

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 23 FEBRUARY 2017

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 23 February 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Burgess	Gill	Poyser
Caluori	Greening	Russell
Champion	Heather	Shaikh
Chowdhury	Hull	Smith
Comer-Schwartz	Jeapes	Spall
Convery	Kaseki	Turan
Court	Kay	Ward
Debono	Khan	Ward
Diner	Klute	Watts
Erdogan	Nicholls	Wayne
Fletcher	O'Halloran	Webbe
Gallagher	O'Sullivan	Williamson
Gantly	Poole	

The Mayor (Councillor Kat Fletcher) in the Chair

130 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting on 15 December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

131 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

132 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Donovan, Doolan, Ismail, Ngongo, Parker, Alice Perry, Rupert Perry, and Picknell.

(ii) Order of Business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

(iii) Declaration of Discussion Items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that since the last Council meeting, she had been very pleased to attend a lot of events that demonstrated the great diversity and strength of community cohesion in the borough, including events for LGBT History Month, Holocaust Memorial Day, Chinese New Year and the 'Visit My Mosque Day' at Finsbury Park Mosque.

The Mayor reminded members of the Civic Awards evening to be held on 16th March 2017.

(v) Length of Speeches

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

133 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts was delighted with the launch of the Fair Futures Commission which had taken place the previous day. Councillor Watts thanked Councillor Caluori and officers from Children's Services for supporting the Commission, and Jermain Jackman for agreeing to be Chair. Councillor Watts commented that Islington was one of the best places in the country for children to grow up in, with world-class schools and cultural facilities and high-quality jobs and businesses; but expressed concern at the fundamental unfairness and inequalities faced by families in Islington, which were a barrier to young people accessing the opportunities available to them. Councillor Watts hoped that the Fair Futures Commission would build on the work of the Fairness Commission and the Employment Commission to help build a fairer borough.

Councillor Watts welcomed the recent GCSE results, which confirmed that Islington had progressed from the bottom 20 boroughs nationwide for GCSE results in 2008, to the top 20 in 2017. Councillor Watts thanked the staff, pupils, parents and council officers who had worked to bring about this significant improvement in performance. Councillor Watts emphasised the importance of a local authority based family of schools, commenting that many academy providers were not able to attain the same performance improvements as Islington schools.

Councillor Watts expressed his disappointment with the recent Ofsted inspection of Highbury Grove School and regretted that it would be forced to turn into an academy, noting that there was no evidence that academies performed better than local authority schools, and highlighting that Islington Council had a better track record for improving schools than almost every academy provider in the country. Councillor Watts advised that the council would work hard to ensure that Highbury Grove School remained a full member of Islington's family of schools and that the school's pupils received the high quality education that they deserved.

Councillor Watts thanked Councillor Shaikh for her work in campaigning against the government's proposed business rates revaluation, commenting that some small businesses were facing an unacceptable 50% increase, whilst some of the largest businesses in the

country would benefit from a business rates cut. Councillor Watts advised that the council was working in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the Angel BID and others on this issue.

Councillor Watts was delighted that there was growing cross-party support for the Lords amendments to the government's Brexit Bill to protect the rights of EU citizens residing in Britain. Councillor Watts emphasised that EU citizens were active members of our communities and that Islington was opposed to the government's 'Hard Brexit'.

Finally, Councillor Watts thanked council staff for working under difficult conditions during Storm Doris.

134 PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

135 ISLINGTON FAIR FUTURES COMMISSION

Councillor Caluori moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Watts seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

- That the establishment of the Fair Futures Commission be welcomed;
- That the council should work with its partners, and the Commission itself, to support the Fair Futures Commission's work.

136 DECISION TO OPT IN TO THE NATIONAL SCHEME FOR AUDITOR APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Hull moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

That the Public Sector Audit Appointments' (PSAA) invitation to 'opt in' to the sector led option for the appointment of external auditors for financial years commencing 1 April 2018 be accepted.

137 CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Burgess seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

- That the Haringey and Islington Joint Health and Wellbeing Board (i.e. a Joint Committee) be established to discharge on behalf of both boroughs the function of encouraging

integrated workings between commissioners and providers of health and care in the two boroughs in so far as it relates to areas of common interest and for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of their populations;

- That the Terms of Reference of the Haringey and Islington Joint Health and Wellbeing Board be approved as set out at Appendix 1 to the report submitted;
- That the membership of the Haringey and Islington Joint Health and Wellbeing Board be confirmed as set out at Appendix 1 to the report submitted;
- That the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board be amended to permit when appropriate delegation of more functions to the Haringey and Islington Joint Health and Wellbeing Board, as described at paragraph 3.6 to the report submitted.

138 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations. Councillor Burgess seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

1. APPOINTMENT TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

That Cllr Gallagher be appointed to the Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

2. APPOINTMENT TO THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That Cllr Gallagher be appointed to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

3. APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

That Cllr Kay be appointed as a substitute member of the Planning Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

139 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2017-18

Councillor Hull moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Watts seconded.

Councillor Russell moved an amendment.

Councillors Shaikh, Williamson, Diarmaid Ward, Burgess, Turan and Heather contributed to the debate.

Councillors Russell and Hull exercised their right to reply.

The amendment was put to the vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

For: Councillor Russell.

Against: Councillors Burgess, Caluori, Champion, Chowdhury, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Court, Debono, Diner, Erdogan, Fletcher, Gallagher, Gantly, Gill, Greening, Heather, Hull, Jeapes, Kaseki, Kay, Khan, Klute, Nicholls, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Poole, Poyser, Shaikh, Smith, Spall, Turan, Diarmaid Ward, Nick Ward, Watts, Wayne, Webbe and Williamson.

The amendment was **LOST**.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR: Councillors Burgess, Caluori, Champion, Chowdhury, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Court, Debono, Diner, Erdogan, Fletcher, Gallagher, Gantly, Gill, Greening, Heather, Hull, Jeapes, Kaseki, Kay, Khan, Klute, Nicholls, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Poole, Poyser, Shaikh, Smith, Spall, Turan, Diarmaid Ward, Nick Ward, Watts, Wayne, Webbe and Williamson.

AGAINST: Councillor Russell.

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

The General Fund Budget 2017-18 and MTFS (Section 3 of the Main Report)

1. That the 2017-18 net Council cash limits as set out in Table 1 (paragraph 3.1.3 of the report) and the MTFS at Appendix A of the report, which include the revenue savings in Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
2. That, in the unlikely event that the final local government settlement differs from the provisional settlement already notified by the government, authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources to make any adjustments necessary to balance the Council's Budget for 2017/18, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, be agreed.
3. That the requirement to report on the number of maintained schools that have completed the Schools Value Financial Standard (SVFS) by 31st March to the Department for Education by 31st May each year (paragraph 3.2.17 of the report) be noted.
4. That the fees and charges policy and the schedule of 2017-18 fees and charges be agreed and that authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Children's Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Children and Families, to agree new childcare charges following consultation in the summer term (paragraphs 3.2.18-21 and Appendices C1 and C2 of the report) be agreed.
5. That the Council's policy on the level of General Fund balances and the estimated use of the Council's earmarked reserves be agreed. That the redundancy reserve is estimated to be fully spent by the end of 2016-17 be noted and that from 2017-18 redundancy costs are funded within departmental budgets (paragraphs 3.2.23 to 3.2.26 and Table 3 of the report) be agreed.

The HRA Budget and MTFS (Section 4 of the Main Report)

6. That the balanced HRA 2017-18 budget within the HRA MTFS at Appendix D1 of the report and the 2017-18 HRA savings at Appendix D2 of the report be agreed.

7. That the 2017-18 HRA rents and other fees and charges (Tables 5 to 8 and Appendix D3 of the report) be noted.

The Capital Programme 2017-18 to 2019-20 (Section 5 of the Main Report)

8. That the 2017-18 capital programme be agreed and the provisional programme for 2018-19 to 2019-20 (paragraph 5.1, Table 9 and Appendix E1 of the report) be noted.
9. That the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources applies capital resources to fund the capital programme in the most cost-effective way (paragraph 5.2 of the report) be agreed.
10. That the schedule of planned Traffic and Transportation schemes in 2017-18 be noted and that the related decision-making responsibilities for these schemes (paragraph 5.3 and Appendix E2 of the report) be agreed.

Treasury Management Strategy (Section 6 of the Main Report)

11. That the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2017-18 (including external debt and treasury management Prudential Indicators), as considered by Audit Committee on 24th January 2017 (paragraph 6.1 and Appendix F1 of the report) be agreed.
12. That the additional capital Prudential Indicators (paragraph 6.1 and Appendix F2 of the report) be agreed.
13. That the minimum revenue provision for 2017-18, adopting from 2017-18 the asset life (annuity) method for both 'supported' and 'unsupported' borrowing (paragraphs 6.2 to 6.6 of the report) be agreed.

Council Tax 2017-18 and Statutory Calculations (Section 7 of the Main Report)

14. That the calculations required for the determination of the 2017-18 council tax requirement and the level of council tax as detailed in Section 7 of the report and summarised below, be agreed:
 - i. The 2017-18 council tax requirement of £82,712,864.62 (paragraph 7.5 of the report)
 - ii. The relevant (average) amount of Islington Band D council tax of £1,071.28, a 4.99% increase (comprising a 3% social care precept and a 1.99% local precept) compared to 2016-17, and to determine that this is not 'excessive' (paragraphs 7.6 and 7.7 of the report)
 - iii. The basic amount of Islington Band D council tax for dwellings to which no special item relates (i.e. outside of the Lloyd Square Garden area) of £1,071.06 and total Band D council tax (including the GLA precept) of £1,351.08 (paragraphs 7.8 and 7.12 of the report)
 - iv. The amount of 2017-18 council tax (excluding the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas (paragraph 7.10 of the report)
 - v. The total amount of 2017-18 council tax (including the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas (paragraph 7.12 of the report)

15. That the budget proposals include the decision to exempt all care leavers living in Islington under the age of 25 from council tax, recommended in a separate report to the Executive on 9th February 2017 be noted. The discount is available from 1st April 2017 and will cost £28k a year. The cost will be shared with the GLA, via the Collection Fund (paragraph 7.3 of the report)

Matters to Consider in Setting the Budget (Section 8 of the Main Report)

16. That the Section 151 Officer's and the Monitoring Officer's comments in their determination of the revenue and capital budgets for 2017-18 and the basis for the level of council tax, including the Section 151 Officer's report in relation to his responsibilities under Section 25 (2) of the Local Government Act 2003 be noted.
17. That the Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) on the 2017-18 budget (Appendix G of the report) be noted.
18. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2017-18 (Appendix H of the report) be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

MAYOR