

# WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

## STATEMENT OF DECISION

### SUBJECT: RE-DESIGNATION OF MARYLEBONE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Notice is hereby given that the Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning has made the following executive decision on the above mentioned subject for the reasons set out below.

#### Summary of Decision

That the Cabinet Member for Business, Licensing and Planning agreed to re-designate the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum for a further period of 5 years and a formal designation notice is published under delegated authority of the Director of Policy and Projects.

#### Reasons for Decision

Section 61F (7) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as inserted into the Act by the Localism Act, Schedule 9) sets out the conditions that a neighbourhood forum must meet, as well as the considerations that a local planning authority must take into account when determining an application for the designation of a neighbourhood forum. These legislative aspects are set out in greater detail in Section 6 of the report.

The legislation states that a local planning authority may designate an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum if the authority is satisfied that a number of conditions (in the table below) have been met. The existing Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum meets all of these conditions, and there has been no change in this since the original designation.

| Condition  | Met? |
|--|------|
| Established for the express purpose of promoting or improving the social, economic or environmental well-being of an area? | Yes  |
| Membership open to individuals who live or work in the area (or are elected members of the City Council);                  | Yes  |
| Membership includes a minimum of 21 individuals each of whom lives or works (or is an elected member) in the area?         | Yes  |
| The neighbourhood forum has a written constitution?  | Yes  |

The City Council is also required to have regard to whether membership is drawn from different places in the neighbourhood area concerned and from different sections of the community in that area. The application submitted by the Forum indicates that membership of the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum is over 430 members, and that the Forum represents the interests of local residents and businesses. The list of members has also been provided by the Forum, and the application states that the Forum have a committee made up of 18 members, which represent both resident and business interests.

The City Council is also required to assess whether the *purpose* of the neighbourhood forum reflects (in general terms) the character of the area. The application submitted by the Forum for re-designation states that they share a vision for Marylebone to be a vibrant place to live, work, visit, shop or study. The Forum states that they are working hard and collaboratively, reflecting the range of interests of the stakeholders and users, to develop a Neighbourhood Plan to improve the area.

Consultation on the re-designation of the Marylebone Neighbourhood Forum highlighted some support for the application, and no objections or competing applications. Further details are provided in section 9 of the report.

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