

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 25th January, 2017 at Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London, W2 5DU.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Steve Summers

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton	Barbara Grahame
Ian Adams	Lindsey Hall
Nickie Aiken	Angela Harvey
Julia Alexander	David Harvey
Barbara Arzymanow	Adam Hug
Daniel Astaire	Louise Hyams
Richard Beddoe	Guthrie McKie
Rita Begum	Tim Mitchell
David Boothroyd	Gotz Mohindra
Iain Bott	Jan Prendergast
Susie Burbridge	Papya Qureshi
Ruth Bush	Suhail Rahuja
Melvyn Caplan	Robert Rigby
Paul Church	Rachael Robathan
Brian Connell	Glenys Roberts
Baroness Philippa Coultie	Tim Roca
Antonia Cox	Ian Rowley
Thomas Crockett	Karen Scarborough
Peter Cuthbertson	Andrew Smith
Robert Davis MBE, DL	Shamim Talukder
Paul Dimoldenberg	Barrie Taylor
Nick Evans	Cameron Thomson
Christabel Flight	Aziz Toki
Peter Freeman	Judith Warner
Murad Gassanly	Jason Williams
Jonathan Glanz	

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

Motion moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Tim Mitchell that Councillor Judith Warner be elected as Relief Chairman.

Motion put, and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

2 MINUTES

The Minutes of the proceedings at the Council meeting held on Wednesday 9 November 2016 were, with the assent of the Members present, signed by the Lord Mayor as a true record of the proceedings.

3 LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

- 3.1 The Lord Mayor informed the Council of the death of former Councillor Patricia Kirwan who served as Councillor for Lancaster Gate ward from 1982 to 1989.
- 3.2 The Lord Mayor advised that Councillor Jan Prendergast presented a gift of a limited edition charger to mark the occasion of Her Majesty the Queen becoming the longest reigning English Monarch.
- 3.3 The Lord Mayor informed the Council that additional training sessions on the Members Code of Conduct would be held on 6 February 2017 and 13 February 2017.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 There were none.

5 ELECTION OF LEADER OF COUNCIL

- 5.1 It was **MOVED** by Councillor Tim Mitchell and **SECONDED** by Councillor Christabel Flight that Councillor Nickie Aiken be elected Leader of the Council.

Motion put and on a show of hands, declared **CARRIED**.

- 5.2 Councillor Nickie Aiken replied and in doing so **MOVED** the vote of thanks to the former Leader Councillor Baroness Coultie. Councillor Tim Mitchell formally seconded the vote of thanks which on a show of hands was declared **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

That the Council place on record its appreciation of the service rendered by Baroness Councillor Philippa Coultie as Leader of the Council for the period from 7 March 2012 to 25 January 2017 and noted the many achievements of the City Council during this period.

The Council thanked Baroness Councillor Philippa Coultie for all hard work, effort and leadership in ensuring Westminster was at the forefront in ensuring innovation and high standards in local government aimed at benefitting the residents and businesses in the city.

During Baroness Councillor Philippa Coultie's leadership the City Council achieved a record 87% rate from residents who were satisfied with how the Council was run. This was 19 points higher than the national average.

Her efforts ensured that Westminster had been independently ranked first place by the Social Mobility Commission in 2016 – reflecting work and opportunities offered by the Council in early years, education and employment in the local area.

Baroness Councillor Philippa Coultie was also crucial in establishing the West End Partnership, bringing together senior public service and private sector leaders, academic experts and residents representatives to act as a catalyst and delivery mechanism to enable the West End to accommodate growth, whilst at the same time strengthen its unique cultural character, amenity and openness.

During her Leadership Baroness Councillor Philippa Coultie had also recently ensured that Westminster had been leading on environmental issues facing the capital. The £2.1m Marylebone Low Emissions Zone was established through an innovative public private partnership scheme led by residents, businesses and the council. Funding was secured through winning £1m of funding from the Mayor of London that was matched by local businesses.

These and her many other achievements were instrumental in her being made a Life Peer.

6 PETITIONS, IF ANY

6.1 There were none.

7 QUESTIONS

7.1 The questions, supplementary questions and replies are included in the recording on the Council's website.

8 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

(a) Crime Prevention in Westminster

Councillor Peter Cuthbertson spoke and Councillor Nickie Aiken replied.

(b) Secular Democracy

Councillor David Boothroyd spoke and Councillor Nickie Aiken replied.

9 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

9.1 There were no urgent matters.

10 NOTIFICATION OF CABINET MEMBERS, THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DEPUTY CABINET MEMBERS

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the new names of the Cabinet Members proposed to be appointed and the wards they represent be noted; and
- 2) That the terms of reference of the Leader of the Council be endorsed.

11 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

The meeting debated the item chosen for debate from the Future Policy Plan by the Majority Party – Sports and Leisure Services. The debate would be referred to the relevant Executive Director for consideration when next reporting on the subject.

12 NOTICE OF MOTION

- 12.1 Both the Majority and Minority Parties had selected for debate the Notice of Motion – Adult Social Care which was moved by Councillor Barrie Taylor and seconded by Councillor Adam Hug.

Councillor Rachael Robathan moved and it was seconded by Councillor Heather Acton that notice of motion be amended as follows:

That the Notice of Motion to be moved by Councillor Barrie Taylor and seconded by Councillor Adam Hug be amended by the deletion of the words struck through and the addition of the words underlined, as set out below:

This Council notes the significant pressures facing health and social care services for Westminster residents and endorses the Authorities plans to address these as set out in Westminster's Health & Wellbeing Strategy as part of the STP for NW London. It notes the
~~This Council notes the current critical state of health and social care services for Westminster residents and the respective Authorities plans to deal with "Winter Pressures" and proposals aimed at tackling:~~

- Accident and Emergency / Mental Health waiting times / admissions and home discharges
- The £35m social care deficit identified in the NW London STP

This council believes there is a clear need for improved government investment in NHS and Adult Social care funding in Westminster. For its part, Westminster Council resolves to assist the process by focusing on issues within its own remit:

- Take steps to lobby government to provide extra funding in the upcoming budget, in order to tackle the immense shortfall in social care - as identified by the STP.

- Use the social care precept, if approved by the Council on 1 March 2017, introduced by the government, to benefit spending on Adult Social Care for Westminster vulnerable residents.

~~Introduce a dedicated year-on-year increase in Adult Social Care spend for Westminster residents, using the government's Social Care Precept rules and ask Officers to include funding proposals in the budget report to Cabinet (20.2.17).~~

- Dedicate CIL and Section 106 funds, particularly from health and social care development sites, to help develop the infrastructure for health and social care integration in Westminster and asks officers to report thereon to the relevant Cabinet Member.
- Press the government to provide Imperial Trust with up front capital at this stage - to be realised by future sales of NHS property locally (e.g. Samaritan Hospital)
- Promote the development of Health and Wellbeing Centres, the retention of local GP practices and NHS plans to improve levels of GPs primary care services

~~Support Tri-borough partners Hammersmith and Fulham in their concerns about downgrading of A&E provision in West London.~~

~~In conjunction with the NHS and local Care Agencies, introduce & publish an Annual Winter Pressures each September to explain actions to overcome yearly pressures.~~

- Ensure all consultations on health and care involve as many groups, communities and individuals as possible in Westminster, as was done for the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, to allow people to understand how changes will affect their own services.
- ~~Review consultation procedures for Westminster only residents to submit views and opinions on all NHS and Social care plans.~~

Welcome the clear format of the Council's annual Public Health Report, which is widely distributed and also available on the Council's website, and sets out Westminster's Public Health priorities and proposals

After debate, to which Councillor Barrie Taylor replied, the Lord Mayor put the amendment moved by Councillor Rachael Robathan and seconded by Councillor Heather Acton to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment **ADOPTED**.

The Lord Mayor then put the motion, as amended, to the vote and on a show of hands declared the motion, as amended, **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

This Council notes the significant pressures facing health and social care services for Westminster residents and endorses the Authorities plans to address these as set out in Westminster's Health & Wellbeing Strategy as part of the STP for NW London. It notes the proposals aimed at tackling:

- Accident and Emergency / Mental Health waiting times / admissions and home discharges
- The £35m social care deficit identified in the NW London STP

This council believes there is a clear need for improved government investment in NHS and Adult Social care funding in Westminster. For its part, Westminster Council resolves to assist the process by focusing on issues within its own remit:

- Take steps to lobby government to provide extra funding in the upcoming budget, in order to tackle the immense shortfall in social care - as identified by the STP
- Use the social care precept, if approved by the Council on 1 March 2017, to benefit spending on Adult Social Care for Westminster vulnerable residents.
- Dedicate CIL and Section 106 funds, particularly from health and social care development sites, to help develop the infrastructure for health and social care integration in Westminster and asks officers to report thereon to the relevant Cabinet Member.
- Press the government to provide Imperial Trust with up front capital at this stage - to be realised by future sales of NHS property locally (e.g. Samaritan Hospital)
- Promote the development of Health and Wellbeing Centres, the retention of local GP practices and NHS plans to improve levels of GPs primary care services
- Ensure all consultations on health and care involve as many groups, communities and individuals as possible in Westminster, as was done for the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, to allow people to understand how changes will affect their own services.

Welcome the clear format of the Council's annual Public Health Report, which is widely distributed and also available on the Council's website, and sets out Westminster's Public Health priorities and proposals.

13 CABINET REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORT

Cabinet Report – Paragraph 1 – Council Tax Discounts (including Council Tax Local Reduction Scheme) and Council Tax Base Report.

Councillor Boothroyd moved, and it was seconded by Councillor Hug, that paragraph 1, recommendation (ii) of the Cabinet report be deleted and replaced with “That the Council Tax on houses which have been empty for two years or more be charged at a rate of 150% of the normal Council Tax.

The Lord Mayor put the amendment to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment **LOST**.

The Lord Mayor then put the recommendations in paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendations **ADOPTED**.

Cabinet report – Paragraph 2 – Treasury Management Mid-Year review

RESOLVED: That the recommendations in paragraph 2 be adopted.

General Purposes Committee – Constitutional Issues

RESOLVED: That the recommendations be adopted.

The Meeting ended at 10.01 am

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE _____