

# Monitoring report: 25 January 2019

## Overview

- Westminster City Council invites businesses who are major users of Westminster's road network to support the 'Don't Be Idle' campaign to improve air quality in the city
- GLA Conservatives propose significant amendments to the Mayor of London's budget which will help to provide an extra 1,378 police officers across London
- Sadiq Khan launches his 'rent control' strategy to stabilise and control private rents in the capital
- The Major Applications Planning Committee met on Tuesday, Chaired by Cllr Gotz Mohindra. This will be the final meeting of the MAP committee before the new procedure rules come in to force on 5 February

## Monitoring

Overview	Detail	Action
Westminster City Council invites businesses who are major users of Westminster's road network to support the 'Don't Be Idle' campaign to improve air quality in the city (24 January <a href="#">Article</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westminster suffers from the worst air pollution in the country. With 9.9 million drivers in the capital and 370,000,000 miles driven in Westminster each year, road transport contributes to more than half of the dangerous emissions.</li> <li>• WCC want to take action to improve the air quality, by eliminating engine idling from the areas of highest pollution in the city.</li> </ul>	None.
GLA Conservatives propose significant amendments to the Mayor of London's budget which will help to provide an extra 1,378 police officers across London (24 January <a href="#">Article</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed changes form an amendment to the Mayor's draft budget, which currently earmarks millions for PR, culture, City Hall staff and the transport unions. This comes despite the Mayor's claim that government policies mean that he can't afford to increase police numbers.</li> <li>• The amendment calls on the Mayor to reduce some of the budgets down to 2016/17 levels. GLA Conservatives argue that by doing so, the Mayor could free up nearly £83 million to invest in new police officers.</li> </ul>	None.
Sadiq Khan launches his 'rent control' strategy to stabilise and control private rents in the capital. (23 January <a href="#">Article</a> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, will develop new rent control proposals for the capital to tackle uncontrollable private rent costs.</li> <li>• Labour MP for Westminster North Karen Buck is to join Deputy Mayor for Housing James Murray to create the blueprint for rent stabilisation or control laws in a bid to</li> </ul>	None.

	<p>tackle the affordability crisis. The Mayor has promised to lobby for the plans to be implemented by Westminster if he is no longer in power by the time of their completion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• However, industry leaders within the property sector have come out against the Mayor's proposals, stating how rent controls are likely to lead to a reduced investment into the rental sector and thus a further shortage of high quality rental accommodation. That will not lead to a positive outcome for London's renters as they will find it harder to find decent properties.</li> </ul>	
<p>The Major Applications Planning Committee met on Tuesday, Chaired by Cllr Gotz Mohindra. This will be the final meeting of Cllr Mohindra's committee before the new procedure rules come in to force on 5 February.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were only two items on the agenda, the redevelopment of a block in the east of Oxford Street and an application relating to redevelopment on the West End Gate site in Little Venice; both schemes were approved.</li> <li>• The Westminster Labour party has welcomed plans to allow residents to speak at planning committees, but have suggested a number of additional measures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Residents should be allowed five minutes to speak, not three.</li> <li>○ More than one resident should be able to speak in objection at minor planning committee meetings, as with the Major committee</li> <li>○ Recognised Neighbourhood Forums should be given a right to speak, as well as amenity societies.</li> <li>○ Committee members should be able to ask questions of speakers.</li> <li>○ The Chair should be able to allow speakers who have not registered in advance, at their discretion.</li> <li>○ Applicants should only be able to speak in favour of their proposals if someone is registered to speak against.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>None.</p>

## Consultations

Body	Consultation	Deadline	Action
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
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## Events forward planner

Date	Organisation	Event	Tickets
Monday 28 January 2019	Open Forum Public Meeting WCC	<p><b>Open Forum event to speak to Westminster City Council's Cabinet about campaigns and projects in your local area</b></p> <p>The Open Forum Public Meetings are a regular programme of events held by Westminster City Council in the community to discuss your issues about life in Westminster. The meetings are a question and answer session and they provide an opportunity for you to meet the Leader of the Council and Cabinet members, and have your questions answered.</p> <p>Monday 28 January, at St John's Hyde Park, 18 Hyde Park Cres, W2 2QD at 6.30pm</p>	Free
Wednesday 13 February 2019	Cities of London & Westminster Conservatives (CLWCA)	<p><b>City Ward Drinks and Canapés Reception - Cllr Nickie Aiken and Rt Hon Mark Field MP</b></p> <p>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.</p>	£25 for members, £30 for non-members
Wednesday 13 February 2019	WPA AGM	<p><b>Annual Drinks Reception and WPA AGM</b></p> <p>This will also be the last event for James Cooksey as Chair of the WPA before Craig and his Vice Chairs assume the leadership of the WPA.</p> <p>Hosted at BAFTA's headquarters on Piccadilly, members will be able to experience this iconic building before construction starts on its extension and renovation later in 2019.</p>	Free