



City of Westminster

# General Purposes Committee

<b>Date:</b>	8 September 2022
<b>Classification:</b>	General Release
<b>Title:</b>	Membership of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Policy Context:</b>	Governance of the City Council
<b>Financial Summary:</b>	There are no financial implications
<b>Report of:</b>	The Director of Law

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 This report has been prepared to allow a recommendation to be submitted to the Council for a change to the membership of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the membership of the Commission be increased from 5 to 6 members to consist of 4 Majority group members and 2 Opposition group members.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Council be recommended to agree to amend the size of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission from 5 members to 6 members from the 22 October 2022.

## **3. Background Information**

- 3.1 The current membership of the Commission consists of 5 members, 3 Majority group members and 2 Opposition group members. As there are four Policy and Scrutiny Committees the current membership means that the Chair of one of the Policy and Scrutiny Committees is not represented on the Commission. To ensure that there is representation on the Commission from all of the Policy and Scrutiny Committees therefore it is recommended to increase the membership by one.
- 3.2 In addition, with the quorum of the Commission currently being 3 members the increase in the size of the Committee will also ensure that there is sufficient membership capacity to attend meetings and mitigate the risks of a non-quorate meeting and ensure effective scrutiny takes place.
- 3.3 The increase in the membership by one accords with the principles of the Committee proportionality rules agreed by the Council.

## **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Committee seats are allocated to groups in accordance with the overall membership proportionality of the Council.

## **6. Carbon Impact**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. Consultation**

- 7.1 The Chair of the Westminster Scrutiny Commission and the Party Whips have been made aware of the proposals and no objections have been raised.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any of the Background Papers, please contact:**

Tristan Fieldsend, Senior Committee and Councillor Co-ordinator