

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 3 DECEMBER 2015

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 3 December 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present:

Andrews	Hull	Poole
Burgess	Ismail	Poyser
Caluori	Jeapes	Russell
Chowdhury	Kaseki	Shaikh
Convery	Kay	Smith
Court	Khan	Spall
Debono	Murray	Turan
Diner	Ngongo	Ward
Fletcher	Nicholls	Ward
Gallagher	O'Halloran	Watts
Gantly	Parker	Wayne
Gill	A Perry	Webbe
Greening	R Perry	Williamson
Heather	Picknell	

The Mayor (Councillor Richard Greening) in the Chair

73 MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting on 15 October be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

74 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

75 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Comer-Schwartz, Donovan, Doolan, Hamitouche, Klute and Shaikh.

(ii) Order of business

The Mayor advised that two very similar motions on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership had been submitted to the meeting and that the order in which the motions would

be considered would be changed to allow the two motions to be debated together.

(iii) Declarations of discussion items

None.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor led the Council in a minute's silence in memory of those who died in the recent attacks in Paris and in remembrance of Vasso Kakko who very sadly died after being stabbed last week.

The Mayor also reminded colleagues of the vigil taking place at Finsbury Park Mosque on 4 December, and stressed the importance of maintaining a welcoming, supportive and inclusive society.

The Mayor advised that he had been honoured this morning to open a special event to mark the International Day for Disabled People; an important day which aims to promote to social and economic inclusion of disabled people worldwide and which will hopefully move the agenda forward for people with both visible and invisible disabilities.

The Mayor welcomed the new Youth Councillors to their roles as representatives of Islington's young people and thanked everyone who attended the Remembrance events during November. Colleagues were also reminded that they can now submit nominations for the Civic Awards and Ben Kinsella Award for younger people.

Finally, the Mayor reminded colleagues of the charity dinner on 11 February to celebrate Chinese New Year.

76 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor and advised that lobbying the government for the UK to do its bit in responding to the refugee crisis, and for funds for Islington to play its part, had been successful and that we will be taking 13 refugees between now and Christmas. Councillor Watts advised that he had been proud to work with Citizens UK to help make this possible and that Refugee Action and the Families First team will help the refugees to adapt to life in London. Councillor Watts also thanked residents for all their donations, which had been led by Councillor Ngongo. Councillor Watts also mentioned that the French government is being lobbied to improve the conditions in the refugee camps and noted that all of this is a great sign of tolerance and inclusiveness in Islington.

Councillor Watts mentioned the recent terrible attack on the Finsbury Park Mosque and advised that since the attack he has visited the mosque twice, with the Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP and the Borough Commander and Councillors Shaikh and Convery. Councillor Watts advised that all faiths, including Muslims, play a part in community and that the Finsbury Park Mosque is a force for good in the borough.

Councillor Watts advised that local government was bearing the brunt of the 60% cuts the government is making to the public sector, but it is not yet clear what this means for Islington. The financial settlement has still not been announced; it is only 4 or 5 weeks until we have to set the budget and the cut could be as much as a further £170 million on top of the £150 million already cut, in one of the country's most deprived areas. Councillor Watts advised that we will continue to try to help residents and will discuss the proposals in more detail at the next meeting.

Finally, Councillor Watts thanked Police for their swift action following the terrible murder of Vasso Kakko, the third young person this year who has died as a result of knife crime in the borough. Councillor Watts advised that his thoughts are with family and friends and that we have continued work on the Youth Crime Strategy over the summer. Although crime figures generally are falling, there is no complacency and we will continue our work on this.

77 PETITIONS

Dr Jayne Kavanagh of the UCL Medical School presented a petition opposing the proposed closure of the Margaret Pyke Centre.

78 INTRODUCING THE NEW YOUTH COUNCIL

The newly elected Youth Councillors were introduced to Council and signed the council's Register of Youth Councillors.

79 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

Question 1 Youth Councillor Zinari to Councillor Watts

Since the Employment Commission was launched 1 year ago, what has been the impact, particularly for young people in the borough?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I would also like to add my personal thanks to the Youth Councillors who have served for the last two years and congratulations to the newly elected Youth Councillors who he looked forward to working with.

Councillor Watts advised that he is proud that the Employment Commission has made real progress in reducing poverty and improving life chances for people in the borough. Careers advice was being significantly improved by aligning schools and businesses. City and Islington College are also leading on work to improve this and we think it will make a significant difference.

Question 2 Youth Councillor Christiane to Councillor Caluori

How can schools work more closely with youth providers to promote the youth offer particularly to young people who are not currently accessing services outside of schools?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. There are a number of things that schools can do to promote information about Youth Services; Assemblies, letters to parents, websites and it would be good if champions in the youth hubs could visit schools to explain what it's like. There are lots of things they could do; we will listen to the ideas of the existing and new Youth Councillors and talk to you about what young people at school are really looking for. I look forward to working with you.

Question 3 Youth Councillor Hiba to Councillor Burgess

Recently celebrities have helped raise awareness around mental health and over 86,855 people have pledged to end mental health stigma. What more can be done in Islington to reduce the stigma particularly amongst young people who may be experiencing mental health issues?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I agree that stigma is one of the main burdens for people suffering from mental health problems, especially for young people, and it can prevent them seeking help. We are working to make mental health the same as physical health and are supporting Time to Change. In Islington we have Youth Mental Health training and first aid training and help to dispel the myths and fears by providing people with the facts. We run creative workshops in community settings. We want all schools to teach healthful mind lessons to reduce the stigma. We have Child and Adolescent Mental Health service at Lift and Platform and will work with young people to develop services more and to help with the website. Thank you again for your question.

Question 4 Youth Councillor Ryan to Councillor Caluori

How can Islington Council work with key partners in business and education to create and promote high quality apprenticeships for 16-18 years olds in the borough?

Reply:

Thank you for your question which has hit the nail on the head; there is an array of different businesses in and around the borough that say they want to work with schools, but have found it difficult to join up and to find a way in. We are trying to get more opportunities for businesses to engage and for more work place learning in companies we do work with. We don't want dull apprenticeships but challenging interesting opportunities. There is a charity in Kings Cross which has a list of people in business leadership – a panel of experts who go into schools to talk about what they do. We need to increase the number of schools using the resource. The Saturday Campaign encourages employers to create job opportunities for 15-17 year olds, to give them invaluable experience, help them build up their CVs and develop employability skills and we are trying to get more. We are trying to get businesses to recruit people in line with the academic year.

Supplementary question:

I recently got an apprenticeship with the NHS and the school did not help, in fact they were against it. What can the council do to change this attitude?

Reply:

This is a really interesting example of how the Youth Council adds value and is information that we will be able to use when we speak to head teachers when we come to stress test what schools say they're doing. Information like that is gratefully received.

80 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question (a) from Ernestas Jegorovas to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council.

Does the council agree that the government was wrong to cut Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) and as its attack on education continues, in particular on Further and Higher Education, that providing support to post-16 students should be a key priority. Will you pledge now to ringfence the budget for Islington Year 12 Bursary to provide students the necessary support?

Reply:

Yes, of course. Cutting the EMA was very wrong and we introduced the Islington Bursary, while I was the Executive Member, to reduce the damage. Over 300 children a year receive

£300 and many say they are only able to stay on in further education because of it. We made a manifesto commitment to keep the bursary.

Supplementary question:

What has been done to support STEM Academy Tech City to make sure students don't become NEET?

It is a challenging situation and the poorest Ofsted report I have ever seen. We continue to be concerned about the standards at the Academy and continue to work with them, but can only do so to the extent they choose to, which underlines how ridiculous government policy is; we run great schools.

Question (b) from Greg Foxsmith to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

How many cycles have been stolen in the Borough in the last 12 month period for which figures available and how many have been recovered?

Reply:

1,021 bicycles were reported stolen between 1/11/14 and 31/10/15. Of these, 36 were recovered and linked to an offence/returned to owner. However, it should be noted that many more cycles are recovered by the police but for various reasons cannot be traced to an original owner or linked to a specific theft offence.

Question (c) from Claire Poyner to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

What did the Council do to promote National Walking Month this year?

Reply:

On foot is the best way to see Islington. We've got extensive information on the website on the Get Active pages; there are 20 maps and sound maps of walks in the borough. My favourite is around the graveyards in Bunhill and through the markets and the squares of Clerkenwell.

Supplementary question:

That is impressive if you are connected to the internet, but what have you got for those who are not and what plans have you got for next year?

Reply:

We support a number of walking groups across Islington and will work with you on what we may be able to do next year. For those who can't get on line we have very good wayfinders and walking routes across the borough. I've certainly found it helpful and know some need updating, we will try to find the resources where we can. We will keep trying to obtain Transport for London funding for walking.

Question (d) from Katie Dawson to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

With the latest crime figures showing rocketing crime levels in Islington, what action are currently taking to turn this around?

Reply:

Katie Dawson was not present in the chamber and a written reply will be sent.

Question (e) from Anita Frizzarin to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

How many Islington Council lorry drivers and Islington contractors' lorry drivers have been trained on how to deal with cyclists on the road by swapping places with cyclists, as Catherine West said would happen when she was leader, with evidence please and confirmation of what proportion that is of the total number of drivers, both Council ones and those of Islington-employed contractors?

Reply:

Welcome again Anita. Nice to see you with a different question about drivers. 93 of 115 lorry drivers have completed the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (DCPC), which includes them swapping places with cyclists and the vulnerable road user course is a standard part of the DCPC. Our lorry drivers will complete regular training over the next five years to keep their competence certificate. Similarly we expect our contractors to use accredited drivers.

Supplementary question:

On Sunday I photographed an Islington van at traffic lights in the cycle box. He saw me taking pictures and looked puzzled; he didn't know why I was. How does this training filter down to van drivers? I will send the picture to all of you.

Reply:

Please do send it to me. All drivers get access to the training and I will look into this specific case in detail. We expect high standards and don't want conflict between cycles and lorries and want drivers to experience what it is like to be a cyclist.

Question (f) from Benali Hamdache to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

Are people from black and ethnic minority groups more likely to be stopped and searched than white people in Islington?

Reply:

This question was asked and answered at the most recent meeting of Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee. You are about 2.5 times more likely to be stopped and searched in Islington if you are black and ethnic minority than if you are white. There are lots of complex reasons for this, but this disproportionality is lower here than almost any other borough in London; stop and search is done tactically and done well in this borough.

Supplementary question:

That sounds positive but the figures show that arrests are in decline, it is 18% now and was 25% last October, why is that?

Reply:

I am delighted that you have the data. The figures are true. We've set the Police target to increase the proportion of stop and searches that result in arrests, but don't regard 1 in 5 to be a bad number; if stop and search was used arbitrarily we would expect a much lower rate. It is used to physically take weaponry off young people on our streets. If Police didn't use it there would be many more dangerous situations in this borough; the stabbings would not have happened had those individuals been stopped and searched. We have high levels of transparency, report the figures to community boards and to Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee and made the figures public. It is a very fair question, but we are proud of Police performance and alongside other measures Stop and Search is an essential tool if the Police use it fairly and proportionately.

Question (g) from Ben Hickey to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

At the last meeting of Full Council, Councillor Webbe and Councillor Murray committed to look into whether Islington would sign up to the "London as a National Park City" initiative. Will they update this meeting on their findings?

Reply:

We did discuss the National Park City initiative at a previous meeting, I believe it was raised by ex-Councillor Barry Edwards, the Chair of Islington's Friends of Parks organisation. We have been able to distribute the information to all councillors to make them aware and sought further information with Councillor Murray regarding the details of the proposal and I am delighted that the next Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has looked at it as well and we warmly welcome the aims of the National Park City, especially making London a cleaner, healthier, better place to live. We already have very strong planning policies and strategies in place with similar aims and there are no direct financial implications for the council and no plans to formally designate London as a national park and remove planning plans. Based on our current understanding of the proposal we are able to recommend that this council supports it. If it becomes a financial burden in the future we will have to reconsider, but currently we do support it.

Supplementary question:

Thank you, that's great to hear. Could you ask ward councillors to submit agreement and encourage councillors to respond?

Reply:

As a council we support it, I speak on behalf of all.

Question (h) from Tim Shand to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

Why is there not easily accessible wi-fi access for members of the public at Council meetings?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. The historic fabric of the Town Hall requires particular care when installing ICT services as we don't have the raised floors, false ceilings and service ducts that are common in modern buildings and we require more wireless access point to address poor coverage caused by the solid construction. However, Digital Services are looking to provide wi-fi to visitors. As an interim solution councillors and staff can access wi-fi on the first floor and the next step is to extend this to visitors. I understand this will be available from February 2016.

Question (i) from Shaughan Dolan to Councillor Shaikh Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Charities and the third sector play an essential role in Islington and their importance has only been magnified in recent years. As Local Authorities make difficult financial decisions across the country it is often charitable organisations that step in and fill the gap. I hope this council will share my sadness that the Ethical Property Company has decided to serve notice on the 8 charities based at 1B Waterlow Road, with no offer of help or support to ensure they find future accommodation. Will Islington Council work with the charitable organisations based at 1B and the Ethical Property Company to ensure that these organisations remain in Islington and find suitable and affordable accommodation so they can continue their vital work in our Borough?

Reply:

Councillor Watts responded for Councillor Shaikh: Thank you for your question. Despite the huge cuts we continue to support the voluntary sector with grant funding and are looking at further ways to provide support. It is clear that rising cost pressures are a challenge to the voluntary sector in the borough and to community groups. Our strategy is to help the sector cut costs and to collaborate on properties and to help them get the best value financial and legal services. We will work with the sector.

Supplementary question

There is some urgency. Will you meet with the organisations?

Reply:

Yes, we will be in touch to ensure we understand the needs and how we can help.

Questions were taken from the floor in the remaining time available:

Question from Catherine Bailey to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

A lot of evidence has been given to council officers about an anti-social behaviour problem which has been going on for 8 years or more and the council is equalising blame and trying to neutralise the problem and I want assurances that resources are not being wasted and that the council will now do something.

Reply:

I share your concern and frustration, especially with historic progress. I am very conscious that one of the toughest challenges is dealing with relatively low level nuisance behaviour, but that over time for the people affected this can become a very big deal indeed. One problem is that most of the tools available don't apply; in extreme circumstances we will consider evictions, but very high standards of proof are required; we can't just evict people. The first choice is to pursue mediation, but where the problems are insurmountable and clear, we will certainly act.

Question from a resident of Packington Street to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development

There is a planning application by the council to infill car park and garage areas belonging to two big housing blocks, but the consultation has not been adequate. These are in the pre-planning stage at the moment, but I am fearful that we will be railroaded. We have engaged in the consultation only to find out about extraordinary omissions; why haven't we been told about the new development at 13 Windsor Street? Why were residents overlooking the development not involved in the consultation?

Reply:

The proposal for Windsor Street is a residential development, which will be an improvement on overlooking car parking, but we spoke in some detail about the process going forward at the meeting.

Question from Jen Cronin:

Thank you for your responses so far and the legal advice from the QC regarding the investments the council pension funds holds in fossil fuel industry. However, I understand that advice is out of date and don't believe the legal duty prevents ethical investment. Given that the Environment Agency pension fund set a precedent, would Islington Council take a prudent decision to review its investment in fossil fuels?

Reply by Council Greening, Mayor of the Council and Chair of Pension Sub Committee

Thank you for your question. I am happy to talk to you further. The Environment Agency is an interesting one and it conflicts with the advice we have been given. I am happy to engage with this as long as we can remain within the legislation and to focus on ways to invest in sustainable forms of energy production.

81 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question (a) Councillor Rupert Perry to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Planning and Development.

Can the Executive Member for Housing and Development please tell me how many landlords the Council has taken action against for renting sub-standard accommodation?

Reply:

I won't waste any time explaining to members what we have all experienced. We do have an increasing problem with bad landlords; people are so desperate for somewhere to live they accept poor conditions. We have limited powers but we do use them, we go out and proactively find sub-standard properties. In the last 12 months we've

- Served 231 notices or legal letters requiring landlords to take action

- successful prosecuted 8 landlords where they failed to comply
- settled 3 cases before proceedings commenced

That's 166 substandard properties that have been improved over the last year. You'll be aware of the HMO Licensing zone and once year end has passed we can enforce there too.

Supplementary question:

In view of this success would we consider using the councils powers to clamp down on people have B&Bs, sort of hotels on short term lets; it is depriving the borough of good quality housing.

Reply:

The government have recently deregulated how long properties can be let for, so they can now be rented out for very short term lets with no restrictions. When somewhere is routinely let out on short term lets, rather than just a week or two during holidays, it does concern us, but there are no relevant regulations to enforce. However, I can confirm we will go after bad landlords and you may have seen our recent success in the papers.

Question (b) Councillor Parker to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing.

Can the Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing advise what the council is doing to meet its obligations as set out in the Autism Act 2009 and subsequent statutory guidance?

Reply:

Since the implementation of the Autism Act, Islington has progressed its work on autism in a variety of key areas. The Autistic Spectrum Conditions diagnostic service (or NDD) is now well established and providing access to a service that was not previously available. This service aligns with the strategic objectives of the Autism Strategy and NICE guidelines on Autism. It offers full diagnostic assessments, some post diagnostic support, signposting, and interventions for adults. Autism awareness training and other advanced training for frontline professionals from Skills for Care has been undertaken since the Act was implemented. Work is currently being progressed to provide a comprehensive training plan from basic awareness training to advanced professionals training, which will be offered on a rolling basis. This training will also be offered to a variety of stakeholders including families/carers and shared lives' workers. We have also just received confirmation that we have been successful in the bid for funding for training. An Asperger London Area Group (ALAG) has been established as a support group for adults/carers of people with Asperger syndrome. A scoping exercise has recently been undertaken by criminal justice colleagues in order to better understand the needs of people with autism or learning disabilities who come into the criminal justice system. The Family Carer's reference group continues to work to a clear plan of action in ensuring that carers of people with learning disabilities and autism have a voice and are able to influence commissioning and service delivery. Carer involvement is now integral to Islington's procurement process and evaluation of contracts and within disability awareness training. There has been an increase in supported living accommodation, and care and support available to those with autism. There are 3 planned new builds for purpose built accommodation with completion in 2017-18. This new accommodation will be available for those with autism (plus a learning disability) and is likely to provide a high numbers of places for people with autism. Spectrum, a new day centre for adults with autism and high needs, was opened last year. The National Autistic Society has an accreditation scheme which provides a quality mark for autism services. Those that have been awarded this seal of excellence have had to meet strict standards and prove they can deliver high quality autism

services. Wray Court is a specialist residential home for those with autism and has been awarded this accreditation. Daylight Spectrum is a specialist day service that opened in 2014 and is specially designed for people with autism. It is also accredited by the National Autistic Society and enables us to provide a local service.

Question (c) Councillor Williamson to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Cllr Webbe will be aware that the much delayed plans for the introduction of the night tube on weekends also includes plans to cut back on the frequency of some night bus routes. Night buses provide a reliable and safe way for people to get home after an evening out. May I ask Cllr Webbe what contact TfL has had with the council on the proposals to reduce the frequency of the N20, 134, N29 and N91 service once the night tube is implemented?

Reply:

I met with TfL officials regarding the introduction of the night tube in the spring 2015 when they were planning to go out to the public on a consultation. In response to the consultation I raised my concerns about the impact on Islington's night time centres and low paid shift workers; cleaners, shop workers and night nurses. These people keep the city working and moving. Reductions in the frequency of Route N91, which runs through areas that are not well served by other night bus services and has the highest levels of deprivation in the borough – including along Caledonian Road and Hornsey Road where local residents would struggle to pay the higher tube fares.

I then wrote to TfL in October to reiterate my request to protect the frequency of the N91 bus service. Following this letter and in response to my earlier consultation response, TfL has confirmed that it will NOT reduce the frequency of the N91 bus service and that it is not proposing to decrease the weekend night bus frequency of any route to lower than the equivalent weeknight frequency. Also, the weekend frequency of night buses in Angel (that will not be served by the Night Tube for the time being) will remain higher than the weeknight frequency, responding to the night time economy.

It remains unclear when the Night Tube will be introduced and I stand shoulder to shoulder with the NT workers who are trying to ensure safety.

Question (e) Councillor Russell to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council.

Why has the Council cut the amount of time allowed for the Public to ask questions?

Reply:

The changes to the Constitution have, for the first time in history, secured time for public questions. We took the decision to open up the Council to residents, so the time allowed is not at the Mayor's discretion, but guaranteed. We also took out the 20 minutes allowed for Youth Council questions and made it separate so it could not eat into the time allowed. We are all quite familiar with the names of the members of the public asking questions today and anyone turning up to ask a question may have been prevented from doing so, so I ask the Green Party to reflect on their conduct. We didn't create the time allowed for public questions to create an opportunity for defeated candidates to ask questions instead.

Supplementary question:

Are there were plans to protect the Youth Services Budget when setting next year's budget.

Reply:

We still don't know how much money we will have, but we absolutely understand the importance of youth provision. We are one of the few, if not the only council, to have not cut the budget already. Priorities will have to be set in the light of government cuts, but we understand what a priority this is.

Question (f) Councillor Russell to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Given the positive support from the Council and Jeremy Corbyn for closing Sunnyside Rd, will the Council close Sunnyside Road for Car Free Day Day next year?

Reply:

Of course we wish to enable the road to be closed to create one stretch of green vibrant space for residents. You are right to raise this and we are looking at how we could make it happen. The notion of closing it for a car free day is under consideration. We will talk to London Buses so services to residents are not disrupted.

Supplementary question:

Will you definitely try? If people are going to see the space and get the benefit of it, we need to close the road, can we please make it Sunnyside Road we close this year?

Reply:

I agree that sharing the love across the borough is important. But we are not looking at it this year, we will look at it next year as part of what we want to do for Car Free day and if possible to enable it to be opened up for families and children.

Question (g) Councillor Poyser to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

Further to the earlier question from the Hillrise and Junction councillors on the Hornsey Lane (Archway) Bridge, please could Councillor Convery give an update on the work being done to prevent suicides from the bridge?

Reply:

As you know this is a long running and complex matter that crosses a number of boundaries, two highways authorities and English Heritage, but the efforts are coming very close to fruition. Both Islington and Haringey planning committees have given permission for substantial measures and we will hopefully get TfL to implement them quickly. Officers have done excellent across disciplines and the Samaritans are also putting up better signs. This has been a long campaign but we are very close now.

Supplementary question:

Is Councillor Convery aware that we have been proactive and others have done nothing?

Reply:

I think that's absolutely right; we negotiated our way through with a little bit more vigour, but

other councils worked with us. It has been difficult, TfL don't see this as their core businesses, but we've got the message through. The Rt Hon Jeremy Corbyn MP and Catherine West MP both worked exceptionally hard and showed considerable support for the scheme.

82 EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION - ONE YEAR ON

Councillor Watts moved the motion, seconded by Councillor Khan.

Councillor Watts introduced the report on progress made during the first year of the Islington Employment Commission and thanked Councillors Khan, Webbe and Maggie Semple for doing such a great job.

Councillor Watts advised that the progress report made impressive reading. In the last year 1,000 people were helped back into work and over 100 families were found flexi or part time work. Employment coaches across the council were seeing how better to support people and a new partnership with NHS England to help disabled people back into work. There are still some big challenges ahead however.

Councillor Khan agreed that real progress was being made and that it was important to destroy the myth that many unemployed people do not want to work, the commission found that there were real barriers to work in many instances and we must do what we can to remove them.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the 'One Year On: Making it work better' report by the Islington Employment Services Board be noted.

83 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2016/17

Councillor Hull, seconded by Councillor Perry, moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**

RESOLVED:

1. That the adoption of the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2016/17 as contained in Appendix A of the report be agreed.
2. That retention of the amendments to council tax agreed at full Council on 4 December 2014 be agreed and therefore from 1 April 2016 the following will continue to apply:
 - 1) council tax exemption classes A and C will have a discount of 0% for all cases.
 - 2) council tax discount for second homes will be 0% in all cases
 - 3) council tax discount for empty furnished lets will be 0% in all cases
 - 4) a premium of 50% will be charged on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 2 years in all cases.

84 GAMBLING POLICY

Councillor Convery, seconded by Councillor Alice Perry, moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Andrews contributed to the debate.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**

RESOLVED:

1. That the adoption of the Gambling Policy for Islington as attached in Appendix A to the report be agreed.
2. That a formal decision that the Council will not issue any Casino licenses within the next three years be agreed.

85 CONSTITUTION REPORT

Councillor Alice Perry moved the recommendations in the report and with the Mayor's agreement, in accordance with rule 23.6(b) of the Constitution moved an amendment to recommendation 2 that the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR) be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution she considers necessary, in conjunction with the Chief Whip.

Councillor Poyser seconded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**

RESOLVED:

1. That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the attached Appendix to the report be agreed.
2. That the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR) be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution she considers necessary, in conjunction with the Chief Whip, be agreed.

86 CHIEF WHIPS REPORT

Councillor Alice Perry, seconded by Councillor Poyser, moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**

RESOLVED:

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMITTEE

- 1) That Councillor Picknell replaces Councillor Gantly as a member of Planning Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/16 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

APPOINTMENT TO PERSONNEL SUB COMMITTEE

- 2) That it is anticipated that Audit Committee will appoint Councillor Williamson as the new member of Personnel Sub Committee with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/16 or until a successor is appointed be noted.

SADLERS WELLS FOUNDATION

- 3) That the appointment of Councillor Klute and Councillor Khan as the Council's representatives on the Sadlers Wells Foundation with effect from February 2016, for a period of three years or until successors are appointed, be agreed.

87 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Keeping Islington safe by protecting Policing in Islington

Councillor Convery, seconded by Councillor Williamson, moved the revised motion in the second despatch of papers. Councillors Russell and Andrew contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

This council resolves to call on the Executive to –

- make representations to the Mayor of London and the Home Secretary about the damage which will be caused by removing the community model of policing;
- oppose further cuts to London's policing system;
- make representations to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to properly consult with Londoners before taking any decision to dismantle vital neighbourhood policing teams.

This council further resolves to continue working with Islington's dedicated police officers and PCSOs, the Borough Commander, and the local community, to ensure that Islington is made safer and criminal activity confronted when it takes place.

Motion 2 – Keep Caledonian Road Tube Station Open

Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Ismail, moved the motion. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

To:

- request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Mayor of London seeking his support for keeping the station open by seeking a review of the TfL's board decision;
- ask that the review of TfL's decision to close the station examines how TfL failed to give adequate notice for works that had clearly been long planned, yet seemed not to factor in the wider economic impacts of its decision on the public which it serves.

Motion 3 – Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

Councillor Alice Perry, seconded by Councillor Heather, moved the motion. Councillors Russell, Kaseki and Jeapes contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

To –

- monitor the potential impact TTIP could have on the council's procurement practices;
- make further representations to ensure TTIP does not damage council services, limit our options in procuring services or force any existing Council services to be privatised;
- encourage other local authorities to adopt a similar motion and position.

Motion 4 - TTIP

The motion was deemed moved and CARRIED by the Mayor following the debate and vote on Motion 3 above.

RESOLVED:

- To write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government local MPs and all London MEPs raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.
- To write to the Local Government Association to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with government on our behalf.
- To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.
- To publicise the council's concerns about TTIP; join with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems.

Motion 5 – LGBT History Month

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Gantly, moved an amendment to the motion.

The recommendations in the amended motion were put to the vote and CARRIED.

The motions as amended was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- To consult schools about their curriculum support needs to ensure that LGBT History and age-appropriate sex and relationship education are part of the curriculum:
- To offer schools resources and partnership that can support and enrich their history and their PSHE curriculum; and to offer specialist training through the LGBT History Month umbrella.
- To protect funding for LGBT history month events run in collaboration with Camden.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm

MAYOR