern that this may not be reflected in reality
- Increasing the number of Neighbourhood Police Officers across Westminster to ensure the Police remain proactive rather than a purely reactive service
- Increasing the number of officers in the West End and St James's and ensuring those officers working in the Evening and Night (ENT) are proactive rather than reactive. These areas have always accounted for the highest number of reported crimes in Westminster and recent increases are concerning. whilst a dedicated team will be put in place in the West End, overall remains a significant reduction of officers in this area coupled with a reduction in proactive policing overnight

6. Partnership working and integration

- 6.1. The City Council continues to work in partnership with the police and other agencies to play our part in ensuring the safety of our communities. In addition to our commissioned services and extensive preventative work, we are working to minimise the impact of these changes and where possible will innovate, commission and integrate services to reduce demand. However, the City Council cannot be expected, nor has the powers or finances, to fill a vacuum that a deficit in policing may create.

Examples of our partnership work in 2018 include:

Neighbourhood model

Public Protection & Licensing has recently moved to a neighbourhood model, allowing for provision of a more focused response to local issues, with dedicated multi-disciplinary teams. These teams align to the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT's) to ensure a partnership approach. Officers are also reviewing anti-social behaviour processes.

Violent crime task group

In response to growing concerns around youth violence, the Council established the Serious Youth Violence Officer Task Group to place a greater emphasis on how we can work together across Public Health and other Council departments, the police alongside partner agencies and the voluntary and community sector to adapt to the changing nature of violence. The Task Group looks at how we can better understand the drivers behind serious violence, in order to provide appropriate strategic and tactical responses, as well as empowering our communities to help reduce serious youth violence. A number of strands of work have been developed including engagement and consultation with hard to reach young people, training to staff to encourage young people to anonymously disclose concerns around serious youth violence and developing serious youth violence resources for parents which will be incorporated into current parenting programmes run across Westminster.

Integrated Gangs Unit

The Integrated Gangs Unit (IGU) has worked to reduce the impact of gang-related crime since 2011. Westminster's Integrated Gangs Unit consists of a wide range of agencies developed to respond to gangs and youth violence in Westminster. The team provides a whole systems approach through a variety of services including mental health, employment, dedicated gangs workers and a policing team. They work with vulnerable and exploited young people to steer them away from gang affiliation, however there is an enforcement approach as well.

Serious youth violence continues to be a priority in Westminster and across London, with media coverage highlighting the many serious youth violence incidents that have occurred across the capital. Throughout 2018, the IGU have worked with 115 young people and had an engagement rate of 85%. IGU have Supported 68.4% of their client group into work or training and issued 7 Criminal Behaviour Orders on gang members. There is crossover between the IGU caseload with other services provided to vulnerable children and young people, 30 percent of IGU clients have also received services from social workers in Family Services and the Youth Offending Service (YOS).

In November 2018, Westminster together with Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham, aligned to the new BCU, made a successful bid to the Early Youth Intervention Fund provided by the Home Office and administered through the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). £500,000 was awarded over two years, and this funding will be used to bolster each borough's capacity to provide preventative outreach work including employing additional dedicated gang workers, a coordinator role will be introduced to assist in further engaging multi-agency networks across the three boroughs and Family Therapy Clinician will be funded to help the new workers embed systemic practice.

Additional funding from the community safety budget is also being used to include a community engagement officer role within the IGU to increase the capacity to deliver community based engagement with schools, parents and other community based groups.

Integrated Street Engagement Unit

The Integrated Street Engagement Unit was developed as part of the Leader's MyWestminster programme to bring together existing services including dedicated police officers, local charities and council officers to provide a more coordinated and comprehensive support package for our daytime street population. Launched in March 2018, the team has engaged with over 600 people on the street, signposting them to services including 102 who have been helped into housing and 144 referred for treatment for substance misuse or mental health issues.

Soho Angels

In partnership with the LGBT foundation, the Soho Angels and Night Hub scheme was launched in December providing specially trained volunteers to give dedicated support to those on a night out in Soho who might need help, support to get home or someone to talk to. The Soho Angels are designed to ensure London's nightlife remains a safe, inclusive and understanding space for all, as well as reducing the burden on the police and other emergency services. Soho Angels worked with almost 200 people over Christmas, many of whom required medical support from dedicated St John's Ambulance officers. Work is ongoing to roll out the scheme on Friday and Saturday nights from February 2019.

Oxford Street District Integrated Team

A pilot initiative has been launched in the New West End Company (NWECC) BID area to bring agencies together in a collaborative approach to improve the management of the area. This collective, comprises Metropolitan Police officers, Westminster Council city inspectors, homeless charity outreach workers and the New West End Company private security team, who will work together across the West End & Mayfair including Bond, Oxford and Regent Street. NWECC fund the City Councils City Inspectors. If the pilot is a success, the model could be rolled out to other areas across the City.

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Report of the General Purposes Committee held on 16 January 2019

Present: Councillor Tim Mitchell (Chairman), Paul Swaddle (Vice-Chairman) and David Boothroyd

1. Changes to Full Council Meetings and the Programme of Meetings 2019-2020

- (a) We have considered a report on the Programme of Meetings for the 2019-2020 municipal year which in the case of Committees follows broadly the same programme as in recent years. For the reasons set out below revisions to the programme of meetings for full Council meetings are recommended together with changes to the relevant Council meeting procedures.
- (b) The Council's procedures, set out in the Constitution, provide for the Leader, at an Extraordinary Council meeting held in early March each year to make a speech on the Council's aims and objectives for the following year and formally adopt the Council Tax resolution.
- (c) On advice from the City Treasurer and in accordance broadly with the approach adopted in each of the last two years, it is proposed that the Leader's Speech and Budget Proposals be considered at an Extraordinary Council meeting in November. This allows for departments to better plan on a full year basis for the following fiscal year. Any changes which impact on the budget approved will be reported to the Cabinet in the following February and then to the full Council in early March when the formal Council Tax Resolution will be determined. The formal Council Tax resolution may only be adopted once the relevant information from the precepting authorities has been received. It must be adopted by full Council prior to 11 March each year.
- (d) The programme of full Council meetings is proposed to be adjusted to accommodate the above mentioned proposals. If this programme is adopted it will be necessary to make minor adjustments to the Council meeting procedure, which currently provide for the Budget and Council Tax to be agreed at the same meeting.
- (e) Given that the Leader gave a Leaders' Speech in July 2018 and the Council in November also debated and approved their provisional budget for 2019-2020 it is proposed to convert the Council meeting programmed for March 2019 to an Ordinary meeting at which the Council will consider the formal Council Tax resolution, upon the recommendation of the Cabinet.

We recommend:

- (i) That the programme of meetings set out in Appendix 3 to the Council agenda be approved.

- (ii) That the Council approve the programme for full Council meetings, as follows:

15 May 2019 (Annual); 26 June 2019; 18 September 2019; 13 November 2019 (Leader's Speech and Budget); 22 January 2020; 4 March 2020 (including Council Tax); 20 May 2020 (Annual).
- (iii) That the Council approve the revised procedures for the Leader's Speech and budget proposals set out in Appendix 3 to the Council agenda, including the associated changes to Standing Orders.
- (iv) That the Council, for the reasons set out in paragraph (e) above, agree that the Extraordinary meeting programmed to be held on Wednesday 6 March 2019 now be held as an Ordinary Council meeting.

2. Members Allowances Scheme 2018-2019 (Amendment) and Scheme for 2019-2020

- (a) The current Members' Allowances Scheme was adopted by the Council on 7 March 2018. The Scheme for the 2018/19 municipal year was approved by the full Council, upon recommendation from the General Purposes Committee. As in previous year's regard was given to the findings and recommendations detailed in the report of the London Council's Independent Panel on the Remuneration of Councillors which was last published in January 2018.
- (b) The Scheme for 2018-2019 was amended by the Council on 16.05.18 to increase the Basic Allowance and all Special Responsibility Allowances (SRA) by 2% and following a full review on 11.7.2018 further increased the SRAs to reflect the increased workloads for leading members and specific sub-committees.
- (c) Following the decision of the Leader to appoint additional Cabinet Members and therefore the proposal to appoint a further Policy and Scrutiny Committee – see report listed as Appendix 4 to the Council agenda, further in-year amendments to the scheme are proposed to ensure an SRA can be paid to the Chairman of the new Committee. There is already sufficient provision in the scheme to pay an SRA to up to 10 Cabinet Members and up to 10 Deputy Cabinet Members.
- (d) The proposed scheme, effective from 1 April 2019 for 2019-2020 has been prepared on the basis of the current scheme with the additional Special Responsibility Allowances referred to in paragraph (c) above included. All allowances, with the exception of those relating to IT, travel and subsistence have been inflated by 2%, as previously agreed. Following the decision to transfer the CityWest Homes responsibilities in-house provision for the City West Board Members to receive a SRA has been removed.

We recommend:

- (i) That the Council approve the amended Members' Allowances Scheme with immediate effect as set out in paragraph (c) above.
- (ii) That the Council be recommended to approve the Members' Allowances Scheme attached in Appendix 4 to the Council agenda for 2019-2020 with effect from 1 April 2019.

3. Establishment of a new Policy and Scrutiny Committee

- (a) 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 1st 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.
- (b) It is proposed to establish a new committee to carry out the Policy and Scrutiny functions in respect of matters relating to those duties within the terms of reference of the two new Cabinet Members. This will, in turn, provide for the Policy and Scrutiny committees that currently cover these functions to give more time to other matters within their remits. With the Council's housing management functions, currently overseen by CityWest Homes, returning in-house from the 1st April the Policy and Scrutiny Committee that covers housing will want to allocate more of its time to scrutinising the new arrangements.

We recommend:

- (i) That Council agrees to establish 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 5 to the Council agenda.
- (ii) That the Council amend the membership of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission by one Member to enable the Chairman of the new P&S Committee to be a Member.
- (iii) That the Council authorises 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 of Appendix 5 to the Council agenda.

Tim Mitchell, Chairman

Background Papers

Report to General Purposes Committee (16.1.19)

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