

Monitoring report: 11 January 2019

Overview

- Steven Saxby, Labour’s parliamentary candidate for the Cities of London & Westminster, joins local councillor Pancho Lewis to oppose the creation of a new 24hr casino on Charles Street.
- John Walker has left his role as director of planning at City of Westminster Council, after serving in a number of roles at the authority over the past 35 years.
- In the wake of news that England needs 3m new social homes by 2040, Mayor Sadiq Khan demands that the Government invests in new social housing in the City.
- Cllr David Harvey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Community, argues that Victoria Tower Gardens is not the right location for the proposed Holocaust Memorial Site.
- Labour Councillors have condemned Westminster Council’s decision to spend £1.2 million on refurbishing Victorian lamp columns lining Victoria Embankment.

Monitoring

Overview	Detail	Action
Steven Saxby, Labour’s parliamentary candidate for the Cities of London & Westminster, joins local councillor Pancho Lewis to oppose the creation of a new 24hr casino on Charles Street. (9 Jan Twitter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a video published online, Labour parliamentary candidate, Stephen Saxby, publically opposes any proposal for a 24hr casino on 16 Charles Street. • Mr Saxby notes that the proposed venue would only provide disruption to the local community and negatively impact local residents. 	None.
John Walker has left his role as director of planning at City of Westminster Council, after serving in a number of roles at the authority over the past 35 years. (8 Jan Article)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Walker will be replaced in a newly-created role of director of planning and place shaping by Deirdra Armsby, who has worked as the council’s director of place shaping for the past 14 months. 	None.
In the wake of news that England needs 3m new social homes by 2040, Mayor Sadiq Khan demands that the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 3m new social homes are needed in the next 20 years, more than were built in the two decades after the end of the Second World War, according to a year-long housing commission launched in the wake of the Grenfell Tower 	None.

<p>Government invests in new social housing in the City. (8 Jan Article)</p>	<p>disaster.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor Sadiq Khan called on the Government to increase investment into London’s social housing crisis to ensure that it provides the homes that Londoner’s need. • The Chair of the London Assembly Housing Committee, Sian Berry AM said: <i>“Over the past five years the amount of social housing available in London has changed little, despite rising demand. The Mayor is now channelling money in this direction, but not enough homes in London are available for social rent.”</i> 	
<p>Cllr David Harvey, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Education and Community, argues that Victoria Tower Gardens is not the right location for the proposed Holocaust Memorial Site. (8 Jan Twitter)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In a response to a tweet from Save Victoria Garden, Cllr David Harvey noted that: <i>“it’s past time that there was a national Holocaust memorial in central London, but VTG not the right location, Imperial War Museum, makes more sense to tell the story of the Jewish Holocaust and all the war crimes of the 20th century; lest we forget and humans have short memories”</i> 	None.
<p>Labour Councillors have condemned Westminster Council’s decision to spend £1.2 million on refurbishing Victorian lamp columns lining Victoria Embankment. (7 Jan Article)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council plans to spend £1.2 million grit-blasting the Victorian lamp columns back to the bare metal, before being repaired and repainted. • Labour councillors have argued that this comes at a time when the Council has cut its funding to local youth organisations, libraries and the vulnerable. • Councillor Paul Dimoldenberg, Labour’s Environment and City Management spokesperson, said: <i>“Once again, Westminster Conservatives have shown a warped set of priorities. The £1.2 million could have been better spent on young people, vulnerable residents and other local services, rather than on repainting 150-year-old lamp posts. I think most people would agree that maintaining services to local residents should take priority.”</i> • Questions have been raised as to why Westminster City Council did not seek heritage funding for this project, instead of spending council taxpayer’s money. 	None.

Consultations

Body	Consultation	Deadline	Action
GLA	The Mayor of London's second budget and capital spending plan for the GLA.	12 January 2019	No action
MHCLG	Planning Reform: supporting the high street and increasing the delivery of new homes	14 January 2019	Westminster BIDs response to be provided
GLA	Analysing the Mayor's Healthy Streets initiative	31 January 2019	Westminster BIDs response to be provided, HoL response to be agreed
MHCLG	Business Rates retention reform.	21 February 2019	Westminster BIDs response to be provided

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