



COUNCIL MEETING - 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

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 September 2016 at 7.30 pm.**

Lesley Seary

Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. Minutes The Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 30 June 2016.	1 - 16
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
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9. Resolution to extend 6 month rule – Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 29 - 30
10. Constitution Changes and Monitoring Officer Post To follow
11. Chief Whip's Report (appointment of independent members) To follow
12. Notices of Motion 31 - 34
- 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: Anonymous Shortlisting
Motion 2: Islington is Open

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Despatched : 7 September 2016

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

COUNCIL MEETING - 30 JUNE 2016

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30 June 2016 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present:

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

The Mayor (Councillor Kat Fletcher) in the Chair

95 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting on 30 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

97 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Doolan, Klute, Picknell and Councillor Rupert Perry. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Caluori, Kay and O'Sullivan.

(ii) Order of business

In accordance with rule 10.2(n) the Mayor advised she had accepted an urgent motion on 'Islington – a home for all'. The reason for urgency was the shocking increase in incidents of hate crime following the result of the EU Referendum and the Mayor agreed we should wait until the next meeting of the Council to make it clear that Islington continues to welcome people from all communities and condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.

The Mayor also changed the order of the agenda, to bring forward Youth Questions.

(iii) Declaration of discussion items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

A minute's silence was held to mark the sad and untimely death of Jo Cox MP and to remember those who lost their lives or were injured in the shootings in Orlando and the attack on Istanbul airport.

With such tragic events in the world, the Mayor advised that it is sometimes hard to remember that good things are still happening, but she wanted to mention some of the highlights of her first month as Mayor, as they make the work we do worthwhile. The events included, Refugee Week, the end of year celebration at City and Islington College, the Word Festival and Armed Forces Day. Amongst other activities during the month the Mayor had also enjoyed boxing at the Cally Festival, pond dipping with youngsters and meeting the queen bee at the Gillespie Park apiary. The Mayor also attended the launch of Carer's Week and particularly mentioned that the tireless efforts of those who care for others shows the best of Islington and that she was proud to recognise them on behalf of the Council. Finally, the Mayor mentioned all the midsummer garden parties she had attended, which if nothing else, were a triumph of optimism over the weather.

(v) Length of speeches

The Mayor asked colleagues to do their utmost to keep speeches within the permitted length.

98 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor and supported her comments about the events in Orlando and the death of Jo Cox MP. Councillor Watts advised that Jo had been a formidable talent and thanked all the councillors who attended the memorial on the Town Hall steps along with both the borough's MPs and 400 people.

Councillor Watts advised that he was personally disappointed with the EU Referendum result, but that it was also having a negative impact on Islington. We have already seen economic damage with the pound crashing and share values tumbling and fewer houses will be built, but the risk of social damage was underestimated and it has unleashed a wave of hate crime across the country. There are no figures yet, but there is anecdotal evidence of an increase here too, so we want to make it clear that all people, regardless of where they come from are

welcome here and that we appreciate the contribution they make. Councillor Watts encouraged everyone to attend a 'Say No to Hate Crime' rally on Highbury Fields at 10am on Saturday 2 July. Islington's history of welcoming new people goes back hundreds of years to the French Huguenots. Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor for agreeing to accept the urgent motion.

Councillor Watts also advised that next week sees the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Although he is looking forward to the events to commemorate the battle, World War I showed what happens when democracy and politics fails and that no matter how bad our system is, the alternatives are worse.

Councillor Watts confirmed Councillor Diarmaid Ward's appointment and welcomed him to the Executive.

99 PETITIONS

Mr Adam Cook presented a petition regarding support for a Crouch Hill and Hornsey Rise Neighbourhood Forum application.

Mr Chris Sparks presented a petition regarding alterations to Archway Road, Archway N19.

100 QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

Question a. Young Mayor Darey to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

What does Cllr Watts think will be the impact on young people living in London following the election of the new London Mayor?

Reply:

Thank you for your question and welcome to you and your Youth Council colleagues. The election of Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London is a ray of light in an otherwise cloudy sky. It made me proud to be a Londoner and that we have our first Muslim mayor is a fantastic statement. The population of London is very young – approximately 25% of the population is aged between 25 and 34 and the Mayor needs to pay special attention to the needs of young people; to housing, schools and safety.

We need more genuinely affordable housing; private housing is unaffordable and there is a long wait for social housing. Sadiq is committed to appointing serious people to get things done. It won't be easy, but I have every confidence in him.

London's schools are the most improved in the developed world over the last 10 years, but with colleges, skills and training for jobs we need to do a lot of work and the Mayor can make a big difference.

With regard to safety, the Mayor has oversight of the Metropolitan Police. We are feeling the loss of the neighbourhood police teams here; it's harder for the community to build a relationship. I am looking forward to Sadiq keeping the manifesto commitment to bring them back. We do also need to look at tackling crime differently, and stop looking at different types of crime, but at the people involved.

We need to work with the Mayor to find money to ensure high quality services for young

people across London. We are the only Council which has protected funding for Youth Services.

Question b. Youth Councillor & Member of the Youth Parliament Mohamed to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Crime and gang related violence continue to be of concern for Islington's young people. The IYC recognises that the police and its school engagement team are running a series of Safer School roadshows, What else is being done by the police and the council to address these concerns?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I am happy to say that between April and June we have seen some reductions, but we can't become complacent. There are three things that I think will help. The Integrated Gangs Team is fully up and running now and they offer interventions, including accommodation, drugs treatment and counselling and work with the whole family. We are also focussing on schools, with the Violence and Gangs education programme which highlights the dangers of crime, gangs and carrying knives and focuses on personal safety. To date there have been over 160 sessions in schools. The number of schools attending the Ben Kinsella exhibition at Finsbury Library has also increased. Finally, we have committed £500K to mentoring projects for young people. Some children as young as 7 years old are in danger of being sucked into gang culture and this project will help prevent that happening.

We will keep working with you; we need you to help us shape these services to make sure that we are going the right thing.

Question c. Youth Councillor Miriam's question to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families was asked by Deputy Young Mayor Diana Paniagua in her absence:

As a result of Scottish legislation as of April 2016, 16 and 17 year olds were given the right to vote in the Scottish Parliament election. How can Islington Council support the IYC to promote this concept locally in order that young people are given the vote in London?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I saw you at the hustings at City and Islington College the day before the EU Referendum and you spoke with really clear passion. The conversations I have had with young people before and since have brought home to me how unjust it is that young people can't vote on issues that affect their future. I think that 16 is a completely sensible time. The Labour Party policy is to extend voting to 16 year olds, but the government do not agree. It is unsustainable that you can vote in Scotland at 16 and not in England and the inconsistency must be addressed. Maybe we could jointly write to the Prime Minister? We also need to make sure that people who are eligible can vote and to improve education about politics generally. This is a very important time for young people to make their voice heard and I will happily do anything we can to get the situation rectified.

Question d. Youth Councillor Honey to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development:

What can be done to improve information about apprenticeships in our schools/colleges to increase awareness that apprenticeships are a pathway on par with those that are academic?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. It raises a really important issue. We recognise the importance of apprenticeship opportunities for young people. The iWork Youth Employment Team have been working on careers and apprenticeship workshops. The workshops in schools highlight different types of apprenticeships and show young people alternatives to academic pathways. The feedback from schools is that more pupils are now aware. It is important that we put forward the offer at the same time as students are choosing college or university and it's really important to get parents and teachers on board. The Youth Team have attended a number of parents evenings to raise awareness and have also done staff training at some schools. That said we do realise that we can do much more and will be extending apprenticeship support across all schools this year. We are also encouraging role models to go to schools to share their experience and will be developing a social media strategy and supporting teachers more. In partnership with City and Islington College we have got some funding to hold more workshops too. We will continue to reach out and would appreciate meeting with you to see what you think we could do better.

101 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question a) from Greg Foxsmith to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

How did the Council promote National Walking Month in May this year, and Walk to School Week in the same month?

Reply:

Greg Foxsmith was not present in the chamber and will therefore be sent a written reply.

Question b) from Paul Milican to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

It is estimated that 100 Islington residents die each year from health effects that are exacerbated by poor air quality. Is it not your responsibility to ban barbecues so that the 8 out of 10 residents who do not have a back garden can enjoy fresh air on warm days rather than have serious health issues exacerbated by the pollutants that barbecues emit? You have stated that there is no public health risk from BBQs but given there is no level at which PM2.5 is deemed safe, what proof do you have?

Reply:

There is evidence that particulate matters impact on health where there is constant exposure, such as people living next to busy roads and gyratories, but Public Health have reviewed the impacts of air pollution and barbecues and concluded they are unlikely to exceed limits. Given that we have lots of residents without a garden our outside space, the Council has decided to continue allow using barbecues but will we continue to monitor and manage and Parks Patrol will continue to ensure that smoke impacts are minimised.

Supplementary question:

In 2015 the Council commissioned a report. The original report dated 1 October showed levels of PM2.5 even worse than some vehicle impacts, but the graphs and tables were removed before the report was made public, so it is impossible to compare barbecues with Marylebone Road traffic. What reasons can you give for redacting the information.

Reply:

The Council commissioned a report from King's College in which the pollution levels were collected over a weekend by people using personal monitors. It provided a snapshot, but the monitors only recorded 5 minutes exposure and this is not a sufficient or accurate enough measure to provide data for a comparative analysis with the levels near a busy road over a period of 12 months, so I understand this was removed from the draft report. The final report issued by King's College gave an accurate assessment of the impact of barbecues. The Public Health team have also reviewed the impacts and the number of times people have barbecues over a year will not have the same cumulative effect as the constant presence of particulate matter. The report provides the public with a clear assessment of the impacts.

Question c) from Leyla Daybelge to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

A monitoring report on barbecues commissioned by the council in 2015 indicated that PM2.5 pollution levels in Highbury Fields caused by widespread barbecue use were three times the level of one of London's busiest roads. These fine particles are known to cause heart and lung disease. Given that there is no level at which PM2.5 particles are deemed safe, should the council not take a precautionary approach and ban barbecues on its green spaces?

Reply:

This is a very similar question. The Council did commission a report from Kings College which included members of the public collecting readings over a weekend, but the data was not sufficient to be verified as scientifically accurate. People were taking measurements standing in the vicinity of a lit barbeque, not on the street or in their homes. The final report from King's College reflects the reality, which is not comparable to a busy roadside site in London. The draft report failed to point out that the levels are not comparable, and showing the levels alongside readings for a busy roadside site gave a false impression; they do not equate by any standards so King's College amended this in the final version of the report.

As barbecues are only used on a limited number of days, the impact of their use will not breach national standards and the Public Health team have undertaken their own review and concluded there is no risk. The Council is therefore continuing it's popular policy to allow barbecues on Highbury Fields.

Supplementary question:

I would like to dispute Councillor Webbe's interpretation. On warm days there are children who don't have gardens playing on Highbury Fields and they inevitably breathe in PM2.5 known to stunt lung growth in children and the stunt the growth of foetus' in their mother's wombs.

Reply:

The policy to allow barbecues is one that residents wanted to see happen. This is a borough of two halves and many residents don't have room for children to run and play, or to have barbecues with family and friends. Based on our understanding of particulate matter and the

likely probabilities of impact, allowing residents to choose if they want to enjoy our parks by having barbeques with family and friends is the right thing to do.

The meeting was then opened to questions from the floor.

Question from Ernestas Jegorovas. Can anyone from the Executive explain why there have been no Ward Partnership meetings in Caledonian and St Mary's wards?

Reply from Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

The ward councillors in both wards hotly dispute that there have been no meetings. I've been to a range of Cally Road meetings. I haven't been to a St Mary's meeting, but I would be happy to go if invited. As they hotly deny the accusation, I support my colleagues.

Question from a member of the public regarding plans for a cycle path on Brecknock Road.

Reply from Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

We clearly have an agenda to improve and expand the cycle networks across the borough. Consultation is taking place now on proposals to join up the networks in the south of the borough. We have implemented covered cycle storage in St. Georges Ward and have encouraged ward councillors to include measures to support cycling in their ward improvement plans. I encourage you to look at the website and is there isn't a request there already, to submit one. We will look at it favourably. All our cycling requests are there. The Council doesn't hold a budget for cycle routes, that rests with the Mayor of London and we have to fight hard to secure funds. We are waiting to see what the new Mayor's strategy, but we expect that cycling and walking will remain key priorities.

Question from a member of the public regarding Housing Associations. I've been a resident for about 40 years. Housing Associations have got completely out of control and have taken over council housing. Is there a way Islington Council can get the Housing Associations to help relocate people rather than getting them to sell?

Reply from Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

I am new in post, but I hope to build on James Murray's legacy. If there is a particular issue with a specific Housing Association please let me know and I will look into it.

Question from a member of the public regarding barbeques on Highbury Fields: Without wanting to labour the issue, I would like to ask Councillor Webbe how she feels about people who'd like to come to open spaces to breathe clean air. On a good weekend over 1,000 people have barbeques on Highbury Fields. I have tried to count them but you lose count when you walk around. The air is choking. I understand that the figures for particulate matter are averaged, but on a good day the figures are shocking. I was one of the people who took measures. Inside the house it is already the level of Marylebone Road and outside the level is worse.

Reply from Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

We are committed to clean air. Barbeques only happen on a few days in the whole year and they don't amount to annual levels of harm. I would dispute that there are high levels inside the home. The final report was signed off by King's College themselves. Our own Public Health team also carried out a review. The reality is, as I've said before, we live in a borough with inequalities. The same people who were opposed to this because they didn't want people in their 'back garden' are now opposing it on pollution grounds. Highbury Fields

belongs to us all. Many other people turn up to enjoy the Fields with their children, family and friends and they say that they want barbeques.

102 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question a) Councillor O'Halloran to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Housing is a hugely important issue for residents in my ward and for everyone across the borough. Can you tell me what your priorities will be in your new role?

Reply:

I have some very big shoes to fill and I would like to pay tribute to the work done by ex-Councillor James Murray. We will continue to build affordable homes and to fight for a better deal for local people in rented accommodation and work tirelessly to make our repairs service the best in London.

Supplementary question:

A lot of people contact me regarding the Housing and Planning Act – what will you do to protect residents?

The Act will have terrible impacts on residents. We will be offering advice to residents effected and continue to fight to get the Act changed.

Question b) Councillor Debono to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

In recent years the council has had an excellent relationship with local schools, and this has helped to achieve brilliant results and progress for our young people. Given the government has made it clear that it still wants to see all schools become academies, what is the council doing to ensure that Islington's community of schools model is protected?

Reply:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of Children's Scrutiny Committee. I look forward to working with you. The initial announcement was that every school would become an Academy and I know that they have now pulled back from that position in response to Islington Save our Schools campaign. We need to continue through working with our schools, to deliver high quality schools, over 90% of which are rated good or outstanding. By working closely with them we have achieved a lot. We have had discussions about the possibility of a school led partnership with the council having a strong role and we need to be robust to push away moves towards Academies.

Question c) Councillor Nick Ward to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

According to government figures, the proportion of people living with HIV in London is three times higher than the average across England, and in 2014, London accounted for 45 per cent of all people diagnosed as HIV positive in England. In Islington, more than 1,200 people are living with HIV. Given that these figures show a rise in the prevalence of HIV in London, do you agree with me that NHS England's decision not to commission the highly effective HIV prevention treatment, PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), represents a serious risk to the work

undertaken to tackle HIV, and do you share the concerns of the Terence Higgins Trust which has said that the delay in commissioning PrEP will see seven more people contract HIV every day?"

Reply:

Thank you for your question. The figures are very clear and I agree with the Terence Higgins Trust. We've made tremendous progress in reducing late diagnosis of HIV in Islington in recent years, and commission excellent local sexual health services which are making a real difference. However, we continue to see new HIV infections, and the use of these anti-HIV drugs would help considerably and I agree the decision not to fund PrEP is a major missed opportunity. The human impact of living with HIV is considerable, but with the lifetime costs of treatment for HIV in excess of £350,000, not investing in effective prevention interventions is a false economy for the NHS. We are working closely with other councils to lobby government and the NHS to overturn this decision and make this important intervention available as soon as possible. We are in the forefront of ensuring that services are as good as they can be, but to say that many health services are creaking at the seams is an understatement and one way to help is prevention. Why is it that when we get a chance, the government cuts the funding again and again. We will do what we can to stop them.

Question d) Councillor Poyser to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

There was recently a shooting incident in Elthorne Park involving a pellet gun. One victim was struck in the arm, but did not need hospital treatment. A second victim was taken to hospital as a fragment of pellet hit them in the eye. What attempts are being made by the council and partners to ensure that weapon ownership, of any kind, in the Borough is monitored and what efforts are being made to reduce weapon ownership?

Reply:

Thanks for your question, David. Legal weapon ownership is covered by very strict laws in this country, both in terms of age restrictions and background checks. Islington Council Trading Standards routinely conduct test-purchase operations against premises selling any age-restricted products, paying particular attention to those involved in the sale of knives. Where they are deemed to have sold to minors, appropriate enforcement action is taken. The council has demonstrated that we will prosecute shop keepers who sell knives to young people – indeed, only recently a retailer was prosecuted for selling a knife to a young person, which was then proven to have been used in a subsequent stabbing.

The legal ownership of firearms is regulated by a specialist unit in the Metropolitan Police Service who conduct thorough background checks on the person concerned. There are tight laws governing the use, storage and transportation of these weapons.

It is the illegal ownership or possession of weapons that presents the biggest threat to the borough. Illegal weapons can be purchased from a variety of sources, each presenting its own challenges in terms of monitoring and enforcing. Internet sales, often from websites not based in the UK, have been proven to be the key routes for knives and other weapons such as CS spray. Young people in Islington and elsewhere in the country have been able to purchase large "zombie killer" or combat knives from such sites. Where these sites can be identified, a coordinated partnership enforcement approach between police and trading standards can close them down or block them. However, the accessibility and volume of the sites present a real problem.

Our local police take the main role around enforcement and removal of weapons from the streets of Islington, conducting regular intelligence-led stop & searches in hotspots known for

violence or gang activity and conducting weekly weapon sweeps in every ward. This is backed up by regular weapon sweeps from a range of other partners such as Parkguard, Green Space and estate caretakers. The law has recently changed to reflect the seriousness of carrying a weapon, with mandatory sentencing guidance for those found to have been a repeat knife-carrier.

All of the above is geared towards enforcement and protection, but prevention and behaviour-change play a pivotal role too. Frontline workers in Children's & Adult Services, Offender Management Services, Schools and other similar settings actively engage those they encounter about the dangers of weapons and the impact of carrying and using them. Where possible, evidence-based interventions (such as the Youth Offending Service Knife Awareness Programme) are run to target those known to (or at risk of) carrying weapons to dissuade them from continuing to do so. There is a lot going on, but it is never enough.

Supplementary question:

There is an area on Hillrise which is a special bit of land, where there was an incident involving street drinkers?

Reply:

The violent crime you mentioned took place against two men in their 40s in your ward on 23rd May. The suspect has not been identified and the details provided by the vulnerable victims remain limited. Unfortunately, however, it does sound like a case of a young man in broad daylight taking pot-shots at street drinkers for kicks. If that is what has happened, I am sure everyone in this chamber, you and I included, would find such behaviour despicable. Police CID are investigating and I sincerely hope they catch the culprit.

Question e) Councillor Poyser to Councillor to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

There has recently been another attempted suicide on Archway Bridge. Luckily the victim was saved. It is obviously important that any changes to the bridge are well tested with world class experts to ensure that suicide becomes impossible, while there is minimal effect on the appearance of the Victorian Bridge, an Islington landmark. Both Islington and Haringey Planning Committees have agreed to Transport for London's plans last year. Is there an idea of when we can expect to see the anti-suicide changes to the bridge, and any other suicide prevention measures?

Reply:

On the morning of 9th June, a woman in her 20s did threaten to jump off Archway Bridge. Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services attended and road closures were put in place. In the end, the woman was led to safety and taken under the Mental Health Act to a North London hospital. Thank goodness this particular suicide attempt was averted and the young woman is still alive.

In terms of suicide-proofing the bridge, Islington Council's Planning Committee approved TfL's design, in principle, for suicide prevention fences on the Grade 2 listed bridge on 8th October 2015 with conditions requiring detailed design proposals and a sample section to be erected in situ on the bridge. Since that time, mock-ups have been undergoing vigorous testing and experimentation in the workshop, with one sample section being erected on the bridge, to ensure that this bespoke structure is effective in its aim. Technical difficulties were encountered by TfL and these need to be resolved to ensure that the measures are fit for purpose. In order to hasten the process, Islington Council recommended that TfL engage additional structural engineers and this recommendation was taken up.

The Council's Design and Conservation Team are in regular contact with TfL and are able to respond quickly to developments. TfL is currently waiting for its contractor to provide a date for when the final mock-up will be viewed by them at the workshops. TfL expect to be able to inspect it by mid-July. If no concerns arise from this mock-up, it is anticipated that a sample section will be placed in situ on the bridge by the end of August, with submission of an Approval of Details (AOD) application as soon as possible after that, with full installation and completion taking place by the end of the year. CCTV will also be installed along with the fencing.

Supplementary question:

Those of us who experienced the suicide of someone close to us are hugely concerned. Can the process be speeded up?

Reply:

I am firmly of the view that this is all taking longer than it should, because with each month that passes we run the risk of another life lost. Given it is potentially, quite literally, a matter of life and death, I have recently asked the Chief Executive of the Council to contact TfL to see if there is any way to expedite the process.

Question f) Councillor Ismail to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families -

Most of Islington's Secondary Schools are thriving since the Labour administration, that I am proud to be part of, came into office in 2010. However, my question concerns the comments of parents and young people that Year 10 and 11 students are being excluded more than students in other years, at a time that is a critical turning point in a young person's life.

Can I ask why that is the case, and how many Year 10 and 11 students have been excluded in the last few years, with a breakdown by gender and ethnicity. In addition, may I ask what information we have about what happens to these young people and, what power does the Council have to support schools or influence them not to exclude students, particularly those in Years 10 and 11 , so that young people do not face difficulties in future?

Reply:

We know how poor the outcomes are for students who are permanently excluded. It is most common in years 9 and 10 and the reasons for exclusion are serious. Over the last four years, eighteen year 10 students have been permanently excluded, 8 for weapon related incidents, 4 for drug and alcohol and 4 for threats to an adult. There are thirteen different categories. Guidance is clear and exclusion is only used as a last resort, when there is persistent breach of policy and the student remaining in school may cause harm to other pupils. We have a statutory responsibility to ensure continuing education. We also have a headteacher led board which considers requests for permanently excluded pupils to return to mainstream schools from the PRU. The Scrutiny Committee has looked into this and I am looking forward to their report. It is not a route we enter into lightly. We have a good relationship with schools and will support them to ensure that they have exhausted all alternatives. If a young person is permanently excluded there is usually something wrong in the family and we need to work out what and where to intervene.

Supplementary question:

How does the Council train teachers to deal with poor behaviour in the classroom? With challenging behaviour?

Reply:

I don't have the details of that to hand, but it is very important that we support schools as teachers do have to deal with some very challenging behaviour.

Question g) Councillor Ismail to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development –

What has been achieved in the last 12 months since you have been lead member for economic development, what are the issues for economic growth development in the borough that you will be developing, and what two areas will you prioritise in the next 12 months for economic prosperity in our borough inclusive of gender, age and ethnicity?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. We have had a lot of success in the last year. Our support for economic development within the borough is driven by our objective to prevent poverty and social inequality. We are taking the work forward strategically. We have established a new economic development board. The board brings together elected members, including myself and the Leader of the Council with senior officials over all directorates. The board has been tasked to prepare an economic development strategy for Islington, including key issues such as employment, business, skills and affordable workspace. We will be delivering the strategy with the new Economic Development Reference Group and I look forward to working with Councillor Parker. We are continuing to deliver important work the progress the Employment Commission objectives, to help long term unemployed and residents over 40 years of age into paid employment. We've also developed a partnership with the CCG provide £1m to develop and test a completely new service supporting people with long term conditions or disabilities into work. We've strengthened the work of our Town Centres with a new Town Centre Management Group in Finsbury Park to complement those existing in Archway and Nags Head. In the immediate future we will be focussing on developing the strategy, ensuring residents have the right skills and ensuring the provision of affordable workspaces.

Supplementary question:

Recognising the contribution that women made to the local economy and their ambition and aspiration, what financial and signposting support can you offer?

Reply:

That is a very important point. Support for social enterprise will be part of the new strategy. I look forward to working with you in that area.

Question h) Councillor Russell to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

In October 2015 this council passed a motion on Prevent resolving:

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

- To praise the many local community and faith groups who work across our borough to improve community cohesion and prevent violent extremism.
- To work with local Trade Unions, universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs to request the Government to change the elements of the anti-terror programme that damage community cohesion and are therefore counter-productive.

What progress has been made on this work?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. Recent events have shown that this work is vital. The Chief Constable who is the police lead on Prevent has concerns about the practicality and enforceability of the government's approach. In Islington we have been working to meet our legal duties, but in a way that achieves cohesive communities rather than driving them apart. EGA are leading on good practice in schools and the Adult and Community Learning Team have been verified by Ofsted, who looked at Prevent. As a council we are working with a range of community groups and on Saturday are holding a rally against hate crime. Community cohesion is central to keeping our borough safer. We will keep meeting and talking to groups and at a senior Home Office meeting have set out concerns in a constructive way.

Supplementary question:

That is really reassuring. I am especially keen to see that in education and healthcare we are listening to all groups. Can you give me that assurance?

Reply:

Yes.

Question i) Councillor Russell to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development

I would like to congratulate the Executive Member for Housing on his appointment and ask him if he will set out his plans for increasing council housing in the borough?

Congratulations on your election to City Hall. We have an ambitious new build programme. There are currently 225 completed, 125 being built and 156 working their way through the planning process. We have more proposals at the feasibility stage and are on target to deliver 500 new homes by 2019. We are also working with our partners to provide a total of 2000 affordable homes by 2019. We hope all the new City Hall members will support us in achieving our goals.

Supplementary question:

I was very glad to hear you talking about the repairs service earlier. Do you commit to end the misery of cold damp homes and the two tier system on estates?

Reply:

I will very as hard as I can to make it the best repair service in London.

103 CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Councillor Alice Perry moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the Leader of the Council has approved the changes to delegation of Executive functions be noted.
- 2.2 That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the attached Appendix including to Part 7 be agreed.
- 2.3 That the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR) be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution she considers necessary be agreed.

104 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

Councillor Alice Perry moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

1. APPOINTMENT TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That Councillor Gill replaces Councillor Diarmaid Ward as a member of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

2. APPOINTMENT TO VICE CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That Councillor Poyser be appointed as Vice Chair of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/16 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

That Councillor Diarmaid Ward be appointed as a substitute on Health and Wellbeing Board until a successor is appointed be agreed.

OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS

4. ISLINGTON UNITED CHARITIES

That the appointment of Councillor Andrews as the Council's representative on Islington United Charities for a period of four years from 31 August 2016 until 31

August 2020, unless a successor is appointed, be agreed.

5. FINSBURY PARK TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

That the appointment of Councillor Heather as the Council's representative on the Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

105 NOTICES OF MOTION

MOTION 1: ISLINGTON A HOME FOR ALL

Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Comer-Schwartz, moved the urgent motion in the second despatch of papers. Councillors Nick Ward, O'Halloran, Andrews and Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

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

RESOLVED:

- that we condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable
- that we stand with victims of hate crime and encourage everyone to report incidents to the police
- that we will work with faith and community leaders across the borough to ensure that Islington remains welcoming to all and to challenge prejudice and hate whenever it occurs
- that we call on the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Community Development to hold a meeting with community and faith organisations and to report back to Full Council on the outcome of these discussions.

MOTION 2: TENANT TAX

Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Jeapes, moved the motion. Councillors Heather, Russell and Diarmaid Ward contributed to the debate.

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

RESOLVED:

- To refer to the increase in rent charges levied on council housing tenants with incomes over £40,000 per year as the 'Tenant Tax'.
- To offer advice and information to all Islington tenants that may be affected by the introduction of the Tenant Tax and other measures within the Housing and Planning Act.
- To continue to make representations to government to change elements of the Housing and Planning Act that will have such negative effects on Islington, such as, the Tenant Tax and the forced sale of council homes.

MOTION 3: ANDARGACHEW TSEGE, BRITISH NATIONAL ILLEGALLY DETAINED IN ETHIOPIA

Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Court, moved the motion.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs to make further representations to the Ethiopian Government calling for Mr Tsege's release and return home to the UK as a matter of urgency.

MOTION 4: RESPONDING TO THE NEW MAYOR OF LONDON'S PROPOSED ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE (ULEZ) CONSULTATION

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Webbe, moved an amendment to the motion. Councillor Convery 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 ask the Executive to respond positively to the consultation, including repeating the Council's request that all of the most polluting engines are included in the ULEZ, including Euro 6 diesel engines, and to make recommendations for further measures that would achieve pollution levels within legal limits in as short a time as possible for Islington, as required by the law.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm

MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC

- a Michael Ryan, Chief Executive of the St Luke's Community Centre to
Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care

Why has the Council decided to cut funding of £26,000 pa for the unique dementia daycare service for such vulnerable members of our community when concern about dementia and isolation of older people is so high?

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COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a Councillor Poyser to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety

The recent murder in Hillrise Ward came as a huge shock to the community and the local councillors. The thoughts and feelings of all councillors go out to the family of the victim. It is now naturally a matter for the police to investigate swiftly and fairly, and speculation as to the perpetrator or perpetrators of the crime are a matter for the courts and not a public discussion which could prejudice the legal process. In the light of his previous answer at a council meeting earlier this year on the victim of a shotgun, also in Hillrise Ward, could Councillor Hull give us reassurance that the Council is taking appropriate steps to work with the police to reassure local people that we will do our utmost to try to ensure this does not happen again?

- b Councillor Russell to Councillor Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Community Development

Will Islington Council be following Sadiq Khan's recommendation and take action to save Fabric Nightclub?

- c Councillor Russell to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care

Do you agree with the words of a petition supporter of the Early Dementia Service at St Luke's Community Centre, that "this is a vital service which helps provide continued self-respect and independence to members and is ultimately cost effective as well"?

- d Councillor Ismail to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

In light of recent A level achievements - does the Council keep a track record of young people who live in Islington and those who went to Islington Schools and achieved University degrees, after the Council has invested so much?

**Chief Executive's Department
Town Hall, Upper Street,
London N1 2UD**

Report of: Leader of the Council

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Council	15 September 2016	All

Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-exempt
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Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant: annual update

1 Synopsis

- 1.1 Islington has a strong history of recognising and celebrating the valuable role played by our Armed Forces. In June 2013, the Council signed the Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant, pledging to recognise and support Armed Forces organisations, serving personnel and veterans in Islington. The Council also committed to reporting annually on progress in delivering the Community Covenant. This report summarises activity over the past year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note progress and events over the past year
- 2.2 To note that frontline staff have been trained to recognise and refer residents with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and on the wider package of support for veterans

3 Background

- 3.1 The Armed Forces Covenant is a national agreement which sets out the relationship between the nation, the state and the Armed Forces. It recognises that the whole nation has a moral obligation to members of the Armed Forces and their families and establishes how they should expect to be treated. It applies to both serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families with a view to redressing the disadvantages that the Armed Forces community faces in comparison to other citizens, and to recognising the sacrifices that they have made.
- 3.2 In addition to the national Covenant, the government encouraged local authorities, their partners, and military organisations to develop their own Armed Forces Community Covenant to set out how they will work together to celebrate and support the Armed Forces community in their areas.

- 3.3 The government also established a Community Covenant Grants Scheme, providing around £10 million a year for projects across the country which would support the Armed Forces community and help deliver the ambitions set out in local Community Covenants. The scheme has recently been reviewed and renamed the Covenant Fund.

4 The Armed Forces population in Islington

- 4.1 There is limited data available to assess the numbers of current and ex-forces personnel living in Islington. However, what we do know is as follows:

Overall population

- 4.2 Census data from 2011 indicated that there were 75 residents who were currently employed in the Armed Forces, 73 of whom were living in a household, 2 in a communal establishment.
- 4.3 The latest annual School Census (January 2016) indicates that there are currently only 2 children of Forces personnel in Islington schools. Children of service personnel are eligible for pupil premium payments to the school so all schools are required to capture this data as part of the annual school census as it is used by the Department for Education to determine the pupil premium allocations for schools.
- 4.4 There is no data on ex-forces personnel who have settled in Islington

Street population

- 4.5 The Greater London Authority (GLA) publishes an annual report on rough sleepers in each borough. Information is derived from the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN), a multi-agency database recording information about rough sleepers and the wider street population in London. CHAIN, which is funded by the GLA and managed by St Mungo's, represents the UK's most detailed and comprehensive source of information about rough sleeping.
- 4.6 In the period April 2015 to March 2016, 158 people were seen rough sleeping in Islington by outreach teams. Of these, 7 (5%) had experience of serving in the armed forces (3 were UK nationals). These will all have been offered support by our Street Outreach team.

Prison population

- 4.7 Research by SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, found that ex-servicemen were the largest occupational group in British jails – yet the government, charities or prison staff knew little about them as data was simply not collected.

- 4.8 Data for 2014 indicated that 3.5% (3,000) of all prisoners in British jails were ex-forces personnel. The majority of ex-forces inmates were male, over 45 and ex-Army.

NB: it is important to note that the proportion of ex-servicemen who offend is small in proportion to the total of those discharged from service.

- 4.9 In January 2015, to improve knowledge of the ex-forces prison population, it became a requirement for all prisons to record data on whether inmates have served in the Armed Forces. There are two prisons in Islington – HMP Pentonville and HMP Holloway. We have contacted both to request data on the number of inmates who are ex-forces and are awaiting a response.

5 The Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant

- 5.1 On 29 June 2013 the Council, together with representatives from other public sector bodies, local businesses and the voluntary sector, signed the Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant.

- 5.2 As part of this, the Council agreed a package of measures to recognise and celebrate the contribution of the Armed Forces in Islington and to provide practical support for ex-forces personnel and their families to tackle the challenges they face in moving into and integrating within a new community.
- 5.3 A copy of the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces is attached at Appendix A. This can also be found on the Council's website at <http://www.islington.gov.uk/advice/armed-forces-support/Pages/Armed-Forces-Community-Covenant.aspx>
- 5.4 The remainder of this report summarises activity over the past year in delivering the Council's commitments under the Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant.

6 Grants for Armed Forces related activities

Local Initiatives Fund

- 6.1 Each year, the Council sets aside a Local Initiatives Fund to support community projects and improvements in each ward. In 2015-16, LIF was used to fund:
- An Old-time Music Hall Show for the 70th anniversary of World War II (£1,000)
 - World War II Veterans Lunch in the Assembly Hall (£540)
 - Running costs for the Islington Sea Scouts minibus (£1,500)
 - Cleaning and repairing the World War 1 memorials in St Silas Church garden (£1,067) and Thornhill Road Gardens (£624)

Covenant Fund (formerly Community Covenant Grants Scheme)

- 6.2 The Armed Forces Community Covenant Grants Scheme was set up by the government to support the Armed Forces and help local areas to deliver the commitments set out in their Community Covenants. In 2015, the scheme was replaced by the Covenant Fund, with £10 million available per annum. Priorities for 2016-17 are:
- Veterans' Gateway
 - Families in Stress
 - Improving Local Covenant Delivery
 - Community Integration / Delivery of local services
- 6.3 The process for submitting applications has also changed. Previously, applications had to be sent to the local authority to be approved by a local panel before they were submitted. Under the new process, applicants apply direct to the central Covenant team, who will pass the application to the region where project will be delivered (London applications come to MOD London Region). Whilst there is no longer a requirement for the applications to go via the local authority, applicants are asked to obtain local partnership endorsement. MOD is in the process of setting up local partnership boards.
- 6.4 In the past year, there has been only one application to the Covenant Fund by an Islington organisation: the Islington Sea Cadets have applied for £20,000 to secure and renegotiate the lease on their building. The Sea Scouts currently hold the building on a peppercorn rent but this is dependent upon keeping the building in good repair. The building needs significant works to retain the lease. Funding will enable it to not only undertake these works, but to secure the lease and extend use to other partner organisations including the Islington Veteran's Association and the Scouts. The application has been endorsed by the Islington Panel and forwarded to the MOD, who will announce their decision in September 2016.
- 6.5 Further details on the Covenant Fund and how to apply can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covenant-fund>

7 Celebrating contribution and demonstrating support

- 7.1 The Armed Forces flag is flown annually on the roof of the Town Hall on St George's Day and on Armed Forces Day. The Leader of the Council and the Mayor both attended the flag raising ceremony at the Town Hall on Armed Forces Day (20 June 2016) and a subsequent Armed Forces Day event on Islington Green on 25 June.
- 7.2 The Mayor attended the Honorary Artillery Company (HAC) Open Day on 10 May 2016 and the HAC Regimental dinner on 26 May.
- 7.3 The Leader and the Mayor will be taking part in the annual Remembrance Day events at Islington and St Pancras Cemetery on 10 November and at the Town Hall and other local memorials on 13 November.
- 7.4 Each year, the Council nominates an elected councillor as its Armed Forces Champion. The current champion is Cllr Gary Poole. Cllr Poole attends meetings of the Youth Organisations in Uniform (YOU) forum.
- 7.5 The Council produced press releases and headlines on its website to publicise events related to the Armed forces. There is also a dedicated Armed Forces Community Covenant page on its website which sets out the Council's commitments under the Covenant, including the support available for veterans. The Council is increasingly using Twitter to keep residents informed. On Armed Forces Day we sent out three Tweets which were collectively retweeted 25 times, 'liked' 23 times and had a reach of 125,900 people on Twitter.

8 Supporting veterans and their families

- 8.1 Through the Community Covenant, the Council has committed to prioritise support to ex-forces personnel and their families who are in need, including financial support, access to council housing, help with getting a job and support with health and care needs.

Financial support

- 8.2 Veterans are a priority group for Housing and Council Tax support. We currently have 14 war pensioners in receipt of Housing and/or Council Tax support. Of these, 7 are in council housing, 4 are in housing association properties, and 3 are in private sector properties. Four are of working age.
- 8.3 The Resident Support Scheme (RSS), delivered in partnership with Cripplegate Foundation, provides crisis grants to help with housing costs, purchase of essential household items, and community care. The RSS application form does not ask applicants whether they have served in the Armed Forces. However, SSAFA is a referring partner to the scheme. To date, there have been no applications from SSAFA on behalf of ex-forces personnel. SSAFA have advised us that this is because they have access to other funding to support their members in times of crisis so, to date, have not had the need to apply to RSS.
- 8.4 The Council's Income Maximisation Team (IMAX) supports residents on low incomes to access all the support to which they are entitled, including benefits and discounts. In the past year there have been no requests for support from ex-forces personnel.

Housing support

- 8.5 There are various housing options for ex-forces personnel, including specialist housing providers and support. Our housing allocation scheme gives specific priority for veterans.

- 8.6 Since amending the housing allocations policy in 2013 to prioritise ex-forces personnel, there has been only one tenant who has moved into a council property.
- 8.7 As part of the offer, the tenant was offered support from IMAX and from the Credit Union (both of which were declined). Advice was also provided in regards to debt and welfare advice services, and a welfare appointment was arranged.
- 8.8 Staff in the Council's Housing Needs team regularly deal with clients with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), including veterans, people seeking asylum, and others. When we presented the annual Armed Forces Community Covenant update to Council in 2015, members asked us to ensure that all staff were trained to recognise and support veterans with PTSD and other support needs.
- 8.9 We can now confirm that all staff who deal with housing applications have been trained on dealing with PTSD, the specialist support available to veterans and the special provisions the council has made in its allocations policy. Anyone with suspected or diagnosed PTSD who applies for housing will be assessed by the medical adviser.

Employment support

- 8.10 Under the Covenant, the Council's Learning and Skills service prioritises ex-forces personnel and their families for employment and skills support.
- 8.11 In the past year, there has been no request for Employment support by ex-forces personnel. The database currently used by iWork and other council services for recording employment support does not capture details of whether a client has served in the Armed Forces. However, anecdotal evidence from iWork is that none of their clients are ex-forces personnel. A new database has been commissioned and this will include field to identify ex-forces personnel to assist with future reporting.
- 8.12 Similarly, the Adult & Community Learning service is not aware of any learners who are veterans. Again, this information is not captured in the database or enrolment forms used by ACL. However, anecdotal evidence is that there are few, if any, ex forces personnel accessing ACL courses.
- 8.13 We approached City and Islington College (CANDI) to find out whether there was much demand for college courses from ex-forces personnel for skills and training. Again, their enrolment systems do not capture this data but the feeling was that numbers were very low. They were, however, able to cite a case study from 3 years ago, where an ex-armed forces adult retrained at their Centre for Applied Sciences, and gained a place at medical school as a result to achieve the ambition of becoming a GP.

Health and social care support

- 8.14 Whilst there is no local data on the health of veterans, national research found that:
- In general, the majority of veterans are in good health. 74% of working age veterans said they had very good or good general health, similar to the general population (78%). There was also no statistical difference between the working age veterans and non-veterans who reported a long-term health condition (40% and 35% respectively)
 - However, observational research carried out after the First Gulf War in 1990–91 found that Service personnel after the conflict reported a variety of symptoms (irritability, chronic fatigue, headaches and various other non-specific symptoms)
 - The 'Counting the Cost' report found that, of 757,805 people who had served as regulars in the military between 1991 and 2014, an estimated 66,090 would need health support for service related physical or mental health issues. In 2015/16 alone, 3.2% of UK Armed Forces personnel were assessed with a mental disorder within specialised psychiatric services. (However, this is lower than the rate of 3.5% within the UK general population).

Adjustment Disorders were the most prevalent mental disorder listed, accounting for around 35% of all mental disorders

- Veterans may have substance misuse issues. Whilst there are no UK-based statistics, in the USA 60% of veterans were found to have a substance abuse problem, partly attributed to the difficulties associated with moving back into civilian life

- 8.15 In 2008, the War Pensioners' entitlement to priority treatment in the NHS was extended to all veterans with health conditions related to their military service to be given priority treatment.
- 8.16 There are various services focusing on supporting veterans regaining their health. However the offer is quite dispersed with a number of small charities offering niche or small scale services. The London Veteran's Service provides [a directory](#) of the services available.
- 8.17 This includes a London-wide mental health service for veterans provided by Islington's local Mental Health Trust based in St Pancras hospital. They accept self-referrals direct from veterans or via any professional working with them from any organisation.
- 8.18 The Council, in conjunction with the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group, provides or commissions a range of Social Care support and Public Health programmes, including support for mental health issues and for substance misuse. However, services do not specifically capture data on whether clients have serviced in the Armed Forces. Therefore, it is not possible to assess demand or take up of support from veterans. We do know, however, that, in 2015-16, there were seven rough sleepers who had serviced in the Armed forces and who were supported by our Street Outreach team.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 The Council continues to actively recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution made by the Armed Forces, and to maintain strong relationships with military related organisations in Islington.
- 9.2 Whilst the number of current and ex-forces personnel living in Islington appears to be low, with little demand to date for support from council services, the comprehensive package of measured offered by the Council as part of the Community Covenant provides reassurance that veterans will receive the support they deserve as and when they need it.

Report Author:

Annette Hobart

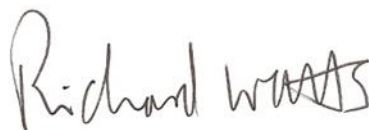
Corporate Strategy and Performance Manager

Ext 3244

E-mail: annette.hobart@islington.gov.uk

Final Report Clearance

Signed by



5 September 2016

Leader of the Council

Date

Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant: Council's Commitment

On 29 June 2013 – Armed Forces Day – the Council signed up to the Islington Armed Forces Community Covenant. In doing so it recognised and pledged to promote the valuable contribution of and sacrifices made by the Armed Forces and to provide practical support to help serving and former members of the Armed Forces and their families living in Islington.

The Council already has in place a range of support services for residents, particularly for families on low incomes, disabled people, those with long term health conditions and vulnerable adults and children. Current and ex-serving personnel living in Islington will have access to the same services and support as other residents. This document sets out the commitments the Council has made, over and above the core offer, to support Armed Forces personnel and their families and recognise the contribution they make. We will honour our pledges in the community covenant through:

Financial support

The income of war widows and war disablement will be disregarded when calculating entitlement to:

- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Support
- Access to financial support through the Resident Support Scheme

Access to council housing

Our housing allocations policy has been amended to support Armed Forces personnel and their families applying for council housing in the following circumstances:

- Service personnel will not be affected by residency restrictions if they have to live outside Islington as part of their service
- Welfare Category B is an award of 80 points and may be awarded in to bereaved spouses or civil partners of those serving in the regular forces where the bereaved spouse or civil partner has recently ceased, or will cease to be entitled, to reside in Ministry of Defence accommodation following the death of their service spouse or civil partner, and the death was wholly or partly attributable to their service
- Welfare Category C is an award of 40 points and may be awarded to applicants whose welfare needs are comparable to former members of the regular forces
- Medical Category A gives the maximum 150 points and will be awarded to serving members of the regular forces who are suffering from a serious injury, illness or disability which is wholly or partly attributable to their service

Employment and skills support

Ex-forces personnel who are facing challenges in securing employment will be eligible for support through council employment programmes. This could include support in developing new skills and in accessing local vacancies. The discipline, resilience and team spirit of armed forces personnel could be a considerable incentive to employers.

The Council provides employment and skills support to vulnerable groups and / or those facing significant barriers as part of its commitment to tackle poverty and inequality in Islington.

Support for health needs

The Council will provide:

- Mental Health First Aid training to Armed Forces organisations / charities enabling them to recognise mental health issues and refer on to relevant support
- Alcohol awareness training to representatives of Armed Forces organisations / charities

- Support (both financial and practical) with housing adaptations – for those moving to private as well as council housing, and refer those with disabilities / longer term health conditions onto relevant support services

Appointment of an Armed Forces Champion

Each year the Council will formally nominate a councillor to be the Armed Forces Champion, ensuring good relationships with Armed Forces organisations in the borough and promoting engagement activities and support. The current Armed Forces Champion is Cllr Gary Poole.

Formally recognising the contribution of the Armed Forces

- The Armed Forces Flag will be flown on the roof of the Town Hall each year on Armed Forces Day
- A Veteran or Cadet of the Year Award will be launched during Armed Forces Week 2014 to highlight the contribution of individuals
- Freedom of the Borough has been awarded to:
 - The Honorary Artillery Company in 2009
 - Colonel Brian Kay, the former Deputy Lieutenant in 2010

Supporting ‘Youth Organisations in Uniform’

Islington has a number of Air Training Corps, Army Cadets and Sea Cadets in the borough and the Islington Academy has just set up a Combined Cadet Force. The Council will support these positive activities for young people through:

- Active involvement of the Mayor in visiting and supporting the activities of the various cadet forces in Islington
- Access to funding for running costs and activities through the Council’s two small grants schemes – the Local Initiatives Fund and Islington Community Chest
- Chiring meetings of Youth Organisations in Uniform (YOU) which brings together various organisations - the Cubs, Scouts, Boys Brigade etc. – to identify opportunities for sharing help and resources

Promote the Community Covenants Grants Scheme

The government has established a Community Covenants Grant Scheme, with £10m available per year for projects across the country which support the priorities of local Armed Forces Community Covenants and bring together the civilian and Armed Forces communities to promote integration and raise awareness of the contribution and sacrifices made by Forces personnel.

The scheme is administered on a regional basis but bids must be signed off at local level before being submitted to the regional panel. Applications can be submitted by any part of the community, including voluntary and community sector organisations / charities, public sector bodies, schools, etc. Projects should deliver tangible results and meet the overall aims of the community covenant scheme.

The Council will:

- Promote the Community Covenants Grants Scheme through its links with local voluntary and community sector organisations, statutory sector partners, schools and local businesses
- Convene a local panel, comprising senior Armed Forces / Council, to endorse local bids
- Administer the grants process, from receiving bids through the making payments for those which are successful, and publish on its website details of how to apply, and of successful local bids

Islington Council will work closely with Armed Forces organisations to increase understanding of, and address issues faced by, serving and ex-personnel and to maximise awareness and take up of the commitments made through this covenant



Report of: Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR)

Meeting of:	Date	Ward(s)
Council	15 September 2016	Caledonian

SUBJECT: Resolution to extend 6 month rule – Section 85 Local Government Act 1972

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, they shall cease to a member of the authority. The only exception is if their non-attendance has been approved by the authority before the expiry of the six month period.
- 1.2 Councillor Rupert Perry and Councillor Gary Doolan have both been unable to attend meetings recently due to ill health and the purpose of this report is to propose that the council approve the continuing absences for a period which exceeds 6 months..

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree that in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council approves Councillor Rupert Perry's non-attendance at meetings until the end of the municipal year on the grounds of continued ill health and that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to him.
- 2.2 To agree that in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council approves Councillor Gary Doolan's non-attendance at meetings until the end of the municipal year on the grounds of continued ill health and that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to him.

3. Background

- 3.1 Councillor Rupert Perry and Councillor Gary Doolan have been unable to attend meetings recently on ill-health grounds. The last meeting Councillor Rupert Perry attended was Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 24 May 2016. The last meeting

Councillor Doolan attended was Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee on 4 July 2016. Under the circumstances, it is requested that Council approve their continuing absences for a period which exceeds 6 months.

- 3.2 The extension would not prevent either Councillor Perry or Councillor Doolan from returning to meetings at any time, if their health allowed, but would give flexibility and prevent further recourse to the Council before the end of the municipal year.
- 3.3 The extension is allowed under Section 85 of the Local Government 1972 and is necessary to prevent Councillor Perry and Councillor Doolan from losing their seats whilst they are unwell.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

None.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The approval of Councillor Perry and Councillor Doolan's continuing absences is allowed under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4.3 Environmental Implications:

None.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding."

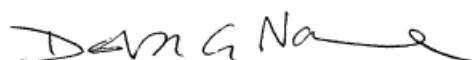
A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed because there are no impacts; Councillor Perry's colleagues in Caledonian Ward and Councillor Doolan's colleagues in St. Peter's Ward will continue to cover his ward duties until his return.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 Owing to the continued ill health of Councilor Rupert Perry and Councillor Doolan it is requested that their non-attendance at meetings be approved until the end of the current municipal year.

Appendices: None.

Signed by:



16 August 2016

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and HR Date

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COUNCIL MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2016

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Anonymous Shortlisting

Moved by Councillor Russell

Islington is a diverse borough with over a quarter of the population being black and minority ethnic (BAME). Despite long being a hub for diversity with many settled communities Islington's BAME communities too often face discrimination and marginalisation. This is particularly clear in the job market, where black residents are twice as likely to be unemployed compared to the Islington average.

Women living in London boroughs have the UK's biggest pay gap, the most expensive childcare and the highest rates of child poverty.

The Department of Work and Pensions has repeatedly shown that the job market is systematically biased against women and BAME workers. Research by the Department of Work and Pensions in 2009 and Equality and Human Rights Commission in 2012 showed that job applicants with names perceived as "foreign" were less likely to be invited to interview. Under the previous coalition government moves to make names on CVs anonymous (to counter this bias) were considered, but abandoned.

This Council notes:

- Islington Council has successfully used anonymous shortlisting in its own hiring process and as a result the council workforce is reflective of the wider population.
- That the use of such practice is not wide-spread amongst Islington employers.
- That the Islington Fairness Commission of 2011 whilst recommending a wide range of progressive steps employers in our borough should take, did not recommend the adoption of anonymising shortlisting.

This Council believes:

- That the job market in Islington would be fairer with the widespread adoption of anonymised shortlisting.

- That women and BAME job applicants would face a better chance of gaining employment if given the opportunity to meet the employer and present their skill and talent.
- That without action to reduce systemic recruitment barriers, women and BAME workers will continue to be excluded from the job market, furthering exclusion and worsening poverty.

This Council resolves:

- To promote the use of anonymous shortlisting by Islington employers, sharing the knowledge and best practice of how such a system is run in our council.
- To investigate the use of a system to accredit employers who adopt the process of using anonymised applications, to encourage others to do so and celebrate those who have.
- To monitor the success of the program.
- To encourage council contractors to adopt anonymous shortlisting.

Motion 2: Islington is Open

Moved by Councillor Watts

Seconded by Councillor Burgess

This Council notes –

- The urgent motion passed by the Council Meeting on 30th June 2016, ‘Islington – A Home for All’, which resolved to condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally, following the increase in hate crime incidents after the EU Referendum.
- The ‘Love Islington – Say NO To Hate Crime’ rally held in Highbury Fields on 2nd July.
- The work of the Leader of the Council to make representations to the government to protect funding the Council currently receives from the European Union that supports work to help local residents find jobs and that supports the Bunhill Energy Centre.

This Council further notes –

- The campaign organised by the Mayor of London, ‘#LondonIsOpen’, which works to show that London remains open for business and welcoming to all.

This Council believes –

- That the diverse communities in our borough are a source of strength and that people from across the world who make Islington their home make an incredible contribution to society.
- That following the EU Referendum, residents of other EU nations living in borough are welcome here and remain part of our community.
- That it is essential that people looking to visit, invest, or live in Islington know that the borough remains open to all.

This Council resolves –

- To continue to make representations to the Government for the need to protect former EU funding to the Council.
- To work with the Mayor of London in support of his #LondonIsOpen campaign.
- To work closely with the police and others to tackle hate crime and to pursue perpetrators.

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