



ISLINGTON

For a more equal future

COUNCIL

11 July 2024

SECOND DESPATCH

Please find enclosed the following items:

Item 1	Minutes	1 - 16
	The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 May 2024.	
Item 6	Questions from Members of the Public	17 - 18
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A new deal for workers2. Unlocking the potential of local high streets3. No to Live Facial Recognition in Islington4. Retrofit over demolitions5. Addressing the housing crisis	

Where a motion concerns an executive function, nothing passed can be actioned until approved by the Executive or an officer with the relevant delegated power.

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LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING - 16 MAY 2024

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Annual Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 16 May 2024 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Bell-Bradford	Heather	O'Sullivan
Burgess	Hyde	Ozdemir
Champion	Ibrahim	Pandor
Chapman	Jackson	Russell
Chowdhury	Jeapes	Shaikh
Cinko-Oner	Jegorovas-Armstrong	Spall
Clarke	Kay	Staff
Comer-Schwartz	Khurana	Turan
Convery	Klute	Ward
Craig	Mackmurdie	Wayne
Croft	Nargund	Weekes
Gill	Nathan	Williamson
Hamdache	North	Woolf
Hayes	O'Halloran	Zammit

The Mayor (Cllr Gary Heather) in the Chair

26 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 February 2024 be agreed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

27 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher, Graham, Khondoker, Safi-Ngongo, McHugh and Bossman- Quarshie

(ii) Declaration of interests

No declarations were made

(iii) Order of Business.

The order of business was as per the Agenda

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

Since the Mayor's last update to the Council meeting at the end of February, it had been another busy few months as Mayor. The Mayor had attended many events including International Women's Day with the Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation, St David's Day and St Patrick's Day flag-raising ceremonies, and the Finsbury Park Community Iftar.

The Mayor thanked all of those who had nominated local residents for the Mayor's Civic and Ben Kinsella Awards and said he was pleased to recognise those who do so much to support their local community.

The Mayor had attended a community planting and litter-picking session with volunteers at Islington Green and commented on the importance of keeping our green spaces tidy, and how participating in community events can be beneficial for wellbeing.

The Mayor had attended several other events, including the Family Hub launch at Hornsey Road Children's Centre, a youth homelessness event at Ringcross Community Centre organised by The Pilion Trust, the Annual Foster Carers Awards at Islington Assembly Hall, and the Caretaker and Concierge of the Year Awards.

The Mayor had attended the launch of a new library at Moreland Primary School, which had been officially opened by Her Majesty Queen Camilla, and the next day, attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.

The Mayor had attended an event at the Toy Project, which recycles unwanted toys and holds events for children, the Mayor's identity had been mistaken yet again, this time for "The President."

The Mayor also extended a warm welcome to the newly-elected councillor Ollie Steadman and expressed a big thank you to everybody who worked on the recent elections.

28 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked the outgoing Mayor for an incredible term, highlighting achievements in supporting armed forces, amplifying charity work, and participating in community celebrations. The Leader noted the Mayor's positive spirit amidst global challenges, reflecting the best of Islington. They welcomed Councillor Khurana as the incoming Mayor, confident in her ability to excel in the role.

The Leader also welcomed new Islington Labour Councillor Ollie Steadman and mentioned the successful elections of Assembly Member Sem Moema and Sadiq Khan's historic third term as Mayor of London. They expressed pride in Islington's achievements under the Labour administration, including delivering on manifesto pledges, maintaining a balanced budget, continuing new homes programmes, and working to tackle the climate emergency.

Additionally, the Leader commented on the recent launch of two family hubs, focusing on children's well-being, and also welcomed that Islington was leading in environmental initiatives like the healthy streets scorecard, which had recently found Islington was the best-performing borough for traffic-free School Streets, and also the people-friendly streets programme. The Leader emphasised the importance of these accomplishments in influencing a future Labour government to create a more equal Islington. This week, Islington had been visited by the Shadow Minister for Immigration to observe the council's pioneering Borough of Sanctuary work and continued advocacy for refugees and migrants.

The Leader concluded by expressing pride in the work of the council, stressing the need to continue working hard towards the next election to achieve the vision for 2026 and beyond, and in particular commented on the need for fair funding reform for social care and building more council homes.

The Leader of the Opposition responded. They started by thanking the Mayor for their service, noting their joy and enthusiasm for civic life, which had been both contagious and exemplary. The Leader of the Opposition and colleagues appreciated seeing the Mayor at many events, acknowledging their passion for the community. The Leader of the Opposition also praised the Mayor's fairness in meetings, including managing time limits and disturbances, ensuring Council business progressed and rules were followed. The Leader of the Opposition also thanked the Mayor for their work with their charities, particularly in promoting voluntary opportunities for residents. Congratulations were extended to Councillor Khurana, with anticipation for their unique approach to the role in the coming year.

Reflecting on the wider context, the Leader of the Opposition celebrated recent election results, noting that ten councils previously run by Conservatives were now under progressive majorities. The Leader of the Opposition also highlighted Councillor Russell's re-election to the London Assembly, and commented on the need to hold the Mayor of London to account.

Looking ahead to the general election, the Leader of the Opposition commented on its significance due to government austerity undermining public services and council budgets, the government's divisive culture, and international policies contributing to conflict. The Leader of the Opposition noted that Islington often becomes a target during elections, symbolising various negative stereotypes. The Leader of the Opposition expressed pride in Islington's values, diversity, and community, rejecting these attacks and emphasising that candidates must appreciate the borough to succeed, as recent London elections have shown.

29 VOTE OF THANKS AND PRESENTATION OF COMMEMORATIVE BADGES TO OUTGOING MAYOR AND CONSORT

Councillor O'Halloran moved a vote of thanks to the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Heather and the Outgoing Mayoress, Councillor Tricia Clarke. Councillor Mackmurdie seconded. Councillors commented on the outgoing Mayor's dedicated service and passion for the community, which included engaging residents through numerous events and emphasising the importance of volunteers.

The Outgoing Mayor expressed gratitude to their family, council colleagues, and their Mayoress Councillor Tricia Clarke and for the enjoyable and privileged opportunity to serve the people of the borough. Throughout the year, they aimed to be a Mayor for all residents and engage with the diverse array of individuals and organisations that make up Islington, while also highlighting the importance of volunteering and community spirit. They thanked everyone who supported them, including the Mayor's Office, Deputy Mayor, Mayoress, and their chosen charity Voluntary Action Islington for making the tenure a success. It had been an honour and a privilege that would be cherished forever.

30 TO ELECT THE MAYOR OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON FOR THE ENSUING MUNICIPAL YEAR

Councillor O'Halloran, seconded by Councillor Turan, moved that Councillor Khurana be elected as the Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Khurana be elected as the Mayor of the London Borough of Islington for 2024/25.

The Council adjourned while Councillor Khurana was invested with the robes of office.

The Mayor (Councillor Anjna Khurana) in the Chair

31 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor accepted by office by making the required declaration.

The Mayor advised that their Consort would be Micky Khurana

The Mayor thanked their colleagues, friends and family. The Mayor congratulated Councillor Heather on their year as Mayor. The Mayor announced that the charity for this year would be Brickworks Community Centre.

The Mayor appointed Councillor Jason Jackson to the role of Deputy Mayor. Tatiana Jackson was appointed as the Deputy Mayor's Consort.

32 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Comer-Schwartz introduced the paper.

The Council noted the following appointments made by Councillor Comer-Schwartz as Leader of the Council:

- Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance & Performance - Cllr Diarmaid Ward
- Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Culture & Jobs - Cllr Santiago Bell-Bradford
- Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Transport - Cllr Rowena Champion
- Executive Member for Equalities, Communities & Inclusion - Cllr Sheila Chapman
- Executive Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods - Cllr Una O'Halloran
- Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families - Cllr Michelline Safi Ngongo
- Executive Member for Health & Social Care - Cllr Flora Williamson
- Executive Member for Community Safety - Cllr John Woolf

33 CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To approve the amendments to the Constitution as detailed in the report and set out in the appendix.
- (ii) To update all references to the Scrutiny Committees in the Constitution to reflect the new committee structure.

34 CALCULATION OF POLITICAL BALANCE (PROPORTIONALITY) AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMITTEES

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council note the political balance of the Council is:
 - 46 Members of the Labour Group
 - 3 Members of the Green Group

- 2 independent members, who are not a member of a political group.

(ii) That the allocation of seats on committees, as detailed in Table 2 in paragraph 3.7 of the report, be approved.

(iii) That the Programme of Meetings for 2024-25 be noted.

35 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO POLITICAL POSITIONS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

(a) That Council note that the Labour group have notified the following appointments:

Leader of Group	Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Deputy Leader of Group	Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford
Chief Whip	Councillor Fin Craig
Assistant Whips	Councillors Ruth Hayes and Rosaline Ogunro
Chair of Group	Councillor Heather Staff
Vice-Chair	Councillor Angelo Weekes
Secretary	Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Treasurer	Councillor Satnam Gill
Social Secretary	Councillor Sara Hyde
Ordinary Member Posts	Councillors Bashir Ibrahim & Jason Jackson

(b) That Council note that the Green group have notified the following appointments:

Leader of Group	Councillor Benali Hamdache
Deputy Leader of Group	Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong
Group Business Manager	Councillor Caroline Russell

(c) That the following appointments be made to the Council's Committees for 2024/25 or until successors are appointed;

CORPORATE RESOURCES AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(12 Councillors) (*formerly Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee*)

Councillor Nick Wayne (Chair)	Councillor Saiqa Pandor
Councillor Roulin Khondoker (Vice Chair)	Councillor Heather Staff
Councillor Jilani Chowdhury	Councillor Sara Hyde
Councillor Jason Jackson	Councillor Angelo Weekes
Councillor Tricia Clarke	Councillor Bashir Ibrahim

Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir

Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Substitutes:

Councillor Jenny Kay
Councillor Ruth Hayes

Councillor Troy Gallagher
Councillor Caroline Russell
Councillor Benali Hamdache

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (8 Councillors)
(formerly Children's Services Scrutiny Committee)

Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir (Chair)	Councillor Hannah McHugh
Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie (Vice Chair)	Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Saiqa Pandor	Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner
Councillor Clare Zammit	Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Co-opted Members for Education related issues:

Roman Catholic Diocese Representative – Mary Clement
Church of England Representative – Nick Turpin
Parent Governor Representative (Primary) – Sophie McNeill
Parent Governor Representative (Secondary) – Susie Graves

Substitutes:

Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Benali Hamdache

HEALTH, WELLBEING AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(8 Councillors) *(formerly Health and Care Scrutiny Committee)*

Councillor Jilani Chowdhury (Chair)	Councillor Praful Nargund
Councillor Joseph Croft (Vice Chair)	Councillor Mick Gilgunn
Councillor Janet Burgess	Councillor Ollie Steadman
Councillor Tricia Clarke	Councillor Benali Hamdache

Substitutes:

Councillor Claire Zammit

Councillor Caroline Russell

HOMES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
(8 Councillors) *(formerly Housing Scrutiny Committee)*

Councillor Jason Jackson (Chair)	Councillor Ben Mackmurdie
Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner (Vice Chair)	Councillor Mick O'Sullivan
Councillor Mick Gilgunn	Councillor Phil Graham
Councillor Hannah McHugh	Councillor Toby North

Substitutes:

Councillor Marian Spall	Councillor Troy Gallagher
Councillor Jenny Kay	Councillor Gary Heather
Councillor Ruth Hayes	Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRANSPORT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

(8 Councillors) *(formerly Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)*

Councillor Tricia Clarke (Chair)	Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie
Councillor Phil Graham (Vice Chair)	Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Angelo Weekes	Councillor Fin Craig
Councillor Ruth Hayes	Councillor Caroline Russell

Substitutes:

Councillor Jenny Kay	Councillor Gary Heather
Councillor Claire Zammit	Councillor Paul Convery
	Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

(5 Councillors and 2 Independent Members, as below)

Councillor Paul Convery (Chair)	Councillor Nick Wayne
Councillor Sara Hyde (Vice Chair)	Councillor Caroline Russell
Councillor Janet Burgess	

Substitutes:

Councillor Jenny Kay	Councillor Satnam Gill
Councillor Angelo Weekes	Councillor Troy Gallagher
	Councillor Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Independent Members:

Alan Begg
Alan Finch

EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE (5 councillors)

Councillor Janet Burgess (Chair)	Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Councillor Jason Jackson
Councillor Diarmaid Ward	

Substitutes:

Councillor Jenny Kay	Councillor Troy Gallagher
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PENSIONS COMMITTEE (5 councillors)

Councillor Paul Convery (Chair)	Councillor Mick O'Sullivan
Councillor Diarmaid Ward	Councillor Ben Mackmurdie
Councillor Satnam Gill	

Substitutes:

Councillor Jenny Kay

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (13 members, as below)

Councillors:

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz (Chair)
Councillor Flora Williamson
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo

Officers:

Jonathan O’Sullivan – Director of Public Health
Jon Abbey – Director of Children’s Services
John Everson – Director of Adult Social Care

Representatives of the North Central London Integrated Care Board:

Clare Henderson – Executive Director representative

Representative of Healthwatch Islington:

Emma Whitby – Chief Executive, Healthwatch Islington (non-voting)

Representatives of the NHS:

Darren Summers – Camden and Islington NHS Trust (non-voting)
Clare Dollery – Acting CEO, Whittington NHS Trust (non-voting)
To be advised - NHS England (non-voting)

Voluntary Sector Representative:

To be advised.

Islington GP Federation:

Michael Clowes, Chief Executive, Islington GP Federation (non-voting)

Substitutes may attend meetings subject to prior agreement of the Chair.

Councillor Substitutes:

Councillor Una O’Halloran	Councillor John Woolf
Councillor Sheila Chapman	Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Councillor Rowena Champion	Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford

Officer Substitutes:

For Jonathan O’Sullivan – Charlotte Ashton, Islington Deputy Director of Public Health
For John Everson – Jodi Pilling, Director of Strategic Commissioning and Investment
For Jon Abbey – Curtis Ashton, Director of Young Islington

Clinical Commissioning Group Substitutes:

For Clare Henderson – Sarah McDonnell-Davies, Executive Director for Borough Partnerships

Healthwatch Islington Substitute:

For Emma Whitby – Jennifer Kent, Healthwatch Islington

Islington GP Federation Substitute:

For Michael Clowes – Toni Orloff

PLANNING COMMITTEE (10 Councillors)

Councillor Martin Klute (Chair)	Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Ruth Hayes (Vice Chair)	Councillor Ollie Steadman
Councillor Toby North (Vice Chair)	Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner
Councillor Tricia Clarke	Councillor Marian Spall
Councillor Paul Convery	Councillor Benali Hamdache

Substitutes:

Councillor Jilani Chowdhury	Councillor Nick Wayne
Councillor Heather Staff	Councillor Caroline Russell
Councillor Jenny Kay	

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Councillor Angelo Weekes (Chair)	Councillor Ilkay Cinko-Oner
Councillor Bashir Ibrahim	Councillor Ben Mackmurdie
Councillor Phil Graham	Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Heather Staff	Councillor Joseph Croft
Councillor Marian Spall	Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor Gary Heather	Councillor Matt Nathan
Councillor Praful Nargund	Councillor Asima Shaikh
Councillor Nick Wayne	

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE (4 Councillors)

Councillor Marian Spall (Chair)	Councillor Ben Mackmurdie
Councillor Phil Graham (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Gary Heather

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (4 Councillors and 2 Independent Persons)

Councillor Sara Hyde (Chair)	Councillor Rosaline Ogunro
Councillor Ruth Hayes	Councillor Satnam Gill

Independent Persons (non-voting members of the committee):

Luke Rigg
Robert Milne

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (5 Councillors)

Councillor Fin Craig (Chair)	Councillor Nurullah Turan
Councillor Diarmaid Ward	Councillor Bashir Ibrahim
Councillor Marian Spall	

GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE (5 Councillors)

Councillor Rosaline Ogunro (Chair) Councillor Nick Wayne
Councillor Rowena Champion Councillor Ollie Steadman
Councillor Janet Burgess

INVESTIGATING AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE (5 Councillors)

Councillor Paul Convery (Chair) Councillor Troy Gallagher
Councillor Flora Williamson Councillor Nurullah Turan
Councillor Sara Hyde

DISCIPLINARY APPEAL COMMITTEE (5 Councillors)

Councillor Ruth Hayes (Chair) Councillor Toby North
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo Councillor Angelo Weekes
Councillor Heather Staff

(d) To note that appointments to sub-committees of the Executive, the Planning Committee and the Licensing Committee will be made at the next meeting of those committees.

(e) That the following other appointments be made for 2024/25 or until successors are appointed:

PENSIONS BOARD

(3 employer representatives, 3 scheme member representatives, 1 independent member)

Employer representatives:

Councillor Una O'Halloran
Vacancy
Vacancy

Scheme Member representatives:

George Sharkey
Mike Calvert
Valerie Easmon-George

Independent Member:

Alan Begg (non-voting)

FOSTERING PANEL AND ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE PANEL

Councillor Clare Zammit

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo (Chair) Councillor Hannah McHugh
Councillor Fin Craig Councillor Clare Zammit
Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Revd David Allen - Church of England Representative (Chair)

Mary Thorne - Church of England Representative

Ann Dwulit - Teacher Association Representative

Parul Monnan - Religious Representative

Tracey Peters - Religious Representative

Vinay Shah - Religious Representative

Naomi Ter-Berg - Religious Representative

Nathan Stilwell - Religious Representative

Teddy Prout – Religious Representative

Cllr Michelline Safi Ngongo – Local authority representative

Cllr Heather Staff – Local authority representative

TMO LIAISON COMMITTEE

Councillor Mick O’Sullivan

MEMBER CHAMPIONS

Carers Champion – Councillor Janet Burgess

Equalities Champions – Councillor Hannah McHugh

Arts Champion – Councillor Claire Zammit

Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Marian Spall

Mental Health Champion – Councillor Joseph Croft

Reading Champion – Councillor Valerie Bossman-Quarshie

Recycling Champion – Councillor Gary Heather

Women and Girls Champion – Councillor Saiqa Pandor

Private Renters Champion – Councillor Jenny Kay

Migrants Champion – Councillors Heather Staff & Ilkay Cinko-Oner (Job Share)

Young People’s Champion – Councillor Bashir Ibrahim

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- A. To agree the following list of appointments to outside bodies for 2024/25 for the remainder of the year or until successors are appointed:

Outside Body	Term of Office	Member(s)
London Council Committees:		
Leaders Committee	One Year	Leader: Cllr Comer-Schwartz Deputies: Cllr Champion Cllr Ward
Associated Joint Committee - Transport and Environment Committee	One Year	Cllr Champion Deputies: 4 vacancies
London Councils Forums:		
Greater London Employment	One Year	Cllr Ward Deputy: Cllr Bell-Bradford
Local Government Association:		
LGA General Assembly	One Year	Cllr Comer-Schwartz Cllr Khondoker Cllr Hyde Cllr Jackson
Others:		
Angel Business Improvement Board	One Year	Cllr Klute
Archway Town Centre Management Board	One Year	Cllr Burgess Cllr Chapman
Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Schemes Panel	One Year	Cllr Spall
Cross River Partnership	One Year	Cllr Bell-Bradford
Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group	One Year	Cllr Heather

Groundwork London Local Authority Strategic Board	One Year	Cllr Champion
Islington Community Chest Panel	One Year	Cllr O'Halloran Cllr Graham Cllr North Substitute: Cllr Woolf
London Road Safety Council	One Year	Cllr Champion Deputy: Vacancy
Nags Head Town Centre Management Group	One Year	Cllr Heather
Newable	One Year	Cllr Bell-Bradford
North London Waste Authority	One Year	Cllr Champion Cllr Ward
Reserve Forces and Cadets	One Year	Cllr Spall
Safer Neighbourhoods Boards	One Year	Cllr Woolf Cllr Hyde

B. To agree the following list of appointments to outside bodies to take effect on the date indicated, for the term of office indicated, or until successors are appointed:

Outside body	Member(s)	Term of Office	Date Appointment to take effect
Central London Forward	Cllr Comer-Schwartz Deputy:- Cllr Bell-Bradford	Two Years	May 2024
Cripplegate Foundation	Cllr Pandor Cllr Kay	Five year term	From September 2024
Islington United Charities	Cllr Gallagher Cllr Gilgunn	Four years	From August 2024
Richard Reeves Foundation	Cllr Weekes	Four year term	May 2024

37 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND 6-MONTH RULE - SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

To agree that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council approves Councillor Phil Graham's non-attendance at meetings until the end

of the calendar year on the grounds of continued ill health and that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to him.

38 APPOINTMENT OF PANEL MEMBERS TO SERVE ON INDEPENDENT ADMISSION APPEAL PANELS AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW PANELS

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (1) The following have been appointed to serve on Independent Admission Appeal Panels. These panels consider appeals against schools' decisions on admissions.

John Coombes	Carolyn Wagstaff	Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield
Constantine Louis	Simon Dodds	Sandra Morgan-McGovern
Jill McLaughlin	Philip Stevens	David Adams
Rob Hull	Robert Milne	Victoria Nzeribe
Anthony Stoll	Ruth Grant	Maxie Telfer
Isobel Bevan	Simon Sherriff	Dr Susan Rowlands
Ashley Smith	Marilyn Berk	Joanna Atkin
Margie Agnew	Janice Bailey	Dr Judith Richardson
Jane Airey	Orla MacSherry	James Stephenson
Andrew Balfour	Naomi Greenwood	Karris Graham-Moore
Jenny Lewis	Nikki Worcester	Charlene Wilkinson
Emma Gleeson	Nick Turpin	Catherine Lewis
Tim Fox	Daniel Hamilton	

- (2) The following have been appointed to serve on Independent Review Panels. These panels review decisions about school exclusions.

John Coombes	Ruth Grant	Sherron Alexander-Bedingfield
Dan Mearney	David Adams	Robert Milne
Rob Hull	Victoria Nzeribe	Judith Richardson
Carolyn Wagstaff	Jane Airey	Philip Stevens
Anthony Stoll	Simon Dodds	Joanna Atkin
Jo Dibb	Ashley Smith	James Stephenson
Jack Sloan	Margie Adnew	Sarah Beagley
Damien Parrott	Jenny Lewis	Julie Keylock
Francis McDonald-Gonzalez	Martha Braithwaite	Orla MacSherry
Saul Heselden	Martin Jermyn	Tim Archer
Karris Graham-Moore	Janice Bailey	Nikki Worcester
Emma Weleminky-Smith	Andrew Balfour	Abdi Garad
Bryony Poynor	Sarah Amisah	Jane Kilgannon
Jill McLaughlin	Hannah Nemko	Jenny Lewis
Catherine Lewis	Nick Turpin	Emma Gleeson
Tim Fox	Daniel Hamilton	

- (3) In accordance with regulations, training will be available to all panel members serving on such panels.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

MAYOR

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 the 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?

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 July 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

a **Cllr Janet Burgess to Cllr Flora Williamson, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:**

You are no doubt aware of the recent study, by the Institute for Social and Economic Research of the University of Essex, into the effect of giving free school meals to primary school children in the four London boroughs which had been doing this for some time (Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Newham and Islington). The then Labour opposition forced through this measure just before winning control of Islington Council in 2010, and it has been in operation ever since. Apart from the cost of living help to parents – which is considerable - there was an associated increase in reading. It suggested that by the age of 11, the impact was equivalent to approximately two weeks' additional progress in school. Additionally, levels of obesity were reduced by 7% to 11% among reception children in the four boroughs and for children in year six, who had been given free school meals for their entire time in primary school, there was a 5-8% reduction. This is a really important public health outcome. What further measures can be taken by the Public Health Department to reduce childhood obesity?

b **Cllr Benali Hamdache to Cllr Sheila Chapman, Executive Member for Equalities, Communities & Inclusion:**

It was announced that £50,000 of grant allocations for the Black Leaders Alliance was going unspent and was being drawn down. Could you let us know what that money was promised for, why it wasn't spent and how the council will deliver on the original promises of that money?

c **Cllr Caroline Russell to Cllr Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Transport**

Could you provide an update on your negotiations with Transport for London (TfL) on the redesign of the junction of Highbury Grove and St Paul's Rd?

d **Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Michelline Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:**

May we have an update on the child friendly strategy?

e **Cllr Saiqa Pandor to Cllr Flora Williamson, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:**

Arsenal Women will be playing 11 of their WCL games at the Emirates this season, which is a huge step forward for the women's game and its growth. How is the Council working with local partners, including the Arsenal to promote football as a sport to young women and girls growing up in Islington?

f **Cllr Sara Hyde to Cllr John Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:**

Numerous studies have shown the negative impact of gambling, and gambling addiction, on mental health, levels of antisocial behaviour and crime. In my ward on Caledonian Road we have 3 gambling venues, within 100 steps of each other. What is the Council doing to address the concerns raised by local residents about these premises and stop new gambling shops opening?

g **Cllr Roulin Khondoker to Cllr Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality & Transport:**

Keeping our pavements as clear and spacious as possible is imperative to providing a safe passage for those with mobility and visual impairments to use our streets safely. E-bikes have caused a huge disturbance to pavements and pathways when they are left parked or are abandoned in the middle of pavements. What is the update on progressing with holding e-bike operators to account to reduce and cease the practice of e-bikes being parked in the middle of pavements, and how soon will the public see any impact?

h **Cllr Heather Staff to Cllr Una O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods:**

At a time when funding and space for new housing is increasingly difficult, looking after our current housing stock is as important as building new ones. What is the council doing to improve the quality of our existing homes, so that they are resilient to common reoccurring issues such as mould and damp, cold, adaptive to climate change?

i **Cllr Roulin Khondoker to Cllr Santiago Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Culture & Jobs:**

Access into shops and buildings is a barrier for many people especially those with mobility issues, visual impairments and those with prams and young children. While this is a historic issue of urban and building design, what is the council doing themselves and to work with businesses and building owners in the borough to make their spaces mobility accessible especially so that those in wheelchairs can have equal access to the spaces that Islington have on offer, and what is the impact of the council's efforts?

j Cllr Ilkay Cinko-Oner to Cllr Sheila Chapman, Executive Member for Equalities, Communities and Inclusion:

What is the update on the provision of the Martin Luther King adventure play centre and the use of the outside space?

k Cllr Mick Gilgunn to Cllr Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:

Neil Hayes, an Archway resident, tragically lost his life in a construction accident involving a hydraulic asphalt lorry in Goods Yard Camden on May 24th. The incident is currently under investigation by the HSE, and both his family and campaigners are eagerly awaiting the full report. Last year, there were 45 fatalities reported in the Construction industry alone, with a total of 135 work-related deaths across industries, excluding illnesses like asbestos-related cancer. The need for improved compensation for victims of diseases like Mesothelioma was highlighted on Mesothelioma action day on July 5th. The previous government's approach to health and safety at work was criticized for its deregulation stance, as highlighted by former Prime Minister David Cameron in 2012 who declared that "The health & safety culture is an albatross around the necks of big business". With a new government in place, there is a push to enhance safety measures, especially in areas like Islington with numerous infrastructure projects. How can we reverse the tide and improve our own HSE workplace inspections, and enforcements when necessary to ensure all our workers are working in a safe environment and involve the Trade unions in terms of health & safety and welfare at work at the procurement stage when drawing up contracts?

l Cllr Ilkay Cinko-Oner to Cllr Sheila Chapman, Executive Member for Equalities, Communities and Inclusion:

What has been the impact of Fairer Together for the public, including the newly set up Access Islington hubs?

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COUNCIL MEETING – 11 July 2024

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: A New Deal for Workers

Proposed by: Cllr Gary Heather

Seconded by: Cllr Sara Hyde

This council notes:

- The pandemic, and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis has brought into sharp focus workplace power imbalances, and the impact of stagnant wages for over a decade as well as increasing job insecurity.
- Migrant workers are vital contributors to our society economically, socially and culturally and are as deserving of protection as any other worker, especially with rising in-work poverty and financial insecurity.
- Against the backdrop of the Conservative Government's hostile environment, government policy has seen domestic workers stripped of their labour rights, immigration enforcement prioritized, and the protections of this workforce placed within a trafficking network.
- Visa changes introduced in 2012 under David Cameron's administration formed part of the government's objective to reduce net migration by reducing the rights of migrants on various visa pathways, prohibiting workers from changing employers and no longer permitting workers to renew their visas.
- Migrant care workers are negatively impacted by low pay and casualisation, and changes to immigration rules preventing carers from bringing dependents puts these workers at higher risk of exploitation due to isolation and increased financial pressure.
- One in six households in the UK live in relative poverty, with high inflation causing a significant impact with rising food and fuel costs.
- Restrictive anti-trade union laws, most recently the Trade Union Act and the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act, have made it harder for unions to organise and stand up for their members. These restrictions mean workers are denied their fair share of the wealth they create, whilst a lack of collective representation has led to a race to the bottom.
- The right of unions to operate effectively in the workplace, in each sector of the economy, is vital for achieving fairness, dignity and democracy at work for all.

- Labour's New Deal for Working People, launched by Angela Rayner at Labour Conference 2021 and drawn up in partnership with Labour's affiliated unions, is a comprehensive plan to improve the lives of working people by strengthening individual and collective rights - repealing anti-trade union laws, including the Trade Union Act, and introducing new rights to help unions bargain, recruit, organise and win a better deal for their members.
- It includes commitments to establish a single enforcement body to enforce workers' rights, and take action against exploitation, including discriminatory practices against migrant workers.
- Labour's New Deal for Working people also commits to end fire and rehire; make work more flexible and family friendly; ban zero-hours contracts; strengthen trade union rights, raising pay and conditions and bring in Fair Pay agreements.
- The Labour Party has pledged to scrap the Trade Union Act within its first 100 days of government.

This Council further notes:

- The Labour Party's clear opposition to the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act, and the Leadership's promise to repeal it.
- Working people need better rights, stronger unions and a Labour Government to win the new deal at work they deserve.
- Previous motions passed in June 2022, July 2021, and July 2018 which placed emphasis on Islington as a welcoming borough for all residents, regardless of background and calling for us to become a Borough of Sanctuary. Subsequently, these motions have led to numerous letters being sent to government ministers to oppose the government's hostile policy towards migrant communities.
- In February, Islington Council gained Borough of Sanctuary status, recognising our long, proud history of welcoming people in need and our commitment to stand up for people's right to seek fulfilling lives for themselves and their families.
- In March, the council's new homecare contracts further implemented Unison's Ethical Care Charter to improve workers' pay and conditions in our borough, including 67% of providers committing to pay Occupational Sick Pay
- The motion proposed by Cllr Phil Graham opposing the Conservative government's Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Bill, which came into force in July last year.
- The letter sent by Cllr Bell-Bradford to then Minister for Enterprise, Markets and Small Business Kevin Hollinrake, outlining our opposition to the Strikes (Minimum Service Levels) Act and calling on the government to revoke the legislation.
- Islington Council's 'Join a Union' campaign in 2020 where the council became the first local authority to join forces with the TUC to promote a safe return to work by joining a union as the UK emerged from lockdown.

- Islington Council has committed to supporting trade unions and trade union membership, promoting the value of unionisation across the borough.
- The motion proposed by Cllr Ozdemir at Council in June 2022 which resolved to: “Support the RMT union and all other trade unions taking action this year to protect workers’ pensions and conditions, oppose job cuts and call for a proper pay rise”
- The incoming government should articulate a broad and positive vision to transform the world of work and must place this at the heart of its core narrative.

This Council resolves to:

- Welcome and support the Labour Party’s Green Paper on Employment Rights, and the party’s pledge to enshrine it in law within the first 100 days of the next Labour government.
 - Write to the newly elected government to amend the immigration rules for domestic migrant workers and reinstate the rights provided under the pre-2012 visa regime.
 - Call on the newly elected government to make issues around work, jobs, pay and rights for domestic migrant workers a core part of their narrative and vision.
 - Continue to work collaboratively with our Trade Unions who represent our Council workers and encourage union membership to Islington residents.
-

Motion 2 – Unlocking the potential of local high streets.

Proposed by: Cllr Valerie Bossman-Quarshie

Seconded by: Cllr Martin Klute

This Council notes:

- Healthy and thriving high streets are essential for employment, shopping, and leisure but many shops and businesses were struggling even before the Covid pandemic: high street retail employment fell in more than three-quarters of local authorities between 2015 and 2018 according to the Office of National Statistics.
- The coronavirus pandemic accelerated what in many cases has been a longer trend of lower footfall and changing shopping habits: as the Portas Review a decade ago acknowledged, the form and function of many high streets needs to adapt if they are to survive.
- The Treasury Select Committee stated in 2019, the current system of Business Rates places an unfair burden on “bricks and mortar” businesses compared to online retailers, and the Business Rate system needs radical overhaul.
- There are 3,710 fewer fruit and veg shops butchers, and newsagents than there were in 2010.
- Since the Covid-19 pandemic, there has been an increase in the number of vacant units.

- The importance of Islington's nighttime economy, with a third of all spend in the borough happening at night.
- Across the United Kingdom, shoplifting is up by more than 30% in a single year, and there are persistent high levels of antisocial behaviour (ASB), with a third of the public witnessing or experiencing it in their local area in the last 12 months.
- Central Government has provided some much-needed support to tackle anti-social behaviour through the Safer Streets Fund, and that it is essential that the evaluation of these approaches to tackle ASB and public safety, is published as soon as possible.
- UK wide research has found that most people (48%) say they are most likely to encounter ASB in their town centre and that 29% say they are most likely to encounter anti-social behaviour around their local shops.

This Council further notes:

- Islington's high streets and town centres are the lifeblood of our communities and provide goods and services to residents and act as essential hubs for our diverse communities.
- Small businesses make up 98% of businesses in Islington and form an inherent part of Islington's character. The importance to the local economy means that they play an essential role in building inclusion and spreading wealth more evenly.
- Islington Council have brokered 400+ meaningful interventions that generate inclusive economy and/or social value outcomes.
- That due to the work of Islington, we have supported over 300 local businesses to become accredited by the London Living Wage Foundation.
- The success of the Safe Havens scheme, where businesses provide a safe space to anyone feeling threatened, and patrols from Park Guard and drug and alcohol outreach.
- The council were awarded funding from City University to create a Business Crime Reduction Partnership in Archway to tackle the issues affecting businesses, residents and commuters, mirroring some of the Business Improvement District work in Angel.
- Islington Council will be awarded funding for drugs service as part of the Government's long-term drugs strategy, 'From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives'. Islington's first year funding allocation is £850k and is expected to rise to £1.4m in year two and then £2.7m in year three, subject to confirmation each year.
- Tackling antisocial behaviour can't effectively be done with a one size fits all approach and notes the importance of the valuable work of tackling the root cause but also using enforcement tools where absolutely necessary.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Government to urge it to scrap business rates and replace them with a system which is fit for purpose and which levels the playing field between bricks and mortar businesses and online retail giants.
- Campaign to devolve funds like the Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and other national funding pots, to give local

communities, councils and regions the ultimate say in how it is spent in their area.

- Explore what further local action can be taken to revive our high streets.
 - Make full use of s215 planning enforcement powers where empty units are attracting antisocial behaviour or creating an eyesore on the high street – and name and shame those premises which don't do their bit and are regularly subject to enforcement.
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Motion 3 – No to Live Facial Recognition in Islington

Proposed by: Cllr Jenny Kay

Seconded by: Cllr Jason Jackson

This Council notes:

- The use of Live Facial Recognition (LFR) surveillance has attracted worldwide condemnation for its intrusive nature, unreliability, and its potential to exacerbate racist outcomes in policing.
- The Metropolitan Police have been using LFR in public for years without any public or parliamentary debate.
- Facial recognition technology is not referenced in any legislation and has never been debated by Members of Parliament. The only parliamentary committee to analyse this technology in detail, the Science and Technology Committee in 2019, called for a stop to its use.
- Surveillance technology will always be used disproportionately against Black, Asian and ethnically minoritised communities and that the Metropolitan Police have often used LFR in ethnically diverse areas such as Notting Hill Carnival.
- That over 3000 people have been wrongly identified by LFR and that research has shown that LFR technology has an error rate of up to 35% when identifying Black women.
- The continued use of this form of surveillance risks creating tension between the police and the public, particularly in light of the Casey Report, as well as undermining the privacy and human rights of Islington's residents.
- The Metropolitan Police have twice deployed LFR in Islington (April and September 2023)

This Council further notes:

- Islington Council does not support the use of LFR technology anywhere in the borough.
- The Council Executive has raised objections to LFR at Full Council and has written to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, the Borough Commander and Superintendent outlining concerns over the deployment of LFR in Islington, its impact on residents, and the Council's objection to LFR.
- In March 2024, Lindsey Chiswick, the Met's Director of Intelligence, and Jamie Townsend, the Operational Lead for LFR at the Met, held an in-person session with Islington Councillors to discuss how the Met uses LFR.
- Since the publication of the Casey Review, the Council's Executive has been working closely with the Borough Commander and Superintendent to agree a strong, local action plan to increase confidence and trust in the police for local

people. We are concerned that the Metropolitan Police's deployment of LFR threatens to damage this vital work in Islington.

This Council resolves to:

- Call for an immediate stop to the use of LFR surveillance in Islington.
 - Take no steps to acquire LFR technology anywhere in Islington.
 - Not allow LFR systems to be applied to any personal data for which Islington Council is the data controller.
 - To ask the Executive Member for Community Safety to write to the Mayor of London to ask that the Metropolitan Police, Transport for London and the other agencies he is responsible for to refrain from using LFR technology within Islington.
-

Motion 4 – Retrofit over demolitions

Proposed by: Cllr Benali Hamdache

Seconded by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstong

This Council notes:

- Construction is responsible for 25% of the UK's carbon emissions.
- That the needless demolition of usable buildings is bad for the planet.
- The Climate Change Committee has expressed concerns that the UK is not on course to meet legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.
- Whole Life Carbon assessments are a standard for calculating the greenhouse gases emitted throughout a building's lifecycle, from the raw materials used in construction, through to the electricity used to run the building, right up until the demolition and end of life treatment of the building's materials.
- The London Plan sets out a benchmark target and an aspirational target for Whole Life Carbon Assessments of new buildings.
- Islington Council set a target of being a net zero borough by 2030.

The Council further notes:

- The London Assembly's Retrofit vs Rebuild report, which made a series of recommendations in light of concerns over too many buildings in London being demolished wholesale:
 - The report recommends that the London Plan's benchmark and aspirational targets should be strengthened to match global targets.
 - It also recommends third party independent audit of Whole Life Carbon Assessments to avoid some of the controversies that have arisen over divergent standards and measures.
- The council has received a number of planning proposals where the Whole Life Carbon meets the benchmark standards, but not the aspirational target.
- Westminster, Camden and City of London Councils have all adopted an official retrofit first policy
- The government has failed to introduce national policy on Whole Life Carbon assessment standards and processes.

- That developers have said retrofitting faces financial hurdles, and that reduction of VAT rates would help.

The Council resolves to:

- Back a retrofit first approach in planning policy
- Lobby the Mayor of London for stronger benchmarks on Whole Life Carbon in the London Plan
- Lobby the Mayor and government for third party audits of Whole Life Carbon Assessments to be mandatory
- To roll out carbon literacy training for relevant staff and councillors
- To lobby the government for national standards on whole life carbon and a removal of VAT for the retrofit of buildings.

Motion 5 – Addressing the housing crisis

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Russell

Seconded by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

This Council notes:

- Private rents in Islington rose to an average of £2,488 in May 2024, an annual
- increase of 15.0% from £2,163 in May 2023.
- The average rents rose in London (10.1%) over the same time period.
- According to Trust for London the median rent in Islington is 58% of the median pay.
- The Office for National Statistics says 2,006,690 social housing dwellings across the UK have been lost through Right to Buy schemes from April 1980 to March 2022.
- 41% of all council homes sold under the right to buy scheme are now being let on the private market, according to research by the New Economics Foundation.
- Over 15,000 people are on the council waiting list for a council home.
- That according to the latest government data, there were 11,880 no-fault eviction claims in London in the year to the end of March 2024, up 52% from 7,834 in the year to March 2023.
- Building new homes has become harder and harder, with rising interest costs and inflation.

The Council further notes:

- In the Mayor of London elections Sadiq Khan very clearly supported rent controls and the right to suspend Right to Buy for London.
- In the last year senior ministers in the new Labour government have dropped support for rent controls and scrapping Right to Buy.
- That Islington Council is buying back former council homes, after Green Assembly Members successfully lobbied the Mayor to provide £152 million in funding to London boroughs.

- That Islington is right at the heart of the housing crisis, with runaway rents, soaring house prices and finite space for new homes.
- Michael Gove's renters reform bill did not pass in the last government, and if it had it would have not addressed this crisis.
- That the Council has had to cancel a number of new build plans in face of the funding crisis.

The Council resolves to:

- To call on the new Labour government to give powers to the Mayor of London to work with councils, renters and landlords on a rent commission to address escalating rents and to work up a plan for rent controls in London.
 - To lobby the new government to be granted the powers to scrap or suspend Right to Buy.
 - To call for a new renters reform bill that scraps no fault evictions and gives tenants more rights in their homes.
 - To lobby the government for a new funding formula for new homes, that enables the council to build as close to 100% genuinely affordable homes as possible.
 - To call on the new Minister in the Ministry of Justice to lease or sell the 28 empty homes beside Pentonville Prison to Islington Council
-