



City of Westminster

Council Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 8th July, 2015**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London, W2 5DU**

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

Admission to the Public Gallery is via Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London, W2 5DU from 6.30pm

Please telephone if you are attending the meeting in a wheelchair or have difficulty walking up steps. There is wheelchair access by a side entrance.



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, Mick Steward, Head of Committee and Governance Services.

**Email: msteward@westminster.gov.uk Tel: 020 7641 3134
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

1. APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

To appoint a relief Chairman.

2. MINUTES

To sign the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council meeting held on 20 May 2015.

3. RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR FOR HARROW ROAD WARD

To note that Councillor Nilavra Mukerji has resigned. A by-election for the resultant vacancy will be held on 23 July 2015.

4. LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) The Lord Mayor reports with great sadness the death of former Councillor Ronnie Raymond-Cox who served as Lord Mayor in 1997-98. The Lord Mayor has sent condolences on behalf of the City Council. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at 2.30pm on 21st July 2015 at St John's Wood Church, Lord's Roundabout, London, NW8 7NE.
- (b) The Lord Mayor advises that, on behalf of the City Council, she wrote to congratulate the following who were honoured in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours List: Dr Sir Nicholas Penny, Edward Young, CVO, Andy Street, CBE, Sir Andreas Whittam-Smith, CBE, Lady Brewer, OBE, Matthew Bennett, MBE, Councillor Robert Davis, MBE, DL, Rosemarie MacQueen, MBE and Stephen Davies, MBE.
- (c) The Lord Mayor would like to remind all Councillors that the Civic Service will be held at 11am on Sunday 5 July at Westminster Abbey. The Dean will host a reception in College Garden after the service.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (IF ANY)

7. QUESTIONS

Standing Order 9 limits the questions to matters relevant to the general work or procedure of the Council.

A list setting out the order of questions is attached.

(Pages 1 - 4)

(Pages 5 - 6)

8. COUNCILLOR ISSUES

- (a) Councillor Jason Williams – Westminster and the Importance of Mixed Communities.
- (b) Councillor Antonia Cox – Protecting Residents’ Quality of Life.

9. STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

With the approval of the Chairman of the meeting, the Leader of the Council may make a statement on an urgent matter and the Leader of the Opposition will have an equivalent right of reply.

10. FUTURE POLICY PLAN

To consider items chosen for debate from the attached Future Policy Plan.

(Pages 7 - 12)

11. CABINET REPORT

To receive, consider and debate (if chosen) the following report which contains a recommendation for decision:

Cabinet/Committee Meeting	Date of Meeting
Cabinet Meeting	1 June 2015
General Purposes Urgency Sub-Committee (to follow)	1 July 2015
General Purposes (to follow)	1 July 2015

(Pages 13 - 14)

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

To be moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor Vincenzo Rampulla:

"The Council notes that the Government is proposing to force local authorities to sell off high value council properties, many of which are to be found in Westminster, to fund its manifesto commitment to give tenants of English registered social landlords a right to buy their properties and cover a number of additional costs.

According to the Housing Department the Council expects that the Government’s proposals would require the sale of around 200 council owned homes that become vacant each year, currently around [half](#) of annual council social rent relets.

The Council resolves to directly lobby the Government, in addition to working with the GLA, London Councils and other bodies, to make clear the real challenges that such proposals make for maintaining the social mix within Westminster and the ability of the local authority to respond to both its significant housing need and stated aims of providing new opportunities for working people in within the local authority boundaries.

The Council urges the Government to find an alternative source of funding to support home ownership amongst housing association tenants. If the Government can not be made to rethink its plans and persists in using higher value social housing to fund its policy Westminster Council agrees to lobby, in concert with other inner London authorities, to ensure that:

- Funding retained by the council from these enforced sales must be of a sufficient level to enable the replacement of at least an equal number of similarly sized or larger homes within Westminster in-line with the requirements of its housing stock strategy. These replacement homes must be built in Westminster in addition to, rather than replacement for, the council's own plans for new social and affordable housing building. There should be no delays between the sale of Westminster properties and the completion of their replacements.
- Any valuation thresholds and mechanisms for enforced sales are set at levels which reduce the proposed impact on Westminster. These thresholds must rise at least with inner London property prices to prevent the council being forced to sell a higher proportion of its homes in future years."

Westminster City Hall
64 Victoria Street
London SW1
26 June 2015

Tasnim Shawkat
Tri-borough Director of Law