



ISLINGTON

For a more equal future

COUNCIL

11 July 2024

ADDITIONAL DESPATCH

Please find enclosed the following items:

Item 10	Constitution Update	1 - 10
Item 11	Updated Appointments Report	11 - 12
Item 12	Amendments and Alterations to Motions	13 - 26

- Alteration to Motion 2 - Unlocking the potential of local high streets
- Proposed Amendment to Motion 4 – Retrofit over demolitions
- Proposed Amendment to Motion 5 – 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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Resources Department
7 Newington Barrow Way, London N7 7EP

Report of: Monitoring Officer

Meeting of: Council

Date: 11 July 2024

Ward(s): N/A

Subject: Constitution Update

1. Synopsis

- 1.1. This report proposes an amendment to the Council's Constitution to ensure it reflects changes in legislation and council policy and remains fit for purpose.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To approve the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report.

3. Background

Proposed amendments to the Constitution are described below and set out in the appendices to this report. Amendments are marked by crossing through in the case of deletions and by underlining in the case of additions.

- 3.1. Amendment to Part 5 – Voluntary and Community Sector Committee
Following the [decision of the Executive on 23 May 2024](#), the VCS Committee has been disbanded. It is proposed to amend the Constitution to clarify that the functions of the VCS Committee will now be carried out by the Executive, or by officers if the decision is within the scope of their delegated authority. The terms of reference of the Committee at Part 5 of the Constitution will be deleted, and all other references to the VCS Committee will be updated accordingly.

4. Implications

4.1. Financial Implications

The financial implications associated with the increase to the Members' Allowances Scheme are set out in the appendix.

4.2. Legal Implications

The Council must keep its Constitution up to date (section 9P Local Government Act 2000).

4.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

There are no direct environmental implications resulting as a result of this report.

4.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1. This report proposes amendments to the Constitution to ensure that the document remains up to date and fit for purpose.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Amendments to Part 5 of the Constitution

Appendix B – Amendments to Part 3 of the Constitution

Appendix C –Amendments to Part 1 of the Constitution

Appendix D – Amendments to Part 2 of the constitution

Background papers: None

Final report clearance:

Authorised by: Alison Stuart

Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer

Date: 8 July 2024

Report Author: Samineh Richardson, Committee Services Team Leader

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Table of Contents

Introduction	135
Executive	137
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	138
Health and Wellbeing Board	140
Standards Committee	142
Audit and Risk Committee	143
Employment and Appointments Committee	146
Pensions Committee	148
Islington Pensions Board	150
Planning Committee	155
Planning Sub-Committee	157
Licensing Committee	159
Licensing Sub-Committee	161
Licensing Regulatory Committee	164
Corporate Resources and Economy Scrutiny Committee	165
Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	167
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	169
Homes and Communities Scrutiny Committee	171
Environment, Climate and Transport Scrutiny Committee	173
Grievance Committee	175
Grievance Appeal Committee	177
Investigating and Disciplinary Committee	179
Disciplinary Appeal Committee	182
Joint Committees:	184
London Councils Leaders' Committee	184
Associated Joint Committee (London Councils Transport and Environment Committee)	186
Associated Joint Committee (London Councils Grants Committee)	188
Partners in Parking	189
North Central London Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)	190
Camden And Islington Joint Health Scrutiny Committee	191

INTRODUCTION

- The Council and the Executive have determined that their functions may be discharged by committees, sub-committees and joint committees as set out below.

Council Committees

- The Council has appointed the following committees:
 - Standards Committee
 - Audit and Risk Committee
 - Employment and Appointments Committee
 - Pensions Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - Policy and Performance Committee (which is designated as the Council's crime and disorder committee)
 - Health and Care Scrutiny Committee
 - Housing Scrutiny Committee
 - Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
 - Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Licensing Committee
 - Licensing Regulatory Committee

Sub-Committees

- The Licensing Committee has appointed four sub-committees
- The Planning Committee has appointed two sub-committees

~~Committee of the Executive~~

- ~~• The Executive has established a Voluntary and Community Sector Committee~~

Political Balance

The rules on political balance will apply to all committees and sub-committees except the Licensing Committee and its sub-committees, and the Health and Wellbeing Board ~~and the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee~~, the political membership of which shall be as set out in their terms of reference.¹

¹ ~~These rules do not currently apply as the council is not divided into 2 or more political groups~~

~~VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE~~

~~Composition~~

- ~~• The Leader~~
- ~~• The Executive member for Community Development~~
- ~~• The Executive member for Housing and Development~~
- ~~• The Executive Member with responsibility for Arts and Culture~~

~~Substitute members:~~

~~Executive members for Health and Care; Economic Development; Environment and Transport; and Finance, Performance and Community Safety~~

~~The following members will be invited to attend as observers:~~

- ~~3 majority party backbenchers~~
- ~~1 opposition party members~~

~~Quorum~~

~~The quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be two.~~

~~Terms of Reference~~

- ~~1. To oversee the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector.~~
- ~~2. To be responsible for the allocation off the Islington Community Fund including:
 - ~~a. allocating the VCS Partnership Grants Programme;~~
 - ~~b. allocating the Advice Fund;~~
 - ~~c. allocating the Local Initiatives Fund having regard to the recommendations of the relevant ward members/relevant ward partnership or neighbourhood group and on the basis that the funding will be allocated equally among the 16 wards making up the Council's area.~~~~
- ~~3. To receive updates on the allocation of funding by the Islington Community Chest Panel~~
- ~~4. To review and, if necessary, withdraw funding to organisations where there is a potential breach of conditions of grant aid and/or service level agreement.~~

- ~~5. To consider the management, use and disposal of council owned buildings occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations and to agree the disposal or leasing of council owned properties to voluntary sector and community bodies including, where relevant, the rent to be set save that decisions referred to in Part 3 4.4(j) may be taken by officers with the relevant delegated authority.~~
- ~~6. To approve the annual budget proposed for the London Councils Grants Committee.~~
- ~~7. To make an annual report to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee on its activities.~~

4. MATTERS RESERVED FOR EXECUTIVE DECISION

4.8 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

- (a) To determine the council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector. Including responsibilities:
- i. To determine Voluntary & Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme every four years.
 - ii. To determine the council's contribution to the annual London Borough Grants Scheme.
 - iii. To receive an annual report on Discretionary Rate Relief and a summary of the allocation of funding.
 - iv. To receive an annual report on the Council venues community free hire scheme, agree the criteria for allocations and receive an annual summary of free hire awards.
 - v. To receive an annual report on the Local Initiatives Fund, agree the annual budget and allocation criteria and receive an annual summary of the allocation of funding.

To agree the budget and arrangements for the Community Festivals Fund Small Grants Programme every three years.
 - vi. To receive an annual report on the Islington Community Chest and agree the annual budget and arrangements for allocating funding.
- (b) To review the management, use and disposal of council owned buildings occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations and to agree the disposal or leasing of council owned properties to voluntary sector and community bodies including, where relevant, the rent to be set save decisions that may be taken by officers with the relevant delegated authority.

5. ~~MATTERS DELEGATED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE~~

~~The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee may determine matters falling within those executive functions included in its terms of reference in Part 5.~~

PART 1 - SUMMARY AND EXPLANATION

6. Other committees

There are also the following committees dealing with the matters shown:

Audit and Risk	audit, governance, risk and accounts;
Licensing	all licensing matters under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 as amended;
Licensing Regulatory	all other licensing functions;
Standards	matters relating to the code of member conduct;
Planning	planning matters;
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	a committee of the Executive which allocates support to the voluntary and community sector;
Health and Wellbeing Board	a committee responsible for promoting an integrated approach by health and social services for advancing the health and wellbeing of local residents;
Employment and Appointments	the recruitment and appointment of Corporate Directors and Service Directors and to make recommendations to Council on the appointment of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive);
Pensions	all of the powers and duties of the Council in relation to its functions as Administering Authority of the London Borough of Islington Pension Fund.

Article 7 – The Executive

7.10 Responsibility and delegation of functions

- (a) The functions of the Executive may be exercised by the Leader or the Leader may delegate functions to the Executive as a whole, a committee or sub-committee of the Executive, an individual Executive member, or officers or to another authority or to a joint committee.
- (b) The Proper Officer will maintain a list in Part 3 of this Constitution setting out which individuals or bodies are responsible for the exercise of particular Executive functions.
- (c) The Executive may delegate functions for which it is responsible to a committee of the Executive or to an officer.
- ~~(d) The Executive has established a Voluntary and Community Sector Committee to oversee the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector and consider the management, use and disposal of council owned buildings occupied by voluntary and community sector organisations.~~

Article 10 – Ward Partnerships

10.5 The Ward Partnerships have the following specific roles. To:

- (a) Identify issues of concern within their ward(s), make suggestions (seeking further information if necessary) about actions to address these issues and monitoring the implementation of any actions agreed by the relevant body;
- (b) Make recommendations to the [Executive](#) ~~Voluntary and Community Sector Committee~~ about the allocation of the Local Initiatives Fund;
- (c) Review the Ward Improvement Plans at least annually and input into the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy plan.

COUNCIL MEETING – 11 July 2024

Updated Council Appointments Report

1. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- (i) To appoint Councillors Craig, Hyde and Weekes as substitute members of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee;
- (ii) To appoint Councillors McHugh, Staff and Weekes as substitute members of the Standards Committee;
- (iii) To appoint Councillor Staff as a substitute member of the Planning Committee;
- (iv) To appoint Councillors Staff and Weekes as substitute members of the Licensing Regulatory Committee;
- (v) To appoint Councillor Hyde as a substitute member of the Pensions Committee;
- (vi) To appoint Councillor Hyde as a substitute member of the Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee;
- (vii) To note that Councillors Spall and Cinko-Oner have stood down from the Planning Committee, and to appoint Councillors Craig and Jeapes as their successors;
- (viii) To note that Councillor Craig has stood down from the Environment, Climate Change and Transport Scrutiny Committee, and to appoint Councillor Gill as her successor;
- (ix) To note the vacancy on the Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Scrutiny Committee, and to appoint Councillor Heather Staff to the committee;

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) That Councillors Craig, Hyde and Weekes be appointed as a substitute member of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (ii) That Councillors McHugh, Staff and Weekes be appointed as substitute members of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until successors are appointed;

- (iii) That Councillor Staff be appointed as substitute members of the Planning Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (iv) That Councillors Staff and Weekes be appointed as substitute members of the Licensing Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until successors are appointed;
- (v) That Councillor Hyde be appointed as substitute members of the Pensions Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (vi) That Councillor Hyde be appointed as substitute members of the Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed.
- (vii) That Councillors Craig and Jeapes be appointed to the Planning Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until successors are appointed.
- (viii) That Councillor Gill be appointed to the Environment, Climate Change and Transport Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed.
- (ix) That Councillor Staff be appointed to the Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed.

2. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- (i) To note that Cllr O'Halloran has stood down from Islington Community Chest Panel, and to appoint Cllr Chapman as her successor for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) To appoint Cllr Chapman to the Islington Community Chest Panel for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed.



COUNCIL MEETING – 11 JULY 2024

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS TO MOTIONS

Alteration to 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 antisocial 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.
- [There are very few vacant shops in Islington, which is assisting our Labour-run Council in justifying the need for our Article 4 Directions. As a Council, we can protect most shops in the borough on the basis that they are occupied and active and provide essential services to our local residents.](#)

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.
- [Note that the council is planning to adopt a comprehensive package of Article 4 Directions to protect local shops and small businesses across the borough.](#)
- [Write to the Government to set out our case for Article 4 Directions in Islington and set out our broader concerns about Class MA rights and ask for them to be abolished.](#)
- 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.
- ~~Acknowledge that Islington Council is intending to notify impacted landowners of its intention to adopt Article 4 Directions at the end of the month and will be notifying the new Secretary of State.~~

The altered motion would read as follows:

Alteration to 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.
- 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.
- 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 antisocial 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.
- There are very few vacant shops in Islington, which is assisting our Labour-run Council in justifying the need for our Article 4 Directions. As a Council, we can protect most shops in the borough on the basis that they are occupied and active and provide essential services to our local residents.

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.
- Note that the council is planning to adopt a comprehensive package of Article 4 Directions to protect local shops and small businesses across the borough.
- Write to the Government to set out our case for Article 4 Directions in Islington and set out our broader concerns about Class MA rights and ask for them to be abolished.
- 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.

Proposed Amendment to Motion 4 – Retrofit over demolitions

Motion proposed by: Cllr Benali Hamdache

Motion seconded by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstong

Amendment moved by: Cllr Champion

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.~~ With the impact of climate change, such as hotter summers, councils such as ours need to look at opportunities for passive cooling through building design, as well as retrofit measures such as shading or shutters.
- 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.
- Islington Council are delivering a pioneering retrofit scheme to update the heating and water supply of Bevin Court, a grade 2 listed building. The retrofit scheme will see gas boilers replaced with environmentally friendly air source heat pumps (ASHP).

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 failed to introduce national policy on Whole Life Carbon assessment standards and processes.~~

- The council requires developers to comply with a Whole Life-cycle Carbon approach as set out in Policy S4 and a Circular Economy approach as set out in Policy S10 of the new Local Plan. Developers are also required to comply with Policy SI 1 and 2 of the London Plan and the GLA guidance on Whole Life-cycle Carbon Assessments and Circular Economy.
- The council intends to further clarify its whole life-cycle carbon policies in the forthcoming Climate Action and Net Zero Carbon SPD. Public consultation on the draft SPD will take place later this year.
- The challenges of enforcing a retro-fit first approach in a densely developed borough like Islington. Islington has a scarcity of land for development and often needs to maximise site capacity and bring forward higher density development to deliver new genuinely affordable homes and create an inclusive economy
- The Mayor of London's London Plan requires the largest developments in London to show how they have calculated and minimised carbon emissions from construction and the use of a building over its lifetime, including its demolition and disposal.
- The Mayor has also introduced a new requirement for developers to set out how they will support reductions in waste and carbon emissions by adopting greener practices, such as re-using and refurbishing existing materials and structures.
- That developers have said retrofitting faces financial hurdles, and that reduction of VAT rates would help.

The Council resolves to:

- Continue to require developers to undertake a retrofit first approach as set out in our planning policies and the London Plan.
- ~~Back a retrofit first approach in planning policy~~
- ~~Lobby the~~ Work with the Mayor of London for stronger benchmarks on Whole Life Carbon in the London Plan
- ~~Lobby~~ Work with the Mayor and government for third party audits of Whole Life Carbon Assessments to be mandatory
- ~~To roll out~~ Continue the council's carbon literacy training for relevant staff and councillors
- ~~To lobby the~~ Work with the government for national standards on whole life carbon and a removal of VAT for the retrofit of buildings.

The amended motion would read as follows:

Amended Motion 4 – Retrofit over demolitions

Motion proposed by: Cllr Benali Hamdache

Motion seconded by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstong

Amendment moved by: Cllr Champion

This Council notes:

- Construction is responsible for 25% of the UK's carbon emissions.
- With the impact of climate change, such as hotter summers, councils such as ours need to look at opportunities for passive cooling through building design, as well as retrofit measures such as shading or shutters.
- 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.
- Islington Council are delivering a pioneering retrofit scheme to update the heating and water supply of Bevin Court, a grade 2 listed building. The retrofit scheme will see gas boilers replaced with environmentally friendly air source heat pumps (ASHP).

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.
- The council requires developers to comply with a Whole Life-cycle Carbon approach as set out in Policy S4 and a Circular Economy approach as set out in Policy S10 of the new Local Plan. Developers are also required to comply

with Policy SI 1 and 2 of the London Plan and the GLA guidance on Whole Life-cycle Carbon Assessments and Circular Economy.

- The council intends to further clarify its whole life-cycle carbon policies in the forthcoming Climate Action and Net Zero Carbon SPD. Public consultation on the draft SPD will take place later this year.
- The challenges of enforcing a retro-fit first approach in a densely developed borough like Islington. Islington has a scarcity of land for development and often needs to maximise site capacity and bring forward higher density development to deliver new genuinely affordable homes and create an inclusive economy
- The Mayor of London's London Plan requires the largest developments in London to show how they have calculated and minimised carbon emissions from construction and the use of a building over its lifetime, including its demolition and disposal.
- The Mayor has also introduced a new requirement for developers to set out how they will support reductions in waste and carbon emissions by adopting greener practices, such as re-using and refurbishing existing materials and structures.
- That developers have said retrofitting faces financial hurdles, and that reduction of VAT rates would help.

The Council resolves to:

- Continue to require developers to undertake a retrofit first approach as set out in our planning policies and the London Plan.
- Work with the Mayor of London for stronger benchmarks on Whole Life Carbon in the London Plan
- Work with the Mayor and government for third party audits of Whole Life Carbon Assessments to be mandatory
- Continue the council's carbon literacy training for relevant staff and councillors
- Work with the government for national standards on whole life carbon and a removal of VAT for the retrofit of buildings.

Proposed Amendment to Motion 5 – Addressing the housing crisis

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Russell

Seconded by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Amendment moved by: Cllr Ward

Amendment also supported by: Cllr O'Halloran and Cllr Hayes

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 interest costs and inflation.~~ Due to the economic mismanagement of the previous Tory government resulting in rising interest rates and inflation, Islington Council has had to make the hard decision of refocusing our new build programme on the most deliverable projects.
- In Rachel Reeves first speech as Chancellor, she promised her government would:
 - ⊖ Restore mandatory housebuilding targets,
 - ⊖ Build 1.5m homes by the end of this parliament, including affordable and council homes
 - ⊖ Create a new taskforce to accelerate stalled housing sites
 - ⊖ Review planning applications previously turned down that could help the economy
 - ⊖ Reform the planning system to deliver infrastructure that our country needs

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.
- The Mayor has secured £4bn under the last Government to deliver affordable homes in London under the new Homes for Londoners: Affordable Homes

Programme 2021-2026. The Mayor of London has also pledged to complete 40,000 new homes by 2030.

- ~~In the last year senior ministers in the new Labour government have dropped support for rent controls and scrapping Right to Buy.~~ The new Labour government has pledged to prioritise the building of new social rented homes and better protect existing stock by reviewing the increased right to buy discounts introduced in 2012 and increasing protections on newly built social housing.
- ~~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.~~ Islington Council secured £82m from the then named Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to expand our buy-backs scheme with an additional 310 much needed ex-council homes, making it one of the largest in the country.
- That Islington is right at the heart of the housing crisis, with runaway rents, soaring house prices and finite space for new homes.
- Islington Council, and Islington South MP, Emily Thornberry, have tirelessly lobbied the previous Tory government to turn the vacant flats on Wellington Mews into desperately needed 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.~~
- Islington's Labour-run council is continuing to work towards our target of 750 new council homes by 2027 including Finsbury Leisure Centre as well as delivering social rent homes on the Holloway Prison site and the Barnsbury Estate.

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~~ Grant the Mayor of London the powers to scrap or suspend Right to Buy
 - ~~To call for a new renters~~ Initiate a new renters reform bill that scraps no fault evictions and gives tenants more rights in their homes.
 - ~~To lobby the government for~~ Create 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~~ Get the 28 empty 3 and 4 bedroom homes at Wellington Mews back into use as genuinely affordable homes for local families.

The amended motion would read as follows:

Amended Motion 5 – Addressing the housing crisis

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Russell

Seconded by: Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Amendment moved by: Cllr Ward

Amendment also supported by: Cllr O'Halloran and Cllr Hayes

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.
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