



City of Westminster

Council Agenda

Title: **Council Meeting**

Meeting Date: **Wednesday 20th January, 2021**

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 the discussion. 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 meetings of the Council held on 11 November and 9 December 2020.

3. LORD MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Lord Mayor to report that, on November 2nd, he attended the NWECC Oxford Street Lights event.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on November 3rd, he visited Chinatown, an engagement hosted by the Chinese Information and Advice Centre.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on November 4th, he attended the CAPCO Armistice Day Celebration in Covent Garden.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on November 5th, he visited the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on November 20th, he visited St Mary of the Angels School, Bayswater to attend a Poetry Society workshop.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 2nd, he attended the NWECC Bond Street Lights event.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 2nd, he was interviewed by The One Show (Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree)

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 4th, he attended the opening of 'Paddington Small World' at Paddington Recreation Ground.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 4th, he attended the Tachbrook Street Christmas Lights event.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 5th, he attended the Regent Street Traffic Free Day event.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 10th, he attended the Concord London Marylebone Square 'Breaking Ground' event.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 20th, he attended the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at St John's Church, Hyde Park.

(Pages 7 - 18)

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 22nd, he visited the AGE UK hamper distribution hub to assist volunteers at St John's Church, Hyde Park.

The Lord Mayor to report that, on December 24th, he attended the Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols at Westminster Abbey.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

5. 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.

6. VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORMER LORD MAYOR, COUNCILLOR RUTH BUSH

7. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

8. 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

9. COUNCILLOR ISSUES

Councillor Mark Shearer: Council 3.0 and Westminster Connects

Councillor Andrea Mann: A tale of two cities; inequality in Westminster

10. FUTURE POLICY PLAN

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

(Pages 19 - 24)

11. COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS (INCLUDING COUNCIL TAX LOCAL REDUCTION SCHEME) AND COUNCIL TAX BASE

Report of the Cabinet: 14 December 2020

(Pages 25 - 28)

12. PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Report of the Director of Law

(Pages 29 - 38)

13. NOTICE OF MOTION

To be moved by Councillor Tim Roca and seconded by Councillor Nafsika Butler-Thalassis:

This Council notes, as we endure a third national lockdown, that many children are again facing the reality of online teaching without adequate computer equipment or broadband connectivity. Teachers and parents across our City are continuing to report shortages of devices for pupils and access to education is being negatively impacted. There are also reports of schools where teaching staff are still in need of laptops and other ICT equipment.

The education of our children is crucial and therefore this Council resolves to:

1. Ensure proper data is collected across state-funded schools in Westminster to understand the need/gaps for electronic devices and connectivity as soon as possible;
2. Ensure that by whatever means necessary, including a recommendation to Cabinet for direct Council funding, an appropriate electronic device is provided to all pupils eligible for free school meals who require one, and to other children identified at the discretion of the school as being in need, as soon as possible and no later than 1st February 2021.
3. Ensure that by whatever means necessary, including a recommendation to Cabinet for direct Council funding, adequate internet connectivity is provided to all pupils eligible for free school meals who require it, and to other children identified at the discretion of the school as being in need, as soon as possible and no later than 1st February 2021.
4. Ensure that by whatever means necessary, including a recommendation to Cabinet for direct Council funding, all teaching staff have appropriate electronic devices for classes, as soon as possible and no later than 1st February 2021.

**64 Victoria Street
London, SW1E 6QP
12 January 2021**

Chief Executive