

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 July 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a Ajay Makan to Cllr Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:

What steps has The Council taken to engage with Barclays about the bank's investments in and provision of loans to companies complicit in the Israeli state's violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the West Bank and Gaza, what has the outcome of this engagement been and If this engagement has not led to firm commitments by Barclays to end its relationships with these companies, will The Council commit to tendering for a new banking provider to take over from Barclays at the end of the council's current contract and make a public announcement to this effect so that Islington sets an example that other local authorities might follow, what would be the penalties for ending the contract with Barclays early?

b Esme Waterfield to Cllr Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:

How much of the pension fund managed by Islington Council is invested, directly or indirectly, in companies complicit in violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the West Bank and Gaza, Will you commit to disclosing the fund's investments in full and, if any are found to be complicit, initiating the process of divestment immediately?

c Paula Feehan to Cllr Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Transport:

If the British population ate meat-free lunches on weekdays, improved health could save the NHS as much as £2.2B a year and we'd see 11,000 fewer cases of Type 2 Diabetes and 366,000 fewer cases of cardiovascular disease. In addition, if we implemented meat-free defaults in public catering, we could save the NHS £74M a year.

Plant-based meals have the lowest environmental impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, water use, land use, and pollution, delivering significant health benefits to the planet and our community. 30 towns and cities have endorsed the Plant-Based Treaty, and many are developing Plant Based Treaty action plans to promote and encourage people to eat plant-based foods.

Exmouth is transitioning catering at climate meetings and events to 100% plant based. Haywards Heath is building a test case for 100% plant-based catering at

events. Edinburgh is trialling carbon labelling in schools and universities, and Lambeth is delivering public information campaigns. In Amsterdam, the city has pledged vegan Fridays in all public institutions.

The Chair of the London Assembly's climate committee has called for a Plant Based Treaty for London. Will Islington become the second London Borough to endorse Plant Based Treaty and develop an action plan?