



COUNCIL MEETING – 7 DECEMBER 2017

NOTICES OF MOTION

MOTION 1: FURTHER PAUSE AND FIX THE ROLLOUT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Moved by: Councillor Hull

Seconded by: Councillor Williamson

This council notes that:

- the next phase (relating to all new claimants) of the full roll out of Universal Credit, which replaces six existing benefits with one, is currently set to go live in Islington in June 2018;
- Islington Council, along with other local authorities across the country, has reported serious concerns about the implementation of Universal Credit in its current form, especially regarding delays in residents receiving much-needed payments, the risk of digital exclusion, and problems with both advance payments and alternative payment arrangements;
- if Universal Credit were fully rolled out across the borough tomorrow, an estimated 22,000+ households would receive Universal Credit in Islington;
- research by Islington Council has found that the average household in Islington in receipt of Universal Credit would be £12.07 per week worse off than under the current system, with almost half (49 per cent) of all households in receipt of Universal Credit losing out;
- in Islington, 81 per cent of council tenants on Universal Credit are in arrears, compared with 29 per cent of council tenants on old-style benefits; and
- in Islington, average rent arrears for council tenants not in receipt of Universal Credit is £122, but for council tenants in receipt of Universal Credit, average arrears are almost ten times higher, at £1,058.

This council further notes:

- Islington Council's ongoing work to support local people in receipt of Universal Credit or other out-of-work benefits by:
 - providing support to help local people back into work, including through iWork, which provides coaches to people who have been out of work for six months or more to help them find decent and secure jobs;
 - opening the first new Citizens Advice Bureau in London for 20 years to offer free, independent advice to residents;
 - supporting residents to ensure they receive the correct level of social security support they are entitled to through the Income Maximisation (IMAX) team;

- signposting residents to a number of organisations that can provide legal advice, including the Islington Law Centre and Islington People's Rights;
- working with Help On Your Doorstep proactively to put local people in touch with services that can support them; and
- helping local people facing hardship through the Resident Support Scheme, for instance by providing a grant to help buy essential household items.

This council resolves to:

- make further representations to the Government to urge them to pause the rollout of Universal Credit still further in order to fix the significant problems which remain with it, despite changes announced in the Chancellor's recent autumn budget, and which will impact local people badly if they are not addressed; and
- protect council services which support local people in receipt of Universal Credit, or other out-of-work benefits, including particularly services that help them to find work.

MOTION 2: STANDING UP FOR LOCAL PEOPLE FROM OTHER EU COUNTRIES

Moved by: Councillor Comer-Schwartz

Seconded by: Councillor Poyser

This council notes that:

- Islington is a diverse borough that is home to people from all over the world, including around 30,000 people from other countries in the European Union, who make an outstanding economic, cultural and social contribution to our community.
- Since the Council passed the motion 'Protecting EU nationals in Islington' at Full Council in June 2017, the Government has still not guaranteed the rights of people from other countries in the European Union living in the UK, or confirmed that they will be able to remain in the UK after Brexit.
- More than eighteen months since the UK voted to leave the European Union, people from other countries in the European Union are no more certain about their future in the UK.
- That EU workers represent 13 per cent of London's workforce and represent 10 of doctors and seven per cent of nurses in London's NHS. The potential departure of people from countries in the European Union will have serious economic and health repercussions for Islington.

This council further notes:

- That the Leader of Islington Council wrote to the Prime Minister in November, along with other Council leaders, calling on the Government to immediately guarantee the full rights of people from countries in the European Union.
- The Council's ongoing work with partners and the voluntary and community sectors to co-ordinate practical support for people from countries in the European Union, including a second advice session jointly organised with Islington IN Europe, Wilson Solicitors and Wesley Gryk Solicitors.

This council resolves to:

- Continue to make representations to urge Government to stop using our friends, family and neighbours as a bargaining chip in the Brexit negotiations by:
 - Immediately guaranteeing the full rights of all people from other countries in the European Union living in the UK, including those who have resided in the country for less than five years

- Guaranteeing that the rights of people from other countries in the European Union will not be affected in the event of no Brexit deal being agreed
- Establish a dedicated advice page on the Council website, which residents from other countries in the European Union can visit for the latest information and advice.

MOTION 3: MAKING ISLINGTON COUNCIL DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

Moved by Councillor Burgess
 Seconded by Councillor Gantly

This council notes that:

- Islington Council estimates 1,235 people in Islington have dementia. As Islington's population is predicted to increase and get older, dementia and demand for more dementia-friendly services is likely to increase.
- People with dementia can still enjoy a good quality of life with minor adjustments, but only if they get a diagnosis and have the advice and support they need.
- The rate of people with dementia to be diagnosed in Islington is the highest in London at 77.83%, which is above the Government's diagnosis target.
- A healthy diet, regular physical exercise, and avoiding smoking and drinking may reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's Disease.

This council further notes that:

- The publication of the Alzheimer's Society's "Creating a Dementia-Friendly London" report, which calls on all London boroughs to work towards attaining dementia-friendly status by 2020.
- The work of existing services that support people with dementia in the community, including the Memory Assessment Service, Dementia Advisor Service, Mental Health Liaison Service, Cecelia's café and Islington Carers Hub.
- Islington Council created the post of Mental Health champion, to promote mental health, including dementia, in the borough, at Full Council 15th October 2015.

This council resolves to:

- Further improve dementia diagnosis rates in the borough by encouraging earlier presentation and diagnosis in the borough.
- Work towards awareness raising within the wider community, encouraging all elected members to become a 'Dementia Friend' through the Alzheimer's Society's free Dementia Friends Programme, and to take this learning into their home communities.
- Apply the Council's principles of co-production when working with people affected by dementia when bringing in new policies.
- Work towards making council practices more dementia friendly, including commitments to make council run buildings dementia friendly.
- Continue to run local risk reduction campaigns, including clear messaging in ongoing Public Health campaigns regarding exercise, alcohol, smoking or diet. The best prevention advice is that 'what's good for your heart is good for your head'.
- Make information about local dementia services as accessible as possible, reviewing content on the local authority website and raising awareness among all Council staff.

MOTION 4: PROVIDING SAFE STREETS FOR PEOPLE WALKING AND CYCLING IS A MATTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Moved by Councillor Russell:

This Council notes that:

- 29 children were killed or seriously injured on Islington's roads in the five years from 2012-2016.
- The percentage of children who have excess weight (obese or overweight) in Reception (aged 4-5 years) is 22.5% and in Year 6 (aged 10-11 years) is 36.5%.
- In Islington just 26% of households have access to a car or van. 35% of Islington children are living in poverty

This Council further notes that:

- The Mayor of London's draft transport strategy aims to reduce traffic and takes a Healthy Streets and Vision Zero approach to managing the transport network.
- This means linking public health outcomes to transport spending and aiming for zero people killed on our roads.

This council believes that providing safe streets for people walking and cycling is a matter of social justice.

This council resolves to:

Work with the community to reduce traffic, reduce road danger and enable residents from 8 - 80 to make local journeys safely and conveniently on foot and by bike.