



City of Westminster

Council Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 16th September, 2020**

Time: **7.00 pm**

Venue: **This is a virtual meeting**

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

This will be a virtual meeting and members of the public and press are welcome to follow the meeting and listen to discussion to Part 1 of the Agenda

This meeting will be live streamed and recorded. To access the recording after the meeting please revisit the link.

If you require any further information, please contact the Committee Officer, Reuben Segal, Head of Committee and Governance Services.

**Email: rsegal@westminster.gov.uk Tel: 07890 380137
Corporate Website: www.westminster.gov.uk**

1. APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

To appoint a relief Chairman.

2. MINUTES

To sign the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council meeting held on 24 June 2020.

3. LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

1. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 22 June, he spoke at the Westminster City Council BAME Staff Network's Windrush Day event to mark the day.
2. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 24 June, he met with Commodore Elford, Naval Regional Commander Eastern England, Royal Navy, to discuss co-operation between the Council and the Royal Navy.
3. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 24 June, he raised the Armed Forces Day flag outside City Hall with representatives of the Armed Forces, to mark Armed Forces week.
4. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 4 July, he attended and spoke at a ceremony to mark the re-opening of Chinatown following some of the Coronavirus restrictions being lifted.
5. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 10 July, he spoke at a virtual celebration to mark the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Middle Eastern Women & Society Organisation.
6. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 13 July, he met with the Receiver General of Westminster Abbey, Paul Baumann.
7. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 14 July, he spoke at Burdett-Coutts Primary School's Year Six Virtual Leaving Ceremony.
8. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 16 July, he visited Essendine Primary School to meet with staff and discuss preparations for the upcoming school year.
9. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 16 July, he chaired the virtual AGM of the London Mayors' Association, of which he is President.

(Pages 7 - 12)

10. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 24 July, he gave an interview to Victoria Magazine.
11. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 28 July, he visited Westminster City Council libraries in St John's Wood, Marylebone and Mayfair to thank staff for their hard work during the pandemic.
12. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 30 July, he visited Age UK Westminster's Food Parcel Service to thank volunteers for their work, and helped to deliver food parcels to residents.
13. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 1 August, he took part in a virtual Thanksgiving Service run by the Jamaican High Commission to mark Jamaican Independence Day.
14. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 16 August, he spoke on BBC Radio London to discuss Westminster's re-opening following the lifting of some Coronavirus restrictions, and Windrush Day celebrations at St John's Church in Kensal Green.
15. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 21 August, he spoke during the virtual PiP Summer Party to thank staff and students.
16. The Lord Mayor to report that, on 3 September he marked Merchant Navy Day on social media.

4. 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.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

6. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

7. QUESTIONS

The Lord Mayor will call members who have previously indicated that they wished to ask a question in accordance with the circulated list after the Leader of the Opposition has asked his questions

8. COUNCILLOR ISSUES

Councillor Iain Bott: "Coronavirus"

Councillor Guthrie McKie: "The demise of Council Housing in Westminster"

9. FUTURE POLICY PLAN

(Pages 13 - 18)

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

10. BI-ANNUAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT: 10 MARCH 2020

(Pages 19 - 36)

11. CHANGE TO THE PROGRAMME OF COUNCIL MEETINGS 2020-2021

(Pages 37 - 40)

12. CHANGES TO THE SIZES OF THE PLANNING AND CITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

(Pages 41 - 42)

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Majority Party Motion - Action to enable the West End to more fully re-open

To be moved by Councillor Rachael Robathan

To be seconded by Councillor Melvyn Caplan

This council notes the need for decisive action to enable more of the West End to fully re-open.

This council welcomes the significant support that businesses in Westminster have received from the Government.

This council further notes that the Westminster economy is the key driver for the London and UK economies and therefore requires even greater support so that Westminster businesses can drive the recovery of the UK economy.

This council believes that the Government should provide increased clarity about people returning to work including improving the messaging around social distancing.

The council looks to the government and other public bodies to lead by example in showing that it is safe for their staff to return to their offices.

This council believes that the Mayor should look at offering Congestion Charge exemptions for certain low pollution private vehicles that are visiting key sectors such as theatres.

This council resolves to continue to lobby the Government to extend the business rates holiday beyond March 2021 and to review the rateable value cap for certain businesses in Westminster that have not previously had access to Government grants.

This council further resolves to seek further support from the Mayor and Government for the council's initiatives to provide increased space for pedestrians and for al fresco dining hospitality initiatives and for Westminster's promotional campaigns Sight See Crowd Free and Inside Out.

This council also resolves to seek more flexibility around the statutory review of licensing policy to help support those businesses that would otherwise be affected by changes that do not take into the position of these businesses since lockdown.

(b) Minority Party Motion – 'Planning Policy'

To be moved by Councillor Geoff Barraclough

To be seconded by Councillor Matt Noble

The Council notes the deep concern about the Government's 'Planning for the Future' White Paper expressed by local residents and the widespread opposition to the plans from groups as diverse as Shelter and the Westminster Property Association.

The Council notes that the White Paper makes no explicit mention of any role for elected councillors, local amenity societies, neighbourhood forums or other residents groups.

The Council notes separate Government changes to the Permitted Development rules on office-to-residential conversion that can take place without planning permission or any requirement to contribute towards local infrastructure or affordable housing. It also notes Government proposals that new developments of under 50 units should not have to make any contribution to affordable housing at all.

The Council also notes the proposed revisions to Westminster's annual housing target that could see it rise fivefold, leading to badly planned homes with poor living conditions.

The Council believes that an effective planning system needs to work to provide homes and workplaces to serve society, shaped by the priorities of local residents, and that at present the White Paper does not achieve these goals.

The Council believes that as currently drafted, the 'Planning for the Future' proposals would significantly reduce local people's opportunity to have their say on new developments in Westminster, with no recognition of amenity issues such as light overshadowing, noise nuisance and sense of enclosure.

The Council believes that these planning changes could drastically reduce the ability of local authorities to build the social and affordable homes for rent that we need while massively increasing the number of private units and the risk of poor quality conversions.

The Council resolves to explicitly and publicly oppose the permitted development changes, the proposed new house building targets and the proposals in the Planning for the Future document that would reduce the say of local people, remove the decision making role of elected councillors and undermine obligations for developers to support affordable housing delivery.

The Council resolves to lobby the Government, make statements to the media, collaborate with London Councils and the Local Government Association on a cross-party basis, and take all other appropriate steps to demand the Government change course.

The Council resolves to demand that if the Government goes ahead with its White Paper plans, it allows local authorities like Westminster to set any new 'infrastructure levy' at levels that can fully respond to local needs.

**64 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QP
8 September 2020**

Stuart Love, Chief Executive