

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 22 FEBRUARY 2018

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 22 February 2018 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

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

The Mayor (Councillor Una O'Halloran) in the Chair

177 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting on 7 December 2017 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

178 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

179 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrews, Picknell, Doolan, Khan, Shaikh and Nick Ward.

(ii) Order of business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

(iii) Declaration of discussion items

None.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended many events over the previous months that had highlighted the diversity of the borough and the strength and openness of its communities. The Mayor noted these included Chinese New Year celebrations with the Islington Chinese Association and wished everyone present a Happy New Year.

The Mayor had visited Finsbury Park Mosque and the Muslim Welfare House as part of Visit My Mosque Day and had been very warmly received. The Mayor was pleased to support the local Muslim community, especially following the Finsbury Park terror attack. The Mayor said that the Finsbury Park Mosque and Muslim Welfare House are part of a loving and strong community and it is important for us to work closely together to show everyone that Islington will not be divided by hate.

The Mayor advised that she was honoured to attend the Dignity in Care awards and commended the dedication of those working in the care sector. The Mayor was also pleased to attend the launch of the Islington Armed Forces Breakfast Club and hoped that the initiative would be a success.

The Mayor said that she was looking forward to attending events held as part of LGBT History Month and encouraged members to attend events to celebrate the borough's diversity and LGBT History.

The Mayor reminded members of the Civic Awards Evening on Thursday 15 March 2017.

As it was the last ordinary meeting of the Council before the local elections, the Mayor thanked all retiring members for their service, dedication and hard work. The Mayor gave special thanks to her ward colleague Councillor Rupert Perry for his many years of service to the Council.

(v) Length of Speeches

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

180 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked Jermain Jackman, Chair of the Fair Futures Commission, for his work in developing the Fair Futures Commission recommendations. The Leader said that young people had been disproportionately affected by national austerity policies in recent years; this was an unfairness which resulted in both financial and age inequalities. Nationwide, services for young people had been cut, young people had been affected by the benefits cap, tuition fees had increased, education maintenance allowance had been scrapped, and availability of housing, jobs and opportunities had reduced. The Leader said that it was time for elected

representatives to address these issues and reiterated that the Council was on the side of young people, and that it was important to ensure all young people had the same opportunities as the fortunate few. The greatest unfairness of all was that young people growing up on Islington's estates felt that they did not have access to the same jobs and opportunities as young people from more affluent families. The Leader commended the report of the Fair Futures Commission, and said that he looked forward to working alongside the Commission in implementing its recommendations.

The Leader said he had attended many local events in recent months, and in particular noted the importance of Holocaust Memorial Day. The Leader had attended an event which included a testimony from Ernest Simon, a holocaust survivor, and said that it was very important for school children to learn of the horrific events of the holocaust. The Leader thanked the Holocaust Memorial Trust for their role in organising the event.

The Leader said that he was pleased to attend the Children's Technology Event held at the Emirates Stadium. It was incredible to see young children learning to code computers and program apps, and it was essential for all young people to be able to access these opportunities.

The Leader noted that this evening was the Council meeting closest to the centenary of women's suffrage, and said that this should be appropriately marked by the Council. The Leader noted that the recently opened Cat and Mouse Library was named in dedication of the struggle of the suffragettes in Holloway Prison, and the library included a section related to women's suffrage. The Leader thanked all of those involved in the Cat and Mouse Library project, including the St George's ward councillors. The Leader also noted the centenary of universal male suffrage, which gave millions of working-class men the right to vote.

The Leader said that there was previously opposition to new social housing at the Cat and Mouse Library site, however it was now widely recognised that the development was the right thing to do, emphasising that Islington suffered from a housing crisis, and that the Council was on the side of those who needed new council homes. The Leader said that the Holloway Prison site was the next great fight for genuinely affordable housing in London; the site was symbolic of the struggle for genuinely affordable housing for ordinary people, not luxury flats for the few.

The Leader thanked all councillors standing down at the upcoming local election for their contribution to the Council and gave special thanks to Councillor Richard Greening, the longest serving member of the Council, for his outstanding public service.

181 PETITIONS

Sebastian Sandys presented a petition requesting that Islington Council allow public questions at the annual budget setting meeting.

Nick Kocharhook presented a petition requesting that Islington Council further reduce traffic on the new cycling quietway between Finsbury Park and Clerkenwell.

Hannah Staab presented a petition requesting Islington Council to immediately freeze any new investments in fossil fuels, and divest from direct ownership of any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within five years.

182 PETITION DEBATE - SOTHEBY MEWS

John Dear introduced the petition 'Save Sotheby Mews Day Centre' on behalf of the petitioners. The petition was submitted at the 7 December 2017 meeting of the Council and, in accordance with Procedure Rule 19.1(d), was scheduled for debate as it received over 2,000 signatures.

Councillor Diarmaid Ward moved the motion to debate the petition. Councillor Burgess seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Ward exercised his right of reply.

The following main points were raised during the debate:

- The petitioners' concerns included transport, accessibility, the smaller size of Highbury Roundhouse, the lack of outside space, and the safety of service users walking across Highbury Fields.
- The Executive recognised the concerns raised in the petition and had agreed to delay the transfer of services from Sotheby Mews Day Centre to Highbury Roundhouse by 12 months to allow further discussion regarding the details of the move. This was welcomed by the petitioners, however the petitioners intended to continue campaigning against the move.
- The Council noted concerns regarding how the service relocation would impact on service users. It was suggested that Highbury Roundhouse had always been a youth centre and the site was not designed to meet the needs of older people.
- It was emphasised that it had been the intention to transfer services from Sotheby Mews since the decision to redevelop Highbury Roundhouse was made in 2011 and that sites like Sotheby Mews were desperately needed for new affordable housing. The Executive was committed to working closely with service users to ensure that their concerns were addressed.

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

RESOLVED:

To continue to encourage residents to participate in local democracy by carefully considering the concerns raised in the petition and to undertake the debate in a spirit of openness and transparency.

183 ISLINGTON FAIR FUTURES COMMISSION

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

The Mayor called on Jermain Jackman, Chair of the Fair Futures Commission, to address the Council.

Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the final report of the Fair Futures Commission be welcomed.
2. That the Council's Executive should respond to the recommendations of the Fair Futures Commission in due course.

184 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations. Councillor Burgess seconded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor Champion be appointed as a member of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
2. That Councillor Wayne be as appointed as the Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
3. That Councillor Ismail be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
4. That Councillor Burgess be appointed as a member of the Richard Cloudesley Charity with immediate effect.

185 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2018-19

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

Councillor Russell moved an amendment.

Councillors Rupert Perry, Richard Greening, Janet Burgess and Rakhia Ismail 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, Clarke-Perry, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Court, Debono, Diner, Donovan-Hart, Erdogan, Fletcher, Gallagher, Gantly, Gill, Greening, Hamitouche, Heather, Hull, Ismail, Jeapes, Kaseki, Kay, Klute, Ngongo, Nicholls, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Parker, Perry, Poole, Poyser, Smith, Spall, Turan, Diarmaid 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, Clarke-Perry, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Court, Debono, Diner, Donovan-Hart, Erdogan, Fletcher, Gallagher, Gantly, Gill, Greening, Hamitouche, Heather, Hull, Ismail, Jeapes, Kaseki, Kay, Klute, Ngongo, Nicholls, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Parker, Perry, Poole, Poyser, Smith, Spall, Turan, Diarmaid Ward, Watts, Wayne, Webbe and Williamson.

Against: Councillor Russell

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

General Fund Budget 2018-19 and MTFS (Section 3 of the Main Report)

1. That the 2018-19 net Council cash limits as set out in Table 1, paragraph 3.1.4 of the report, and the MTFS at Appendix A of the report, which include the revenue savings at Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
2. That the growth of £0.8m on supporting over-5s childcare, after-school childcare and holiday childcare, plus tackling holiday hunger, paragraph 3.1.5 - 3.1.7 of the report, be agreed.
3. That the fees and charges policy be noted and the 2018-19 fees and charges, paragraphs 3.2.4 - 3.2.5 and Appendices C1 - C3 of the report, be agreed.
4. That the Council's policy on the level of General Fund balances be agreed and that the estimated level of earmarked reserves and general balance available for use in 2018-19, paragraphs 3.2.6 - 3.2.8 and Table 2 of the report, be noted.

HRA Budget 2018-19 and MTFS (Section 4 of the Main Report)

5. That the balanced HRA 2018-19 budget within the HRA MTFS, at Appendix D1 of the report, be agreed.
6. That the 2018-19 HRA rents and other fees and charges, Tables 4 - 7 and Appendix D2 of the report, be noted.

Capital Programme 2018-21 (Section 5 of the Main Report)

7. That the 2018-19 capital programme, paragraph 5.1, Table 8 and Appendix E1 of the report, be agreed and the provisional programme for 2019-21, paragraph 5.1, Table 8 and Appendix E1 of the report, be noted.
8. That the Corporate Director Resources applies capital resources to fund the capital programme in the most cost-effective way, paragraph 5.2 of the report, be agreed.
9. That the schedule of planned Traffic and Transportation schemes in 2018-19, paragraph 5.3 and Appendix E2 of the report, 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)

10. That the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy 2018-19 (including external debt and treasury management Prudential Indicators), as considered by Audit Committee on 23rd January 2018, paragraph 6.1 and Appendix F1 of the report, be agreed.
11. That the additional capital Prudential Indicators (paragraph 6.1 and Appendix F2 of the report, be agreed.
12. That the minimum revenue provision (MRP) policy, paragraphs 6.2 to 6.7 of the report, be agreed.

Council Tax and Retained Business Rates 2018-19 (Section 7 of the Main Report)

13. That the calculations required for the determination of the 2018-19 council tax requirement and the level of council tax as detailed in Section 7 of the report and summarised below, be agreed:
 - 1) The 2018-19 council tax requirement of £88,763,542.91, paragraph 7.9 of the report.
 - 2) The relevant basic amount of Islington Band D council tax of £1,135.44, a 5.99% increase (comprising a 3.00% adult social care precept and a 2.99% core council tax increase) compared to 2017-18, and to determine that this is not 'excessive', paragraphs 7.10 and 7.11 of the report.
 - 3) 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 Committee area) of £1,135.22 and total Band D council tax (including the GLA precept) of £1,429.45, paragraphs 7.12 and 7.16 of the report.
 - 4) The amount of 2018-19 council tax (excluding the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas, paragraph 7.14, of the report.
 - 5) The total amount of 2018-19 council tax (including the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas, paragraph 7.16, of the report.
14. That a new class of council tax charge payer known as Foster Carer be agreed and that the implementation of a new Foster Carer Relief scheme from 1st April 2018, to reduce the full council tax liability to nil of every Islington household for the period where the household includes an approved foster carer (including foster carers living in Islington who are registered with other local authorities or approved agencies), paragraphs 7.4 - 7.6 of the report, be agreed.
15. That Shared Lives carers living in Islington be included within the new Foster Carer Relief Scheme, paragraph 7.7 of the report, be agreed.
16. That the existing council tax relief scheme for care leavers be amended to cover the full council tax liability from 1st April 2018, paragraph 7.8 of the report, be agreed.
17. That the following recommendations in relation to the Council's proposed participation in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool, paragraphs 7.17 to 7.22 of the report, be agreed.
18. That the designation by the Secretary of State as an authority within the London Business Rates Pilot Pool pursuant to 34(7)(1) of Schedule 7B Local Government Finance Act 1988, be approved and accepted, be agreed.
19. That participation in the London Business Rates Pilot Pool with effect from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019, be agreed.
20. That authority to undertake the authority's administrative functions as a billing authority pursuant to the Non-Domestic Rating (Rates Retention) Regulations 2013 be delegated to the City of London Corporation ("COLC") acting as the Lead Authority be agreed.
21. That the Lead Authority be authorised to sub-contract certain ancillary administrative functions regarding the financial transactions (payment of tariffs and top-ups) within the Pool to the GLA as it considers expedient, be agreed.

22. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, to agree the operational details of the pooling arrangements with the participating authorities, be agreed.
23. That Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Acting Director of Law and Governance, be authorised to make any amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding, attached at Appendix G to the report, as may be required by the Secretary of State, and to enter into the final Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the authority, be agreed.
24. To authorise the Leader of the Council to represent the authority in relation to consultations regarding the London Business Rates Pilot Pool as may be undertaken by the Lead Authority pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding.
25. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, to consider such consultative reports as the Lead Authority may circulate and to respond on behalf of the authority with regard to any recommendations and in particular, proposals for projects to be approved for funding from the Strategic Investment Pot, be agreed.
26. That authority be delegated to the Lead Authority to undertake the functions of assessment, due consultation and approval of projects eligible for funding from the Pool's Strategic Investment Pot following consultation with the participating authorities (provided that at least two thirds of such participating London Boroughs are (including the City of London Corporation) in favour of the relevant recommendation as well as the Mayor of London, and that no entire sub-region is in disagreement with the decision) on such terms and conditions as shall ensure value for money and compliance with the law, be agreed.
27. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director Resources to finalise the Council's estimated retained business rates in 2018-19 based on the final Pool model that will determine the amounts to be distributed by the pool in 2018-19, and to transfer any additional estimated retained business rates in 2018-19 to a new, earmarked 'NNDR Smoothing Reserve' until it is more certain for budgeting purposes, be agreed.

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

28. That the Section 151 Officer's and the Monitoring Officer's comments in their determination of the revenue and capital budgets for 2018-19 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.
29. The authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources, in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety, to make any changes to the budget proposals contained within the report that are necessitated by the final Local Government Finance Settlement, confirmation of Levies and the GLA precept, be agreed.
30. That the Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) on the 2018-19 budget, Appendix H of the report, be noted.

31. That the Pay Policy Statement for 2018-19, at Appendix I of the report, be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

MAYOR