

Monitoring report: 4 January 2019

Overview

- A Homelessness prevention scheme in Westminster has helped 125 people at risk of becoming homeless find a job.
- The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is opening emergency cold weather shelters across the capital for the first time this year, as temperatures are set to hit zero or below this evening.
- Leader of WCC, Cllr Nickie Aiken shares her New Year's message which focuses heavily on the future of planning and development in Westminster.
- Karen Buck MP joins MPs in demanding action to prevent illegal sub-letting through Airbnb.

Monitoring

Overview	Detail	Action
A Homelessness prevention scheme in Westminster has helped 125 people at risk of becoming homeless to find a job. (3 January Article)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The news comes after homelessness experts from all over Europe came together in Westminster to discuss how employment support can help tackle the issue. • Westminster City Council's Homelessness Employment and Learning Project (HELP), which is funded by the EU, has worked across many different organisations to get 125 people into employment. • As a result, the project is a cost beneficial way of supporting residents, saving public bodies £450,000 during the first year. • The scheme will continue with the launch of Housing Solutions a new service from Westminster City Council for families at risk of homelessness. 	None.
The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is opening emergency cold weather shelters across the capital for the first time this year, as temperatures are set to hit zero or below this evening. (3 January Twitter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As freezing temperatures are forecast over the next few days, in addition to regular services, emergency shelters are open across London so anyone sleeping rough has a warm and safe place to stay. • Every night more than 700 spaces are available through the severe weather shelters funded by City Hall and boroughs, in addition to more than 600 spaces provided by winter night shelters run by faith and community groups. The shelters will remain open throughout the weekend. 	None.
Leader of WCC, Cllr Nickie Aiken shares her New Year's message which focuses heavily on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The message published on 1 January focused on WCC's proposals for planning and development this year. • Cllr Aiken notes how next month, WCC will hold the first 	None.

<p>the future of planning and development in Westminster. (1 January Article)</p>	<p>planning meeting at which residents will be able to address the room directly, rather than through a councillor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Aiken states that, ‘we want developers to invest in Westminster, but with the caveat that if you build in Westminster, you build for Westminster.’ • There is a mention of WCC’s decision to bring their housing arm, CityWest Homes, in-house because it was failing to look after Westminster residents. • This year, the money raised by the Council’s voluntary community contribution scheme will be invested back onto the streets of Westminster. This money is going on initiatives like support for rough sleepers, helping to combat isolation across the generations and ensuring teenagers enter the jobs market with employable skills. 	
<p>Karen Buck MP joins MPs in demanding action to prevent illegal sub-letting through Airbnb. (30 December Article)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Buck MP stated in an article that; <i>‘Airbnb is not what it was originally conceived for – there has been a massive shift in the model. It is no longer used by people who rent out their homes while on holiday. People are letting all the year round. There are areas where people tell me that they are now living in a branch of the hospitality industry, not a residential area. People use it for brothels and parties, and local communities are suffering all the turmoil that brings: lack of security, noise, nuisance, parties, rubbish.’</i> • On 29 December, MPs demanded action to prevent illegal sub-letting and said Airbnb owners should be licensed. Only hosts with licences would then be allowed to advertise properties on the site. • Similar schemes have been adopted in New York, Barcelona, Berlin and San Francisco to combat the problem. 	<p>None.</p>

Consultations

Body	Consultation	Deadline	Action
GLA	The Mayor of London’s second budget and capital spending plan for the GLA.	12 January 2019	To be agreed
MHCLG	Planning Reform: supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes	14 January 2019	Westminster BIDs response to be provided, HoL response to be agreed
GLA	Analysing the Mayor’s Healthy Streets initiative	31 January 2019	Westminster BIDs response to be provided, HoL response to be agreed

Events forward planner

Date	Organisation	Event	Tickets
Tuesday 22 January 2019	Cities of London & Westminster Conservatives (CLWCA)	Drinks Reception with Conservative Mayoral Candidate Shaun Bailey The Hyde Park Conservatives are holding a drinks reception with London Assembly Member and 2020 Conservative Mayoral candidate Shaun Bailey. It will be held at an Argentinian cafe and wine bar, ten minutes' walk from Marble Arch. Details of the venue will be shared with attendees 48 hours beforehand.	£30 for members, £35 for non-members
Wednesday 13 February 2019	Cities of London & Westminster Conservatives (CLWCA)	City Ward Drinks and Canapés Reception - Cllr Nickie Aiken and Rt Hon Mark Field MP City Ward Conservatives are hosting a Drinks and Canapés Reception with Cllr Nickie Aiken, Leader of Westminster City Council, and Rt Hon Mark Field, Member of Parliament for Cities of London and Westminster. It will be held in Barbican. Details of the venue will be confirmed to attendees 48 hours prior to the event.	£25 for members, £30 for non-members