



COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2015

Councillors of the London Borough of Islington are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on, **15 October 2015 at 7.30 pm.**

Lesley Seary

Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. Minutes The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 June 2015.	1 - 18
2. Declarations of Interest If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ if it is not yet on the council's register, you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;▪ you may choose to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency. In both the above cases, you must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item. If you have a personal interest in an item of business and you intend to speak or vote on the item you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you may participate in the discussion and vote on the item. *(a) Employment, etc - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. (b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union. (c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council. (d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area. (e) Licences - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer. (f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which	

- you or your partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to **all** members present at the meeting.

3. Mayoral Announcements

- (i) Apologies
- (ii) Order of business
- (iii) Declaration of discussion items by the Majority and Opposition parties

4. Leader's Announcements

5. Petitions

6. Questions from Members of the Public 19 - 20

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8. Constitution Report 23 - 28

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10. Notices of Motion 33 - 36

Where a motion concerns an executive function, nothing passed can be actioned until approved by the Executive or an officer with the relevant delegated power.

Motion 1: Trade Union Members Check-Off

Motion 2: Black History All Year Round

Motion 3: Islington commits to the National Park City Initiative

Motion 4: PREVENT Strategy

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Despatched : 7 October 2015

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

COUNCIL MEETING - 25 JUNE 2015

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 25 June 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present:

Greening	Klute	Gantly
Fletcher	Murray	Gill
Andrews	O'Sullivan	Heather
Burgess	A Perry	Ngongo
Caluori	R Perry	Nicholls
Chowdhury	Poole	O'Halloran
Convery	Smith	Parker
Debono	Spall	Picknell
Doolan	Watts	Poyser
Gallagher	Webbe	Russell
Hamitouche	Court	Ward
Hull	Diner	Ward
Kaseki	Donovan	Wayne
Khan	Erdogan	Williamson

The Mayor (Councillor Richard Greening) in the Chair

46 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 14 May 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

47 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

48 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Comer-Schwartz and Councillor Turan. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Jeapes.

(ii) Order of business

The Mayor amended the order of business to allow an urgent motion, under rule 10.2(n), and to bring together a number of related items on the same topic, including a petition and a number of questions. The items were to be taken after the Leader's Announcements.

(iii) Declarations of discussion items

None.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor congratulated a number of colleagues who had completed the borough boundary walk of 13.1 miles, in aid of Islington Giving and presented certificates to Councillors Gill, Heather, Poyser and O'Sullivan. Councillor Kay also completed the walk.

The Mayor reminded colleagues that the Armed Forces Day Parade was taking place on Islington Green on Saturday June 27 and hoped as many people would attend as possible.

Finally, the Mayor advised that he and Councillor Watts would be attending a memorial service on 7 July to mark the tenth anniversary of the London bombings.

A minutes silence was held in memory of the victims and their families.

49 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor and wished Ramadan Mubarak to everyone celebrating Ramadan. He also welcomed all the members of the public present at the meeting, especially the residents of Islington Park Street and advised that they have the respect and support of everyone on the Council. Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor for the minutes silence in memory of the victims of the bombings on 7 July 2005 and said it was also important to support the living, acknowledging the contributions made by the survivors of the bombings.

Councillor Watts spoke of the murder of Stefan Appleton earlier this month and advised that his thoughts are with Stefan's family and friends. There have been several speedy arrests and charges have been brought and Councillor Watts noted this thanks to colleagues in the Canonbury and Mildmay wards who worked very hard to ensure that tensions in the community have been diminished. Councillor Watts advised that the council is doing what it can, but we also need the community to come together to bring the random violence to an end.

Councillor Watts advised that we are waiting for the Emergency Budget on 8 July to find out what further budget cuts the Chancellor of the Exchequer has planned and noted that throughout the recent election there was no mention of a cut to the public health budget. Councillor Watts advised that the cuts make it even more important that decisions about services are made locally, so we can do more to protect residents, as they now can in Manchester, and called for London to have a similar devolution deal.

50 URGENT ITEMS RELATING TO 38-44 ISLINGTON PARK STREET

Question from Albert McKeran and Ranjit Krishnamma of the Islington Park Street Community to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Will Islington Council recognise 38-44 Islington Park Street as an established sui generis shared home, which has been in continuous occupation as such since 1976 and confirm to the freeholder that they will require a change of use permission to turn our home into self-contained dwellings or similar and ask the freeholder to suspend all possession proceedings and will Islington Council do this before the Notice to Quit expires on Sunday 5 July?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. We feel very strongly that we should do what we can to fight One Housing about this. We need to work out every angle and use what powers we have and one of these is Planning. We don't have an application in at the moment, but if a developer were to come forward in the future they would have to apply for planning permission. Councillors Picknell, Poole and Turan are on the case and if One Housing think they can sell off and convert it to private housing they should think again.

Question from Councillor Poole to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Will Councillor Murray commit to doing everything possible to prevent the eviction of the tenants of One Housing Group who live at 38-44 Islington Park Street?

Councillor Poole advised that he will waive the answer and await Councillor Murray's response to the urgent Motion.

Petition: A petition was presented by Councillor Caroline Russell on behalf of the residents of 38-44 Islington Park Street.

Urgent Motion: Islington Park Street Community

Councillor Poole proposed the Motion, seconded by Councillor Picknell. Councillor Russell moved an amendment. Councillors O'Sullivan and Murray contributed to the debate.

Councillor Murray advised that sui generis status is granted by the Planning Committee and although it looks like it may apply, it is a decision that the Planning Committee would have to make and we cannot pre-determine their decision. Councillor Murray also advised that DM Policy 3.9 allows us to resist the loss of good quality Houses of Multiple Occupation and he hopes that the Planning Committee will also take that into consideration should a planning application be received. Councillor Murray advised that it was vital the council supported the motion to send a clear message to One Housing and make sure a unique way of life is preserved.

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

The substantive motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- To call on One Housing Group to immediately suspend their Notices to Quit.
- To ask the One Housing Group to engage in dialogue with the Council about their intentions with regard to 38-44 Islington Park Street.

- To encourage One Housing Group to work with residents to formalise the tenancy agreements, management arrangements, and allocations policy at 38-44 Islington Park Street, so that this unique community can continue their way of life.

51 PETITIONS

The following further petitions were presented:

Lisa Burnett presented a petition regarding road safety at Tufnell Park Primary School.

Ursula Yates, representing Living Streets, presented a petition calling for a zebra crossing in Leigh Road.

Bridget Stark presented a further petition regarding the proposed new visitor centre in Caledonian Park.

52 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

1. Young Mayor Taiga to Councillor Richard Watts, Leader of the Council

Voting and Democracy

How does Cllr Watts think the results from the recent general election will impact on the lives of Islington's young people?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. The general election result will be very significant for young people in Islington. It will be harder for young people to access housing benefit and other benefits as well, such as out of work benefits. Many will face housing benefit being taken away; the £12 billion welfare cuts will have a staggering impact. Tuition fees have already been introduced, the Education Maintenance Allowance has gone. The loss of tax credits will affect families and other cuts will be targeted at vulnerable people; young people and disabled people will be the hardest hit. I am very worried about employment prospects for young people. We need to keep supporting young people into housing and providing them with cash to study.

2. Youth Councillor Hiba to Councillor Paul Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

Community Safety

YCllrs are interested in how the Safe Haven scheme is contributing to young people feeling safe in Islington. How is this going and are there any statistics on how many YP have used it since it started?

Reply:

Thank you very much for your question. It goes to the heart of the problem here and in many other boroughs. The safety of young people is at the forefront of our minds. We are all concerned and troubled about violence against young people on our streets. Lorraine Dinnegan was instrumental in setting up the Safe Haven scheme in Islington; after her son Martin was killed, she campaigned tirelessly and selflessly. There are approximately 50 safe havens in the borough, including many business and retail premises. The council supports the scheme; all 10 libraries and the principal public buildings in the borough are safe havens.

I am afraid we don't know how many incidents have been prevented, or young people protected, but I am convinced it is an important part of protecting young people on our streets.

3. Deputy Young Mayor Abu to Councillor Paul Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

Community Safety- Reducing Extremism

How can young people in the borough be safe from radicalisation and extremism particularly online?

Reply:

Many people across the country are struggling with how to prevent the violent radicalisation of residents and how to prevent terrorist attacks. The tragedy is young people are being drawn into a different world, recruited and groomed by people seeking to exercise control of their hearts and minds. Those Islington residents who have gone abroad sadly will not be coming back. We want all schools to assess risks and provide training to help keep people safe on line. We need to give people critical skills and schools have to be safe places to discuss ideas, to understand why some people feel a deep sense of grievance and provide space to express that. We need to promote shared values, a sense of belonging and challenge the discrimination some people experience. Schools and libraries monitor website content, but it is not possible to completely protect people from propaganda. We need to ensure that teachers and parents are aware of what is on line; some of it is very slick and persuasive and we need a narrative against it. Parents have to be the first line of defence and they need to prepare young people to approach the internet in the same way they would teach them about sexual predators. There is a new duty on councils to prevent extremist radicalisation and we are preparing a plan and will consult widely. As part of that we will welcome the views of the Youth Council and young people across the borough.

4. Youth Councillor Anastasia to Councillor Joe Caluori, Executive Member for Children and Families

Youth Provision

As Cllrs are aware the summer term will be ending in the next couple of weeks. Please can Cllr Caluori tell us what's on offer for Islington's young people? How is it being promoted across the borough?

Reply:

I am proud that we are boosting our investment in summer activities for young people. Summerversity is back for another year and is bigger and better with a range of courses and activities in technology and computing. Young people will be able to programme their first game, build their own computer (and keep it), be the next Candy Crush developers and build their own app or be one of the first to use one of the world's limited number of 3D printers.

They can also test their wit with stand-up comedy, learn how to run a farm, learn how to fly with aerial theatre or try their hand at being a chef. All activities are free but spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis for young people who live or go to school in Islington. There will be an Instagram campaign to reach young people across the borough and share information about the courses and activities on offer and a hashtag campaign, #summerversity so young people can create their own content and upload photos which will be part of a weekly competition on Instagram. We'll be communicating with young

people and families through the Youth Council and Council Twitter feeds and approximately 7,000 Summeriversity brochures will be distributed.

The National Citizenship Service Challenge is also back in the borough offering all 15-17 year olds a once-in-a-lifetime experience, which includes a residential outside the borough. The programme helps young people build skills for work and life while taking on exciting challenges. It includes a Dragons' Den event at which I'm a Dragon, so I'm looking forward to being mean!

Younger people can also take the Summer5Challenge. This involves completing five separate activities for a chance to win prizes. Every time a challenge is completed, staff at the relevant venue provide a sticker to be stuck in the young person's personal challenge card. The challenges include completing a quiz about Islington which will be available at all of Islington's libraries and the Islington Museum; borrowing and reviewing a library book; getting active at a pool or leisure centre; joining an activity at one of Islington's youth hubs or clubs and taking a challenge in an open space at one Islington's green spaces. Our 12 adventure playgrounds will also be open all summer long, providing fun and safe play for children.

As you can see there is loads of stuff going on. Information about all the activities is on Izzi and I hope you'll work with me to promote it all.

53 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question 1: Mr Danny Simani to Councillor James Murray, Executive Member Housing and Development

Most disabled people live alone. According to police records, there were over three hundred disabled hate attacks reported to police in London in 2012. A member of my family and I were victims of such an incident in 1991 whilst living in a Council flat in the Andover estate. Several youth addicts kicked down the front door and jumped on my relative's bed, cutting their forehead. Their life was saved by swift police action, as they took my relative to Whittington Hospital in their car. The Council discrimination officer ordered our transfer to lower Hilldrop estate. In fear of a repetition of another discriminatory or disability hatred attack, I added front door and window security in 1995 without any Council objection and on three occasions since this has saved me from being attacked.

I would like to know why Islington Mayor is taking me to the Clerkenwell County Court in order to obtain injunction forcing me to dismantle my present safety security so that the Council contractors can install double glazing while knowing that remaining alive with the aid of security features is surely more important and beneficial to me than being dead in a flat with double glazing?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I am sorry to hear about the incident and I understand your concerns about extra security. We are currently installing new double-glazed uPVC windows to Coombe House as part of the Cyclical Improvement Programme works. The new windows are secure by design and are vastly superior in terms of security than the existing ill-fitting Crittall units. The works to replace the windows will only last for a single day, when there will always be operatives present. Officers have spoken to the contractor, Mears, and asked them if possible to reinstate the security grilles, but if this proves impossible, the new windows not only reduce heat loss, they are also more secure; we have looked into it and I think we are doing the right thing, but I am sorry it got to the stage it did with the legal case.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. I made it clear that my question concerns all disabled people who live on their own. We want two doors, but the council said we must have a single entry door. This is an issue for all disabled people who face a lot of harassment. The Housing Department doesn't look into it. You need to consult us about this type of change. A disability officer would, but I presume you haven't got one as you are forcing something on us that is not suitable for physically disabled people who can't defend themselves. I hope that the council will look into the issue and come up with some solution.

Reply:

Ensuring that people feel safe in their homes and that their homes are decent and affordable is a priority. I will make sure that your case is being followed up. With regard to the general issue, many people have different requirements and if anyone is concerned they should talk to their councillors.

Question 2: John Ackers to Councillor Claudia Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

Waltham Forest council should be congratulated on their Mini Holland project and in particular the introduction of filtered permeability and public realm improvements into Walthamstow Village, which the council says will reduce traffic flow on residential streets. Can comparisons be made between Walthamstow Village and Highbury West – is their Orford Road, which is being closed to motorised traffic, the equivalent of our Gillespie Road?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I am aware of this project; it highlights an issue with funding for cycling improvements and whether or not you are an inner or outer London borough. The Mayor of London has over £900 million available to support cycling improvements. I am delighted for colleagues in Waltham Forest, Enfield and Kingston, they are all outer London boroughs, who all got £30M each for their Mini Holland projects. It was the outer London boroughs who were able to apply for investment. We have lobbied hard to ensure that we got a share of the £900M to enable cycling improvements and I am delighted that Transport for London (TfL) will fund the council to deliver the quietway cycle route connecting Finsbury Park to Kings Cross, but compared to the £30M we got a small allocation of £2M. I appreciate that there have been calls for road closures and we will look at these in the design, but we will also continue to campaign at TfL.

Supplementary question:

Waltham Forest's approach was about achieving modal shift to help fight obesity and reduce air pollution; they had a clear vision. Will you look at how they did it and sold the scheme and bought residents round?

Reply:

All the successful boroughs who had funding to do studies and ask residents about road closures were able to do modelling, to work out where traffic would go and how modal shift could be achieved. Eight boroughs applied and only three were successful. Whilst I welcome their success and applaud it, I'm dismayed that inner London boroughs are not getting their share of resources. Look at what they can do; a cycle super highway, a new style roundabout and a whole programme of activity, which they are able to do because of

the investment. We are of course concerned about pedestrian and cyclists' safety. We already have up to thirty roads closed to motorised traffic, but the reality is the borough is a motorway; traffic comes through. We can't close major roads without thinking about where that traffic goes and we need funding and resources to be able to do it. I urge you and your colleagues to campaign government for us to receive our fair share.

Question 3: Claire Poyner to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council.

With regard to the Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant has the council taken into consideration that the UK is the only country in Europe and the only permanent member of the UN Security Council that recruits 16-18 year olds into the Armed Forces and allows 15 year olds to sign up?

Reply:

I wasn't aware, but I am not sure we are in a position to do anything about that. I suggest that you write to your MP.

Question 4: Barry Edwards to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

Does the council recognise the importance of our green and open spaces such as school wildlife gardens and parks and support the proposal to protect and link together all of London's parks and open spaces?

Reply:

I think that you are referring to the concept of a London National Park. I think we can broadly support the principles; we recognise the value of green spaces to our urban environment, cultural heritage and wildlife. We can all be proud of that. We will happily look into supporting the idea, although unfortunately that will not protect us from the huge ideologically driven cuts in this borough and this city. We need to elect a labour Mayor who will truly stand up for this city.

Supplementary question:

I support your comments in terms of the London Mayor, but this campaign is being led by a small and strategic organisation. Will you contact them and be represented at the event in July?

Reply:

Yes.

Question 5: Ian Hunt to Councillor Claudia Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

Spraying with glyphosate has been a 'business as usual' approach to weed control in Islington. Can Greenspace and Islington Council consider a more pro-active approach to weeding on its streets, as a way of reducing glyphosate use, in line with EU and state policy?

Reply:

Councillor Russell has a motion on glyphosate use later this evening. In reality we use glyphosate and didn't know very much about it until the motion. We are not going to be supporting the motion so I can't support this question or request either, but there will be further discussions about this when we reach the motion.

Question 6: Jo White to Councillor James Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development.

The residents of Kings Square Estate have recently been given a refund as we were overcharged for the heating. Why could the refund not have been used to leave the heating on yearly which is what we want to happen?

Reply:

There was a refund for residents with communal heating and we have had discussions about how the refund system works in this chamber. We refunded payments excess built up because we smooth out costs for residents across the year. With regard to the heating, some people do want it on for longer than others and we recently consulted residents regarding June and September. Broadly speaking, residents don't want the heating on for the extra months because of the extra cost. The building fabric is poor at retaining heat which does make it difficult. We will be talking to ward councillors and residents in certain blocks that are poorly insulated and very hard to improve and details are still being worked out at the moment.

The Mayor advised that the time set aside for questions from members of the public had expired and moved to:

54 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question (a) Councillor O'Halloran to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development

This Council has a proud record of building new homes at affordable social rents. That's why I know many members will be extremely concerned about the policy of the Government to force councils, like Islington, to sell off valuable homes. Could Cllr Murray comment on the likely impact this policy will have in Islington?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. Forcing councils to sell high value properties will be a battle for the soul of Islington. Some independent research has been carried out which suggests that 1800 council homes in Islington could be forcibly sold in the first five years of the policy. It would reduce our ability to support people by providing affordable housing and force people to move to outer London where rents will then go up. It is difficult to believe what this policy will mean; we are currently building 20 new council homes on the Bemerton Estate which are ringfenced for local people. With property prices out of control, these properties will be worth a lot of money; a nearby estate leaseholder property is on the market for £435K. If the government does set the figure at £400K and we assume any property we build will have a similar value, all the new properties we build, we will be forced to sell by the government. There will be no incentive for people to downsize and there will be families stuck in

overcrowding for many more years. It is no exaggeration to say this is about the social cleansing of central London and we need to come together to oppose this.

Supplementary question:

Can you explain how we can fight this disastrous policy?

Reply:

The government has promised that all homes sold will be replaced, but they said the same with right to buy and barely one in ten was and they weren't like for like; they were different size homes in different areas. If they force us to sell it will be impossible for us to replace the properties; anything new we build we will be forced to sell again. We need to make sure that all the evidence is publicised to stop people being hoodwinked by this policy and we need to campaign on the street to get the public to oppose it too.

Note: The time for questions from members of the Council having expired, written replies to the remaining questions were sent as detailed below.

Question (b) Councillor Gantly to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Cllr Watts will have seen the announcement by the Chancellor that, despite delivering the largest cuts to local government in our history, the Chancellor wants to wield the axe again and the LGA has warned that this could mean in-year budget cuts. What does this mean for Islington?

Reply:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Gantly. You are of course correct to say that since 2010, the Tory-led Government has imposed the largest peacetime cuts to local authorities. In Islington, we have already been forced to take around £150million out of our budgets, and the election of a majority Tory Government will mean the scale of the cuts will continue. We anticipate that the Chancellor's plans will mean a further £90million of cuts to the council over the next 3 or 4 years. This will mean that the council will have around a third of the funding we had in 2010.

Recent announcements by the Chancellor have suggested that non-protected departments will face cuts of up to 40% in departmental spending - this includes the Department for Communities and Local Government. We must be honest with the people of our borough that the scale of these cuts will mean that services will change. We have already done the simple things and save money where we could, so we must now carry on with our radical agenda to reform services so that we save money by tackling issues earlier. However, even with this pioneering work, the cuts from Government are disproportionate and will hit Islington hard.

Question (c) Councillor Heather to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

I have concerns about the Community Warden scheme being run by the Finsbury Park Business Forum who are based in my Ward. I note that Islington Council is opposed to workfare, and my concern is that this scheme appears to be a workfare scheme. Can the Executive member for Economic and Community Development please assure me that the Council will investigate the scheme with both the Department of Work and Pensions and

FPBF to establish whether this is a workfare scheme, and also establish who benefits financially from the scheme?

Reply:

Islington Council, as demonstrated by our recent Employment Commission, is committed to supporting local residents into work as the best route out of poverty. There are many different employment schemes operating in the marketplace, some good, and some not so good. The Community Wardens Scheme operating around Finsbury Park station is run by the Finsbury Park Business Forum. After you and others understandably raised issues with the scheme, council officers contacted Job Centre Plus for more information and I called the Director of Finsbury Park Business Forum to ask him some questions too.

The scheme runs for 30 hours per week for 4 – 6 weeks and is meant to provide work experience. Islington JCP first set up the scheme with FPBF in December 2011 and so far a total of 57 participants have been referred by JCP to attend the scheme, with the last referral from Islington JCP being in October 2014. Islington JCP is not currently referring people to the scheme. Other participants have volunteered off the street or been referred by local voluntary and community sector organisations.

FPBF have informed us that there are currently about 35 people involved in the scheme. It has plans to expand the scheme beyond the area around Finsbury Park station. FPBF have asserted that 80% of all past participants in the scheme have enjoyed positive outcomes in terms of future employment, but no formal evaluation of the scheme has taken place, so we are not at all clear about how many people have got a job as a result of the scheme.

According to JCP, the scheme is not mandatory up until the time a participant agrees to take part. Once participants have agreed to participate, it becomes mandatory and sanctions may apply for non-attendance. Otherwise, the DWP continues to pay benefits and will pay travel fares too, if needed. FPBF do not receive any money from the DWP for the scheme and the council has no involvement with the scheme or with FPBF in general. FPBF have informed us that the scheme is funded by donations and by the dues paid by businesses which are members of the FPBF.

My view, having established all this, is the same as yours, Gary: this is Workfare in all but name and I condemn it. Once a Community Warden has embarked upon the scheme, they are then part of a programme of compulsory, unpaid work experience and if they drop out they can be sanctioned.

The council does not support Workfare in general or this scheme in particular and we have no involvement with it or with the Finsbury Park Business Forum. Indeed, we have insisted that FPBF remove the Council's logo from its website. As for your request that we seek to ascertain if anybody benefits financially from the scheme, and, if so, who, we will try to do just that and we will let you know what we uncover...

In terms of moving forward it is suggested that we could do the following:

- 1) Write to JCP / DWP urging them not to refer anyone to the scheme henceforth (although they don't currently anyway)
- 2) Write to Courtney Bailey asking him if anyone makes any money from the scheme (although he's probably not obligated to tell us)
- 3) Write to the local police to ask if they support the scheme in any way (and urging them not to)
- 4) Potentially share any of these letters with the local press

Question (d) was taken under the urgent items relating to 38-44 Islington Park Street above.

Question (e) Councillor Diarmaid Ward to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

This Tory Government's plans to reduce the benefit cap to £23,000 per household will have a huge impact in Islington because the cost of housing is so high. How can the council help families who are struggling to cope as a result, in the short term and the long term?

Reply:

Thank you for your question, Diarmaid. It's timely because we expect the Chancellor's budget statement on 8th July to include a commitment by the government to reduce the existing overall Benefit Cap by £3,000 per household.

Our modelling suggests that this will hit about 575 more Islington households, on top of the 250 Islington households already affected by the current cap, who will all get hit again as well. Up to 1,000 more Islington children are likely to be impoverished as a result, in a borough which already has the fourth highest child poverty in England. The move will result in an additional £1.6m in lost benefits in the borough. If the government cutting the cap leads to private landlords evicting large families, which it probably will, then, given the cost of temporary accommodation in local properties with more than one bedroom is also likely to be above the cap, this threatens to increase homelessness in the borough as well.

According to the government, the benefit cap is meant to reflect the average income. But average earnings haven't dropped by £3,000, so why are they cutting this support from families who need it? It is a national, one-size-fits-all policy that takes no account of local realities. Rents in London are much higher than elsewhere, and yet the same caps and cuts apply. With such a shortage of affordable housing in the capital, cutting the benefit cap won't drive down rents, it will just drive people into poverty.

I am seriously concerned about the council's capacity to support more households who may struggle to cope. The Government is currently cutting Islington Council's budget for Discretionary Housing Payments – short term grants designed to help people who are struggling to meet their housing costs – from £1.35m in 2014/15 to £989,000 in 2015/16. But reducing the benefit cap will mean more demand for Discretionary Housing Payments, not less. In addition, the Council estimates it would have to increase the number of IMAX welfare advisors and iWork employment coaches working closely to support those affected by the benefit cap by 50%, at a further cost of £110,000 a year.

For Islington, the government cutting the benefit cap will mean huge losses of around £1.6 million in Housing Benefit, likely to translate into a big rise in tenants' arrears. At a time when the council's budget is stretched to breaking point, we can't guarantee to cover the loss. We will do our best to support struggling families in our community but there's a limit to our ability to shoulder the burden of government cuts and shield residents from their impact.

We are committed to maintaining our specialist teams that work with these households and which have helped hundreds of capped families secure exemptions or employment since 2013. So, far, this work has meant the council has not evicted anyone as a result of arrears caused by the Benefit Cap.

We will campaign hard to ensure that the level of Discretionary Housing Payments allocated by government to mitigate such cuts is increased, not cut further as it is being at present. But there will inevitably be people who will be worse off and who will struggle to pay their rent.

Many more nationally will be forced into homelessness by this government policy as the lowering of the cap will mean that it is no longer a problem only for London.

We will work hard to ensure that we are ahead of the game in our preparations for this and the other benefit cuts that will inevitably follow. But, sadly, these cuts are coming, and the reduction in the Benefit Cap may not be the worst of them. We shall have to wait until the 8th July budget statement to hear just how bad the government's £12bn of welfare cuts are going to be. We will be leading London's resistance.

Question (f) Councillor Diarmaid Ward to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Public libraries can provide community space, skilled staff and assisted online access, and reach out to vulnerable people. Do you have any plans to try and encourage more Islington residents to use the library service?

Reply:

Anyone who lives, works or studies in Islington can use our library services and we will continue to encourage as many people as possible to become library members. We ran a membership campaign from February – April this year which attracted 2,000 new members. We will continue to promote our services over the summer through events and activities. Our annual Word Festival finishes this week and has had an exciting programme of events for adults and children to promote reading and writing, including a focus on supporting people with mental health issues – many of these events are aimed at encouraging people who wouldn't traditionally use libraries to get involved.

We have a full programme of summer holiday activities for children in our libraries and will also be encouraging all primary age children to join in the Summer Reading Challenge to read 6 books during the school holidays.

We are taking the library out into the community to advertise our work, including attendance at the Cally Festival and 'BookSwaps' in leisure centres, adventure playgrounds and other community venues. Our library staff are being trained to provide support to people who need to access on-line services such as help with benefits applications and Freedom pass renewals.

We will use printed publicity, our web pages and social media to promote all our services, including our on-line information and e-books.

Question (g) Councillor Russell to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Finsbury Park business forum is running a workfare scheme with A4E in which unemployed people are working 30 hours per week unpaid and risk their benefits being sanctioned if they do not turn up. Will the council join me in condemning this practice as exploitative and will you use your influence as a partner organisation of Finsbury Park Business Forum to bring this practice to an end and ensure that any station wardens are paid the London living wage in future?"

Reply:

Thank you for your question, Caroline, which is very similar to one asked by Cllr Heather, so please forgive me for using much of the detail from my response to him in my reply to you.

Islington Council is committed to supporting local residents into work as the best route out of poverty. Our pioneering Employment Commission looked at the many barriers facing local people from getting and keeping good and flexible jobs, and I'm proud of the work this council has done to tackle youth unemployment.

The Community Wardens Scheme operating around Finsbury Park station is run by the Finsbury Park Business Forum.

Council officers have contacted Job Centre Plus for more information and I called the Director of Finsbury Park Business Forum to ask him some questions too.

The scheme runs for 30 hours per week for 4 – 6 weeks and is meant to provide work experience.

Islington JCP first set up the scheme with FPBF in December 2011 and so far a total of 57 participants have been referred by JCP to attend the scheme, with the last referral from Islington JCP being in October 2014. Islington JCP is not currently referring people to the scheme. Other participants have volunteered off the street or been referred by local voluntary and community sector organisations.

FPBF have informed us that there are currently about 35 people involved in the scheme. It has plans to expand the scheme beyond the area around Finsbury Park station.

FPBF have asserted that 80% of all past participants in the scheme have enjoyed positive outcomes in terms of future employment, but no formal evaluation of the scheme has taken place, so we are not at all clear about how many people have got a job as a result of the scheme.

According to JCP, the scheme is not mandatory up until the time a participant agrees to take part. Once participants have agreed to participate, it becomes mandatory and sanctions may apply for non-attendance. Otherwise, the DWP continues to pay benefits and will pay travel fares too, if needed.

FPBF do not receive any money from the DWP for the scheme and the council has no involvement with the scheme or with FPBF in general. FPBF have informed us that the scheme is funded by donations and by the dues paid by businesses which are members of the FPBF.

My view is that this scheme is Workfare in all but name and I condemn it. Once a Community Warden has embarked upon the scheme, they are then part of a programme of compulsory, unpaid work experience and if they drop out they can be sanctioned.

The council does not support Workfare in general or this scheme in particular and we have no involvement with it or with the Finsbury Park Business Forum. Indeed, we have insisted that FPBF remove the Council's logo from its website.

Thank you for your question.

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

There are five things a council can do to reduce road casualties: Lower speed limits, re-configure roads, enforce speed limits, use new technology such as intelligent speed adaptation and invest in behaviour change and education.

In light of the 35% increase in serious collisions in Islington in 2014 compared to 2013. Will the council underpin the 20mph speed limit by

- reconfiguring streets to reduce traffic flow with filtered permeability,
- working with the police on enforcement via community speedwatch
- calling on TfL to bring in an Independent Speed Adaptation bus trial in Islington and
- promote behaviour change to encourage compliance with speed limits, drink/drug driving laws and mobile at the wheel bans?

Reply:

Thank you for your question, Caroline, and for your support for our pioneering 20mph speed limit – another example of Islington leading the way on road safety and lowering emissions.

Turning to your question, you are well aware of the various policies the Council has implemented to support its Sustainable Transport Policy, which are aimed at encouraging alternatives to car use. This includes cycle schemes and promoting cycle use, speed and accident reduction projects to improve safety and also lorry ban schemes to enforce our lorry ban areas.

Filtered permeability, or road closures as others refer to it, is something that is considered where appropriate. However, we have been successful in making roads and junctions safer by securing support from residents for our plans. An important part of this has been undertaking detailed studies to evaluate the impact such measures would have through traffic displacement to other roads. Carrying out careful research and being sympathetic to the views of local people is how we will continue to approach such matters.

We have an excellent relationship with the Police and have worked with them on a number of stop and advise sessions over the last 18 months. As a result the Police felt confident enough to initiate speed enforcement and we continue to lobby them to ensure regular active enforcement of the speed limit in the borough, as this is a priority and is something that residents have clearly asked us to do. We will have discussions about Community Speedwatch with the Police as this is something we would clearly need to work together on.

The Transport Research Laboratory, a body who works on behalf of the Department of Transport, are undertaking some work for TfL to understand the impact on surrounding traffic of buses which will have a control device fitted to limit their speed to the speed limit. One of the routes being looked at is the number 19 which runs through the borough. Islington have been working with the Transport Research Laboratory to enable the study to take place and the research from this study will be available later in the year.

Finally, it is of course right that we encourage drivers to change behaviour around responsible driving, and press the Police to enforce the law. We promote Department for Transport campaigns such as drink driving and speed compliance. However, we do engage in further work with the Police to undertake advice sessions, which has seen over 1,000 motorists stopped and advised of the 20mph limit in the borough.

55 ISLINGTON CARERS' HUB - PRESENTATION

Councillor Burgess introduced this item and advised that there are over 16,000 unpaid carers in Islington and the Islington Carers' Hub delivers a lot of services for us; it has a strategic role working with partners and among other services, providing training and respite for carers. Councillor Burgess introduced Liz Mercer from the Islington Carers' Hub.

Liz Mercer advised that the Islington Carers' Hub (ICH) is based in Finsbury Park, but does outreach at a number of venues across the borough. The service is available to anyone over 18 who cares for someone, although there are many carers, for example those who care for people with substance misuse problems, who do not come forward to seek help. The ICH only has six full time equivalent staff and can therefore only support a fraction of the carers personally, so although the ICH provides some direct support, such as a casework service for those who might otherwise struggle to access support and support groups, they also act as a gateway to services and work strategically, helping other organisations, such as GP practices, identify and support carers.

Eddy Graham, Head of Advice, Carers UK advised that it is estimated that unpaid carers save the state approximately £190M and advised that over three quarters of carers are worried about the impacts on their own health, nearly half struggle to make ends meet and over half of working carers are worried about their ability to remain in work. He advised that there was considerable concern that the expected £12 billion cut to welfare spending will have a number of very detrimental impacts on carers.

Councillor Burgess and Councillor Watts thanked Liz Mercer and Eddy Graham and Councillor Burgess advised that we will fight the government over any proposed cuts affecting carers.

56 CORPORATE PLAN

Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Burgess, moved the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Watts highlighted the importance of the document, which sets out the Council's strategy and priorities for the future.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

57 ISLINGTON ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT ANNUAL UPDATE

Councillor Poole, seconded by Councillor Hamitouche, moved the recommendations in the report.

Councillor Poole particularly noted The Streets They Left Behind Project which is erecting plaques remembering Islington residents who were killed in WWI in the street where they lived or grew up and thanked the officers involved.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

58 **CONSTITUTION UPDATE**

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

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

59 **CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT**

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

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

60 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion1: Support the Human Rights Act

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Nick Ward moved an amendment to the motion. Councillor Kaseki contributed to the debate.

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

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

RESOLVED:

- To support the council's Equalities Champion in working with residents and organisations within the borough to co-ordinate activity to ensure their views on the importance of the Human Rights Act are brought to the attention of the Government when it is considering repealing the Act.
- To mark the United Nations 'Human Rights Day' on 10th December to emphasise the importance of human rights.

Motion 2: Ban on Glyphosate

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillors Webbe, Poyser, Heather, Parker and Andrews contributed to the debate.

The recommendations in the motion were put to the vote and LOST.

61 **EMERGENCY MOTION - ISLINGTON PARK STREET COMMUNITY**

This item was taken under Minute 50 'Urgent items relating to 38-44 Islington Park Street' above.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm

MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

- a From Anita Frizzarin to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for the Environment and Transport

The Supreme Court has ordered the UK Government to present a plan to reduce air pollution by the end of 2015 because it is too high, and Islington has to do its bit to bring about that reduction. Most air pollution comes from transport, and only one third of people in Islington drive. Is Islington council going to be intimidated by a minority who want to carry on driving and parking anywhere they like and not go ahead with the proposed Controlled Parking Zones, although extended CPZs would help achieve a reduction in the illegally high air pollution that we are all forced to breathe in against our will, and which is particularly harmful to young children?

- b Question from David Wilson to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Last year Council, in debating a motion on the Right to a Fair Trial, recognised that 2015 would be the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and resolved to promote the celebrated qualities of that historic document throughout this year. What has the Council done to fulfil that commitment?

- c Question from Greg Foxsmith to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for the Environment and Transport

Last year I was encouraged to hear from the Executive Member for the Environment that the Council would look into the viability of joining Elthorne Park and Sunnyside Gardens by closing the stretch of Sunnyside Road between them. Has that assessment been completed, and does the current Exec member support that proposal for making a larger green space in the North of the Borough?

- d Question from Jayne Kavanagh to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

The council website states that, 'Islington is a diverse and vibrant borough and in recent years, like many inner London boroughs, Islington has received new refugee communities from troubled parts of the world'. Can you tell me how many refugees and asylum seekers have been received in Islington in the last 5 years including as part of the Gateway programme?

- e Question from Rachel Bloch to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

On Sept 12 in Parliament Square at the Refugees Welcome rally Jeremy Corbyn finished his speech by stating: 'Open your hearts, open your minds and open your attitude towards supporting people who are desperate and need somewhere safe to live'. What steps is Islington taking to resettle refugees from Syria and to make this a reality in our borough?

- f Question from Benali Hamdache to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children and Families

What efforts have local schools made to comply with statutory requirements under the Prevent strategy? How much training has been done of local teachers and governors to identify extremism and build appropriate strategies to tackle these issues?

- g Question from Jessie Godwin, aged 15, to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Many local authorities are refusing to take refugees from Syria under the resettlement programme unless the government pledges 5 years of full funding in advance. What is Islington's position on this?



COUNCIL MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a Cllr Andrews to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

I understand that the council has recently won the case against the current owner of Myddleton Square Gardens, the MCG, I would like to know why the council still do not have a new lease for Myddleton Square Gardens, what action is being taken and why it is taking so long?

- b Councillor Andrews to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

In Clerkenwell we have had 5 small businesses closed including a pub, a shop and newsagents. In view of the very uneven playing field that there is for small family business especially when it comes to tax can you tell me, so that I can tell my constituents, what help the council is providing to for small family business?

- c Councillor Poole to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

Would the Executive Member for Community Safety consider following Lambeth in banning the use and supply of new psychoactive substances (including nitrous oxide) in public places?

- d Councillor Poole to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Would the Executive Member for Housing & Development detail the extent of listed building status pertaining HMP Pentonville?

- e Councillor Russell to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

I was interested to learn in the local paper that Labour councillors have "slammed the brakes" on their parking consultation. What did the Council learn from the £87,000 consultation on parking and was it good value for money?"

- f Councillor Russell to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

What can the council do, to resettle Syrian refugees given that government is not currently providing a 5 year funding package?"

- g Councillor Ismail to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Young people and men from the BAME community, with good educational qualifications, are over-represented in the numbers of unemployed people in the borough. What do you think is the biggest single barrier to their gaining employment and what is the council doing to address it?

- h Councillor Kaseki to Cllr Watts, Leader of the Council

The humanitarian crisis in Europe, with refugees and migrants fleeing conflict and persecution, has led many residents to express their concerns to me and to other councillors about the treatment of these people. Can I ask the Leader of the Council what the Council is doing to prepare for the arrival of any Syrian refugees and what his views are of the response of European Union member states to this human crisis?

- i Councillor Ismail to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Islington has a vibrant & diversity community, but not all communities seem to benefit equally from funding from the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. What are you doing, as the Executive Member, to ensure that all communities have equal access to opportunities to apply for funding and to ensure that funding is fairly distributed across the borough's different communities?



Report of: **Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR)**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Council	October 2015		All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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Subject: Constitution Update

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report proposes changes to the question time procedure in the council's Constitution.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the amendments to the Constitution set out in the attached Appendix.
- 2.2 To authorise the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR) to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution she considers necessary

3. Background

- 3.1 Twelve months ago changes were made to the council's constitution to increase public participation in full Council meetings. Further changes are now proposed to further increase the number of members of the public able to engage in the new question time.
- 3.2 The changes proposed will in particular:

- Enable questions to be included in the agenda provided they are submitted at least 7 days in advance of the council meeting rather than at least 10 days as now;
- Set aside approximately 30 minutes for public questions to be asked provided there are sufficient questions;
- Provide for the youth council to have a specific 20 minute slot for questions rather than this being part of the overall hour set aside for questions as now;
- Clarifying the length of time permitted for questions and responses

3.3 Appendix 1 contains a copy of extracts from the Constitution on which proposed changes are marked, by crossing through in the case of deletions and by underlining in the case of additions. A minor change to the Petitions section is also proposed.

5 Conclusion and recommendations

6.1 A number of changes to improve the operation of question time at full Council meetings are proposed to the Constitution in this report for approval by the council

11 Implications

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from these proposals.

Resident Impact Assessment

These changes will mean it will be easier for residents to ask questions in full council meetings.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications arising directly from this report.

Background papers:

None.

Attachments:

Appendix – Extracts from the Constitution

Final Report Clearance

Signed by

..... Date

Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR)

Report author Debra Norman, Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR)

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Appendix 1

19. PETITIONS, QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

19.1 Petitions

- (a) Petitions signed in hard copy or through an e-petition created on the council's website by 5 or more people who live, work or study in Islington, may be submitted to the council department responsible for the service the petition concerns or may be presented to the Council by any member of the Council, or any member of the public who has notified the Petitions Officer before 5pm on the day of the meeting that he or she wishes to do so.¹
- (b) Subject to paragraph (f) below, any member of the public presenting a Petition shall be entitled to address the Council on the matter which is the subject of the petition for up to two minutes.
- (c) Subject to paragraph (d) and (e) below, once a member of the public has finished speaking, receipt of the petition shall be acknowledged but there shall be no ~~further~~ debate on the petition, which shall stand referred to the Corporate Director of the department responsible for the matter to which the petition relates. The Corporate Director shall determine what action, if any, shall be taken and shall ensure that the person presenting the petition receives a response within a reasonable time, with a copy to the relevant Executive member or Chair of committee.
- (d) Where a Petition has received at least 2000 signatures a debate shall be held on the petition for up to 15 minutes, normally at the following ordinary Council meeting.
- (e) Where a Petition has received between 1000 and 2000 signatures, the member of the public presenting the Petition shall be entitled to meet with the Leader of the Council or the Executive member with the relevant portfolio responsibilities to discuss the issues raised in the petition at a mutually agreed time.
- (f) Petitions falling with paragraphs (d) or (e) shall be considered first. If the Mayor considers, in light of the rest of the agenda, that there is insufficient time for all those presenting other petitions to speak on them, s/he may rule that no further speeches be heard and any remaining petitions shall stand referred in accordance with the procedure set out in paragraph (c) above.

19.2 Questions

¹ Guidance on submitting petitions is available on the council's website

- (a) Subject to Rule 19.4, members of the public may ask the Leader, another member of the Executive or the Chair of any scrutiny committee questions on any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the borough.
- (b) There is no requirement to submit questions in advance of the council meeting.
- (c) Written notice of a question may be delivered to the Proper Officer and if notice of a question is received not later than ~~2p-10am~~ on the day which falls ~~7~~ 7 clear working days before the date of the meeting, the question will be notified to the councillor which may facilitate a more detailed answer at the council meeting.
- (d) The time set aside for questions shall be 60 minutes. Up to 30 minutes of this time shall be reserved for the public to ask questions. Provided a question has begun to be asked within the 30 minutes the full question may be asked and the answer given. All remaining time for questions shall then be available for members questions submitted under Rule 19.2(c). At the meeting following the Annual meeting and at each alternate meeting for the rest of the municipal year, ~~up to an additional~~ 20 minutes ~~of this time~~ shall be set aside for questions from the Youth Council.
- (e) No member may ask more than two questions at a council meeting.
- (f) No member of the public may ask more than one question at a council meeting and the asking of the question (or of any supplementary question where permitted under Rule 19.3) shall not take longer than 2 minutes.
- (g) Questions of which notice has been given shall be printed on the agenda in the order of receipt, but where there are more than one on any particular subject or closely related subjects, the Mayor may rule that they be taken together and a joint reply given.
- (h) The Proper Officer shall have power to edit or amend written questions to make them concise but without affecting the substance, following consultation with the questioner.
- (i) An answer may take the form of:
 - (i) A direct oral answer;
 - (ii) Where the desired information is in a publication of the Council or other published work, a reference to that publication; or
 - (iii) Where the reply cannot conveniently be given orally, a written answer circulated later to the questioner within 5 working days provided the questioner has given contact details.

- (j) ~~No priority shall be given to questions notified in advance and~~ Questions shall be asked in the order determined by the Mayor but priority shall normally be given to questions notified in advance.
- (k) Replies to questions shall not exceed 3 minutes (or two minutes in the case of supplementary questions under Rule 9.3).
- (lk) An answer will not be given orally if the questioner is not present in the Chamber or if the time allowed for questions has elapsed. In such cases, a written reply will be sent to the questioner.
- (lm) Questions not answered at a meeting may, at the request of the questioner, be withdrawn and resubmitted to the next or future meeting of the Council, provided that an answer has not already been supplied.

19.3 Supplementary question

A person asking a question under Rule 19(c) may ask one supplementary question without notice, of the member who answered the question. The supplementary question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.

19.4 Scope of questions

The Proper Officer may reject a question if it:

- (a) is not about a matter for which the Council has a responsibility or which affects the area;
- (b) is defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- (c) is substantially the same as a question asked within the last six months;
- (d) requests the disclosure of information which is confidential or exempt; or
- (e) names, or clearly identifies, a member of staff or any other individual.



ISLINGTON

COUNCIL MEETING – 15 October 2015

REPORT OF THE CHIEF WHIP

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

1. APPOINTMENT POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- a) That Councillor Poyser is standing down as a member of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect and that Council will appoint a replacement.

Recommendation:

- a) To agree that Councillor Poyser stands down as a member of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny with immediate effect and that Council will appoint a replacement.

2. APPOINTMENT TO HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- a) That Councillor Ismail be appointed as a member of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, in place of Councillor Hamitouche, for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed.
- b) That Councillor Gantly is standing down as a member of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect and that Council will appoint a replacement.

Recommendation:

- a) To agree the appointment of Councillor Ismail to the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed.
- b) To agree that Councillor Osh Gantly stands down as a member of the Health and Care Scrutiny with immediate effect and that Council will appoint a replacement.

3. APPOINTMENTS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

- a) That Cathy Blair, Director of Targeted & Specialist Children's Services, be appointed as a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board in place of Eleanor Schooling, for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed.
- b) That Emma Whitby be appointed as the Healthwatch representative on Health and Wellbeing Board in place of Olav Ernstzen for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed.

c) **Substitutes:**

That the following representatives be appointed as named substitutes to the relevant member of Health and Wellbeing Board for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed.

Committee Member	Named Substitute
Wendy Wallace, Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust	Paul Calaminus, Deputy Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Henrietta Hughes, Medical Director, North East London, NHS England	Dr Helene Brown, Associate Medical Director, NHS England London Region
Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	Siobhan Harrington, Deputy Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
Sorrell Brooks, Lay Vice Chair, Islington Clinical Commissioning Group	Lucy de Groot, Lay Chair of the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group Audit Committee
Emma Whitby of Healthwatch	Olav Ernstzen of Healthwatch
Julie Billett, Director of Public Health Camden and Islington	Jonathan O'Sullivan, Islington Assistant Director of Public Health
Sean McLaughlin, Corporate Director Housing and Adult Social Services	Simon Galczynski, Service Director Adult Social Care
Cathy Blair, Director of Targeted and Specialist Children's Services	Mark Taylor, Director of Learning and Schools

Recommendations:

a) To agree the appointment of Cathy Blair to Health and Wellbeing Board for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed.

b) To agree the appointment of Emma Whitby as the Healthwatch representative on Health and Wellbeing Board for one year or until a successor is appointed.

c) **Substitutes:**

To agree that the following representatives be appointed as named substitutes to the relevant member of Health and Wellbeing Board for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed:

Committee Member	Named Substitute
Wendy Wallace, Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust	Paul Calaminus, Deputy Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Henrietta Hughes, Medical Director, North East London, NHS England	Dr Helene Brown, Associate Medical Director, NHS England London Region
Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	Siobhan Harrington, Deputy Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
Sorrell Brooks, Lay Vice Chair, Islington Clinical Commissioning Group	Lucy de Groot, Lay Chair of the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group Audit Committee
Emma Whitby of Healthwatch	Olav Ernstzen of Healthwatch
Julie Billett, Director of Public Health Camden and Islington	Jonathan O'Sullivan, Islington Assistant Director of Public Health
Sean McLaughlin, Corporate Director Housing and Adult Social Services	Simon Galczynski, Service Director Adult Social Care
Cathy Blair, Director of Targeted and Specialist Children's Services	Mark Taylor, Director of Learning and Schools

APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER POSITIONS

4. MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION

That Councillor Gantly be appointed as the Council's Mental Health Champion.

Recommendation:

To agree the appointment of Cllr Gantly as the Council's Mental Health Champion for one year, or until a successor is appointed.

5. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CHAMPION

That Councillor Hamitouche be appointed as the Council's Social Enterprise Champion.

Recommendation:

To agree the appointment of Cllr Hamitouche as the Council's Social Enterprise Champion for one year, or until a successor is appointed.

OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS

6. CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY ISLINGTON

That Councillor Joe Caluori be appointed as the Local Authority School Governor to City of London Academy Islington in place of Felix Hebblethwaite, for a period of four years or until a successor is appointed.

Recommendation:

To agree the appointment of Councillor Joe Caluori as the Local Authority School Governor to City of London Academy Islington, for a period of four years or until a successor is appointed.

COUNCILLOR ALICE PERRY
Chief Whip



COUNCIL MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2015

NOTICES OF MOTION

1 Motion - Trade Union Members Check-Off

To be moved by: Cllr Gary Doolan

To be seconded by: Cllr Marian Spall

This council fully recognises the benefits of the full involvement of trade unions in collective bargaining and consultation, and fully supports the right for all employees to join a trade union.

The council notes that the Government's Trade Union Bill will introduce legislation to instruct public service employers to stop the collection and payment of trade union contributions directly from employees' wages; a process known as 'check-off'.

The council further notes that the council charges trade unions 2% of union contributions for administering salary deductions. This is in contrast to no charge being levied for the administration of other salary deductions, such as for gym membership, season ticket loans, cycle schemes, student loan repayments and childcare vouchers.

This council recognises the benefit of maintaining good industrial relations with all staff and trade unions, and wishes to maintain the rights of individual employees to pay trade union contributions through the check-off process.

This council believes that the Government's position concerning stoppage of check-off is unfair and that estimates of the cost burden to local authorities are completely false. Instead, this proposal is a deliberate attack on trade unions and is part of the wider politically motivated process the Government has embarked upon in combination with the Trade Union Bill that is currently being debated in Parliament.

This motion therefore calls for the council to:

- defend trade union check-off arrangements for all its employees, including through the use of legal challenges;
- to maintain good industrial relations with representatives of recognised trade unions;

- and to allow employees' representation to flourish in hard times, and not to demonise workers as this Government is choosing to do.

This council resolves:

To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Government Minister making it clear that local government will not be dictated to by removing check-off on the basis that it is an individual agreement between employer and employee, and part of employees' national terms and conditions of service.

This council also resolves to encourage other local authorities and organisations, such as the Local Government Association and London Councils, to make representations to defend check-off.

2. Motion - Black History All Year Round

To be moved by Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz
To be seconded by Cllr Claudia Webbe

This council believes that the diversity of Islington plays a huge role in making the borough such a fantastic place in which to live and work.

The council notes that October marks Black History Month, and the council's aims are to promote knowledge of Black history, culture and heritage; to disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British society and to heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.

The council notes that last year's Black History Month events saw a 50% increase in participation from the previous year, with over 2,000 participants and community partners engaging in a wide range of activities.

However, this council also believes that until Black history is fully integrated in the school curriculum, our progress towards the aims of Black History Month will be severely limited.

Therefore, in addition to the public activities to mark Black History Month this month, this council calls for a new focus on embedding Black history in the school curriculum all year round. This will deliver a key step forward in delivering long term positive impacts.

The council further notes that work has already begun to achieve this goal, with activities being undertaken with local schools to map what schools are teaching and to identify areas for the development of a more culturally inclusive curriculum.

This council resolves:

To consult schools about their curriculum support needs; to offer schools resources and partnership that can support and enrich their history curriculum; and to offer specialist training through Black History Month.

This council believes that a comprehensive, inclusive and all year round approach such as this will help Islington move towards our shared goal that all pupils should be able to see themselves in the history they study, not just for one month a year, but all the time.

3. Motion: Islington commits to the National Park City Initiative

To be moved by Councillor Russell

This Council notes that the Labour London Mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan has recently declared his support for the proposal to make Greater London a National Park City and that the London Assembly has passed a motion approving the plans to turn London into a National Park City.

Further, the National Park City initiative is seeking the support of ward councillors across London.

This Council celebrates the huge natural diversity in Islington, a borough in a city that more than 8 million people share with over 13000 other species. We believe that people in Islington share our commitment to nurturing and enhancing our natural wonders, from our allotments, to the gardens at King Henry's Walk to the Ecology Centre in Gillespie Park and many more precious and valued green spaces besides.

This Council therefore welcomes the Greater London National Park City Initiative, which aims to "inspire us to create a more liveable, fair and healthy London". The proposed organisation would bring together public, private and third sector organisations to enhance our natural and cultural heritage, encourage a better understanding and enjoyment of the city, foster wellbeing and inspire others to share these purposes.

This Council notes that, despite the ambitious proposals for the Park, it would be unlike other UK National Parks, and would not control development or prepare planning policies. These powers would remain with the Greater London Authority, the 32 London boroughs and the City of London Corporation.

This Council resolves that

The Council explore how the plans to make London a National Park City can fit in with the administration's regeneration plans for the borough.

All Islington Councillors be encouraged to sign to declare their wards support for the scheme at http://wwwnationalparkcity.london/ward_support website.

The Council show support for the organisation as it develops its vision, in particular by setting out how Islington Council and Islington residents can contribute towards its aims.

4. Motion: PREVENT Strategy

To be moved by Councillor Russell

This council notes - On 26 November 2014, the Home Secretary Theresa May introduced the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill (CTSB) to Parliament highlighting some revised and new counter-terrorism powers that would be placed on a statutory basis.

Prevent and its associated measures that curb free speech are increasingly generating a wave of opposition from academic & student bodies as well as many members of the Muslim community.

This Council also notes

Since the rollout of Prevent, local schools and even early years childcare providers now face statutory counter terrorism duties as they are required to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

In the face of these duties, school now have a requirement to promote “British Values” from as early as birth

Further, schools are required to risk assess the likelihood of a child or young person being drawn into extremism, as well as having clear procedures in place for protecting children and young people at risk of radicalisation.

This Council resolves

To work with local schools, school governors and local faith groups to ensure that the implementation of Prevent is sensitive and constructive. Working with local groups to ensure extremism is challenged collaboratively rather than driven underground or over exaggerated.

To work with local Trade Unions, Universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs in opposition to the worst excesses of the government's anti terror programs.