



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

# MINUTES

## Cabinet

### MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held on **Monday 6th June, 2016**, Rooms 5, 6 & 7 - 17th Floor, Westminster City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6 QP.

**Members Present:** Councillors Philippa Roe (Chairman), Heather Acton, Nickie Aiken, Melvyn Caplan, Danny Chalkley, Robert Davis, MBE, DL, David Harvey, Tim Mitchell and Rachael Robathan

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Daniel Astaire

#### 1 WELCOME

1.1 Councillor Philippa Roe welcomed those present.

#### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### 3 MINUTES (25 MAY 2016)

3.1 The Leader, with the consent of the Members present, signed the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2016 as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

#### 4 2015-2016 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER)

4.1 Steve Mair, City Treasurer, introduced the report. He advised that the report set out the outline of the final account. He also advised that outstanding objections of previous years accounts had now been resolved.

4.2 Both the Leader and Councillor Tim Mitchell thanked Mr Mair and his team for all the work in completing the accounts and in particular resolving the issues of the outstanding accounts.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted and referred to full Council for information.

## **5 TREASURY OUTTURN REPORT (REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER)**

- 5.1 Steve Mair introduced the report. He advised that the report would be referred to full Council for information.

**Resolved:** That the report be noted and referred to full Council for information.

## **6 CRIME AND DISORDER CCTV (REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITIES)**

- 6.1 Councillor Nickie Aiken spoke to outline the circumstances which had led to the submission of the proposals in the report. She explained that discussion had been had over a prolonged period with stakeholders with a view to them sharing the £1m pa revenue cost. The Council had always recognised that it would need to invest capital. The CCTV statistics had shown that only 2% of crime was investigated using CCTV and that it was not effective in preventing crime. Councillor Aiken continued by saying that discussions would continue with the Mayor, MOPAC and others with a view of having a pan London approach.
- 6.2 Stuart Love, Executive Director, City Management and Communities, advised that at present the revenue costs were being funded from underspend. If a pan London solution was not found decommissioning would commence from September and be carried out over a six month period.
- 6.3 The Leader commented that she was pleased that discussions would continue on the possible pan London approach.

### **6.4 Resolved:**

- (i) That approval is given not to renew or re-procure the CCTV staffing contract currently operated by G4S following its expiration on 1 September 2016.
- (ii) That approval is given for the decommissioning of the existing fixed CCTV camera system and estate from September 2016. That is unless a responsible partner volunteers before 1 August 2016 to accept transfer of the assets and their continued operation.
- (iii) That, should a responsible partner wish to assume responsibility for the assets, approval is given to transfer the assets from 1 September 2016.

### **Reasons for Decision**

The current crime and disorder fixed CCTV system is reaching the end of its operational life and contracts for control room staffing and maintenance of the system are due to expire over the next year.

The expected annual revenue cost for the continued provision of CCTV cannot be met within existing budget projections. It is therefore not possible to procure contracts and make financial commitments which we cannot meet.

The Council can no longer afford to directly subsidise partners which benefit from the existence of a CCTV service, most notably the Metropolitan Police.

The effectiveness of CCTV in preventing particular types of crime in public spaces is questionable as suggested by the Campbell Collaboration's 2008 report *Effects of Closed Circuit Television on Crime*.

The crime and disorder CCTV System is used to support management of the public realm with activity that ultimately assists in the detection and apprehension of offenders and undertaking civil or criminal prosecutions. As a result the crime and disorder CCTV system is primarily used to provide reactive support for the police in securing arrests and prosecutions relating to crimes committed in sight of cameras.

Extensive engagement with partners over recent years on the future viability of the CCTV system has not led to any meaningful financial support, leaving the Council with the full financial burden which it can no longer continue to bear.

Despite the declining health of the CCTV system, the Council would be prepared to transfer the cameras and feeds over to partners such as the Metropolitan Police and work in partnership to ensure the continued viability of the system where appropriate. Any partner would also have to provide accommodation for a control room as the Council's existing lease at the Trocadero is due to expire in 2017. Such an agreement would have to be under development by 1 August 2016 to enable the effective planning of decommissioning or transfer.

The Council's Crime and Disorder CCTV system plays a relatively marginal role in providing CCTV coverage of the city. There are a number of other systems currently operating in the city which provide extensive coverage and could be used in the event of a major incident or to capture criminal activity, subject to their location in relation to the incident.

## **7 BOND STREET PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT SCHEME (SEE REPORT OF THE CITY TREASURER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF GROWTH, PLANNING AND HOUSING AND CITY MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNITIES)**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive and the City Treasurer both introduced the report and advised that all partners supported the scheme for which funding agreements, subject to formal agreements, were in place.

## 7.2 Resolved:

1. That the appendices be exempt from public disclosure as they contain information relating to the financial and business affairs of the authority in accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended
2. That approval is given to the funding package set out in the Financial Implications at Section 10 and the Council's commitments within it which are to:
  - (a) **provide a budget of £9.85m** for the entire project within the capital programme, receiving funds from the project partners of £7.8m as set out in Appendix A and entering into contracts to deliver the scheme.
  - (b) to enter into a loan agreement with the GLA for £2m guaranteed and repaid by the Council.
  - (c) to provide £0.05m Section 106 funding.
3. That if by December 2016 either the GLA/LEP has failed to provide the loan of £2m or the Treasury has not approved the business rates TIF for the West End Partnership, officers will report back to members on the issues and risk of the Council providing this additional £2m funding from its Capital Programme – or alternatively the consequences of decreasing the scope of scheme delivery or terminating the scheme before start of works, which are due in May 2017. The same applies if TfL assumed funding is not confirmed.
4. That approval is given to complete the drafting of the legal agreements between the Council and NVEC so that their elements of the funding package can be secured and to agree terms with the GLA for accepting the loan from the Growing Places Fund. That the agreements are completed before any formal construction contracts are let or works commence.
5. That approval is given to the Bond Street Stage 1 feasibility design shown on the General Arrangement drawing Sheets 1 to 5 (Appendix B).
6. That the Bond Street Project Board involving Westminster City Council, NVEC and TfL (as set out in the Annex) is delegated to have overall oversight over the project subject to reserved matters on the delivery and costs being referred back to the City Council for approval, as set out in the legal agreement with NVEC as detailed below.
7. That approval is given to carry out a programme of initial stakeholder consultation on the design of the scheme and the operational principles that have been incorporated into the design with the formal statutory consultation required for the Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) to follow on

from these early consultations, any amendment and a further specific approval through a further report to Members.

8. That spending approval of £2.0m is given, subject to approval of the budget arrangements, to allow design to continue to programme through Design Stages 1 to 3 (at a cost of £1.557m) with a sum of £0.243m to allow for surveys and engagements with utilities and £0.2m for contingency. The spending approval will also cover the cost of the early stakeholder engagements and amendments to be made so that the project can be finalised for a further Member Report and for approval for the subsequent TRO consultations.
9. That the relevant Executive Directors in consultation with the City Treasurer be authorised to complete the necessary legal agreements with NVEC and GLA and other necessary matters for the BID Bond Street project in consultation with the appropriate officers.

### **Reasons for Decision**

The proposed highway modifications identified in this report will improve the streetscape for pedestrians and provide a safer environment for cyclists that will deliver substantial improvement of the public realm and maintain Bond Streets' status as a world class destination of choice for the purchase of high quality goods. NVEC will also work with our employment providers, Recruit London, to maximise employment opportunities for residents on Bond Street.

Approval is required to commence the Council's initial stakeholder engagement activities. These are vital to ensuring that NVEC's earlier engagements and consultations, which indicated a good support for the scheme, are applicable over the wider audience engaged by the Council.

The agreements associated with the funding package need drafting and signing to ensure that the timelines to be completed in line with the Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) opening are maintained, this will need delegated authority at a Member level.

The key benefits of the scheme cited by the Bond Street partners are:

- The improved public realm will lead to better 'dwell time' (estimated at 7%-10%) by visitors and thus higher spend per person in the Bond Street stores (revenues and sales densities are likely to increase on average by 10-15%), capturing more of the market for such visitor expenditure which other cities have been enjoying whilst Bond Street's figures have remained static. An increased expenditure by visitors of £10m a year is envisaged by the Bond Street Partnership group.
- The improved competitive position of Bond Street will in turn lead to higher visitor expenditure in the shops, restaurants and hotels of the West End, providing employment and training opportunities for residents. The Council's new Employment Service is linking up with these West End

businesses to identify job opportunities to support the Council's aim of reducing long term unemployment in the city.

- The scheme partners estimate that rental yields will be enhanced by 3-8% derived from improved turnover by businesses of over 10% produced by improved dwell times.
- The scheme will yield significant additional Gross Value Added to the West End economy which CBRE has estimated at £23m.
- The scheme will reduce vehicle movement and improve pedestrian access, thereby reducing air pollution in the area. The retailers has proven that they are committed to change through this project by already having reduce the number of waste collection firms collecting waste from the street from over fifty firms half a dozen.
- The scheme will also link with Hanover Square and Oxford Street and Piccadilly – making the West End as a whole more accessible and coherent as a district, spreading footfall and crowds away from bottlenecks. This approach accords with the West End Partnership place shaping vision to create a wider retail district of the West End to relieve overcrowding on key streets.
- Employment opportunities will be targeted at Westminster residents through NWECC's sponsorship of the Recruit London employment initiative.
- To demonstrate an alignment with the Council's City for All employment priorities, the Bond Street partners have recently provided the following employment opportunities for residents via the Council sponsored Recruit London employment agency: 3 sales executives a Victorinox, 5 sales advisors at Russell & Bromley, 1 butler at Chanel, sales operatives at Bottega Venetta.

## **8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT**

None.

The Meeting ended at 7.15 pm

**CHAIRMAN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_