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LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

COUNCIL MEETING - 15 OCTOBER 2015

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 15 October 2015 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors present:

Greening	Ismail	Picknell
Fletcher	Jeapes	Poole
Andrews	Kaseki	Poyser
Burgess	Kay	Russell
Chowdhury	Khan	Shaikh
Comer-Schwartz	Klute	Smith
Convery	Murray	Turan
Debono	Ngongo	Ward
Diner	Nicholls	Ward
Donovan	O'Halloran	Watts
Gantly	O'Sullivan	Wayne
Gill	A Perry	Webbe
Heather	Parker	Williamson
Hull	R Perry	

The Mayor (Councillor Richard Greening) in the Chair

62 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That with a correction to include that Councillor Una O'Halloran completed the borough boundary walk, the Minutes of the meeting on 25 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Poole declared an interest in his question regarding Pentonville as an employee of HM Prison Service.

Councillors Heather, Alice Perry and Andrews declared an interest in the Motion regarding Trade Union Members Check-off, as union members.

64 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caluori, Court, Doolan, Erdogan, Gallagher and Spall. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Poyser.

(ii) Order of business

The Mayor amended the order of business to allow an urgent motion on the Right to Buy extension to Housing Associations, under rule 10.2(n). The item is urgent because the Prime Minister's announcement took place after the deadline to submit motions had passed and the policy will be so detrimental in Islington that the Council does not wish to wait until the next meeting.

(iii) Declarations of discussion items

The urgent motion on the Right to Buy extension to Housing Associations is to be debated at the start of the Motions agenda item.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor offered his congratulations to Jeremy Corbyn MP, who has been MP for Islington North since 1983, on becoming Leader of the Opposition with over 59% of the vote.

The Mayor congratulated all the students in the borough for their extremely good GCSE results and advised he felt privileged to meet some of the successful students at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School and the City of London Academy earlier in the year.

The Mayor also congratulated all the residents, businesses, schools and community groups who had their hard work and the pleasure they bring to others recognised in the Islington in Bloom Awards.

The Mayor thanked all the councillors who attended the charity dinner in Fish Central, which raised £2,000 for Music First and invited all councillors to a charity dinner on 11 February 2016. The event will be at Round Square in Finsbury Park and will also celebrate the Chinese New Year.

On a more sombre note the Mayor led the Council in a minute's silence in memory of ex-councillor Pat Brown, the former Chair of Social Services Committee, and offered the Council's condolences to family and friends.

The Mayor reminded all councillors of the events to mark Remembrance Sunday on 8 November at war memorials across the borough and hoped to see colleagues attend at least one of these.

Finally, the Mayor advised that he has entered the Milton Keynes marathon and will be pestering colleagues for sponsorship as all funds raised will go to charity.

65 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor and added his congratulations to Jeremy Corbyn MP; his election was good news for the borough; we will all be working foursquare to get elected in 2020 and when the public get to know Jeremy as we do, they will like what they see and he will be a great Prime Minister.

Councillor Watts advised that councillors had been contacted by a number of residents regarding the consultation on changes to the Controlled Parking Zones and he was therefore reporting back in advance of the Executive papers being published. It was high time we asked residents about the zones; they hadn't been consulted for eight years and a number of problems had been raised by residents themselves. The consultation was always going to be a genuine one and it is clear by the responses that residents support two of the five changes proposed, but not all of them. The Executive paper will follow the lead set by residents, as is only right and proper. I noted that we have been criticised for undertaking the consultation by the party which spent £850K on parking consultation, ten times more than we have spent.

I am sure that we were all shocked by the images of Aylan Kurdi, the three year old Syrian refugee whose body was washed up on a beach in Turkey. We have worked really hard since then, as have many other councillors. The Prime Minister has now bowed to public pressure, but it is important that we do what we can in Islington. We have been involved in a range of meetings, with the Mayor of London, Councils and the Home Office and are working with the National Refugees Welcome Board, trying to get agreement on a scheme which works. We are also working with Citizens UK and the Islington Refugee Forum to try to offer practical support. My colleague Councillor Ngongo has led on collecting donations from around the borough; we have opened the Town Hall as a donation centre for tents and clothing and have been overwhelmed by the response from residents. I'd like to thank the people of Islington for their generosity.

I know we are having a motion on this subject later on, but the government's proposals in the Housing Bill are appalling and will change the nature of the borough. I am disappointed and angry that the national and local housing associations did a deal for themselves and that it is the residents of Islington that will suffer. They have seen themselves alright at the expense of the council.

Finally, I wanted to mention the changes to business rates; the most important change in the financing of local government for 30 years. It is very difficult to know what this means for Islington; we have already lost half our funding. The devil will be in the detail, but we are not anticipating that it will make a positive difference in the short or medium term; it is ridiculous for such a change to be announced a month before we have to finalise the budget and it may cause unnecessary damage to public services.

66 PETITIONS

Victor Kaufman presented a petition on behalf of the Islington Liberal Democrats regarding the consultation on proposed changes to the Controlled Parking Zones.

67 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question (a) from Anita Frizzarin to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for the Environment and Transport:

The Supreme Court has ordered the UK Government to present a plan to reduce air pollution by the end of 2015 because it is too high, and Islington has to do its bit to bring about that reduction. Most air pollution comes from transport, and only one third of people in Islington drive. Is Islington council going to be intimidated by a minority who want to carry on driving and parking anywhere they like and not go ahead with the proposed Controlled Parking Zones, although extended CPZs would help achieve a reduction in the illegally high air

pollution that we are all forced to breathe in against our will, and which is particularly harmful to young children?

Reply:

Thank you for your question and welcome back again. This Council is committed to tackling air quality. As evidenced by our own Air Quality Strategy, the Diesel Surcharge, campaign for Transport for London to change its vehicles and the 20 MPH speed limit. We go forward with what residents tell us. It is hardly the record of a Council that is intimidated, more the record of a Council that is taking a national lead on these matters.

Supplementary question:

69% of households in the borough don't own a car, but suggest to us that you want to put in a CPZ a couple shout loudly and you are terrified. Can you explain what frightened you so much?

Reply:

Nothing frightened us. We undertook a nine week consultation and asked residents to tell us what they thought about a range of proposals. We think it is only fair to ask residents and to listen to what they say. In two areas residents what measures to go ahead and we listened to what they said. Anita, you make a strong case for air quality, but only 31% of residents own a vehicle; this is a progressive policy over time.

Question (b) from David Wilson to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

Last year Council, in debating a motion on the Right to a Fair Trial, recognised that 2015 would be the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta and resolved to promote the celebrated qualities of that historic document throughout this year. What has the Council done to fulfil that commitment?

Reply:

David, thank you for your question, it's nice to see you again. The Library and Heritage Service promoted the Magna Carta within the Council's Word Festival 2015. Included in the events was an Alternative Magna Carta gathering in Clerkenwell. This alternative celebration recognised the importance of the Magna Carta in curtailing the powers of the executive, but also challenged and appraised modern Britain's attitude to civil liberties in a modern setting. In addition to this event we also added new titles to the library stock on the Magna Carta. I have a list available if you would like it.

Supplementary Question:

That's great to hear, I wondered what plans you have for the remainder of the year.

Reply:

The Library and Heritage Service will continue to do what it can to promote the Magna Carta. I could also recommend a good episode of Horrible Histories that my children love.

Question (c) from Greg Foxsmith to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for the Environment and Transport:

Last year I was encouraged to hear from the Executive Member for the Environment that the Council would look into the viability of joining Elthorne Park and Sunnyside Gardens by closing the stretch of Sunnyside Road between them. Has that assessment been completed, and does the current Exec member support that proposal for making a larger green space in the North of the Borough?

Reply:

I too share the concerns and agree that it is right for the Council to look into closing Sunnyside Road to traffic and making it part of Elthorne Park, but unfortunately the cost is prohibitive. The cost of closing the bus stand and related landscaping is in excess of £700K. The Tory government continues to impose massive cuts and sadly we are not able to proceed.

Supplementary question:

Thank you for your constructive answer. I would be grateful if you would send me the costings? I would like to work with you, I know that Jeremy Corbyn MP supports the proposal. It may not be possible this year, but it is a proposal that won't go away.

Reply:

I would be happy to share the information. I too look forward to the day that Jeremy Corbyn becomes Prime Minister.

Question (d) from Jayne Kavanagh to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

The council website states that, 'Islington is a diverse and vibrant borough and in recent years, like many inner London boroughs, Islington has received new refugee communities from troubled parts of the world'. Can you tell me how many refugees and asylum seekers have been received in Islington in the last 5 years including as part of the Gateway programme?

Jayne Kavanagh was not present at the meeting and a written reply will therefore be sent.

Question from Rachel Bloch to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

On Sept 12 in Parliament Square at the Refugees Welcome rally Jeremy Corbyn finished his speech by stating: 'Open your hearts, open your minds and open your attitude towards supporting people who are desperate and need somewhere safe to live'. What steps is Islington taking to resettle refugees from Syria and to make this a reality in our borough?

Thank you for your question, it is very welcome. I am delighted to see you today. I spoke about this issue a little earlier, but I want to talk about the challenges we face. We are determined to make the scheme work and for Islington to do its bit to help humanitarian cases caused by the war in Syria. When the government was still saying that we won't take any more, we worked with London Citizens and offered to take 50 refugees. The housing crisis means that we cannot provide housing, so London Citizens went off to find private housing. We have since been appalled by the deaths of Aylan Kurdi and others whilst trying to make the sea crossing. The government has now said we will take 20,000; we have been shamed by Germany. The Lebanon is currently taking 2 million, the government's action is too little too late and they are only offering one years' money to take in people who are very vulnerable and who have serious medical and other problems. One years' funding is not

enough, but we would get round that if not for the more significant problems caused by the government's attacks on the benefit system. For the first few years the government envisages the welfare system picking up living costs. Because of the cruel cuts to benefits and not building affordable housing, we cannot find any flats in Islington where the refugees can be securely placed. It's not just our residents that are cruelly affected by this, but refugees as well. We are not prepared to say we will take them and then house them in Haringey. Because of the high cost of the area, the scheme doesn't work. London Citizens have found some private flats at affordable rates, but not enough. We are working really hard to change it, we have lobbied the Mayor of London and the Home Office, we are working with other councils and Citizens UK and have spoken at vigils and meetings. We want to do our bit; if this scheme is going to work nationally it will be because London takes part.

Supplementary question:

That will help in the future, but how are we going to help people who are desperate now it's getting colder.

Reply:

We are campaigning and we are collecting goods; tents and clothing at the Mildmay Community Centre and the Town Hall. My thanks for the generosity of Islington residents; it is touching and heart-warming. We have to keep campaigning.

Question (f) from Benali Hamdache to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children and Families:

What efforts have local schools made to comply with statutory requirements under the Prevent strategy? How much training has been done of local teachers and governors to identify extremism and build appropriate strategies to tackle these issues?

Reply:

Councillor Watts replied on Councillor Caluori's behalf. You asked about the Prevent Strategy. This is a new duty which has only just come into force. Schools and the government are anxious to get it right. We try to keep schools together; we have issued training and guidelines and are helping governors to understand the requirements. These are difficult and complex rules and whilst we all agree that preventing people from being radicalised is very important, this duty is complex and a lot of weight has been placed on schools to do it quickly. It is important to do it as well as we can without affecting community cohesion. We don't want people to feel criticised just for being Muslim. We are looking at it as a child protection issue and will be issuing a new set of guidance in a sensitive way. We don't want to see good schools ailed and academised by Ofsted for not getting it right.

Supplementary question:

I totally agree that this is a burden on schools, but what consultation are they doing with community groups to build an inclusive strategy and not a climate of fear?

Reply:

We have fantastic working relationships with all faith groups and community groups across Islington. There has been a lot of consultation by staff with expert longstanding knowledge, but it is important to remember that each school is responsible for implementing the scheme; it is up to the governors to decide how to implement it. Two of the more diverse and fantastic

schools, well versed in the issues you describe are leading on this in the borough. We are committed to tackling violent extremism and keeping residents safe. This is not an easy thing and we need to help schools get it right.

Question from Jessie Godwin, aged 15, to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Many local authorities are refusing to take refugees from Syria under the resettlement programme unless the government pledges 5 years of full funding in advance. What is Islington's position on this?

Jessie Godwin was not present at the meeting and a written reply will therefore be sent.

The meeting was then opened to questions from the floor.

Question 1 from Ernestas Jegorovas to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:

Will you listen to Islington residents and Corbynistas and produce an anti-cuts budget that this council needs?

Reply:

We will fight every step of the way, but we will set a balanced and legal budget. The alternative is Tory administrators being parachuted in to set an even worse budget. None of us went into politics to do that. Campaigning is the only answer.

Supplementary question:

Jeremy Corbyn has said he'll join you on the picket line.

Reply:

No, he hasn't; we can't set an illegal budget.

68 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Cllr Andrews to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance and Performance

I understand that the council has recently won the case against the current owner of Myddleton Square Gardens, the MCG, I would like to know why the council still do not have a new lease for Myddleton Square Gardens, what action is being taken and why it is taking so long?

Reply:

So far we have won the right to have a lease, but the terms have to be set by the court. We can't speed up the process and have to follow the court's timetable. I hope that the court will find in our favour. A letter has been sent to residents to explain and I have a copy here for you to take.

Supplementary question:

This situation illustrates how vulnerable the council and people are to speculators holding plots of land that are almost of no use to them. It looks like part of the borough is vulnerable to speculators and developers.

Reply:

I think as councils go, we are one of the local authorities who have resisted that most aggressively. We have radical planning policies that help us get round the threat posed by those developers, which is a threat to the whole of London that is encouraged by government policy.

Councillor Andrews to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

In Clerkenwell we have had 5 small businesses closed including a pub, a shop and newsagents. In view of the very uneven playing field that there is for small family business especially when it comes to tax can you tell me, so that I can tell my constituents, what help the council is providing to for small family business?

Reply:

This question reflects the council's concerns about local businesses facing a hard time. There are 10,000 small businesses in the borough whose situation is exasperated by rising property prices. We are seeking to protect them through a variety of planning tools.

Supplementary question:

Unfortunately the south of the borough is so close to Farringdon that the development there is attracting large hotel chains and international businesses squeezing local businesses that have been here for many years. Businesses are asking us what we are going to do for them. It would be helpful if you could come and experience some of that. The government is letting multinationals pay no tax and squeeze small businesses.

Reply:

I agree, it will be a good opportunity to find out first hand.

Councillor Poole to Councillor Convery, Executive Member for Community Safety

Would the Executive Member for Community Safety consider following Lambeth in banning the use and supply of new psychoactive substances (including nitrous oxide) in public places?

Reply:

This is specific legislation that in Lambeth they have chosen to use to target drug users. We do have similar problems in Islington, but not on the same scale; it is a less pressing issue. Lambeth are targeting users rather than suppliers, whilst our activities target suppliers. We have joint operations with the Police and using street trading powers had our first successful

prosecution in October.

Supplementary Question:

I am somewhat disappointed. We need to protect the public from erratic and untested substances. Walk around my ward and you will see lots of canisters and young men on the way to work smelling of cannabis. Even if people think these substances are harmless, they are anti-social – residents in Theberton Square were recently disturbed by a car full of gibbering idiots inhaling something at 4am.

Reply:

There have not been a significant number of public complaints about these issues. No doubt there are canisters littering the streets but is it such a grave problem that we should go after users? Nitrous Oxide reduces blood pressure and has been linked to a number of deaths. The law is likely to change quite shortly. It is almost certainly going to be made illegal and then we will be able to take a position regarding people using these drugs, but it is more important to go after the suppliers than the users.

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

Would the Executive Member for Housing & Development detail the extent of listed building status pertaining HMP Pentonville?

Reply:

Councillor Murray advised that the prison is one of 4,000 Grade II listed buildings across Islington, which provides it with extra protection. A, B, C and D wings and the Chapel wing are included in the listing. Grade II buildings are of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them. Listing is an important way the planning system protects the special characteristics of our built heritage.

Supplementary question:

I am declaring an interest, although I know that I don't have to do so. The somewhat frenzied speculation about the future of Pentonville may be premature, as it sounds like developers will face considerable obstacles. I ask Councillor Murray and all Council to get behind this local organisation. It employs local people, supports local businesses and allows local people to be close to relatives who are inmates.

Reply:

We want to avoid a situation where prisoners will be removed away from their families, the courts, lawyers and the help that's available locally to reintegrate. The government faces lots of barriers. The government's proposed planning changes make me nervous, but if there is any process to close the prison, with any luck it will take so long that Jeremy Corbyn will be in No. 10 by then and he will put a stop to it.

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

I was interested to learn in the local paper that Labour councillors have "slammed the brakes" on their parking consultation. What did the Council learn from the £87,000 consultation on parking and was it good value for money?"

Reply:

Thank you for your question. In order to get the views of local people and businesses we conducted one of the biggest consultations in the council's history and were right to do so. I understand that you even conducted your own bit of consultation. I'm also pleased to be able to cut down on costs; when you compare it with the former LibDem administration between 2001 and 2007 spent £850K on a consultation about CPZs and in that context the wide ranging consultation we ran, was good value for money. We said we would listen and we are doing so. We will take it forward in recommendations in forthcoming Executive papers.

Supplementary question:

So this £85K consultation didn't reveal what you already knew about areas where residents had reported parking stress? Hillrise residents requested a review and were told there were no funds available and now you have found them. Will you apologise to the residents of Islington about this and be more responsive?

Reply:

I am not aware of the review you mentioned. We listened to all the responses and in the same zone and the same street we got different responses. When you look at the results, we put a set of proposals forward and consulted and asked residents for their views. Even in Zones where residents did support proposals their neighbours said no and we have listened to the majority. Where they have said yes we will go with the recommendations. We chose to listen and that's why we conducted this in the way we have.

Councillor Russell to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

What can the council do, to resettle Syrian refugees given that government is not currently providing a 5 year funding package?"

Reply:

Thank you for your question. Forgive me for not answering in detail as I have answered the same question earlier. It would be better if the government offered five years social care but the real issue is living costs and a lack of properties under the cap. We've had a lot of offers, the people of the borough are very generous, but the government scheme is very complex; it has to be a flat or a house, not a room and it has to be available for at least 15 months at well below market rent. London Citizens have found some fantastic people but the priority is to find more and get a scheme that works for London.

Supplementary question:

Just to clarify it is not the lack of five years funding, but the lack of available housing?

Reply:

The lack of funding is a problem, but it's not a killer problem, those are the problems about housing and the benefits cap. That affects local residents as well as refugees. The lack of funding will cause problems, but we would not let that stop us, but at the moment the housing rules make it really hard to do it.

Councillor Ismail to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

Young people and men from the BAME community, with good educational qualifications, are over-represented in the numbers of unemployed people in the borough. What do you think is the biggest single barrier to their gaining employment and what is the council doing to address it?

Reply:

Thank you for your question and for meeting me earlier today; it was very productive. BAME employment is a big challenge. What's going right is the educational improvement in schools, but many supports, such as the EMA and housing benefit for under 21 year olds are being removed. We are trying to do what we can, we've provided Islington Bursaries, are building affordable housing and are protecting youth services. Probably the biggest issues are housing and the need for positive role models.

Supplementary question:

Thank you for answering. Islington is a diverse borough. More BAME councillors have been elected since 2012 and we now have two BAME Executive members and some BAME officers progressing through the ranks, but there is still more to do in our schools, in the council, in the CCG and the Police. How can we secure more prominent roles for BAME men so that young men have role models to look up to?

Reply:

Thank you for your campaigning; it does you credit. One third of staff are from a BAME background, but BAME staff are slightly under represented in senior positions. These are higher than the national averages. We are making sure there are positive role models; a whole range of training and development is available to BAME staff and we have taken the individual's name off application forms to get rid of name discrimination. I look forward to working with you more on this.

Councillor Kaseki to Cllr Watts, Leader of the Council

The humanitarian crisis in Europe, with refugees and migrants fleeing conflict and persecution, has led many residents to express their concerns to me and to other councillors about the treatment of these people. Can I ask the Leader of the Council what the Council is doing to prepare for the arrival of any Syrian refugees and what his views are of the response of European Union member states to this human crisis?

Reply:

No London council is eligible to join the government's scheme so we are not members. It isn't good enough and we will do what we can, but we don't have official arrangements in place. We are working with voluntary sector groups to make sure that refugees are properly welcomed and given the support they need to become a credit to the community.

Supplementary question:

In humanitarian crises what action should be taken on this issue at a European level?

Reply:

More countries just need to do their bit. Germany has and Britain and some others haven't. We know what happens in Syria has knock on consequences everywhere and if we stand by and let it happen there will be worse consequences. We need to join together to welcome refugees.

The time allowed for questions had expired and a written response has been sent to the question below:

Councillor Ismail to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic and Community Development:

Islington has a vibrant & diversity community, but not all communities seem to benefit equally from funding from the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. What are you doing, as the Executive Member, to ensure that all communities have equal access to opportunities to apply for funding and to ensure that funding is fairly distributed across the borough's different communities?

Reply:

I'd like to thank Cllr Ismail for raising this question, which importantly highlights the need for us as a Council to work with our community and voluntary sector in more creative ways, particularly during this time of swingeing Tory cuts to local government - cuts that will impact on the level of support we can provide to the community and voluntary sector in Islington.

As a Council, we know that, our voluntary and community sector lies at the heart of our ambition for a fairer Islington.

We recognise the valuable contribution that the VCS makes in supporting our most vulnerable residents and in helping to tackle a broad range of complex social issues.

As a council we know the importance of core funding and small grants to voluntary and community organisations as they provide a foundation from which organisations can grow and develop responsive initiatives. In Islington, since 2011, over 40 organisations have received direct grant funding from the Council of £3.5 million per year enabling them to support and improve the quality of life for thousands of our residents.

However, we also recognise that the Council's relationship with the sector cannot simply be based on funding. Both the Council and the voluntary and community sector need to adapt, be flexible, and identify opportunities to collaborate for mutual benefit. To this end we have developed a VCS Strategy in consultation with the sector which maps out our vision and approach in working with the sector in the future.

Our approach moving forward focusses on building and developing strong partnerships between the whole council and the VCS. We want these partnerships to leverage in the financial resources, physical space and expertise that our voluntary and community sector organisations require to be independent, financially resilient and responsive to local need.

Importantly we want to see a better connected sector, with more collaboration and sharing of resources between organisations and groups who share similar goals or who are serving the same communities.

To this end we absolutely recognise the importance of consortium working within the sector, particularly in order to leverage in much needed funding into the sector, which will also help us deliver our corporate priorities.

And over this last year we have been working with organisations in the sector to help them develop consortia.

For example, our VCS team have been supporting our Learning, Skills and Employment Service to work with Voluntary Action Islington to pull together a consortium of VCS organisations who have a specific interest in helping people into employment.

And there are likely to be further opportunities to develop consortia in other service delivery areas, such as health and well-being.

At the moment we are working with the sector to help them develop consortia so that they will be ready and better able to take advantage of potential funding opportunities that will be announced through the European Structural Fund, the Big Lottery and generally through the broader devolution agenda.

The VCS team will continue to play this facilitative role - to identify funding opportunities, and to bring relevant stakeholders together into consortia so that we can pull down any additional funding into the borough as a whole. This is a vital role that the Council can play especially given the unprecedented Tory cuts to our Council to date, and those still to come.

69 CONSTITUTION REPORT

Councillor Alice Perry, seconded by Councillor Poyser, moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried. Councillor Russell asked that her opposition to the recommendations be noted.

RESOLVED:

1. That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the attached Appendix to the report be approved.
2. That the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR) be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution she considers necessary.

70 REVISED CHIEF WHIPS REPORT

Councillor Alice Perry, seconded by Councillor Poyser, moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:

1. APPOINTMENT TO POLICY AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That Councillor Jeapes be appointed as a member of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee, with immediate effect, for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

2. APPOINTMENT TO HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That Councillor Ismail be appointed as a member of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee, with immediate effect, for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

That Councillor O'Halloran be appointed as a member of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect, for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

3. APPOINTMENTS TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

That the appointment of Cathy Blair to Health and Wellbeing Board for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

That the appointment of Emma Whitby as the Healthwatch representative on Health and Wellbeing Board for one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

That the following representatives be appointed as named substitutes to the relevant member of Health and Wellbeing Board for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed:

Committee Member	Named Substitute
Wendy Wallace, Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust	Paul Calaminus, Deputy Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Henrietta Hughes, Medical Director, North East London, NHS England	Dr Helene Brown, Associate Medical Director, NHS England London Region
Simon Pleydell, Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	Siobhan Harrington, Deputy Chief Executive, The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust
Sorrell Brooks, Lay Vice Chair, Islington Clinical Commissioning Group	Lucy de Groot, Lay Chair of the Islington Clinical Commissioning Group Audit Committee
Emma Whitby of Healthwatch	Olav Ernstzen of Healthwatch

Julie Billett, Director of Public Health Camden and Islington	Jonathan O'Sullivan, Islington Assistant Director of Public Health
Sean McLaughlin, Corporate Director Housing and Adult Social Services	Simon Galczynski, Service Director Adult Social Care
Cathy Blair, Director of Targeted and Specialist Children's Services	Mark Taylor, Director of Learning and Schools

4. PLANNING COMMITTEE

That Councillor Ismail stands down from Planning Committee with immediate effect and that Councillor Donovan be appointed as her replacement for a period of one year or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER POSITIONS

5. MENTAL HEALTH CHAMPION

That the appointment of Cllr Gantly as the Council's Mental Health Champion for one year, or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

6. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE CHAMPION

That the appointment of Cllr Hamitouche as the Council's Social Enterprise Champion for one year, or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS

7. CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY ISLINGTON

That Councillor Joe Caluori be appointed as the Local Authority School Governor to City of London Academy Islington in place of Felix Hebblethwaite, for a period of four years or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

AMENDMENT TO PAY POLICY STATEMENT

8. That that the council's Pay Policy Statement be amended to reflect that the additional payment under the voluntary redundancy scheme has been increased to £5,000 for the 2015/16 scheme, be agreed.

71 URGENT MOTION - RIGHT TO BUY EXTENSION TO HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Councillor O'Sullivan moved the motion. Councillor O'Halloran seconded.

Councillors Heather, Murray, Andrews, Russell contributed to the debate.

The recommendations in the motion were put to the vote and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED:

To support the Executive Member for Housing and Development in urging major housing associations operating in the borough to ring-fence any receipts from Right to Buy sales in Islington and invest them in like-for-like replacement homes for social rent within the borough.

72 NOTICES OF MOTION

MOTION: BLACK HISTORY MONTH ALL YEAR ROUND

Councillor Comer-Schwartz moved the motion. Councillor Webbe seconded.

Councillors Kaseki and Russell contributed to the debate.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

To consult schools about their curriculum support needs; to offer schools resources and partnership that can support and enrich their history curriculum; and to offer specialist training through Black History Month, because this council believes that a comprehensive, inclusive and all year round approach such as this will help Islington move towards our shared goal that all pupils should be able to see themselves in the history they study, not just for one month a year, but all the time.

MOTION: TRADE UNION MEMBERS CHECK-OFF

Councillor Heather moved the motion. Councillor Alice Perry seconded.

Councillors Andrews and Russell contributed to the debate.

Councillors Heather, Alice Perry and Andrews declared an interest as union members.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

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

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

MOTION: ISLINGTON COMMITTS TO THE NATIONAL CITY PARK INITIATIVE

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Webbe, seconded by Councillor Watts, moved an amendment to the motion.

The recommendations in the amended motion were put to the vote and CARRIED.

The motions as amended was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

To call on Cllr Claudia Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, and Cllr James Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development to investigate the proposals further, paying specific attention to how the proposals would impact on the council's development plans and to ensure that there would be no financial burden placed on the council by this proposal.

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

MOTION: PREVENT STRATEGY

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Alice Perry, moved an amendment to the motion.

The recommendations in the amended motion were put to the vote and CARRIED.

The motions as amended was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

To work with local schools, school governors and local faith groups to ensure that the implementation of Prevent is effective, sensitive and constructive.

To work with local groups to ensure extremism is challenged collaboratively rather than driven underground or over exaggerated.

To praise the many local community and faith groups who work across our borough to improve community cohesion and prevent violent extremism.

To work with local Trade Unions, universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs to request the Government to change the elements of the anti-terrorism programme that damage community cohesion and are therefore counter-productive.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm

MAYOR

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Amendment

Moved by Cllr Claudia Webbe

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council further notes that the estimated annual cost of the National Park City would be £2 million rising to £4 million per year.

This Council resolves thatto -

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

~~All Islington Councillors be encouraged to sign to declare their wards support for the scheme at <http://www.nationalparkcity.london/ward-support> website.~~

~~The Council show~~

- ~~• Call on Cllr Claudia Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport, and Cllr James Murray, Executive Member for Housing and Development to investigate the proposals further, paying specific attention to how the proposals would impact on the council's development plans and to~~

ensure that there would be no financial burden placed on the council by this proposal.

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

Amendment

To be moved by Cllr Richard Watts -

4. Motion: PREVENT Strategy

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

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

More people who lived and worked in Islington died in the 7/7 attacks than any other borough, and the Council's most important responsibility is to keep our residents safe. We are fully committed to tackling violent extremism.

The Council utterly condemns those who engage in hate speech and the grooming of people into violent extremist activity and notes there are already a range of laws in place to tackle this.

This Council also notes -

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

In the face of these duties, schools s now have a requirement to promote "British Values" ~~from as early as birth~~.

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

This Council ~~resolves~~believes –

That over the longer term, we best reduce the risk of violent extremism by promoting community cohesion, active citizenship and integration.

That the council's approach to Prevent should be guided by two principles –

1. Safeguarding is essential and we see preventing radicalisation as an important integral strand of our safeguarding practice.
2. Prevent can only be successful if it enjoys the support of local communities, and does not stigmatise or lead to entire communities feeling under suspicion.

This Council resolves -

To work with local schools, school governors and local faith groups to ensure that the implementation of Prevent is effective, sensitive and constructive. Working

To work with local groups to ensure extremism is challenged collaboratively rather than driven underground or over exaggerated.

To praise the many local community and faith groups who work across our borough to improve community cohesion and prevent violent extremism.

To work with local Trade Unions, universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs ~~in opposition to~~ request the ~~worst excesses~~ Government to change the elements of the ~~government's~~ anti-terror ~~programs~~ programme that damage community cohesion and are therefore counter-productive.