

## **LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON**

### **COUNCIL MEETING - 30 JUNE 2016**

#### **MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30 June 2016 at 7.30 pm.

#### **Present:**

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

#### **The Mayor () in the Chair**

#### **95 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

##### **RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meeting on 30 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

#### **96 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **97 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

##### **(i) Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Doolan, Klute, Picknell and Councillor Rupert Perry. Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Caluori, Kay

and O'Sullivan.

**(ii) Order of business**

In accordance with rule 10.2(n) the Mayor advised she had accepted an urgent motion on 'Islington – a home for all'. The reason for urgency was the shocking increase in incidents of hate crime following the result of the EU Referendum and the Mayor agreed we should wait until the next meeting of the Council to make it clear that Islington continues to welcome people from all communities and condemns racism, xenophobia and hate crimes.

The Mayor also changed the order of the agenda, to bring forward Youth Questions.

**(iii) Declaration of discussion items**

No items were declared.

**(iv) Mayor's Announcements**

A minute's silence was held to mark the sad and untimely death of Jo Cox MP and to remember those who lost their lives or were injured in the shootings in Orlando and the attack on Istanbul airport.

With such tragic events in the world, the Mayor advised that it is sometimes hard to remember that good things are still happening, but she wanted to mention some of the highlights of her first month as Mayor, as they make the work we do worthwhile. The events included, Refugee Week, the end of year celebration at City and Islington College, the Word Festival and Armed Forces Day. Amongst other activities during the month the Mayor had also enjoyed boxing at the Cally Festival, pond dipping with youngsters and meeting the queen bee at the Gillespie Park apiary. The Mayor also attended the launch of Carer's Week and particularly mentioned that the tireless efforts of those who care for others shows the best of Islington and that she was proud to recognise them on behalf of the Council. Finally, the Mayor mentioned all the midsummer garden parties she had attended, which if nothing else, were a triumph of optimism over the weather.

**(v) Length of speeches**

The Mayor asked colleagues to do their utmost to keep speeches within the permitted length.

**98 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor and supported her comments about the events in Orlando and the death of Jo Cox MP. Councillor Watts advised that Jo had been a formidable talent and thanked all the councillors who attended the memorial on the Town Hall steps along with both the borough's MPs and 400 people.

Councillor Watts advised that he was personally disappointed with the EU Referendum result, but that it was also having a negative impact on Islington. We have already seen economic damage with the pound crashing and share values tumbling and fewer houses will be built, but the risk of social damage was underestimated and it has unleashed a wave of hate crime

across the country. There are no figures yet, but there is anecdotal evidence of an increase here too, so we want to make it clear that all people, regardless of where they come from are welcome here and that we appreciate the contribution they make. Councillor Watts encouraged everyone to attend a 'Say No to Hate Crime' rally on Highbury Fields at 10am on Saturday 2 July. Islington's history of welcoming new people goes back hundreds of years to the French Huguenots. Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor for agreeing to accept the urgent motion.

Councillor Watts also advised that next week sees the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Although he is looking forward to the events to commemorate the battle, World War I showed what happens when democracy and politics fails and that no matter how bad our system is, the alternatives are worse.

Councillor Watts confirmed Councillor Diarmaid Ward's appointment and welcomed him to the Executive.

## **99     PETITIONS**

Mr Adam Cook presented a petition regarding support for a Crouch Hill and Hornsey Rise Neighbourhood Forum application.

Mr Chris Sparks presented a petition regarding alterations to Archway Road, Archway N19.

## **100    QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL**

Question a. Young Mayor Darey to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

What does Cllr Watts think will be the impact on young people living in London following the election of the new London Mayor?

Reply:

Thank you for your question and welcome to you and your Youth Council colleagues. The election of Sadiq Khan as Mayor of London is a ray of light in an otherwise cloudy sky. It made me proud to be a Londoner and that we have our first Muslim mayor is a fantastic statement. The population of London is very young – approximately 25% of the population is aged between 25 and 34 and the Mayor needs to pay special attention to the needs of young people; to housing, schools and safety.

We need more genuinely affordable housing; private housing is unaffordable and there is a long wait for social housing. Sadiq is committed to appointing serious people to get things done. It won't be easy, but I have every confidence in him.

London's schools are the most improved in the developed world over the last 10 years, but with colleges, skills and training for jobs we need to do a lot of work and the Mayor can make a big difference.

With regard to safety, the Mayor has oversight of the Metropolitan Police. We are feeling the loss of the neighbourhood police teams here; it's harder for the community to build a relationship. I am looking forward to Sadiq keeping the manifesto commitment to bring them back. We do also need to look at tackling crime differently, and stop looking at different types of crime, but at the people involved.

We need to work with the Mayor to find money to ensure high quality services for young people across London. We are the only Council which has protected funding for Youth Services.

Question b. Youth Councillor & Member of the Youth Parliament Mohamed to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Crime and gang related violence continue to be of concern for Islington's young people. The IYC recognises that the police and its school engagement team are running a series of Safer School roadshows, What else is being done by the police and the council to address these concerns?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I am happy to say that between April and June we have seen some reductions, but we can't become complacent. There are three things that I think will help. The Integrated Gangs Team is fully up and running now and they offer interventions, including accommodation, drugs treatment and counselling and work with the whole family. We are also focussing on schools, with the Violence and Gangs education programme which highlights the dangers of crime, gangs and carrying knives and focuses on personal safety. To date there have been over 160 sessions in schools. The number of schools attending the Ben Kinsella exhibition at Finsbury Library has also increased. Finally, we have committed £500K to mentoring projects for young people. Some children as young as 7 years old are in danger of being sucked into gang culture and this project will help prevent that happening.

We will keep working with you; we need you to help us shape these services to make sure that we are going the right thing.

Question c. Youth Councillor Miriam's question to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families was asked by Deputy Young Mayor Diana Paniagua in her absence:

As a result of Scottish legislation as of April 2016, 16 and 17 year olds were given the right to vote in the Scottish Parliament election. How can Islington Council support the IYC to promote this concept locally in order that young people are given the vote in London?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. I saw you at the hustings at City and Islington College the day before the EU Referendum and you spoke with really clear passion. The conversations I have had with young people before and since have brought home to me how unjust it is that young people can't vote on issues that affect their future. I think that 16 is a completely sensible time. The Labour Party policy is to extend voting to 16 year olds, but the government do not agree. It is unsustainable that you can vote in Scotland at 16 and not in England and the inconsistency must be addressed. Maybe we could jointly write to the Prime Minister? We also need to make sure that people who are eligible can vote and to improve education about politics generally. This is a very important time for young people to make their voice heard and I will happily do anything we can to get the situation rectified.

Question d. Youth Councillor Honey to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development:

What can be done to improve information about apprenticeships in our schools/colleges to increase awareness that apprenticeships are a pathway on par with those that are academic?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. It raises a really important issue. We recognise the importance of apprenticeship opportunities for young people. The iWork Youth Employment Team have been working on careers and apprenticeship workshops. The workshops in schools highlight different types of apprenticeships and show young people alternatives to academic pathways. The feedback from schools is that more pupils are now aware. It is important that we put forward the offer at the same time as students are choosing college or university and it's really important to get parents and teachers on board. The Youth Team have attended a number of parents evenings to raise awareness and have also done staff training at some schools. That said we do realise that we can do much more and will be extending apprenticeship support across all schools this year. We are also encouraging role models to go to schools to share their experience and will be developing a social media strategy and supporting teachers more. In partnership with City and Islington College we have got some funding to hold more workshops too. We will continue to reach out and would appreciate meeting with you to see what you think we could do better.

## **101 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

How did the Council promote National Walking Month in May this year, and Walk to School Week in the same month?

Reply:

Greg Foxsmith was not present in the chamber and will therefore be sent a written reply.

Question b) from Paul Milican to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

It is estimated that 100 Islington residents die each year from health effects that are exacerbated by poor air quality. Is it not your responsibility to ban barbecues so that the 8 out of 10 residents who do not have a back garden can enjoy fresh air on warm days rather than have serious health issues exacerbated by the pollutants that barbecues emit? You have stated that there is no public health risk from BBQs but given there is no level at which PM2.5 is deemed safe, what proof do you have?

Reply:

There is evidence that particulate matters impact on health where there is constant exposure, such as people living next to busy roads and gyratories, but Public Health have reviewed the impacts of air pollution and barbeques and concluded they are unlikely to exceed limits. Given that we have lots of residents without a garden or outside space, the Council has decided to continue allow using barbeques but will we continue to monitor and manage and Parks Patrol will continue to ensure that smoke impacts are minimised.

Supplementary question:

In 2015 the Council commissioned a report. The original report dated 1 October showed levels of PM2.5 even worse than some vehicle impacts, but the graphs and tables were removed before the report was made public, so it is impossible to compare barbecues with Marylebone Road traffic. What reasons can you give for redacting the information.

Reply:

The Council commissioned a report from King's College in which the pollution levels were collected over a weekend by people using personal monitors. It provided a snapshot, but the monitors only recorded 5 minutes exposure and this is not a sufficient or accurate enough measure to provide data for a comparative analysis with the levels near a busy road over a period of 12 months, so I understand this was removed from the draft report. The final report issued by King's College gave an accurate assessment of the impact of barbecues. The Public Health team have also reviewed the impacts and the number of times people have barbecues over a year will not have the same cumulative effect as the constant presence of particulate matter. The report provides the public with a clear assessment of the impacts.

Question c) from Leyla Daybelge to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport

A monitoring report on barbecues commissioned by the council in 2015 indicated that PM2.5 pollution levels in Highbury Fields caused by widespread barbecue use were three times the level of one of London's busiest roads. These fine particles are known to cause heart and lung disease. Given that there is no level at which PM2.5 particles are deemed safe, should the council not take a precautionary approach and ban barbecues on its green spaces?

Reply:

This is a very similar question. The Council did commission a report from Kings College which included members of the public collecting readings over a weekend, but the data was not sufficient to be verified as scientifically accurate. People were taking measurements standing in the vicinity of a lit barbeque, not on the street or in their homes. The final report from King's College reflects the reality, which is not comparable to a busy roadside site in London. The draft report failed to point out that the levels are not comparable, and showing the levels alongside readings for a busy roadside site gave a false impression; they do not equate by any standards so King's College amended this in the final version of the report.

As barbecues are only used on a limited number of days, the impact of their use will not breach national standards and the Public Health team have undertaken their own review and concluded there is no risk. The Council is therefore continuing its popular policy to allow barbecues on Highbury Fields.

Supplementary question:

I would like to dispute Councillor Webbe's interpretation. On warm days there are children who don't have gardens playing on Highbury Fields and they inevitably breathe in PM2.5 known to stunt lung growth in children and the stunt the growth of foetus' in their mother's wombs.

Reply:

The policy to allow barbeques is one that residents wanted to see happen. This is a borough of two halves and many residents don't have room for children to run and play, or to have barbeques with family and friends. Based on our understanding of particulate matter and the likely probabilities of impact, allowing residents to choose if they want to enjoy our parks by having barbeques with family and friends is the right thing to do.

The meeting was then opened to questions from the floor.

Question from Ernestas Jegorovas. Can anyone from the Executive explain why there have been no Ward Partnership meetings in Caledonian and St Mary's wards?

Reply from Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

The ward councillors in both wards hotly dispute that there have been no meetings. I've been to a range of Cally Road meetings. I haven't been to a St Mary's meeting, but I would be happy to go if invited. As they hotly deny the accusation, I support my colleagues.

Question from a member of the public regarding plans for a cycle path on Brecknock Road.

Reply from Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

We clearly have an agenda to improve and expand the cycle networks across the borough. Consultation is taking place now on proposals to join up the networks in the south of the borough. We have implemented covered cycle storage in St. Georges Ward and have encouraged ward councillors to include measures to support cycling in their ward improvement plans. I encourage you to look at the website and is there isn't a request there already, to submit one. We will look at it favourably. All our cycling requests are there. The Council doesn't hold a budget for cycle routes, that rests with the Mayor of London and we have to fight hard to secure funds. We are waiting to see what the new Mayor's strategy, but we expect that cycling and walking will remain key priorities.

Question from a member of the public regarding Housing Associations. I've been a resident for about 40 years. Housing Associations have got completely out of control and have taken over council housing. Is there a way Islington Council can get the Housing Associations to help relocate people rather than getting them to sell?

Reply from Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

I am new in post, but I hope to build on James Murray's legacy. If there is a particular issue with a specific Housing Association please let me know and I will look into it.

Question from a member of the public regarding barbeques on Highbury Fields: Without wanting to labour the issue, I would like to ask Councillor Webbe how she feels about people who'd like to come to open spaces to breathe clean air. On a good weekend over 1,000 people have barbeques on Highbury Fields. I have tried to count them but you lose count when you walk around. The air is choking. I understand that the figures for particulate matter are averaged, but on a good day the figures are shocking. I was one of the people who took measures. Inside the house it is already the level of Marylebone Road and outside the level is worse.

Reply from Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

We are committed to clean air. Barbeques only happen on a few days in the whole year and they don't amount to annual levels of harm. I would dispute that there are high levels inside the home. The final report was signed off by King's College themselves. Our own Public

Heath team also carried out a review. The reality is, as I've said before, we live in a borough with inequalities. The same people who were opposed to this because they didn't want people in their 'back garden' are now opposing it on pollution grounds. Highbury Fields belongs to us all. Many other people turn up to enjoy the Fields with their children, family and friends and they say that they want barbeques.

## **102 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Question a) Councillor O'Halloran to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Housing is a hugely important issue for residents in my ward and for everyone across the borough. Can you tell me what your priorities will be in your new role?

Reply:

I have some very big shoes to fill and I would like to pay tribute to the work done by ex-Councillor James Murray. We will continue to build affordable homes and to fight for a better deal for local people in rented accommodation and work tirelessly to make our repairs service the best in London.

Supplementary question:

A lot of people contact me regarding the Housing and Planning Act – what will you do to protect residents?

The Act will have terrible impacts on residents. We will be offering advice to residents effected and continue to fight to get the Act changed.

Question b) Councillor Debono to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

In recent years the council has had an excellent relationship with local schools, and this has helped to achieve brilliant results and progress for our young people. Given the government has made it clear that it still wants to see all schools become academies, what is the council doing to ensure that Islington's community of schools model is protected?

Reply:

Congratulations on your appointment as Chair of Children's Scrutiny Committee. I look forward to working with you. The initial announcement was that every school would become an Academy and I know that they have now pulled back from that position in response to Islington Save our Schools campaign. We need to continue through working with our schools, to deliver high quality schools, over 90% of which are rated good or outstanding. By working closely with them we have achieved a lot. We have had discussions about the possibility of a school led partnership with the council having a strong role and we need to be robust to push away moves towards Academies.

Question c) Councillor Nick Ward to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

According to government figures, the proportion of people living with HIV in London is three times higher than the average across England, and in 2014, London accounted for 45 per cent of all people diagnosed as HIV positive in England. In Islington, more than 1,200 people



are living with HIV. Given that these figures show a rise in the prevalence of HIV in London, do you agree with me that NHS England's decision not to commission the highly effective HIV prevention treatment, PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), represents a serious risk to the work undertaken to tackle HIV, and do you share the concerns of the Terence Higgins Trust which has said that the delay in commissioning PrEP will see seven more people contract HIV every day?"

Reply:

Thank you for your question. The figures are very clear and I agree with the Terence Higgins Trust. We've made tremendous progress in reducing late diagnosis of HIV in Islington in recent years, and commission excellent local sexual health services which are making a real difference. However, we continue to see new HIV infections, and the use of these anti-HIV drugs would help considerably and I agree the decision not to fund PrEP is a major missed opportunity. The human impact of living with HIV is considerable, but with the lifetime costs of treatment for HIV in excess of £350,000, not investing in effective prevention interventions is a false economy for the NHS. We are working closely with other councils to lobby government and the NHS to overturn this decision and make this important intervention available as soon as possible. We are in the forefront of ensuring that services are as good as they can be, but to say that many health services are creaking at the seams is an understatement and one way to help is prevention. Why is it that when we get a chance, the government cuts the funding again and again. We will do what we can to stop them.

Question d) Councillor Poyser to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

There was recently a shooting incident in Elthorne Park involving a pellet gun. One victim was struck in the arm, but did not need hospital treatment. A second victim was taken to hospital as a fragment of pellet hit them in the eye. What attempts are being made by the council and partners to ensure that weapon ownership, of any kind, in the Borough is monitored and what efforts are being made to reduce weapon ownership?

Reply:

Thanks for your question, David. Legal weapon ownership is covered by very strict laws in this country, both in terms of age restrictions and background checks. Islington Council Trading Standards routinely conduct test-purchase operations against premises selling any age-restricted products, paying particular attention to those involved in the sale of knives. Where they are deemed to have sold to minors, appropriate enforcement action is taken. The council has demonstrated that we will prosecute shop keepers who sell knives to young people – indeed, only recently a retailer was prosecuted for selling a knife to a young person, which was then proven to have been used in a subsequent stabbing.

The legal ownership of firearms is regulated by a specialist unit in the Metropolitan Police Service who conduct thorough background checks on the person concerned. There are tight laws governing the use, storage and transportation of these weapons.

It is the illegal ownership or possession of weapons that presents the biggest threat to the borough. Illegal weapons can be purchased from a variety of sources, each presenting its own challenges in terms of monitoring and enforcing. Internet sales, often from websites not based in the UK, have been proven to be the key routes for knives and other weapons such as CS spray. Young people in Islington and elsewhere in the country have been able to purchase large "zombie killer" or combat knives from such sites. Where these sites can be identified, a coordinated partnership enforcement approach between police and trading standards can close them down or block them. However, the accessibility and volume of the sites present a real problem.

Our local police take the main role around enforcement and removal of weapons from the streets of Islington, conducting regular intelligence-led stop & searches in hotspots known for violence or gang activity and conducting weekly weapon sweeps in every ward. This is backed up by regular weapon sweeps from a range of other partners such as Parkguard, Green Space and estate caretakers. The law has recently changed to reflect the seriousness of carrying a weapon, with mandatory sentencing guidance for those found to have been a repeat knife-carrier.

All of the above is geared towards enforcement and protection, but prevention and behaviour-change play a pivotal role too. Frontline workers in Children's & Adult Services, Offender Management Services, Schools and other similar settings actively engage those they encounter about the dangers of weapons and the impact of carrying and using them. Where possible, evidence-based interventions (such as the Youth Offending Service Knife Awareness Programme) are run to target those known to (or at risk of) carrying weapons to dissuade them from continuing to do so. There is a lot going on, but it is never enough.

Supplementary question:

There is an area on Hillrise which is a special bit of land, where there was an incident involving street drinkers?

Reply:

The violent crime you mentioned took place against two men in their 40s in your ward on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The suspect has not been identified and the details provided by the vulnerable victims remain limited. Unfortunately, however, it does sound like a case of a young man in broad daylight taking pot-shots at street drinkers for kicks. If that is what has happened, I am sure everyone in this chamber, you and I included, would find such behaviour despicable. Police CID are investigating and I sincerely hope they catch the culprit.

Question e) Councillor Poyser to Councillor to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

There has recently been another attempted suicide on Archway Bridge. Luckily the victim was saved. It is obviously important that any changes to the bridge are well tested with world class experts to ensure that suicide becomes impossible, while there is minimal effect on the appearance of the Victorian Bridge, an Islington landmark. Both Islington and Haringey Planning Committees have agreed to Transport for London's plans last year. Is there an idea of when we can expect to see the anti-suicide changes to the bridge, and any other suicide prevention measures?

Reply:

On the morning of 9<sup>th</sup> June, a woman in her 20s did threaten to jump off Archway Bridge. Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services attended and road closures were put in place. In the end, the woman was led to safety and taken under the Mental Health Act to a North London hospital. Thank goodness this particular suicide attempt was averted and the young woman is still alive.

In terms of suicide-proofing the bridge, Islington Council's Planning Committee approved TfL's design, in principle, for suicide prevention fences on the Grade 2 listed bridge on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 with conditions requiring detailed design proposals and a sample section to be erected in situ on the bridge. Since that time, mock-ups have been undergoing vigorous testing and experimentation in the workshop, with one sample section being erected on the bridge, to ensure that this bespoke structure is effective in its aim. Technical difficulties were encountered by TfL and these need to be resolved to ensure that the measures are fit for

purpose. In order to hasten the process, Islington Council recommended that TfL engage additional structural engineers and this recommendation was taken up.

The Council's Design and Conservation Team are in regular contact with TfL and are able to respond quickly to developments. TfL is currently waiting for its contractor to provide a date for when the final mock-up will be viewed by them at the workshops. TfL expect to be able to inspect it by mid-July. If no concerns arise from this mock-up, it is anticipated that a sample section will be placed in situ on the bridge by the end of August, with submission of an Approval of Details (AOD) application as soon as possible after that, with full installation and completion taking place by the end of the year. CCTV will also be installed along with the fencing.

Supplementary question:

Those of us who experienced the suicide of someone close to us are hugely concerned. Can the process be speeded up?

Reply:

I am firmly of the view that this is all taking longer than it should, because with each month that passes we run the risk of another life lost. Given it is potentially, quite literally, a matter of life and death, I have recently asked the Chief Executive of the Council to contact TfL to see if there is any way to expedite the process.

Question f) Councillor Ismail to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families -

Most of Islington's Secondary Schools are thriving since the Labour administration, that I am proud to be part of, came into office in 2010. However, my question concerns the comments of parents and young people that Year 10 and 11 students are being excluded more than students in other years, at a time that is a critical turning point in a young person's life.

Can I ask why that is the case, and how many Year 10 and 11 students have been excluded in the last few years, with a breakdown by gender and ethnicity. In addition, may I ask what information we have about what happens to these young people and, what power does the Council have to support schools or influence them not to exclude students, particularly those in Years 10 and 11 , so that young people do not face difficulties in future?

Reply:

We know how poor the outcomes are for students who are permanently excluded. It is most common in years 9 and 10 and the reasons for exclusion are serious. Over the last four years, eighteen year 10 students have been permanently excluded, 8 for weapon related incidents, 4 for drug and alcohol and 4 for threats to an adult. There are thirteen different categories. Guidance is clear and exclusion is only used as a last resort, when there is persistent breach of policy and the student remaining in school may cause harm to other pupils. We have a statutory responsibility to ensure continuing education. We also have a headteacher led board which considers requests for permanently excluded pupils to return to mainstream schools from the PRU. The Scrutiny Committee has looked into this and I am looking forward to their report. It is not a route we enter into lightly. We have a good relationship with schools and will support them to ensure that they have exhausted all alternatives. If a young person is permanently excluded there is usually something wrong in the family and we need to work out what and where to intervene.

Supplementary question:

How does the Council train teachers to deal with poor behaviour in the classroom? With challenging behaviour?

Reply:

I don't have the details of that to hand, but it is very important that we support schools as teachers do have to deal with some very challenging behaviour.

Question g) Councillor Ismail to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development –

What has been achieved in the last 12 months since you have been lead member for economic development, what are the issues for economic growth development in the borough that you will be developing, and what two areas will you prioritise in the next 12 months for economic prosperity in our borough inclusive of gender, age and ethnicity?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. We have had a lot of success in the last year. Our support for economic development within the borough is driven by our objective to prevent poverty and social inequality. We are taking the work forward strategically. We have established a new economic development board. The board brings together elected members, including myself and the Leader of the Council with senior officials over all directorates. The board has been tasked to prepare an economic development strategy for Islington, including key issues such employment, business, skills and affordable workspace. We will be delivering the strategy with the new Economic Development Reference Group and I look forward to working with Councillor Parker. We are continuing to deliver important work the progress the Employment Commission objectives, to help long term unemployed and residents over 40 years of age into paid employment. We've also developed a partnership with the CCG provide £1m to develop and test a completely new service supporting people with long term conditions or disabilities into work. We've strengthened the work of our Town Centres with a new Town Centre Management Group in Finsbury Park to complement those existing in Archway and Nags Head. In the immediate future we will be focussing on developing the strategy, ensuring residents have the right skills and ensuring the provision of affordable workspaces.

Supplementary question:

Recognising the contribution that women made to the local economy and their ambition and aspiration, what financial and signposting support can you offer?

Reply:

That is a very important point. Support for social enterprise will be part of the new strategy. I look forward to working with you in that area.

Question h) Councillor Russell to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

In October 2015 this council passed a motion on Prevent resolving:

- 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-terror programme that damage community cohesion and are therefore counter-productive.

What progress has been made on this work?

Reply:

Thank you for your question. Recent events have shown that this work is vital. The Chief Constable who is the police lead on Prevent has concerns about the practicality and enforceability of the government's approach. In Islington we have been working to meet our legal duties, but in a way that achieves cohesive communities rather than driving them apart. EGA are leading on good practice in schools and the Adult and Community Learning Team have been verified by Ofsted, who looked at Prevent. As a council we are working with a range of community groups and on Saturday are holding a rally against hate crime. Community cohesion is central to keeping our borough safer. We will keep meeting and talking to groups and at a senior Home Office meeting have set out concerns in a constructive way.

Supplementary question:

That is really reassuring. I am especially keen to see that in education and healthcare we are listening to all groups. Can you give me that assurance?

Reply:

Yes.

Question i) Councillor Russell to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development

I would like to congratulate the Executive Member for Housing on his appointment and ask him if he will set out his plans for increasing council housing in the borough?

Congratulations on your election to City Hall. We have an ambitious new build programme. There are currently 225 completed, 125 being built and 156 working their way through the planning process. We have more proposals at the feasibility stage and are on target to deliver 500 new homes by 2019. We are also working with our partners to provide a total of 2000 affordable homes by 2019. We hope all the new City Hall members will support us in achieving our goals.

Supplementary question:

I was very glad to hear you talking about the repairs service earlier. Do you commit to end the misery of cold damp homes and the two tier system on estates?

Reply:

I will try as hard as I can to make it the best repair service in London.

**103 CONSTITUTION UPDATE**

Councillor Alice Perry moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

**RESOLVED:**

- 2.1 That the Leader of the Council has approved the changes to delegation of Executive functions be noted.
- 2.2 That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the attached Appendix including to Part 7 be agreed.
- 2.3 That the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and HR) be authorised to make any consequential amendments to the Constitution she considers necessary be agreed.

**104 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT**

Councillor Alice Perry moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

**RESOLVED:**

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

**1. APPOINTMENT TO CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

That Councillor Gill replaces Councillor Diarmaid Ward as a member of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

**2. APPOINTMENT TO VICE CHAIR OF ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

That Councillor Poyser be appointed as Vice Chair of Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year 2015/16 or until a successor is appointed be agreed.

**3. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

That Councillor Diarmaid Ward be appointed as a substitute on Health and Wellbeing Board until a successor is appointed be agreed.

**OUTSIDE BODY APPOINTMENTS**

**4. ISLINGTON UNITED CHARITIES**

That the appointment of Councillor Andrews as the Council's representative on Islington United Charities for a period of four years from 31 August 2016 until 31

August 2020, unless a successor is appointed, be agreed.

## **5. FINSBURY PARK TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

That the appointment of Councillor Heather as the Council's representative on the Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year 2016/17 or until a successor is appointed, be agreed.

## **105 NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **MOTION 1: ISLINGTON A HOME FOR ALL**

Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Comer-Schwartz, moved the urgent motion in the second despatch of papers. Councillors Nick Ward, O'Halloran, Andrews and Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- that we condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable
- that we stand with victims of hate crime and encourage everyone to report incidents to the police
- that we will work with faith and community leaders across the borough to ensure that Islington remains welcoming to all and to challenge prejudice and hate whenever it occurs
- that we call on the Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Community Development to hold a meeting with community and faith organisations and to report back to Full Council on the outcome of these discussions.

### **MOTION 2: TENANT TAX**

Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor Jeapes, moved the motion. Councillors Heather, Russell and Diarmaid Ward contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- To refer to the increase in rent charges levied on council housing tenants with incomes over £40,000 per year as the 'Tenant Tax'.

- To offer advice and information to all Islington tenants that may be affected by the introduction of the Tenant Tax and other measures within the Housing and Planning Act.
- To continue to make representations to government to change elements of the Housing and Planning Act that will have such negative effects on Islington, such as, the Tenant Tax and the forced sale of council homes.

**MOTION 3: ANDARGACHEW TSEGE, BRITISH NATIONAL ILLEGALLY DETAINED IN ETHIOPIA**

Councillor Donovan, seconded by Councillor Court, moved the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs to make further representations to the Ethiopian Government calling for Mr Tsege's release and return home to the UK as a matter of urgency.

**MOTION 4: RESPONDING TO THE NEW MAYOR OF LONDON'S PROPOSED ULTRA LOW EMISSION ZONE (ULEZ) CONSULTATION**

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Webbe, moved an amendment to the motion. Councillor Convery contributed to the debate.

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

The motion as amended was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

**RESOLVED:**

To ask the Executive to respond positively to the consultation, including repeating the Council's request that all of the most polluting engines are included in the ULEZ, including Euro 6 diesel engines, and to make recommendations for further measures that would achieve pollution levels within legal limits in as short a time as possible for Islington, as required by the law.

The meeting closed at 10.05 pm

**MAYOR**