



ISLINGTON

COUNCIL

9 December 2021

ADDITIONAL DESPATCH

Please find enclosed the following items:

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COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2021

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS

Motion 3: ~~Rename the Ring Cross estate after Yvonne Connolly, the first Black female Headteacher in Britain~~ Celebrating Yvonne Conolly, the first Black woman Headteacher in Britain

Amendment moved by: Cllr Jason Jackson

This Council notes:

- It is 52 years since the first black head teacher Yvonne Connolly, a pioneer of the Windrush Generation, first qualified as teacher in Jamaica and arrived in Britain in 1963. After working as a teacher and deputy headteacher in Swiss Cottage, she took up the role of headteacher in England -at Ring Cross Primary School in Holloway Ward 1969, when she was just 29 years old, and faced "all sorts of nasty racist abuse".
- ~~I was proud in~~ In October 2021, ~~this Council awarded that~~ Yvonne Connolly ~~was recognised posthumously~~ the Freedom of the Borough, for her contributions to education and to recognise her trailblazing role for young Black women in Islington ~~the Freeperson of the Borough, yet, ethnic minorities children remain under-represented in Education establishment leadership, in our schools not just in Islington but UK, furthermore her history is not known or celebrated in Islington until her death.~~
- According to research by Dr Chris Vieler-Porter, who studied for a doctorate at the University of Birmingham on the underrepresentation of black and ethnic minority people in educational leadership roles, just 37% of local authorities monitor the number of applications for such roles by gender, ethnicity and disability. "The people who are making decisions are not looking at these issues," he said. "We have a system that believes itself to be colour-blind and obviously isn't."
- Islington Council monitors the ethnicity and gender of all teaching staff who work at schools which subscribe to the Council's Schools HR service.
- That, in 2015, Islington Council passed a motion which recognised the importance of fully integrating Black history into the school curriculum, all year round, as a step towards educating more children and young people on Black

history and oppression and help celebrate the contributions of our diverse communities in Islington;

- ~~Black and minority British children's voices are still under-represented in great numbers in education establishments, and it is obvious that discrimination on an institutional and structural level is experienced daily in the leadership of children's learning.~~

This Council further notes:

- The following school teacher workforce facts and figures England as a whole:
 - in 2019, 85.7% of all teachers in state-funded schools in England were White British (where ethnicity was known)
 - 78.5% of the working age population was White British at the time of the 2011 Census
 - 3.8% of teachers were from the White Other ethnic group, the second highest percentage after the White British group
 - 92.7% of headteachers were White British
 - 75.8% of teachers were women, and there were more female than male teachers in every ethnic group
- The chronic failure of Central Government to recruit and retain Black and Minority Ethnic teachers over a long period of time
- ~~While all above data is of the national trend, here in Islington, its similar too. We can lead from the front as we have historical icons in our Borough like the late Yvonne Connolly, which will give hope and aspirations to all Black youth and community in Islington schools.~~ The work of Islington Council to increase the number of School Governors from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, to ensure schools are representative of our community
- In Islington, of those that subscribe to the Council's Schools HR service, 27% from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, significantly higher than the national average;
- Islington Council's focus on reducing school exclusions, which disproportionately impact young Black people, including the 'exclusions as a last resort' policy;
- Islington Council's continued funding for mother tongue supplementary education to boost children's educational attainments in Maths, English, Science, as well as mother tongue supplementary sessions, despite Central Government cuts to the funding. This has improved the education outcome in Islington aiding them in their success going on to higher education.

This Council resolves to:

- To Rename Ring Cross ~~Estate~~ Community Centre after Yvonne Connolly to mark ~~of~~ her achievement, the first Black ~~female~~ woman Headteacher in Britain, as a sign to encourage black youth to learn and understand their proud history.
- To ~~have statue of Yvonne Connolly at Ring Cross School as great role model for Black people and work local community.~~ install a plaque to commemorate Yvonne Connolly's contribution to Holloway Ward and Islington.
- To Collaborate with Caribbean Teachers Association annually exhibition and workshop of her work and achievement in Islington History Museum so it encourages Black Youth in Islington/UK and families too.
- To support the innovative work which has been carried out by the Runnymede Trust, the Black Curriculum and others to engage young people and teachers with more expansive, representative and inclusive histories of Britain, to overhaul the curriculum to better educate about the United Kingdom's role in slavery, and to support calls from the National Education Union to 'review the curriculum to ensure it embraces the fact that Britain is rooted in Black and global history, achievement and culture and includes the achievements of Black Britons; as recommended by the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry.

Motion 7: ~~Pause and review the Edmonton incinerator project~~ A green solution for Islington's waste

Amendment moved by: Cllr Rowena Champion

This Council notes:

- ~~Since 2017 the projected costs of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) incinerator at Edmonton have doubled from £650 million to £1.2 billion.~~
- ~~Islington Council will be committed to pay a proportion of these rising costs.~~
- ~~There is significant evidence emerging to suggest that the size of the incinerator exceeds projected demand, including a recent comment at COP by the CEO of the firm bidding to build the facility.~~
- ~~The proposed capacity was based on predictions of future waste arisings from 2009 which have not proved accurate, and are too high.~~
- ~~The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) appointed Arup in 2016 to investigate the effect of applying circular economy initiatives to waste arisings across London. It focused entirely on achieving waste prevention, and found that even with a moderate take-up, the result would be a 30 per cent fall in overall London waste.~~
- ~~The NLWA's Residual Waste Reduction Plan 2020-22 includes an objective "to reduce local authority collected waste arisings in north London, promote resource efficiency and the circular economy, minimise climate impacts and improve the local environment."~~
- ~~There has been a negative impact of increased incinerator capacity on recycling rates in the Western Riverside Waste Authority Boroughs (Lambeth, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea) where recycling has fallen each year since the Belvedere Energy from Waste plant in Bexley went into operation in 2012. On average these four councils recycling rates went down by nearly 4 per cent from 2010 to 2016, making three of them in the worst six councils for recycling in England.~~
- ~~The Environment Agency Pollution Inventory estimates that the incineration of 1 tonne of municipal waste produces between 0.7 and 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide [1]. The planned capacity of the new incinerator is 700,000 tonnes of waste per year.~~
- ~~To date, financing has not been secured for Carbon Capture and Storage, which remains prohibitively expensive and unproven at scale [2].~~
- ~~Burning solid waste does not get rid of it: each tonne of waste that is incinerated produces 15–40 kg of hazardous waste that requires further treatment. Further, incineration leads to airborne emissions of toxic heavy metals and dioxins, spreading them over large distances and potentially exposing large numbers of people to harm [3].~~
- ~~Burning waste is a major contributor to air pollution, which is linked to 10,000 premature deaths annually in London — 1 in every 5 deaths. It is recognised to increase rates of life-limiting illnesses including asthma, dementia, heart disease, chronic pulmonary disease, strokes, Parkinson's and more. The effects of air pollution on children are extremely concerning, and include increased~~

- ~~incidence of asthma, stunted lung growth, difficulties with learning and cognitive performance, and increasing rates of mental illness [4].~~
- ~~• The proposed incinerator would be located in one of London's most deprived areas according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2019.~~
 - In 2019, Islington Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to becoming net zero carbon by 2030. The Council's Vision 2030 strategy sets out how this ambitious goal will be achieved
 - Islington Council's focus on reducing levels of waste and increasing recycling rates, including delivering more recycling sites which are more user friendly, education for local people on how to recycle more and the introduction of a charge on landlords where contaminated waste is found
 - The work of the Council, along with the other six councils that form the North London Waste Authority, to reduce levels of waste and increase recycling rates across the region
 - Islington Council continues to work with neighbouring boroughs to press Central Government for action to increase recycling rates and reduce waste levels
 - Despite this extensive work, there will still be a significant amount of waste which needs to be disposed of in the most environmentally friendly way possible
 - The NLWA's proposed Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Edmonton is the most environmentally-friendly, democratic and fair solution for disposing of Islington's waste
 - The ERF will be operated by London Energy Limited (LEL), which also operates the existing Energy from Waste (EfW) Facility. LEL is wholly-owned by the NLWA and this will be the only example of a major waste facility being publically owned and operated in the UK, meaning democratic control over the organisation by local councils
 - This democratic control provides transparency and flexibility, allowing the constituent councils make the case for the highest possible environment standards for the facility, and to commit to embracing new technology, including carbon capture, with the eventual aim of phasing out incineration
 - The alternative to delivering a new ERF is either to send North London's waste to other areas or to send it to landfill
 - That sending our waste to other facilities would mean giving it to privately-owned plants, with no democratic control, no accountability, lower emissions standards and with the sole aim of private profit, rather than the public good
 - Because of the generation of methane from biodegradable waste landfill is widely considered to be the worst option in terms of climate impact
 - Research shows that the new ERF would save 215,000 tonnes of CO₂e annually when compared to sending waste to landfill
 - All modern energy from waste facilities in the UK must operate within stringent air quality limits. It's one of the most strictly regulated industrial emissions. The NLWA ERF will have lower emissions than any other facility in the UK
 - The new ERF will generate enough electricity for more than 127,000 homes, and hot water and heating for at least 50,000 homes and businesses, removing the need for polluting gas boilers

- The existing EfW facility is not large enough to accommodate all of the NLWA's waste currently, requiring significant volumes to be treated at third party facilities
- That the size of the facility will provide enough buffer capacity to account for seasonal peaks and troughs in waste levels, and will accommodate future anticipated waste levels, taking into account population increases, changes in demographics and housing mix.
- It is sized on the basis of Local Authority Collected Waste in the NLWA area only. This does not include the considerable volumes of third party collected commercial waste which arise in the NLWA area but are currently sent outside the area for treatment by private sector waste companies.
- Therefore, if there was spare capacity, this will allow additional business waste currently collected and managed separately by private sector waste companies in North London, to be collected by North London boroughs, removing the need for waste vehicles to take the waste out of the area
- The EfW facility can also operate below capacity if necessary
- Further delay would further increase the cost of building the ERF due to high construction cost inflation
- That the current Edmonton Energy from Waste (EfW facility) has been operational for over 50 years and is becoming increasingly unreliable, inefficient, costly to maintain and difficult to insure
- The democratic control of the facility also allows the Council to maximise the social and economic benefits to residents and businesses, including ambitious targets for apprenticeships, trainee placements and expenditure in the local economy
- ~~There is significant cross-party opposition to the incinerator project, including from the MPs for Chingford & Woodford Green, and Islington North.~~ Labour Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has also expressed opposition to new incineration capacity in London, while supporting the plans for the EfW facility in Edmonton, focusing on minimising the environmental impact by only managing truly non-recyclable waste, maximising both the heat and electricity generated, and operating to the most stringent air quality standards possible
- The London Environment Strategy states that London will have sufficient residual waste capacity only once the new EfW facility is developed

This Council further notes:

- Islington Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and has committed to becoming net-zero carbon by 2030
- Islington Council continues to work towards that ambitious goal, as set out in Motion 5 of this evening's Council papers
- Islington Council has committed to invest in programmes and initiatives to increase recycling rates and implement circular economy strategies for reducing waste in the borough.
- Islington Council is committed to fairness and equality in North London and beyond.

This Council therefore resolves:

- ~~• To pause, review and reconsider its support for the proposed NLWA Incinerator at Edmonton.~~
- ~~• To call on the NLWA to pause and review the project.~~
- To continue to work with the NLWA and Labour Mayor of London to produce an EfW facility which maintains the highest possible environmental standards, produce as much renewable energy as possible and contribute to higher rates of recycling
- To continue to work with residents, businesses and organisations in Islington to reduce waste, increase recycling and move towards a circular economy in line with the Council's commitments to net zero and waste reduction.
- To work with the NLWA in a transparent and accountable way to include the regular updating of the Council Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee by NLWA officers.

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