



COUNCIL MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2015

NOTICES OF MOTION

1 Motion - Trade Union Members Check-Off

To be moved by: Cllr Gary Doolan

To be seconded by: Cllr Marian Spall

This council fully recognises the benefits of the full involvement of trade unions in collective bargaining and consultation, and fully supports the right for all employees to join a trade union.

The council notes that the Government's Trade Union Bill will introduce legislation to instruct public service employers to stop the collection and payment of trade union contributions directly from employees' wages; a process known as 'check-off'.

The council further notes that the council charges trade unions 2% of union contributions for administering salary deductions. This is in contrast to no charge being levied for the administration of other salary deductions, such as for gym membership, season ticket loans, cycle schemes, student loan repayments and childcare vouchers.

This council recognises the benefit of maintaining good industrial relations with all staff and trade unions, and wishes to maintain the rights of individual employees to pay trade union contributions through the check-off process.

This council believes that the Government's position concerning stoppage of check-off is unfair and that estimates of the cost burden to local authorities are completely false. Instead, this proposal is a deliberate attack on trade unions and is part of the wider politically motivated process the Government has embarked upon in combination with the Trade Union Bill that is currently being debated in Parliament.

This motion therefore calls for the council to:

- defend trade union check-off arrangements for all its employees, including through the use of legal challenges;
- to maintain good industrial relations with representatives of recognised trade unions;

- and to allow employees' representation to flourish in hard times, and not to demonise workers as this Government is choosing to do.

This council resolves:

To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Government Minister making it clear that local government will not be dictated to by removing check-off on the basis that it is an individual agreement between employer and employee, and part of employees' national terms and conditions of service.

This council also resolves to encourage other local authorities and organisations, such as the Local Government Association and London Councils, to make representations to defend check-off.

2. Motion - Black History All Year Round

To be moved by Cllr Kaya Comer Schwartz
To be seconded by Cllr Claudia Webbe

This council believes that the diversity of Islington plays a huge role in making the borough such a fantastic place in which to live and work.

The council notes that October marks Black History Month, and the council's aims are to promote knowledge of Black history, culture and heritage; to disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British society and to heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.

The council notes that last year's Black History Month events saw a 50% increase in participation from the previous year, with over 2,000 participants and community partners engaging in a wide range of activities.

However, this council also believes that until Black history is fully integrated in the school curriculum, our progress towards the aims of Black History Month will be severely limited.

Therefore, in addition to the public activities to mark Black History Month this month, this council calls for a new focus on embedding Black history in the school curriculum all year round. This will deliver a key step forward in delivering long term positive impacts.

The council further notes that work has already begun to achieve this goal, with activities being undertaken with local schools to map what schools are teaching and to identify areas for the development of a more culturally inclusive curriculum.

This council resolves:

To consult schools about their curriculum support needs; to offer schools resources and partnership that can support and enrich their history curriculum; and to offer specialist training through Black History Month.

This council believes that a comprehensive, inclusive and all year round approach such as this will help Islington move towards our shared goal that all pupils should be able to see themselves in the history they study, not just for one month a year, but all the time.

3. Motion: Islington commits to the National Park City Initiative

To be moved by Councillor Russell

This Council notes that the Labour London Mayoral candidate Sadiq Khan has recently declared his support for the proposal to make Greater London a National Park City and that the London Assembly has passed a motion approving the plans to turn London into a National Park City.

Further, the National Park City initiative is seeking the support of ward councillors across London.

This Council celebrates the huge natural diversity in Islington, a borough in a city that more than 8 million people share with over 13000 other species. We believe that people in Islington share our commitment to nurturing and enhancing our natural wonders, from our allotments, to the gardens at King Henry's Walk to the Ecology Centre in Gillespie Park and many more precious and valued green spaces besides.

This Council therefore welcomes the Greater London National Park City Initiative, which aims to "inspire us to create a more liveable, fair and healthy London". The proposed organisation would bring together public, private and third sector organisations to enhance our natural and cultural heritage, encourage a better understanding and enjoyment of the city, foster wellbeing and inspire others to share these purposes.

This Council notes that, despite the ambitious proposals for the Park, it would be unlike other UK National Parks, and would not control development or prepare planning policies. These powers would remain with the Greater London Authority, the 32 London boroughs and the City of London Corporation.

This Council resolves that

The Council explore how the plans to make London a National Park City can fit in with the administration's regeneration plans for the borough.

All Islington Councillors be encouraged to sign to declare their wards support for the scheme at http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward_support website.

The Council show support for the organisation as it develops its vision, in particular by setting out how Islington Council and Islington residents can contribute towards its aims.

4. Motion: PREVENT Strategy

To be moved by Councillor Russell

This council notes - On 26 November 2014, the Home Secretary Theresa May introduced the Counter Terrorism and Security Bill (CTSB) to Parliament highlighting some revised and new counter-terrorism powers that would be placed on a statutory basis.

Prevent and its associated measures that curb free speech are increasingly generating a wave of opposition from academic & student bodies as well as many members of the Muslim community.

This Council also notes

Since the rollout of Prevent, local schools and even early years childcare providers now face statutory counter terrorism duties as they are required to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

In the face of these duties, school now have a requirement to promote “British Values” from as early as birth

Further, schools are required to risk assess the likelihood of a child or young person being drawn into extremism, as well as having clear procedures in place for protecting children and young people at risk of radicalisation.

This Council resolves

To work with local schools, school governors and local faith groups to ensure that the implementation of Prevent is sensitive and constructive. Working with local groups to ensure extremism is challenged collaboratively rather than driven underground or over exaggerated.

To work with local Trade Unions, Universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs in opposition to the worst excesses of the government's anti terror programs.