

Notice of Meeting

Full Council

Wednesday, 31 January 2024 at 6.30 pm

Council Chamber, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street W8 7NX

Link to livestream broadcast:

youtube.com/kensingtonandchelsea



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

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Issue Date: Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Chief Executive – Maxine Holdsworth

FILMING, BROADCASTING AND BLOGGING – Please note that this meeting is open to the press and public and will be broadcast via the Council's website. Additionally members of the press and public may film, tweet, blog etc. from those parts of the meeting room allocated as public seating. It is important, however, that councillors can discuss and take decisions without disruption so any activity of a manifestly disruptive nature will not be permitted. Generally the public seating areas, especially those further back, are not 'in shot', however the Council cannot guarantee that any part of the room or any seat cannot or will not be filmed and as such, by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed.

Agenda

Pages

72 SECONDS' SILENCE

There will be 72 seconds' silence to remember those who lost their lives in the Grenfell tragedy.

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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The minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on 29 November 2023 are submitted for confirmation.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Any member of the Council who has a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting is reminded to disclose the interest to the meeting and to leave the Chamber while any discussion or vote on the matter takes place.

Members are also reminded that if they have any other significant interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting, which they feel

should be declared in the public interest, such interests should be declared to the meeting. In such circumstances Members should consider whether their continued participation, in the matter relating to the interest, would be reasonable in the circumstances, particularly if the interest may give rise to a perception of a conflict of interests, or whether they should leave the Chamber while any discussion or vote on the matter takes place.

3. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE MAYOR

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S COMMUNICATIONS

(i) Apologies for Absence

(ii) Other Communications

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING

Up to one hour has been set aside for Council to hear from people living, working, or studying in the Borough who have registered in advance to address this meeting.

6. PETITIONS

Presentation of petitions (if any).

7. STATEMENT BY THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND RESPONSE BY THE LEADER OF THE MINORITY PARTY (STANDING ITEM)

8. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Mayor to announce the order of business for the remainder of the meeting.

9. REPORTS FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM 23 - 24

(i) **Treasury Management Mid-Year Report KD06579** 25 - 34

(ii) **Decisions taken under Urgency Provisions** 35 - 38

10. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL-SIDE COMMITTEES 39 - 70

Administration Committee, 8 January 2024
NB The Draft Constitution will be published separately as an Additional Paper.

11. MATTERS REFERRED TO FULL COUNCIL FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY OR SELECT COMMITTEES 71 - 74

- (i) Inner West London Mental Health Services Reconfiguration Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – update report

12. QUESTIONS ASKED OF LEAD MEMBERS

13. MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN RAISED UNDER STANDING ORDER 11

Members may draw to the Council's attention Ward or other 'live' issues of general / broad principle. Each member raising such an issue under this Standing Order should speak for not more than two minutes in addressing the Council. No more than three Majority Group members and one Minority Party member may raise issues in this way per meeting. Members wishing to raise such matters should register their intent with the Chief Executive prior to the meeting. The relevant Lead Member or Executive Director will be expected to respond to the Councillor raising this issue within six weeks.

14. MOTIONS FOR MAIN DEBATE

(i) **Motion: Antisocial behaviour by some delivery drivers**

More and more residents are making use of the services provided by Deliveroo, Just Eat, Uber Eats and other gig economy platforms. However, this has come with significant side effects on our local high streets and nuisances to our residents.

We see delivery drivers/riders often cycling on pavements on one-way streets such as Earl's Court Road, behave anti-socially when drivers are gathering outside restaurants and blocking the pavements forcing our residents onto busy roads. They are also not contributing to RBKC even though their business makes significant use of our parking infrastructure.

We therefore call on the Lead Member for Local Economy & Employment to reach out and sit down with the major gig economy delivery companies to discuss and create a borough plan to tackle those issues raised by our residents.

Moved by: Councillor Tim Verboven
Seconded by: Councillor Linda Wade

(ii) **Motion: Bring parking services in-house**

NSL Ltd, the parking enforcement contractor for the Council, employ more than a hundred civil enforcement officers in the borough. They bring in millions of pounds in revenue every

year, and this money is used to fund the Council's other services.

Recently, these civil enforcement officers went on strike for 19 days due to poor pay, costing the council around a million pounds. The contractor, NSL Ltd, did not receive any penalty for not providing the service the Council pays them to, and the council has no way to recover this loss in revenue from the company. Whilst the pay dispute has been resolved, we must prepare to mitigate the chance of future occurrences.

The most effective way to do this would be to bring them back in house. Each civil enforcement officer brings into the council around five times what they earn, and this revenue comes entirely from their hard work – what benefit is it to the council to allow a contractor to skim profits from their labour? These enforcement officers provide a vital service to our borough, NSL Ltd allowed them to become some of the worst paid in London, and when they asked for fairer pay, they let a strike drag on, costing the council money. Bringing them inhouse will mean they are treated fairly and share the benefits of working directly for RBKC.

We would also be able to encourage locals to apply for this type of job when vacancies arise, which aligns with the Local Jobs for Local People policy that the council adopted in 2018.

Therefore, to overcome this we call upon the Council's Leadership Team to:

- i. Plan to bring the parking enforcement contract in house and employ the civil enforcement officers directly after the expiration of the contract with NSL, giving them the security and the benefits of working directly for the local authority.
- ii. Renew the current contract with NSL for one year only, while working on preparing a new contract with the existing civil enforcement officers.

The civil enforcement officers provide an important service to the Council and our residents; therefore we call upon the Council to adopt this motion.

Moved by: Councillor Mohammed Bakhtiar

Seconded by: Councillor Sina Lari

(iii) Motion: Producing an AI Framework

This Council notes the fast progress with artificial intelligence in the local government sector over the past 18 months. Many councils are now piloting and deploying artificial intelligence to transform services. For example, building predictive models

and analysing photographic submissions to trigger enforcement action.

Councillors welcome the work already underway by officers, with LOTI and London Councils colleagues, to raise awareness of how artificial intelligence can help meet new challenges.

But we know that whilst artificial intelligence is a rapidly developing technology - and there are undoubtedly major benefits that may be unlocked by its use - it won't be without risk to integrate new kit into service delivery.

That is why we call on the Lead Member to produce an "AI framework", in order to ensure there are clear and accessible standards associated with the use of artificial intelligence in K&C. This should cover governance and procurement, as well as how to assess individual use cases.

Furthermore, we call on the Lead Member to investigate potential use cases - so that a framework can come to life and to improve and transform services.

Moved by: Councillor Janet Evans
Seconded by: Councillor Aarien Areti

(iv) Motion: River Thames Conservation Area Management Plan

The Chelsea houseboat community is a true part of the local Chelsea community, comprising an eclectic mix of painters, artists but also financiers and lawyers.

Following the introduction of a number of larger houseboats, including boats now being subdivided and marketed for short term let, the Council is concerned that there are potential heritage impacts on the Thames conservation area and listed buildings in the vicinity.

Therefore, we call on the Council urgently to complete work on the River Thames Conservation Area Management Plan to protect Chelsea Riverside Ward further from overdevelopment along the Chelsea foreshore.

Moved: Councillor Gerard Hargreaves
Seconded: Councillor Sonia Zvedeniuk

(v) Motion: Call for Council to support a ceasefire in Gaza

At the time of writing there have been 16,000 deaths in Gaza including nearly 6,000 children. The United Nations has described the situation now as a graveyard for children. A group of United Nations experts expressed concerns the situation in Gaza has reached a "catastrophic tipping point."

The UN relief agency for Palestinians says on average one child is killed and two are injured every 10 minutes during the war. Save The Children confirmed the number of children killed in Gaza in the first 3 weeks of the conflict by the Israeli government surpasses numbers killed in all conflicts since 2019. As the UN Secretary General said, “no party to an armed conflict is above international law.”

There is still a dire need for food, water, medicine, fuel, and essential supplies in Gaza. Two million Gazans are struggling to find drinking water. Operations and amputations are being conducted without anaesthesia.

The call for an immediate ceasefire is not only echoed by the UN General Assembly, UNRWA, World Health Organisation, War on Want, Amnesty International, Christian Aid and over 600 NGO's from across the world. Pope Frances and the Archbishop of Canterbury have called for similar.

At a domestic political level, the Mayors of London, Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire alongside the Scottish First Minister and Shadow First Minister have demanded an immediate ceasefire. So have over 100 MPs including nearly 20 Labour Shadow Front Bench members alongside the trade union movement and hundreds of Councillors.

There are very strong feelings in support of a ceasefire nationally with 76% in favour and amongst Kensington and Chelsea residents which is second after Westminster only in having the highest number of Arab residents London borough

We therefore call on the Council publicly to back an immediate ceasefire in the region by all parties and the unconditional release of all hostages. We call on the Council to ask the Council Leader to:

(1) Write to the Prime Minister:

- a) asking him to support the upholding of international law, with appropriate investigation and accountability for breaches including the use of white phosphorus and war crimes;
- b) publicly back an immediate ceasefire
- c) asking him to support the unfettered humanitarian access to Gaza to alleviate the unacceptable levels of human suffering in the region;
- d) asking him to intervene and ask the Israeli government to stop escalation of violence from illegal settlers in the West Bank who are driving Palestinians from their homes; and
- e) asking him to endorse a serious and concerted

reinvigoration of international efforts for a two-state solution.

(2) Build on existing efforts to raise awareness of and challenge all forms of racism including antisemitism, islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism.'

Mover: Councillor Dr Mona Ahmed

Seconder: Councillor Emma Dent Coad

15. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

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16. ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN ITEMS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS URGENT

[Each written report on the public part of the Agenda as detailed above:

- (i) was made available for public inspection from the date of the Agenda;*
- (ii) incorporates a list of the background papers which (i) disclose any facts or matters on which that report, or any important part of it, is based; and (ii) have been relied upon to a material extent in preparing it. (Relevant documents which contain confidential or exempt information are not listed.); and*
- (iii) may, with the consent of the Mayor and subject to specified reasons, be supported at the meeting by way of oral statement or further written report in the event of special circumstances arising after the despatch of the Agenda.]*

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There are no matters scheduled to be discussed at this meeting that would appear to disclose confidential or exempt information under the provisions Schedule 12A of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

Should any such matters arise during the course of discussion of the above items or should the Mayor agree to discuss any other such matters on the grounds of urgency, the Council will wish to resolve to exclude the press and public by virtue of the private nature of the business to be transacted.

The next ordinary meeting of the Full Council will take place at
6.30 pm on Wednesday, 28 February 2024