



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

DRAFT MINUTES

City Management and Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **City Management and Public Protection Policy & Scrutiny Committee** held on **Wednesday 6 February 2019** in Room 3.1, 5 Strand, London WC2 5HR

Members Present: Councillors Tony Devenish (Chairman), Barbara Arzymanow, Margot Bright, Paul Dimoldenberg, Matthew Green, Aicha Less, Mark Shearer and Shamim Talukder.

Also Present: Councillor Tim Mitchell, Sara Sutton (Executive Director of Environment, City Management and Communities,) Andrew Durrant (Director of Community Services), Hayley Regan (Strategy and Development Manager), Josephine Gay (Principal Policy Officer, City Policy and Strategy) and Adam Webber (Principal Policy Officer - Air Quality).

Expert witnesses: Ms Ruth Calderwood, City of London Corporation and Professor Frank Kelly, Kings College London.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The Chairman sought any absences, apologies or substitutions to the Committee's membership.
- 1.2 The Chairman welcomed the new members to the committee Councillors Margot Bright, Mark Shearer and Shamim Talukder.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 2.1 The Chairman sought any personal or prejudicial interests in respect of the items to be discussed from members and officers, in addition to the standing declarations previously made.
- 2.2 There were no declarations made.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

- 3.1 That the Minutes of the City Management and Public Protection Policy and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 November 2018 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record of proceedings.

4. AIR QUALITY, CLEAN AIR AND GREENER CITY ACTION PLANS

- 4.1 The Committee received a report on Air Quality from Sara Sutton, the Executive Director of Environment and Communities. Ms Sutton advised the Committee that the WCC adopted a 10-year plan in 2015 and the report laid out the council's progress on sustainability and biodiversity to date. Ms Sutton advised that several recommendations and action came out of the 2016 task group on Air Quality report and was likely to be included in the new action plan. Ms Sutton advised that the report provided information based on data from October 2018 and is in draft format, to provide interested parties the opportunity to comment. She advised that members should note the report and consider:
1. Is the Committee satisfied with the progress made so far; and if not, make recommendations for action?
 2. Whether the identified areas to address are right. Are the priorities correct and is there anything missing?
 3. Whether there are any missed opportunities across the Council which would promote positive Greener City outcomes?
- 4.2 Andrew Durrant, Director of Community services, delivered a summarised presentation focused on areas of successes and the next steps for a number of projects, such as the 'Don't be idle' campaign phase 1, where over 14,000 individuals had signed the DontBeldle campaign pledge, which pledges drivers to avoid unnecessary emissions from vehicle idling. Mr Durrant advised that the council had just launched phase 2 of the campaign, which was focusing on large fleet operators through a combination of board room level pledges and training for drivers. He noted that Deliveroo were one of the first companies to sign up.
- 4.3 Mr Durrant advised that another area of successes was the 214 EV charging points and that Westminster had the largest EV charging network in the country, and a new EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy (2018) to guide our work in the area. Mr Durrant advised the Committee that the council were focusing on several different types of charging, from rapid charging for the new hybrid taxis, to regular charging points and trickle charge points installed on lampposts. He advised that after meeting the City for All target, our EV Charging Strategy seeks to increase WCC's charging network by around 140 on-street charging points per year over the next eight years.

- 4.4 Mr Durrant informed the Committee that four WCC primary schools (St Mary's Bryanston Square, St Clements Dane, Hallfield and St Peter's Eaton Square) had received GLA funded 'air quality audits' in 2018 as part of the Schools Air Quality audit programme. Mr Durrant advised the Committee that Westminster City Council had provided each school with £10k match funding to help them implement audit report measures and are launching a £1m WCC school clean air fund. He said that the priority areas to address were focused around three key GCAP themes: Schools' Clean Air Fund, Own vehicle fleet to be cleaner and the Energy strategy. He said that the plan was to work on a new look and feel of the Year 4 report to include, how we engage with residents, resident survey responses, BI Dashboard and data strategy.
- 4.5 Mr Durrant advised the Committee that the Westminster Schools' Clean Air fund was a £1m clean air fund that all Westminster primary schools will be able to apply for, to tackle air quality in their areas. He said that projects can include greening and planting, changes to local road layouts and timed closures, and energy efficiency upgrades for school buildings. Mr Durrant said that he believed that each school will be able to bid for around £30k in funding. He noted that the fund will formally go live after the city wide roll out of the diesel surcharge this summer. The Chairman commented on the Leader of the Council and the Mayor of London working together, he advised that they both were in agreement regarding this area.
- 4.6 The Chairman invited the expert witnesses, Ms Ruth Calderwood from the City of London Corporation and Professor Frank Kelly from King's College London, to respond to the report and presentation. The Chairman asked the expert witnesses to consider if there was anything more the council could do to improve on the existing greener outcomes. Professor Frank Kelly, the expert witness from King's College London, felt that WCC was innovative and leading the way in this area. Professor Kelly said, however, that one of the things he found missing was a reflection on how successes had been achieved to date, for example what had worked well and what had not worked so well. Professor Kelly felt that with some of the easier solutions already tackled, the next steps for the council to make further progress, would entail working with the surrounding boroughs.
- 4.7 Ms Ruth Calderwood, expert witness from the City of London Corporation, felt that it was good timing as they are also reviewing the Corporation's Air Quality Strategy. Ms Calderwood observed that they also faced very similar challenges to WCC and felt that a key area for them going forward was collaboration, as creating a real impact was difficult to achieve alone.

Ms Calderwood advised the Committee that the City of London Corporation intended to make improvements to six key areas:

1. Monitoring
2. Leadership

3. Transport
4. Planning
5. Collaboration
6. Public Health and Awareness Raising

- 4.8 Councillor Talukder queried how the council planned to work with other boroughs, specifically the City of London Corporation. Ms Calderwood advised the Committee that there was already some history of the two boroughs working together and the City of London Corporation was open to working together again in the future. Councillor Dimoldenberg raised a query on the success of the 'Don't be idle' campaign and whether enough awareness was raised, he wondered what impact it really made. Councillor Dimoldenberg also queried the new WCC council offices and what green initiatives had been incorporated into the building. Adam Webber (Principal Policy Officer - Air Quality), advised the Committee that project has an evaluation policy, he added that measuring success through emissions is difficult, however there had been an overall improvement, advising that small nudges added up.
- 4.9 Josephine Gay (Principal Policy Officer, City Policy and Strategy) advised the Committee that the WCC officers had a green mark of excellence and an energy rating of B, she advised that the challenge would come in how the building was used and how the building would be maintain. Ms Gay advised the Committee that staff would not be permitted to receive Amazon packages in the new council offices. Councillor Less sought information on the 2016 King's College paper, highlighting Marylebone High Street Ward as no.1 for poor air quality in London. Councillor Less, sought further information on the availability of more recent figures. Adam Webb advised the Committee that Marylebone still had the poorest air quality and that the report is provided by the GLA ever four to five years. Councillor Less queried the roll out of the diesel surcharge.
- 4.10 Councillor Mitchell advised that this was currently under discussion and were working towards the date of 8th April, with a four-week implementation period, and that this would involve some signage. He advised that once a time table was agreed, it would be shared with members. Councillor Shearer queried the progress on EV roll out and whether it was on track and how the Council intends to optimise emission zones. Members raised queries regarding protocol for testing particles at building sites. Adam Webb advised that EV is changing and that lampposts are only one of the ways the council is hoping to launch its EV strategy in the autumn, he confirmed that the project was currently on track and would run at the same time as the diesel surcharge. Mr Webb advised the Committee that there was some concern regarding the impact on small businesses and officers were helping by providing sign-posting to the GLA guidance.

- 4.11 Councillor Mitchell shared that he had similar concerns, but the message was getting out there slowly. Councillor Arzymanow raised concerns about the impact on the jobs of van drivers, she was also concerned with the powers required for testing air quality around building sites, specifically the Dorset Square ward. Councillor Arzymanow also queried the emission of coaches. Mr Webb advised that coaches are low emissions, unfortunately there is a negative perception, he commented that National Express were trying to communicate the message. Ms Sutton advised that WCC had an excellent Environmental Science Team and she would put the councillors in touch with the team.
- 4.12 Councillor Bright sought further clarification on partnership working and replacement at Victoria Coach Station. She felt that more should be done regarding the message about coaches having clean engines. Councillor Bright informed the Committee that she had attended a meeting last week with the coach station where she was informed that most pollution comes from smaller vans and tourists to the area. Councillor Green, referring to the DontBeldle campaign, queried what more could be done with schools, especially preschools and kindergarten. He also queried if the projects would be extended to nurseries. He also advised that residents were concerned with idling significant source of idling coming from taxis, he felt further campaigning and stronger enforcement action was required.

Councillors Green commented on the taxi lines at Paddington station, advising that they remain an issue and wondered if there had been any discussion with TFL regarding restrictions. Mr Durrant advised the Committee that he agreed with Councillor Green regarding schools, he said that simple interventions and speaking to children made a huge difference. Mr Durrant said that the roll out of the Clean Air Fund would continue to influence, making every contact count. He noted that the taxi line at Paddington station was the responsibility of TFL and the Council were continuing to have conversations with them. Mr Webb advised that there was a primary school funding programme and one specifically for nurseries. He advised that he send Councillor Green the details of the three nurseries currently allocated funding. The Chairman advised that the story should be covered in the Westminster Reporter.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report and comments made by expert witnesses.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND CITY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

- 5.1 Councillor Tim Mitchell provided an update of the Environment and City Management Cabinet Member portfolio. Councillor Mitchell advised Open Spaces and Biodiversity work had been ongoing on a new Council strategy for Open Spaces and Biodiversity. He advised that a draft was developed which

focuses on recognising the many benefits of open spaces and wildlife in Westminster, environmentally, economically and in terms of people's health and wellbeing.

- 5.2 On high ways and Transport, Councillor Mitchell advised that a review of the thirty nine trial 20mph limits has been undertaken and post monitoring had shown a slight reduction in speed and notably where speed was higher a greater reduction in speed has been seen. He said the majority of roads now comply with the DfT recommendation on having a mean speed of 24mph or less to make them suitable for a 20mph limit (273 out of 277 counts conformed). Councillor Mitchell advised the 12-month consultation period to saw 300 responses with: 73% envisaging it would be safer to walk and cycle where there are 20mph limits within their communities; 63% believed such a limit would reduce speeds of vehicles; and 46% thought it likely/ or very likely that more journeys would be made by foot or bicycle as a result. Councillor Mitchell noted that as a consequence of the results the trial 20mph limits had now been made permanent and was looking at options for expanding the scheme across the City.
- 5.3 Councillor Mitchell confirmed that the three-year Local Implementation Plan (LIP) programme to Transport for London was submitted on October 10th 2018 and this includes the delivery of pedestrian, cycling and other road safety projects and is due for approval by the end of the financial year. Councillor Mitchell explained that City Highways is in the process of completing a strategy for EV charging for Westminster that considers the needs of EV drivers in the City, both residential and commercial, and how the City Council can best ensure that sufficient charging infrastructure is in place to encourage transition from petrol and diesel to electric.
- 5.4 Councillor Mitchell informed the Committee that the strategy was constructed from a number of sources including the survey that was issued over the summer of 2018 and will be issued at the end of January/start of February. He explained that an expansion proposal for the next steps for expansion over the coming year in consideration of the growth of the profile in EVs in the City has already been approved by the Cabinet Member. Councillor Mitchell advised that as well as the lamp column and rapid charge point expansion already mentioned, 35 additional freestanding charge points provided by Blue Point London will also be introduced, made up of fifteen 7kW and twenty 22kW charge points. He also discussed the Winter service, noting that the team had been cutting the grass as weather was so mild.
- 5.5 Councillor Green commented on the Christmas tree recycling project and queried how successful it had been and what were the actual figures. Councillor Bright queried information on the SWAT team, she advised that in her ward there were many new landlords and many short term let's, who did not know how the rules work in Westminster. Councillor Mitchell advised that the message regarding Christmas tree recycling had reached more and more people and has become very successful, he noted the request for figures and agreed to update the

Committee. Councillor Mitchell informed the Committee that the council was currently engaging with estate agents and would go back with more urgency, he advised that the council are intent on strengthen the message by using the council tax information letter as another tool.

- 5.6 Councillor Arzymanow commented that she would welcome SWAT and raised further concerns regarding fly tipping. Ms Sutton advised that the council had been awarded £25,000 to tackle fly tipping and it would be focussed on big bulky collections and that mattresses which had increased due to mattresses in a box was diving the demand. She noted that there had been a 35% increase in fixed penalty notices. Ms Sutton advised that the Council would be matching the funding from the GLA. Councillor Shearer informed the Committee that he was a big fan of the 'report it' app and wondered if GPS could be used to register the location of incident. He also queries the new development to allow bike storage in the home. Ms Sutton confirmed that Councillor Swaddle was leading on digital reform and she would feed this information back to him.
- 5.7 Councillor Less, commented on the fly tipping in the Church Street Ward where some residents had witnessed bulky waste fly tipping during the day, she queried if cameras would be rolled out in hotspot areas. Councillor Less queries the two-way traffic work on Baker Street, she felt that is was now difficult to cross the road especially coming from Church school. Councillor Less queried whether a Pelican Crossing or a 20mph zone could be considered in order to slow traffic. Ms Sutton advised that with regard to fly tipping, she was currently in discussion with provider and would come back to update the Committee once discussions had concluded. Ms Sutton commented on the use of cameras and the big black bins site, she advised that Councillors Adam and Mitchell would be meeting soon to agree new initiatives.
- 5.8 Councillor Dimoldenberg felt that the Committee would benefit from a general seminar discussion on what the council is working on to tackle fly tipping. Members were in agreement and welcomed a detailed discussion at the next Committee meeting. Ms Sutton agreed to take this way and discuss a suitable date to bring fly tipping back to the Committee. In response to an earlier Ms Sutton confirmed that there were 15 cycle hangers in the borough and would circulate a list of where they can be found to the Committee. Councillor Talukder sought further information on the roll out of the thirty-nine trial 20mph limits and if it would be expanded to other areas within the borough. Councillor Mitchell advised the Committee that that the project was rolled out on a trial basis and that there was further ongoing consultation.
- 5.9 Councillor Less sought an update on the progress of the Night Time Economy task group. Ms Sara Sutton confirmed that this was currently being discussed and the task group needed to elect a new Chairman, she advised that she would update the Committee as soon as a replacement had been agreed. Councillor Shearer queried rough sleeper's tents, he informed the Committee that they had

been the subject of many discussions, he felt that the issue had been drawn out. Councillor Green queried if issues regarding Lime and OVO can be reported, Ms Sutton confirmed that issues concerning Lime and OVO can be reported directly to the companies.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

6. CABINET MEMBER FOR LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION POLICY AND SCRUTINY PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW

- 6.1 Councillor Ian Adams provided a report updating the Committee on the Licensing and Public Protection portfolio.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

7. COMMITTEE TRACKER AND WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

- 7.1 Artemis Kassi (Policy & Scrutiny Officer) presented an updated report on the agreed topics for the Committee's 2018/19 work programme.

- 7.2 The Committee reviewed the progress of items on the 2018/19 work programme. Members of the Committee queried progress of the Night Time Economy task group. Members also wanted to confirm the BCU update at the Committee's next meeting in April. Ms Sutton advised that she would discuss the matter with the lead Cabinet Member and Ms Kassi, who would update the Committee members. Ms Kassi advised the Committee that she would continue to send unallocated work programme items, in briefings directly to members.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 Councillor Dimoldenberg commented on the time allowed to discuss the items on the agenda, including time spent with expert witnesses.

FUTURE DATES

Wednesday 10 April 2019 at 7.00pm

Wednesday 12 June 2019 at 7.00pm

Wednesday 10 September at 7.00pm

The Meeting ended at 8:15 pm.

CHAIRMAN: _____

DATE: _____