

COUNCIL MEETING – 12 December 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a Maha Mohamed to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

There was a failure of this current government and the last government to impose an embargo on arms.

In July 2023 the council resolved to write to the next Labour government to urge it to "adopt a foreign and defence policy to restrict export licenses to prevent the sale of weaponry to autocratic and repressive regimes."

If the council has already done this, will it publish the letter?

If it hasn't, will it send a letter at the earliest opportunity condemning the current arms licensing system, that is failing to protect Palestinians from what the International Court of Justice has ruled could be a genocide, and calling on the government to impose a total arms embargo now and reform the arms licensing system to make sure that it can never happen again?

b Rona Topaz to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

Will vulnerable individuals and families who are affected by the budget's welfare reforms affecting disabled people, and older people no longer eligible for the Winter Fuel Allowance, be prioritised when distributing the Household Support Fund?

c Morag Gillie to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods

At Jeremy Corbyn's People's Forum on Housing in September, the importance of increasing our council housing stock in Islington was raised. So, whilst the future of the 28 Empty prison wardens' flats at Pentonville remain undecided, what further action will this Labour council take to ensure they remain as council housing, and what additional pressure will they be applying to the Labour Ministry of Justice to support the provision of council housing on the site?

d Laura Bamford to Cllr Bell Bradford, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Culture & Jobs

Holloway Park is the largest single Islington housing development in the last 30 Years, comprising nearly 1000 housing units for social housing and private dwellings across all 10 acres of the former Holloway Women's prison site, with funding and support from the Greater London Assembly. Phase 1 of the is currently under construction and phases 2 and 3 will have to go through planning again at some point next year.

Who is the democratically elected council member responsible for scrutinising new builds in the borough and especially Holloway Park? Who is accountable to make sure that the developer delivers on its commitments; and will this person agree to meet and work with the community?

e Pete Gilman to Cllr O'Halloran, Leader of the Council

Islington council is to be congratulated on its stand against racism, race hatred and racist violence. In the 2026 council elections racist organisations may pose a serious threat to Islington. Will the council make contingency plans to deal with that threat?