

COUNCIL MEETING – 25 June 2015

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a Councillor O'Halloran to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development

This Council has a proud record of building new homes at affordable social rents. That's why I know many members will be extremely concerned about the policy of the Government to force councils, like Islington, to sell off valuable homes. Could Cllr Murray comment on the likely impact this policy will have in Islington?

- b Councillor Gantly to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Cllr Watts will have seen the announcement by the Chancellor that, despite delivering the largest cuts to local government in our history, the Chancellor wants to wield the axe again and the LGA has warned that this could mean in-year budget cuts. What does this mean for Islington?

- c Councillor Heather to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

I have concerns about the Community Warden scheme being run by the Finsbury Park Business Forum who are based in my Ward. I note that Islington Council is opposed to workfare, and my concern is that this scheme appears to be a workfare scheme. Can the Executive member for Economic and Community Development please assure me that the Council will investigate the scheme with both the Department of Work and Pensions and FPBF to establish whether this is a workfare scheme, and also establish who benefits financially from the scheme?

- d Councillor Poole to Councillor Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development

Will Councillor Murray commit to doing everything possible to prevent the eviction of the tenants of One Housing Group who live at 38-44 Islington Park Street?

- e Councillor Diarmaid Ward to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

This Tory Government's plans to reduce the benefit cap to £23,000 per household will have a huge impact in Islington because the cost of housing is so high. How can the council help families who are struggling to cope as a result, in the short term and the long term?

- f Councillor Diarmaid Ward to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Public libraries can provide community space, skilled staff and assisted online access, and reach out to vulnerable people. Do you have any plans to try and encourage more Islington residents to use the library service?

- g Councillor Russell to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Finsbury Park business forum is running a workfare scheme with A4E in which unemployed people are working 30 hours per week unpaid and risk their benefits being sanctioned if they do not turn up. Will the council join me in condemning this practice as exploitative and will you use your influence as a partner organisation of Finsbury Park Business Forum to bring this practice to an end and ensure that any station wardens are paid the London living wage in future?"

- h Councillor Russell to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

There are five things a council can do to reduce road casualties: Lower speed limits, re-configure roads, enforce speed limits, use new technology such as intelligent speed adaptation and invest in behaviour change and education.

In light of the 35% increase in serious collisions in Islington in 2014 compared to 2013. Will the council underpin the 20mph speed limit by

- reconfiguring streets to reduce traffic flow with filtered permeability,
- working with the police on enforcement via community speedwatch
- calling on TFL to bring in an Independent Speed Adaptation bus trial in

Islington and

- promote behaviour change to encourage compliance with speed limits, drink/drug driving laws and mobile at the wheel bans?