



CITY OF WESTMINSTER

Communities, City Management and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee

23 June 2022

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of a meeting of the **Communities, City Management and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee** held at **6:30pm** on **Thursday 23 June 2022**.

Hybrid meeting via Microsoft Teams and Rooms 18.01-03, 18th floor, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP.

Members Present: Councillor Jason Williams (Chair), Councillor Melvyn Caplan, Councillor Laila Dupuy, Councillor Iman Less, Councillor Mark Shearer, Councillor James Small-Edwards, Councillor Judith Southern.

Also present: Councillor Concia Albert (Deputy Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector and Public Protection), Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg (Cabinet Member, for City Management and Air Quality), Serena Simon (Director of Communities), Raj Mistry (Executive Director of Environment and City Management), Patrick Ryan (Portfolio Advisor), Richard Cressey (Head of Cabinet and Committee Services), Elizabeth Everehi (Policy and Scrutiny Co-ordinator).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

1.1 Councillor Judith Southern proposed Councillor Jason Williams as chair, and Cllr Iman Less seconded this proposal.

1.2 The Committee agreed to this, and Councillor Williams was appointed as Chair of the Communities, City Management, and Air Quality Policy and Scrutiny Committee.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee and advised Councillor Aicha Less had sent her apologies due to a personal matter. Councillor Concia Albert, Deputy Cabinet Member for Voluntary Sector and Public Protection informed the Committee that she would stand in Councillor Less's place.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION – PORTFOLIO UPDATE

4.1 The Committee received a written update from the Executive Director of Environment and City Management and Director of Communities on behalf of Councillor Aicha Less, who alongside Councillor Concia Albert and the Committee, discussed the following:

- A Member queried the Community strategy investment work. There was already a scoring system in place to make sure giving to the Voluntary and Community Sector was fair, and there was significant consultation done to put this in place. The Committee felt the work was being repeated. The Director of Communities advised the first stage of the work is to create a comprehensive picture of the current situation to ensure everything the Council does is creating equity.
- A Member asked for more information on the approach to anti-social behaviour (ASB), particularly where there is a split of responsibility. There are ASB teams in Housing Services and also an ASB team within the Environment and City Management Department. The question was posed as to whether this is the optimum method of operation on some ASB issues.
- A Member asked about the one of the strategic pillars of the ASB strategy, 'Perpetrators Brought to Justice' and what the Council's role in this is. Councillor Concia Albert advised part of this approach is about working closely with the Police.
- The Committee raised issue with the lack of policing resources.
- As a general point, a Member advised that this meeting is about scrutinising the Executive and that accompanying reports should be received earlier in the process in the future and questions should be answered by the Cabinet Member and not by officers.
- A Member asked for some clarity on some elements of all Cabinet Member terms of reference so they can ensure the correct Cabinet Member is scrutinised (this was relevant where joint responsibility was referred to).

4.2 ACTIONS

- Report to come back to the Committee outlining the approach to bringing ASB perpetrators to justice.

5. CABINET MEMBER FOR CITY MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY – PORTFOLIO UPDATE

5.1 The Committee received a written update from the Cabinet Member for City Management and Air Quality. The Cabinet Member made some additional points to his written report, including:

- A recent school streets initiative at St Mary's Bryanston Square Primary school to improve air quality.
- Bike hangar issues brought forward by ward Councillors.
- Food waste signage issues.
- Pimlico Gardens being an underused space.
- Gaslights and the efforts to ensure our lighting is improved while retaining the historical fabric of the city.

The Committee discussed:

- A Member asked about hotspots for fly tipping and how to combat this. A range of techniques could be adopted, such as CCTV, signage, more regular controls by City Inspectors or moving the location of bins. The Cabinet Member also advised that the community should also be involved in how the Council approaches this issue.
- The issue of renters, landlords and the effect on fly tipping. The bulky refuse collection service will be improved to ensure rubbish is cleared quickly. A Member advised that quick collection could mean that people leave rubbish in these areas more frequently.
- A Member mentioned there was no mention of the public realm in the written report and queried who leads this area.
- A Member mentioned cycle hangars and cycle racks. The process leads to long delays in their installation which can be many months after the request is made. The latest consultation exercises will delay proposed installations by several more months.
- A Member mentioned Thames Water and the flooding of July 21 and requested that the Cabinet Member presses them to deliver on their promised flood alleviation measures.
- A Member asked about the cost of replacement gaslights.
- Big black bins causing rubbish dumping issues, but their removal does not always fix the problem.
- A Member raised issue with a community approach meaning a lack of privacy for people.
- A Member questioned the effectiveness of CCTV working as a deterrent given the lack of ability to identify those caught on film, and whether the cost of installation and maintenance is worth the result.

5.2 ACTIONS

- Councillor Dimoldenberg to meet with Thames Water if their report is not received on time and to press them to deliver the flood alleviation measures.
- The cost of gaslights to be brought back to the Committee.

- The cost of CCTV to be brought back to the Committee.
- Number for bulky rubbish to be passed onto the Committee.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

6.1 The Committee considered the proposed work programme for the Committee for the coming year, and made the following comments:

- There should be six meetings a year instead of four.
- Some items on the work list could be merged, for example, the parking items.
- The waste services and contract review may not need to be discussed as the first item as there will now be 6 meetings a year.
- Police use of stop and search could be changed to a discussion about police resources more generally.
- The Committee would prefer to have one major topic scrutinised rather than two at each committee.

6.2 ACTIONS

- Dates for additional committees to be circulated.
- Feedback on the work programme to be incorporated.

7. TERMINATION OF MEETING

7.1 The meeting closed at 20:00.

CHAIR:

DATE
