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CITY OF WESTMINSTER

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the Meeting of the Council of the City of Westminster held at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 20th January, 2016 at Porchester Hall, Porchester Road, Bayswater, London W2 5DU.

PRESENT

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Christabel Flight

COUNCILLORS

Heather Acton
Ian Adams
Nickie Aiken
Barbara Arzymanow
Daniel Astaire
Richard Beddoe
Rita Begum
David Boothroyd
Iain Bott
Susie Burbridge
Ruth Bush
Melvyn Caplan
Danny Chalkley
Paul Church
Brian Connell
Antonia Cox
Thomas Crockett
Robert Davis, MBE, DL
Tony Devenish
Paul Dimoldenberg
Nick Evans
Peter Freeman
Murad Gassanly
Jonathan Glanz

Barbara Grahame
Lindsey Hall
Angela Harvey
David Harvey
Richard Holloway
Adam Hug
Louise Hyams
Patricia McAllister
Guthrie McKie
Tim Mitchell
Gotz Mohindra
Papya Qureshi
Suhail Rahuja
Vincenzo Rampulla
Robert Rigby
Rachael Robathan
Tim Roca
Philippa Roe
Ian Rowley
Shamim Talukder
Barrie Taylor
Cameron Thomson
Judith Warner
Jacqui Wilkinson

1 APPOINTMENT OF RELIEF CHAIRMAN

It was moved by the Lord Mayor and seconded by Councillor Tim Mitchell that Councillor Judith Warner be elected as Relief Chairman and resolved accordingly.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the Council meeting held on 11 November 2015 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 recently of former Councillor Maggie Cahill who served as Councillor for Queen's Park Ward from 1986 to 1994.
- 3.2 The Lord Mayor conveyed the best wishes of the Council to both Councillor Aziz Toki and Jason Williams whose mothers were ill.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Angela Harvey declared an interest as a Non-executive Director of CityWest Homes.

Councillor David Boothroyd declared in respect of Item 10, Westminster Community Infrastructure Levy that he is the Head of Research and Psephology for Thorncliffe, whose clients are companies applying for planning permission from various local authorities. If any clients applied for premises relating to Westminster he would be precluded from working on them under the company's Code of Conduct.

Councillor Murad Gassanly declared an interest as a resident of Churchill Gardens Estate who would be impacted by the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

5 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS, IF ANY

Councillor Barbara Grahame presented a petition from local residents relating to traffic issues around Gateway School. The petition was referred to the relevant Chief Officer for reporting to the Cabinet Member for City Management and Customer Services

6 QUESTIONS

The questions, supplementary questions and replies will be included on the Council's website.

7 COUNCILLOR ISSUES

Changing Communities – Looking Ahead to a Future Westminster

Councillor Holloway spoke and Councillor Roe replied.

Children's Services

Councillor Patricia McAllister spoke and Councillor Chalkley replied.

8 STATEMENT ON URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

9 FUTURE POLICY PLAN

No matters were selected for debate from the Future Policy Plan.

10 CABINET MEMBER/COMMITTEE REPORT

The Majority Party had selected the report of the Cabinet Member for Built Environment – Westminster City Council Community Infrastructure Levy. Following debate, the Lord Mayor put the recommendations in the report to the vote and on a show of hands declared the recommendation adopted.

Resolved

That the Westminster City Council Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule attached as Appendix 2 to the report considered by the Cabinet and attached to the agenda as Appendix C in accordance with Section 213 of the Planning Act 2008, as amended.

11 NOTICE OF MOTION

The Minority Party had selected for debate the Notice of Motion as set out on the agenda. The Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Adam Hug and seconded by Councillor Vincenzo Rampulla.

Councillor Robert Davis moved and it was seconded by Councillor Daniel Astaire that the Notice of Motion be amended, as follows:

In first paragraph delete "remained at a high level" with and replace with "at" then delete remain paragraphs and replace with:

"The Council notes the on-going commitment of the administration to provide good quality, suitable and affordable housing for households in temporary accommodation. The Council currently expects to overachieve against its target to deliver 30% of all new residential development as affordable housing, with around 34% being the current projection for the next 10 years.

The Council recognises that over this period the first phase of the regeneration programmes and Section 106 agreements are expected to yield around 2,000 affordable homes, the second phase of the Church Street renewal programme will deliver 820, spot purchases are estimated to be around 250 and non-self-contained units can reasonably be expected to be 580. This presents a total of 3,650 affordable housing units over the next 10 years against an overall London Plan target for housing of all kinds of 10,677.

The Council commends the work undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration, Business and Economic Development in producing the Westminster Housing Strategy Direction of Travel Statement and, in particular, its focus on redressing the short supply of affordable accommodation for middle-income households in Westminster. Intermediate housing makes up only 1.5% of the stock in the city while social housing makes up 25%. As demand for each is similar, action is clearly required to ensure this need is met.

The Council acknowledges the planning team's hard work, in the face of a range of competing demands, to achieve the best deal possible on affordable housing from new developments. This extends to their efforts to secure affordable housing contributions from new schemes in the city.

The Council remains committed to working with developers to ensure that the industry plays its part in meeting Westminster's overall housing needs.

The Council notes the content of Westminster's forthcoming draft supplementary planning document on 'Use of Planning Obligations and Other Planning Mechanisms', which calls for a renewed sense of openness and frankness in the viability process.

The Council has also consulted on, as part of the City Plan revision, amendments to its planning policy to formalise a 'credit system' intended to increase affordable housing delivery by encouraging more flexibility and speeding up delivery. This would deliver affordable housing earlier and allow the requirements to be shared between a number of different sites. The Housing and Planning Bill, currently being debated in Parliament, will require the Council, along with other local authorities, to review its housing and planning policies to reflect the future legislative landscape."

After debate, the Lord Mayor put the amendment moved by Councillor Robert Davis and seconded by Councillor Daniel Astaire to the vote and on a show of hands declared the amendment **ADOPTED**.

RESOLVED:

The Council notes that as of December 2014 the number of families in temporary accommodation was 2390, by December 2015 this number had risen to 2450. In March 2014 the number of homelessness acceptances was 705 and in March 2015 the figure at 617 acceptances.

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12 TERMINATION OF MEETING

The Lord Mayor, at the conclusion of the time for items selected for debate, put the remaining business to the vote in accordance with Standing Order 18.

Council Tax Discounts (including Council Tax Local Reduction Scheme) and Council Tax Base

Resolved: That the recommendations of the Cabinet as set out in the report be adopted.

Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review

Resolved: That the recommendations of the Cabinet as set out in the report be adopted.

The Meeting ended at 9.35 pm

CHAIRMAN: _____ **DATE** _____