



City of Westminster

Council Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 11th July, 2018**

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.**



Admission to the public gallery is available from 6.30pm.

**Please telephone if you are attending the meeting in a
wheelchair or have difficulty walking up steps. There is
wheelchair access via the Sammy Ofer Centre.**



**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 16 May 2018.

3. LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interests from Members and Officers of the Council.

5. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

6. QUESTIONS

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

Note by the Head of Committee and Governance Services:

The Chief Whip of the Majority Party, Councillor Tim Mitchell, has indicated that he wishes to continue with the trial operated at the Council meetings in the last municipal year whereby the Lord Mayor will call Members who indicate that they wish to ask a question after the Leader of the Opposition has asked his questions. Councillor Mitchell has indicated that he will table a procedural motion to effect this.

7. COUNCILLOR ISSUES

Note by the Head of Committee and Governance Services

With the consent of the Chief Whip of both the Majority Party and the Chief Whip of the Minority Party this item will be deferred.

8. 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.

9. FUTURE POLICY PLAN

(Pages 9 - 12)

(Pages 13 - 18)

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

10. CABINET MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORTS

To receive, consider and debate, if chosen, the following reports which contain a recommendation to the Council for decision:

Cabinet Member/Committee	Date of Meeting	or
Decision		
General Purposes (Members Allowances amendment) July 2018 (To Follow)		4
Cabinet (Annual Accounts) (To Follow) July 2018		9

11. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Anti-Semitism and action on Hate Crime

Moved by Councillor Nickie Aiken and seconded by Councillor Adam Hug

This Council expresses alarm at the rise in antisemitism in recent years across the UK and welcomes the Government's decision to formally adopt the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism, which defines antisemitism as:

“a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities”.

The guidelines highlight manifestations of antisemitism as including:

the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with

conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:

- Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic

nation.

- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

Antisemitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of antisemitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

This Council welcomes cross-party support within the Council for combating antisemitism in all its manifestations.

This includes incidents when criticism of Israel has been expressed using antisemitic tropes. This Council is mindful that criticism of Israel can be legitimate, and the Council reaffirms its commitment to act in accordance with its legal obligations under Article 10 (Freedom of expression) Article 14 (Prohibition of discrimination) and Article 17 (Prohibition of abuse of rights) of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. However, criticism of Israel is not considered legitimate if it employs the tropes and imagery of antisemitism.

This Council resolves to adopt the definition of antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and commits to tackle this form of racism and religious hatred in our City.

Hateful incidents against Jews do not exist in a vacuum however. We are seeing a rise in Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia and misogyny in our community, and we saw a spike in xenophobia following the Brexit vote. This Council condemns all forms of racism, religious hatred, homophobia, transphobia,

sexism and any form of hatred towards an individual or group for who they are, and we commit to fighting against them.

Hateful narratives and behaviours promote intolerance and can fragment and divide our community. This Council therefore pledges to better understand the manifestations of Hate Crime and its impact in our City, and will request the Cabinet (or Cabinet Member?) to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat this pernicious crime and support the cohesion of our community. The implementation of this motion and the adoption of a Hate Crime strategy would be taken forward by the Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Licensing with the backing of the Council.

(b) CityWest Homes

Moved by Councillor Pancho Lewis and seconded by Councillor Matt Noble:

The Council notes residents' deep concerns about the current performance of CityWest Homes, particularly in relation to repairs, customer service and resident involvement.

The Council believes that Westminster's approach to housing services should focus on getting the basics right, with a narrower remit around improving standards.

The Council resolves to request the Cabinet to scrap CityWest Homes and bring housing services back 'in house' under direct council supervision and accountability.

The Council also resolves to request the Cabinet to increase the number of housing

Officers on the ground in local areas, to restore local estate offices, improve call centre performance and reform resident involvement to give tenants and leaseholders more power and responsibility over how their homes are managed.

3 July 2018

Chief Executive