



ISLINGTON

COUNCIL MEETING - 10 DECEMBER 2020

Councillors of the London Borough of Islington are summoned to attend a virtual meeting of the Council to be held via Zoom on **10 December 2020 at 7.00 pm.**

Link to the meeting: <https://weareislington.zoom.us/j/98952974450>

Chief Executive

AGENDA

	Page
1. Minutes The Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 24 September 2020.	1 - 16
2. Declarations of Interest If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ if it is not yet on the council's register, you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;▪ you may choose to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency. In both the above cases, you must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.	

If you have a **personal** interest in an item of business **and** you intend to speak or vote on the item you **must** declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you **may** participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

- *(a) **Employment, etc** - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (b) **Sponsorship** - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.
- (c) **Contracts** - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) **Land** - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) **Licences** - Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) **Corporate tenancies** - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) **Securities** - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to **all** members present at the meeting.

3. Mayoral Announcements

- (i) Apologies
- (ii) Order of business
- (iii) Declaration of discussion items
- (iv) Mayor's announcements
- (v) Length of speeches

4. Leader's Announcements

5. Petitions

6.	Questions from the Youth Council	17 - 18
7.	Questions from Members of the Public	19 - 20
8.	Questions from Members of the Council	21 - 24
9.	Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22	25 - 62
10.	Chief Whip's Report	TO FOLLOW

11. Notices of Motion

63 - 72

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.

- Motion 1 – Universal Basic Income
- Motion 2 – Making Misogyny a Hate Crime
- Motion 3 – Reducing School Exclusions
- Motion 4 – Opposing the Government’s Planning Reforms
- Motion 5 – Motion in support of Islington Council’s Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Enquiries to	:	Jonathan Moore
Tel	:	020 7527 3308
E-mail	:	democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched	:	2 December 2020

This page is intentionally left blank

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING - 24 SEPTEMBER 2020

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the virtual meeting of the Annual Council held via Zoom on 24 September 2020 at 7.00 pm.

Present:

Bell-Bradford	Heather	Poole
Burgess	Hull	Poyser
Caluori	Hyde	Russell
Champion	Ismail	Shaikh
Chapman	Jeapes	Smith
Chowdhury	Kay	Spall
Clarke-Perry	Khurana	Turan
Clarke	Klute	Ward
Convery	Lukes	Watts
Cutler	Mackmurdie	Wayne
Debono	Nathan	Webbe
Gallagher	Ngongo	Williamson
Gantly	O'Halloran	Woodbyrne
Gill	O'Sullivan	Woolf
Graham	Picknell	

The Mayor (Councillor Rakhia Ismail) in the Chair

23 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

24 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Comer-Schwartz, Hamitouche, Khondoker and Ozdemir.

(ii) Declaration of Interests

None.

(iii) Order of Business

The order of business would be as per the agenda.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reflected on the events of recent months, commenting that they had continued to be very challenging for the local community.

The Mayor was saddened and shocked at the fatal stabbing of a young man in her ward last week. The Mayor said her thoughts were with the family of the victim.

Coronavirus continued to have an impact on people across the borough. The Mayor thanked key workers, health and care staff and all of those working to keep us safe during the pandemic. The Mayor said her thoughts were with everyone who had been affected by the virus.

The Mayor had been able to attend some events over recent months. In early August the Mayor had joined a number of Arsenal players in making a surprise visit to the food distribution centre at the Emirates Stadium. The Council was grateful for the support that Arsenal had provided to the community throughout the pandemic and wished them well for the football season ahead.

The Mayor had also visited schools to celebrate with students receiving their GCSE and A Level results. We should all be proud of the borough's young people for their fantastic results.

The Mayor was also pleased to attend Islington Green for the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day, alongside the Deputy Lieutenant and members of the Islington Veterans Association. The Mayor said it was important that such events are commemorated even during difficult times.

25 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts thanked Councillor Ismail for her hard work and dedication over the past year as Mayor.

Councillor Watts noted the fatal stabbing of a young man near Caledonian Road the previous week and said his thoughts were with the family of the victim.

Councillor Watts paid tribute to all of those who had passed away over recent months due to Covid-19. The Council's top priority was to keep people safe and Councillor Watts expressed his frustration that Islington still did not have an operational testing

site. The Council was willing to work with the government and relevant agencies to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

26 VOTE OF THANKS TO OUTGOING MAYOR AND CONSORT

Councillor Smith moved a vote of thanks to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Ismail. The vote of thanks was seconded by Councillor Khurana. Councillor Woolf also contributed to the debate. It was commented that Councillor Ismail had made a positive contribution in the role and had reached out to the borough's communities over the past year, including through the difficulties of the pandemic.

Councillor Ismail thanked her fellow councillors, the Mayor's Consort, and all those who had supported her as Mayor. Councillor Ismail announced that £23,000 had been raised for the Mayor's Charities, Centre 404 and the Nafsiyat Intercultural Therapy Centre.

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

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Troy Gallagher) in the Chair

Councillor Comer-Schwartz, seconded by Councillor Chapman, moved that Councillor Burgess be elected as Mayor for the ensuing municipal year.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Burgess be elected as Mayor of the London Borough of Islington for 2020/21.

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

The Mayor (Councillor Janet Burgess) in the Chair

28 DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor accepted the office by making the required declaration.

The Mayor thanked councillors for their nominations. The Mayor paid tribute to local charitable organisations and community groups for working to support the most vulnerable people throughout the pandemic. The Mayor also thanked council staff and key workers for their dedicated response to Covid-19.

The Mayor announced that her charity would be Age UK Islington.

The Mayor advised that she would ask councillors and members of the local community to act as consort at mayoral engagements.

29 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor appointed Councillor Troy Gallagher to the role of Deputy Mayor. Councillor Marian Spall was appointed as the Deputy Mayor's Consort.

30 CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Councillor Hyde moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Woolf seconded.

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

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Constitution, as detailed in the report, be approved.

31 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND THE EXECUTIVE

Councillor Watts introduced the paper. Councillor Watts thanked Councillor Burgess for her service on the Executive and as Deputy Leader of the Council. Councillor Comer-Schwartz was welcomed as the new Deputy Leader of the Council. Councillor Watts also welcomed two new members of the Executive; Councillor Turan as the new Executive Member for Health and Social Care, and Councillor Lukes and the new Executive Member for Community Safety.

The Council noted the following appointments made by Councillor Watts as Leader of the Council:

Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Executive Member for Environment and Transport: Councillor Rowena Champion

Executive Member for Finance and Performance: Councillor Satnam Gill

Executive Member for Community Safety: Councillor Sue Lukes

Executive Member for Community Development: Councillor Una O'Halloran

Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs: Councillor Asima Shaikh

Executive Member for Health and Social Care: Councillor Nurullah Turan

Executive Member for Housing and Development: Councillor Diarmaid Ward

32 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO POLITICAL POSITIONS AND THE APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS, VICE CHAIRS, INDEPENDENT MEMBERS, AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2020/21

Councillor Hyde, seconded by Councillor Woolf, moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

A. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLORS TO POLITICAL POSITIONS

That the Council note that the Labour Group have notified the following appointments:

Leader of Group	Councillor Richard Watts
Deputy Leader of Group	Councillor Paul Smith
Chief Whip	Councillor Sara Hyde
Deputy Whips	Councillors Anjna Khurana & John Woolf
Chair of Group	Councillor Gary Heather
Vice-Chair	Councillor Michelline Ngongo
Secretary	Councillor Jilani Chowdhury
Treasurer	Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Social Secretary	Councillor Marian Spall
Ordinary Member Posts	Councillors Matt Nathan & Mouna Hamitouche

B. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS

- (i) That Alan Begg and Alan Finch be appointed as co-opted members of the Audit Committee for a four year term or until successors are appointed.
- (ii) That Luke Rigg and Robert Milne be appointed as Independent Persons for Standards for a four year term or until successors are appointed.
- (iii) That Reza Choudhury be appointed to the Independent Panel until the conclusion of the Independent Panel process detailed in the report.

C. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS AND MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES FOR 2020/21

- 1) That the following appointments be made to the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee for 2020/21 or until successors are appointed:

POLICY & PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE (16 Councillors)

Councillor Theresa Debono (Chair)	Councillor Sara Hyde
Councillor Troy Gallagher (Vice Chair)	Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford	Councillor Matt Nathan
Councillor Sheila Chapman	Councillor Mick O'Sullivan
Councillor Jilani Chowdhury	Councillor Angela Picknell
Councillor Vivien Cutler	Councillor Dave Poyser
Councillor Osh Gantly	Councillor Caroline Russell
Councillor Gary Heather	Councillor Nick Wayne

Substitutes:

Councillor Janet Burgess
Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor Anjna Khurana
Councillor Andy Hull

Councillor John Woolf
Councillor Claudia Webbe
Councillor Joe Caluori

- 2) That the following appointments be made to the remaining committees for 2020/21 or until successors are appointed:

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (8 Councillors)

Councillor Vivien Cutler (Chair)	Councillor Phil Graham
Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir (Vice Chair)	Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford	Councillor Flora Williamson
Councillor Joe Caluori	Councillor John Woolf

Co-opted Members for Education related issues:

Roman Catholic Diocese – Mary Clement
Parent Governor Representative (Primary) – Claire Ballak
Parent Governor Representative (Secondary) – Zaleera Wallace

Substitutes:

Councillor Nick Wayne
Councillor Sarah Hyde
Councillor Roulin Khondoker

Councillor Janet Burgess
Councillor Clare Jeapes

ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (9 Councillors)

Councillor Dave Poyser (Chair)	Councillor Phil Graham
Councillor Roulin Khondoker (Vice Chair)	Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir
Councillor Paul Convery	Councillor Clare Jeapes
Councillor Tricia Clarke	Councillor Caroline Russell
	Councillor Kadeema Woodbyrne

Substitutes:

Councillor Osh Gantly
Councillor John Woolf
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford

Councillor Sara Hyde
Councillor Janet Burgess

HEALTH AND CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (8 Councillors)

Councillor Osh Gantly (Chair)	Councillor Tricia Clarke
Councillor Jilani Chowdhury (Vice Chair)	Councillor Phil Graham
Councillor Rakhia Ismail	Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor Clare Jeapes	Councillor Martin Klute

Substitutes:

Councillor Sara Hyde
Councillor Anjna Khurana

Councillor John Woolf

The co-opted member from Healthwatch Islington is to be confirmed.

HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (8 Councillors)

Councillor Mick O'Sullivan (Chair)
Councillor Marian Spall (Vice Chair)
Councillor Theresa Debono
Councillor Troy Gallagher

Councillor Phil Graham
Councillor Mouna Hamitouche
Councillor Gary Heather
Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir

Substitutes:

Councillor Alice Clarke Perry
Councillor Vivien Cutler
Councillor Osh Gantly
Councillor Sara Hyde

Councillor Jenny Kay
Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor John Woolf
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford

Resident Observers:

Rose-Marie McDonald
Dean Donaghey

AUDIT COMMITTEE (4 Councillors and 2 Independent Members, as below)

Councillor Nick Wayne (Chair)
Councillor Andy Hull (Vice Chair)

Councillor Troy Gallagher
Councillor Anjna Khurana

Substitutes:

Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor Jenny Kay

Councillor John Woolf
Councillor Flora Williamson

Independent Members:

Alan Begg
Alan Finch

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD (15 members, as below)

Members of the Board are also members of the Haringey and Islington Health and Wellbeing Boards Joint Sub-Committee, with the exception of the representatives of NHS England and Islington GP Federation.

Councillors:

Councillor Richard Watts (Chair)
Councillor Nurullah Turan
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Officers:

Julie Billett – Director of Public Health
Carmel Littleton – Corporate Director – People
Katharine Willmette – Service Director – Adult Social Care

Representatives of the North Central London Clinical Commissioning Group:

Dr Jo Sauvage – NCL CCG Governing Body member for Islington

Sarah McDonnell-Davies – Executive Director of Borough Partnerships

Representative of Healthwatch Islington:

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

Representatives of the NHS:

Dr Helene Brown, Medical Director, NHS England (non-voting)

Angela McNab, Chief Executive, Camden and Islington NHS Trust (non-voting)

Siobhan Harrington, Chief Executive, Whittington NHS Trust (non-voting)

Voluntary Sector Representative:

Katy Porter, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust (non-voting)

Islington GP Federation:

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

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

Councillor Substitutes:

Councillor Una O'Halloran

Councillor Asima Shaikh

Councillor Satnam Gill

Councillor Diarmaid Ward

Councillor Rowena Champion

Councillor Sue Lukes

Officer Substitutes:

For Julie Billett – Charlotte Ashton, Islington Deputy Director of Public Health

For Katharine Willmette – Jim Beale, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care

For Carmel Littleton – Laura Eden, Director of Safeguarding and Family Support

Clinical Commissioning Group Substitutes:

For Dr Jo Sauvage – Dr John McGrath, NCL CCG Governing Body

For Sarah McDonnell-Davies – Paul Sinden, Director of Performance & Acute Commissioning

Healthwatch Islington Substitute:

For Emma Whitby – Jennifer Kent, Healthwatch Islington

NHS Substitutes:

For Dr Helene Brown – Dr Hasz Sonigra, Associate Medical Director, NHS England

For Siobhan Harrington – Jonathan Gardner, Director of Strategy and
Corporate Affairs, Whittington Health

For Angela McNab – Andy Rogers, Chief Operating Officer, Camden and
Islington NHS Foundation Trust

PLANNING COMMITTEE (10 Councillors)

Councillor Martin Klute (Chair)	Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Jenny Kay (Vice Chair)	Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Councillor Angela Picknell (Vice Chair)	Councillor Roulin Khondoker
Councillor Jilani Chowdhury	Councillor Dave Poyser
Councillor Tricia Clarke	Councillor John Woolf

Substitutes:

Councillor Flora Williamson	Councillor Janet Burgess
Councillor Sara Hyde	Councillor Nick Wayne
Councillor Alice Clarke-Perry	Councillor Claudia Webbe

LICENSING COMMITTEE (13 Councillors)

Councillor Phil Graham (Chair)	
Councillor Nick Wayne (Vice Chair)	Councillor Troy Gallagher
Councillor Joe Caluori	Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Councillor Sheila Chapman	Councillor Matt Nathan
Councillor Alice Clarke-Perry	Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo
Councillor Paul Convery	Councillor Gary Poole
Councillor Vivien Cutler	Councillor Marian Spall

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE (4 Councillors)

Councillor Marian Spall (Chair)	Councillor Alice Clarke-Perry
Councillor Phil Graham (Vice-Chair)	Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo

Substitutes:

Councillor Sara Hyde	Councillor John Woolf
Councillor Theresa Debono	Councillor Roulin Khondoker

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (4 Councillors and 2 Independent Persons)

Councillor Sara Hyde (Chair)	Councillor Anjna Khurana
Councillor Andy Hull	Councillor John Woolf

Substitutes:

Councillor Paul Smith	Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Councillor Troy Gallagher	

Independent Persons (who have observer status on the committee):

Luke Rigg
Robert Milne

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Councillor Sara Hyde (Chair)
Councillor Nurullah Turan
Councillor Theresa Debono

Councillor Mouna Hamitouche
Councillor Martin Klute

Substitutes:

Councillor Angela Picknell

GRIEVANCE APPEAL COMMITTEE

Councillor John Woolf (Chair)
Councillor Diarmaid Ward
Councillor Vivien Cutler

Councillor Andy Hull
Councillor Mouna Hamitouche

Substitutes:

Councillor Martin Klute

INVESTIGATING AND DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Councillor Nick Wayne (Chair)
Councillor Satnam Gill
Councillor Troy Gallagher

Councillor Jenny Kay
Councillor Una O'Halloran

DISCIPLINARY APPEAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Anjna Khurana (Chair)
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Councillor Phil Graham

Councillor Kadeema Woodbyrne
Councillor Marian Spall

FOSTERING PANEL AND ADOPTION AND PERMANENCE PANEL

Councillor Paul Convery

CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz (Chair)
Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor Vivien Cutler

Councillor Sara Hyde
Councillor Flora Williamson

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster		Conor McGinn 1 Vacancy
Free Church Federal Council:	Archway Methodist Church	Tim Bradshaw
	Salvation Army	1 Vacancy
	United Reformed Church	1 Vacancy
	Baptist Union	1 Vacancy
Society of Friends		1 Vacancy
Greek Orthodox Church		1 Vacancy
Elim Pentecostal Church		1 Vacancy
Jewish	Board of Deputies of British Jews	Judith Fox
Muslim Community	Muslim Welfare House Trust	Mohamed Mahmoud
	Muslim Education Trust	Merium Bhuiyam 1 Vacancy
Jain	Jain Samaj Europe	Vinay K Shah
Buddhist	Harrow Zazenkai - White Wind Zen Community	Frank Tettsu Woods
Islington Baha'i Community		1 Vacancy
Hindu		1 Vacancy
Sikh		Rosalind Miller
Daoist		1 Vacancy
Church of England	London Diocesan Board for Schools	Mary Thorne
	St Mary Magdalene Academy	April Keech
	St Luke's Church	Revd Dave Tomlinson
	St Clement's Church	Fr David Allen
Humanist	British Humanist Association	Edward Prout
National Union of Teachers		1 Vacancy
Association of School and College Leaders	Drayton Park Primary School	Damien Parrott
	St Lukes / Moreland Primary Schools	Ann Dwulit
National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)		1 Vacancy
National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT)		1 Vacancy
Head of RE Secondary Schools	St Mary Magdalene Academy	Sophie Morgan
Head of RE Special Schools	New River College	Ian Benson

Head of RE Primary Schools Winton Primary School

Semra Gokce

Representatives of Governor
Organisations

1 Vacancy

Islington Council

Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Cllr Sara Hyde

(Substitute members:
Cllr Alice Clarke-Perry
Cllr Flora Williamson)

JOINT TMO LIAISON COMMITTEE

Councillor Mick O'Sullivan

OTHER POSITIONS

Carers Champion – Councillor Janet Burgess
Equalities Champions – Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Arts Champion – Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Gary Poole
Mental Health Champion – Councillor Phil Graham
Reading Champion – Councillor Tricia Clarke
Recycling Champion – Councillor Clare Jeapes
Small Business, Co-ops and Social Enterprise Champion – Councillor Matt Nathan
Women and Girls Champion – Councillor Kadeema Woodbyrne
Private Renters Champion – Councillor Jenny Kay
Migrants Champion – Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir

33 APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON CERTAIN OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS FOR 2020/21

Councillor Hyde, seconded by Councillor Woolf, moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- A. That the following list of appointments to outside bodies for 2020/21 for the remainder of the year or until successors are appointed be agreed:

Outside Body	Term of Office	Member(s)
London Council Committees:		
Leaders Committee	One Year	Leader: Cllr Richard Watts Deputies: Cllr Paul Smith Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Associated Joint Committee - Transport and Environment Committee	One Year	Cllr Rowena Champion Deputies: Cllr Asima Shaikh Cllr Phil Graham Cllr Janet Burgess Cllr David Poyser
London Councils Forums:		
Greater London Employment	One Year	Cllr Satnam Gill Deputy: Cllr Asima Shaikh
Local Government Association:		
LGA General Assembly	One Year	Cllr Rowena Champion Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz Cllr Richard Watts Cllr Paul Smith
Others:		
Angel Business Improvement Board	One Year	Cllr Martin Klute
Archway Town Centre Management Board	One Year	Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz Cllr Sheila Chapman
Armed Forces Community Covenant Grant Schemes Panel	One Year	Cllr Una O'Halloran Cllr Gary Poole
Crossrail High Level Forum	One Year	Cllr Rowena Champion Deputy: Cllr Phil Graham
Cross River Partnership	One Year	Cllr Asima Shaikh
Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group	One Year	Cllr Gary Heather
Groundwork London Local Authority Strategic Board	One Year	Cllr Rowena Champion
Islington Community Chest Panel	One Year	Cllr Una O'Halloran Cllr Satnam Gill Cllr Troy Gallagher Substitute: Anjna Khurana
London Road Safety Council	One Year	Cllr Rowena Champion Deputy: Janet Burgess

Nags Head Town Centre Management Group	One Year	Cllr Gary Heather Cllr Asima Shaikh
Newable	One Year	Cllr Asima Shaikh
North London Waste Authority	One Year	Cllr Rowena Champion Cllr Satnam Gill
Reserve Forces and Cadets	One Year	Cllr Gary Poole
Safer Neighbourhoods Boards	One Year	Cllr Sue Lukes Cllr Roulin Khondoker

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

Outside body	Member(s)	Term of Office	Date Appointment to take effect
Camden and Islington NHS Trust	Cllr Sheila Chapman	Until June 2022	25 September 2020
Central London Forward	Cllr Richard Watts Cllr Asima Shaikh	Until May 2022	25 September 2020
City YMCA London	Cllr Phil Graham	Until June 2023	25 September 2020
Cloudesley Charity	Tanya Parr	4 year term	December 2020
Cripplegate Foundation	Cllr Marian Spall	Until Sept 2024	25 September 2020
Islington United Charities	Cllr Theresa Debono Cllr Troy Gallagher	4 year term	25 September 2020
Moorfields Eye Hospital	Cllr Una O'Halloran	Until May 2023	25 September 2020
St Lukes Trustee Ltd	Cllr Matt Nathan	Until June 2022	25 September 2020
St Mary Magdalene	David Forrester	Until May 2024	25 September 2020
St Sepulchre	Cllr Troy Gallagher	Until May 2022	25 September 2020

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

MAYOR

This page is intentionally left blank



COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

a Question from the Youth Council to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families:

We hosted a community engagement event with the Somali Community following the tragic death of 2 young Somali adult men. The event was attended by over 50 people including many young people and Council Leaders and the Borough Commander. What else can be done to reassure all young people in the borough who may be feeling unsafe that their safety is a priority?

b Question from the Youth Council to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families:

We have been working with Commissioning Managers from the Play and Youth service, regarding the future of universal youth work in Islington. This has included taking part in consultations and providing 2 researchers with a guided tour of the borough to show Islington through the eyes of you people. Will the council continue to invest in youth spaces and places which support young people's personal development and provision which helps young people to thrive?

c Question from the Youth Council to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

It has been widely reported in the media that the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns have had an adverse impact on the emotional wellbeing of young people. We have been using our social media tools to promote mental health apps, and created videos to support young people. What plans does the council have in place to support young people's emotional and mental health both now and in the future? This is particularly important as we could see mental health needs spike in the next 12 months and beyond.

d **Question from the Youth Council to Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:**

The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns have resulted in the employment opportunities for young people being reduced, particularly within the retail and hospitality sectors which offer part time work to young people. What plans does the council have to help young people find employment during this time?



COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

a **Nick Clarke to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:**

As we welcome the Council's carbon net zero 2030 and biodiversity plans we recognise that at this moment in history we truly must act locally and think globally. For example every minute an area the size of a football pitch is cleared in the Amazon - most of it to be used for cattle or crops to feed animals. 8% of global CO2 emissions come from the production of concrete.

We cannot achieve net zero if we do not change our diets and change our use of concrete.

Therefore, will the Council take account of the carbon emissions and biodiversity impacts of the food it serves in the schools it controls and the events it hosts, and of the construction processes of the buildings being erected in the borough (e.g. including the CO2 used in the production of the cement and transport)?

In particular, will the Council follow Enfield and make all meals at Council events vegetarian or vegan and include school meals in its calculations of its CO2 emissions and biodiversity impacts, and measure the CO2 emissions involved in construction and require that they be offset by developers?

b **Talia Hussain to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:**

The pandemic has precipitated a significant increase in online shopping, with an attendant increase in the amount of packaging and waste for the council to handle. Before the pandemic, Islington's recycling rates were lower than the London average and going down. What steps is the council taking to improve recycling rates in the borough?

c Jeremy Drew to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

The recently agreed Transport Strategy has the objective of limiting car journeys to essential ones. Does the council have a view on what types of car journeys are essential?

d Susan Lees to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

I am pleased to learn that the Council is very keen to assist local residents in accessing the Green Homes Grant Scheme, and that the Council will develop and adopt a Supplementary Planning Document (or SPD) setting out detailed planning guidance on the installation of measures to reduce carbon emissions and promote energy efficiency. Will this cover retrofitting in conservation areas?

e Ernestas Jegorovas to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Schools and Families:

What support has Islington Council provided to students in Islington to overcome the digital divide?

f Emily Tims to Cllr Tuan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

I understand that several UK councils (and countries) have paused the roll-out of 5G until the potential health implications are more clear. Under what circumstances, if any, would Islington Council pause the roll-out of this untested technology?



COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

a Cllr Convery to Cllr Watts, Leader of the Council:

What is the purpose of the Council's Twitter account? Whilst it is self-evidently an "outbound" communication channel from the Council to the public, is it also an "inbound" channel for our residents to speak to the Council?

b Cllr Poyser to Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

I would like to thank the Heritage Team for finding the 'Upon Reflection' sculpture, thought to be lost, in the basement of the Town Hall, and Cllr Shaikh, for organising meetings, despite lockdown, of all the many interested parties, including our local MP, to get the sculpture 'resurrected' in our local Peace Park, part of Elthorne Park, N19. I would also like thank Parks and Heritage for getting a quote to resurrect the statue in a way that makes it less likely to be stolen for a third time.

Hillrise has far, far lower S106 funds than most Wards but, for our part, the local councillors are happy to put money aside for 'resurrecting' this sculpture as it helps our Philip Noel-Baker Peace Park maintain its atmosphere as a place for meditation and reflection - particularly on Peace.

When can we expect the sculpture back in its rightful place, at the end of the fountains, rather than lurking, unloved, in the basement of Town Hall? Thanks to all concerned, particularly our MP Jeremy Corbyn who was present when the statue was unveiled in the 1980s.

c Cllr Heather to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

At a Council Housing Scrutiny Committee meeting, Partners for Improvement indicated that the Council could propose changes to them regarding their housing services performance reporting system and its measures, including their Key Performance Indicators.

In my view the current system of KPIs used by Partners does not allow for adequate scrutiny of their housing services performance, and consequently this detracts from achieving service improvement for tenants; and this is especially the case in relation to their housing repairs service.

Therefore, do you agree with me that the Council needs to approach Partners to adopt a revised performance measurement system whereby they learn from job failures in order to improve the housing repairs service that they provide to tenants? This would include deeper qualitative analysis of the population of repair jobs that they fail to fix first time, so as to identify the causes of failure and solutions, in order to improve their housing repairs service to tenants.

d Cllr Ismail to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Metropolitan Police figures from 2019 showed that half of all knife crime offenders in London are teenagers or even younger children. As knife crime continues to rise consistently, the number of young people directly or indirectly involved in violent knife crime will only continue to grow sadly. Islington is not immune to this trend, as we have lost far too many young people, there has been tragic example in September in my ward Holloway.

My question is, as a newly appointed Community Safety Executive member, what are your priorities and how are you going to engage young black and brown boys, who are often marginalised, misunderstood and far too often this Council ignored parents crying out for support?

e Cllr Ismail to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

Since 2010 this Council has been supporting and funding our voluntary organisations who do some excellent work in Islington. Has the Council made a proper review of tangible outcomes holistically to see what has been achieved and the gaps to improve future Council services and Voluntary Community sector delivery for Islington residents?

f Cllr Russell to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

The newly adopted transport strategy policy 1C committing “to provide alternatives to car ownership” is welcome. The policy commits to reduce the number of privately owned cars in the borough by 6.9% from a baseline of 37,372 cars by 2041. That is a reduction of just 2,578 cars over twenty years to 2041 leaving 34,794 cars still being parked in Islington in 20 years time. The policy states you expect car ownership to be down by 3.7% by next year, that's 1,382 fewer cars parked in Islington compared to the baseline. Do you expect to meet this target?

g Cllr Russell to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:

Over recent years council tax arrears have increased year on year for the cohort of residents eligible for council tax relief. The number of cases of arrears has increased, the amount these households owe has increased and the council's overall net liability has increased. How many open cases are there for council tax relief arrears for the year 2019/20 and what is the value of the open cases?

h Cllr Smith to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:

This year, more than any other, public sector workers have been the everyday heroes keeping our borough running. From carers looking after those in need, to paramedics keeping people safe and refuse collectors keeping our street clean, they have all played their part throughout the pandemic.

In light of this, will the Council condemn the Government's shameful public sector pay freeze, putting the burden of paying for the pandemic on those everyday heroes?

i Cllr Ozdemir to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

The Windrush scandal was a racially-motivated Government-led disaster on our Black community. People who had lived their whole lives here were put through misery and some deported to places they had never lived in their lives. That was bad enough but the fact that the Government's supposed compensation scheme is delaying payments and then offering derisory amounts of money rubs salt in the wounds for those who suffered so much.

Will the Council agree to write to the Home Office, expressing its dismay with this process and calling on the Government to immediately provide adequate funding for those who have been wronged?

j **Cllr Graham to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:**

As the Government's policy which requires leaseholders to get an ESW1 form is clearly not fit for purpose, what is the Council doing to support leaseholders in this?

Report of: Executive Member for Finance and Performance

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Council	10 December 2020	All

Delete as appropriate:		Non-exempt
-------------------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2020/21 was agreed by Council on 5 December 2019. These schemes have to be agreed by full Council by 31 January for each subsequent year, even if they remain unchanged. There are no material changes to the scheme proposed for 2021/22. This report seeks approval for the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22.
- 1.2 There is also a legal requirement to affirm on an annual basis the council tax discounts and exemptions for empty properties and the empty rates premium.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree to adopt the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 as contained in Appendix A.
- 2.2 To note the Council is retaining a cap of 8.5% for council tax support – despite unprecedented central government funding cuts both for this scheme and for the council generally – as part of our ongoing commitment to provide support throughout the different stages of residents' lives, where it is needed (paragraphs 5.8 to 5.12).
- 2.3 To retain the amendments to council tax agreed at full Council on 5 December 2019. To be clear, this means that, from 1 April 2021, the following will continue to apply:
 - 1) council tax exemption classes A (unoccupied and unfurnished property that requires or is undergoing major repairs) and C (unoccupied and unfurnished property) will have a discount of 0% for all cases;

- 2) council tax discount for second homes will be 0% in all cases;
- 3) council tax discount for empty furnished lets will be 0% in all cases; and
- 4) a premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 100% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 2 years in all cases.

3. Background

- 3.1 As a result of the Government's abolition of council tax benefit from 1 April 2013, combined with a reduction in our funding from the Government of £2.9m at that time, we had to propose and consult on a new Council Tax Support Scheme.
- 3.2 There is a legal requirement for the Council to agree the scheme each year and a further requirement to consult with residents if the scheme is changed. This report is recommending a continuation of the current scheme for 2021/22.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications:

- 4.1.1 The estimated cost of continuing the existing Council Tax Support Scheme based on the latest position is £2.7m, of which the council's share of the burden is £2.1m financed through the council's annual budget.
- 4.1.2 In addition, the Council also provides further support through various local schemes, namely including the Older Person's Discount, Care Leaver's Allowance, Foster Care Allowance and Shared Lives Allowance, at a total cost of £989K of which approximately £776K represent the council's share of the costs, financed through the annual budgetary process.

4.2 Legal Implications:

- 4.2.1 The Council Tax Support Scheme is considered to be lawful. There are no material changes to the terms of the scheme for 2021/22, so the requirement now is for full Council to agree the scheme for its continuing adoption from 1 April 2021 for the full 2021/22 council tax year.
- 4.2.2 The Council must have due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty, which is integral to the Council's functions, and which is set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 as follows:
 - 1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to —
 - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it...

- 2) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to-
 - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 3) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- 4) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - (a) tackle prejudice, and
 - (b) promote understanding.
- 5) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- 6) The relevant protected characteristics are-
 - (a) age;
 - (b) disability;
 - (c) gender reassignment;
 - (d) pregnancy and maternity;
 - (e) race;
 - (f) religion or belief;
 - (g) sex;
 - (h) sexual orientation.

4.2.3

The equality implications of the proposed scheme for 2021/22 are detailed in section 4.4.

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

4.3.1 Not applicable.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment:

4.4.1 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.

4.4.2 The Council Tax Support Scheme Resident Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix B. This can be summarised as follows:

- The Council is choosing to keep most criteria for the Council Tax Support Scheme the same as for Council Tax Benefit because it considers this to be fair, with extra premiums already awarded for disability, children and incentives for employment.
- The Council Tax Support Scheme provides full protection for older people who are a vulnerable group whom we intend to continue to support.
- In relation to older people aged 65 or over, Islington's minimum Council Tax Support of £100 means that there will be fewer marginal cases of older people who are not quite poor enough to receive the benefit but who are still financially fragile. People in this category are less likely to access, or be able to access, the labour market.
- Retaining the 8.5% reduction despite the loss of the government grant helps all residents who will be impacted by the cumulative loss of other benefits from the government's welfare reforms.
- Applying the 8.5% reduction to the end of the benefit award (bottom slicing) rather than taking this from the liability (top slicing) works out better for people on partial benefit and it was people on partial benefit who were most concerned about the financial impact of the changes to them personally.

4.4.3 The Resident Impact Assessment identified the following as the key mitigation options:

- The Council's limiting of the reduction in benefit from what would have been in the region of 18% to 8.5% allows affected claimants greater opportunity to adapt to their financial circumstances.
- The Council can continue to help to finance the costs of limiting the reduction in benefit to 8.5% by adopting the other changes in the Local Government Finance Act regarding exemptions and discounts ('empties') by charging fully for class A and C empty properties, second homes and empty furnished lets.
- The Council can continue to limit the impact of Council Tax by adopting a non-standard council tax recovery process for council tax support recipients, where appropriate.
- The Council can mitigate for residents who cannot pay through the use of the council tax welfare provision (or other funds) in the Resident Support Scheme.

5. Reason for recommendations

5.1 Islington's Council Tax Support Scheme is designed to:

- allow working age claimants 91.5% of the support they would have been entitled to under the old council tax benefit rules;
- allow a £100 older person discount for residents aged 65 or over who are liable for council tax;
- protect pensioners in order that their council tax support is broadly the same as they would have received in council tax benefit;
- base the award for working age people on the Council Tax Benefit Regulations providing extra support for disabled people, families with children, and people in employment;
- allow for income rises of £5 a week (cumulatively) without a reduction in support to encourage paid employment;

- 5.2 In addition to this, we have a £25,000 Council Tax Support welfare provision fund within the Islington Resident Support Scheme to help provide a safety net for claimants who struggle to cope with the impact of being charged council tax.
- 5.3 The Council implemented and has continued to apply this scheme, taking account of the views expressed in public consultations carried out in 2012 and 2016 and through equality impact assessments undertaken annually since 2012.

The reason for leaving the scheme unchanged for 2021/22

- 5.4 The majority of the responses from both public consultations contained some expression of concern about residents' current circumstances – e.g. financial difficulty, welfare reform, supporting the family, coping through disability, finding a job. They were worried about how changes to council tax support would affect them personally. For this reason, we have, for each year of the scheme, chosen to limit the cap in council tax support to just 8.5%, providing residents with a greater opportunity to adapt to the significant changes and cuts that have been made to welfare benefits generally by central government.
- 5.5 The £100 older person's discount has been consistently supported.
- 5.6 Our intention to support people in low-paid work by ignoring cumulative increases in income of less than £5 received significant support.
- 5.7 To help us fund the scheme we have removed council tax exemptions and discounts for some empty properties and charged the maximum premium allowed on properties standing empty for more than 2 years. The additional revenue from this is re-invested into the Council Tax Support Scheme. This approach also supports our objective to discourage property in Islington being used for investment-only purposes and then being left vacant. This report recommends that our approach to empty properties is continued in 2021/22 and we charge the maximum premium allowed in law from that date.

The 8.5% Council Tax Support cap – part of a wider support package

- 5.8 **Limiting the impact** – We view capping the council tax support entitlement by only 8.5% as an important feature in the range of support which we provide to residents. The loss of grant funding from the government was £2.9m when the scheme was first introduced in 2013. We would have needed to cap council tax support by over 18% to recover the funding lost as a result of this government cut. Instead, in 2013 we started funding £1.5m of the loss directly from the council's budget.
- 5.9 **Even higher costs** – As a result of council tax increases over the last seven years of the council tax scheme, the loss now is around £2.1m. We estimate that we would need to cap the council tax scheme by around 20% to cover the full cost of the scheme. Most councils are recovering their costs in such a way. However, we have instead retained the 8.5% cap, protecting residents at significant cost to the council itself.
- 5.10 **Range of support** – The council (together with the Cripplegate Foundation) offer welfare provision through the Islington Resident Support Scheme. A Guardian newspaper freedom of information request showed that, since welfare provision was passed down to local councils by the government in 2013, the London Borough of Islington is one of only

two councils nationally to have increased the funding put into maintaining this local safety net. Throughout the country, schemes have either been shelved or significantly reduced as a result of unprecedented government cuts. So, in many places, help in a crisis or through the provision of essential household items is not available in the way that it was, if at all. In Islington, however, despite the removal of specific grant funding from government, we have a commitment to cover £1.4m of community care grants from our own funds and agreement from Cripplegate and St Sepulchre to add further charitable monies to this, further augmenting the impact of the scheme. During the COVID-19 pandemic we have quickly adapted our Resident Support Scheme to help those residents facing financial hardship. The scheme has been made easier to access, crisis award values have been doubled and processing times made faster. These changes were made in conjunction with our Voluntary sector partners. An additional £30k has been secured from Islington Giving and Cloudeley to support the increased crisis demand on the Resident Support Scheme for 2020/21.

- 5.11 **Help and advice** – We made £949,763 of discretionary housing payments in 2019/20 to help tenants who cannot pay their rent due to government benefit cuts and we have a fund for residents who are struggling to pay their council tax. We are forecasting to spend beyond our discretionary housing payments budget for 2020/21 of £1,007,226. We are supporting claimants affected by the dramatic impact of universal credit, for instance by providing significant funding for advice by Islington Citizens Advice, Islington Law Centre, Islington Peoples Rights, Help On Your Doorstep and other partners, as well as delivering our own services through the Income Maximisation Team, Families First and our own universal credit support offer to provide help and advice with their claim, access housing advice and support, maximise their benefit claim and get employment support. This is offered in conjunction with the Help to Claim service from Citizen's Advice, which helps vulnerable residents make a claim for Universal Credit. We provide crucial energy support through SHINE and help residents find employment through our iWork Team.
- 5.12 **Support during a lifetime** – We have a range of support, aligned with our priorities of tackling poverty and reducing inequality, that can be accessed during the different stages of peoples' lives. We do not want people to be dependent on the council, but we aim to provide help for the right reason at the right time. Appendix C contains the detail of our extensive targeted provision of support.

Approval of the 2021/22 Council Tax Support Scheme

- 5.13 It is recommended that the Council Tax Support Scheme (Appendix A) remains unchanged for 2021/22, apart from one minor adjustment to change the date in the scheme to ensure it applies for 2021/22.

6. Conclusion and Reason for Recommendations

- 6.1 This report recommends that the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 is approved. This means we would continue to use our funds to cover the impact of capping the council tax support entitlement by 8.5%.
- 6.2 The report also identifies the range of discretionary support that we offer and notes that Islington's Resident Support Scheme continues to be well-funded, bucking the national trend.

- 6.3 This report recommends that we continue with the changes made in 2013/14 and retained subsequently to discounts and exemptions for empty properties and continue to charge the maximum premium allowed in law for properties left empty for more than two years. This helps to bridge the gap imposed by the Government in the council tax support scheme funding, so that, in line with our principles, those who are able to pay more will continue to support those who are less able to pay.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Council Tax support Scheme for 2021/22
- Appendix B: Resident Impact Assessment
- Appendix C: From the cradle to the grave – a lifetime of support

Background papers - none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



1 December 2020

Executive Member for Finance and
Performance

Date

Report Author: Robbie Rainbird
Tel: 02075278970
Email: robbie.rainbird@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Khogen Sutradhar
Tel: 02075272499
Email: khogen.sutradhar@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Peter Fehler
Tel: 02075273126
Email: peter.fehler@islington.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

London Borough of Islington

Council Tax Support Scheme

Draft for approval by Council on 10 December 2020



Islington Council: Council Tax Support Scheme

1. This document and the law

This document is the London Borough of Islington's Council Tax Reduction Scheme, set out under section 13A (2) [substituted by clause 8 of the Local government finance Bill] of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

This scheme, referred to as Council Tax Support (CTS), has been agreed based on:

- the outcome of a public consultation exercise carried out in 2012 and repeated in 2016;
- the Equality Impact Assessment made in relation to the scheme and the subsequent Resident Impact Assessments carried out annually; and
- Considerations and decisions made annually by full Council.

2. Introduction

CTS reduces the amount of council tax a person has to pay based on an assessment made by Islington Council (the Council). As the Billing Authority, council tax is raised and charged by the Council and the CTS assessed by the Council can only be applied to council tax bills issued by the Council.

This scheme sets out rules for three classes of claimants. The amount of CTS shall be determined through means testing. As such the income and capital of the claimant and any partner or partners in the case of a polygamous couple in the household shall be taken into account. It is considered that eligibility for CTS is defined by the terms of the former Council Tax Benefit (CTB) scheme as set out in the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, the Social Security Administration Act 1992, the Council Tax Benefit Regulations 2006 and the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit (Decisions and Appeals) Regulations 2001, the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012. These will hereafter be known as the Regulations and these Regulations set out how CTB was claimed, how it was calculated and how it was paid. This scheme proposes that the principles and methods set out in those Regulations be used to determine CTS, except where amendments are set out in this scheme or by statute under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) and accompanying legislation. For the avoidance of doubt, where there is a difference or conflict between the Regulations and the Council's CTS scheme, then it is the Council's CTS scheme as set out here that will take precedence and be applied.

3. Making a claim

A claim must be made in respect of a person who is resident in the dwelling concerned, and liable for payment of council tax. A valid claim can be made by the person liable for council tax or by their appointed representative.

3.1 How to claim

3.1.1 Except where paragraph 3.1.2 applies, an application shall be required for all new claims from 1 April 2013. A person liable to pay council tax will be able to make a claim using any of the methods the Council provides for. Generally, claims can be made via telephone, email, the Council website, in writing or in person at Islington Council offices, or to the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Jobcentres. Notification by the DWP that a person has claimed universal credit will be treated as an application for CTS. A valid claim must be accompanied by the necessary supporting evidence.

3.1.2 For claimants entitled to the reduction in class 2 only (defined below), where it is possible for the Council to award CTS without application it shall do so. Indeed, for this provision an identification by the Council that a person would be entitled to this reduction by virtue of relevant detail already obtained by the Council may be enough to constitute a claim and to enable the award of a reduction. If a reduction cannot be awarded by the Council automatically under class 2, it shall be the duty of the person or persons with a council tax liability to claim this using the application process prescribed on the Islington Council website, and this application shall be required to be received in the council tax year for which the reduction applies.

4. Classes of reduction

4.1 It is considered that the Council has 3 classes of reduction in its CTS scheme. The classes below also identify the persons that the reduction will cover.

Class 1 – A person or persons of pension credit age has protection prescribed in the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended). The council tax reduction shall be assessed in accordance with the provisions of that Act.

Class 2 – A person or persons with a council tax liability on 1 April 2020 aged 65 or over shall be entitled to a minimum reduction of £100 per annum, unless the council tax liability is less than this, in which case it shall match the annual council tax liability.

Class 3 – A person or persons not entitled to protection under class 1 who would be entitled to CTB based on the Regulations at 31 March 2013:

- a) shall be entitled to CTS based on that notional CTB entitlement, less 8.5%; and
- b) if, after the accurate calculation of the CTS award under Class 3a), subsequent calculations or revisions of the same CTS award would result in a decrease in the CTS award of less than £1 a week cumulatively, then no decrease shall be applied. This excludes uprating as defined in clause 5.3.

4.2 Making changes to the dates for the classes of reduction

For Class 2, the Council may substitute the date provided with a date of its choosing. This will enable the scheme to continue into future years. Any changes to dates shall be published on the website by 31 January of the year that immediately precedes the new council tax year to which the CTS shall apply.

4.3 Making changes to the values for the classes of reduction

For Class 2, for the minimum reduction the Council may substitute any amount it chooses, including £Nil. Should a change be made for a future council tax year, this shall be published on the website by 31 January of the year that immediately precedes the new council tax year to which the CTS shall apply.

For the purposes of Class 3a), the Council may substitute 8.5% with any amount it chooses but capped at 25%.

For the purposes of Class 3b), the Council may substitute £1 with any amount it chooses.

Should a change be made for a future council tax year this shall be published on the website by 31 January of the year that immediately precedes the new council tax year to which the CTS shall apply.

4.4 Administering the reduction

For all Classes the reduction shall be made to the council tax liability in the council tax year that the CTS applies.

4.5 Explanation of the cumulative effect in Class 3b)

The intention is that subsequent calculations or revisions of the same CTS award that would result in a decrease in that CTS award of less than £1 a week, would only take effect when the combination of these changes would reduce that CTS award by £1 a week or more. In other words, changes in circumstances that, if applied, would reduce the CTS award would be held back until the cumulative impact of these when combined with future changes actually reduces the CTS award by £1 a week or more. This excludes uprating as defined in clause 5.3.

5. Exceptions to the Regulations

This scheme proposes that the principles and methods set out in the Regulations be used to determine CTS, except where amendments are set out in this scheme or by statute under the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) and accompanying legislation.

The exceptions to these Regulations (or clarifications) are set out below:

5.1 Information and evidence

The Council may accept any information or evidence that it sees fit to support a claim for CTS and may receive this in any way that it sees fit. As a guide, it shall publish what is expected on the Council's website. If all the information or evidence it needs is not submitted, the Council shall seek to make contact with the claimant once to obtain this. If the claimant does not reply or provide the information required within one month of the first contact made with or by the Council in relation to the application, the Council may decide to treat the claim as incomplete and refuse the CTS application. The Council may extend the one-month time limit if it thinks it is reasonable to give more time but in any case this shall not be extended beyond 3 months after the date of the first contact made with or by the Council in relation to the application.

5.2 Treatment of income

For the purpose of making an assessment under the CTS scheme, all income shall be treated in accordance with the Regulations. However, from time to time the Government may reform welfare benefits and introduce new benefits or replace them with equivalent benefits of a different name. Under the Regulations, some prescribed income is disregarded, some prescribed income has an impact on the premiums that can be applied to a person's applicable amount, and some prescribed income has an impact on the level of a non-dependant deduction(s) to be applied. In addition to this, some prescribed income passports a person to full entitlement to CTB, albeit subject to certain deductions such as a non-dependant deduction.

It is the intention of the Council for the CTS scheme, that where such income is replaced by the Government by an equivalent benefit or where new benefits are introduced, that these changes should be applied at the same time to CTS (or as soon as practicable thereafter) and attract the appropriate and equivalent income disregard, premium for the applicable amount and non-dependant deduction. It is also the intention to continue to passport an equivalent benefit to full entitlement to notional CTB to allow the CTS to be calculated.

To achieve this, when a new welfare benefit (income) is introduced by Government, the Council shall decide for the purposes of applying the Regulations:

- whether it should be disregarded; and/or
- the premium (if any) that it should attract; and/or
- the non-dependant deduction that should apply (if any); and/or
- whether it should be treated as income that would passport a person to full notional CTB entitlement.

Once the Council has decided how changes to other welfare benefits shall be treated for the purposes of applying the Regulations, the Council shall publish this detail on the Council website prior to the commencement of this new welfare benefit or as soon as practicable thereafter.

The Regulations currently afford the Council the discretion to disregard war widows pension and war disablement allowance. The Council will continue to disregard this income for the purposes of assessing CTS.

Universal Credit income will be treated in accordance with the Regulations and The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Default Scheme) (England) Regulations 2012.

5.3 National changes to premiums, allowances, applicable amounts, disregards and deductions (the components)

For the purpose of making an assessment under the CTS scheme, all the components shall be treated in accordance with the Regulations. However, from time to time the Government may reform welfare benefits and:

- introduce a new component;
- change the value of an existing component; or
- change the basis on which an existing component can be applied.

Where this happens, the Council will have the option immediately to make a change to the CTS scheme based on the treatment of a similar component in an equivalent national scheme. An equivalent national scheme means either the provisions that form the basis for assessment under Class 1 or the Housing Benefit General Regulations 1987 (as amended).

The Council shall determine how changes to the components in an equivalent national scheme will be treated for the purposes of assessing an award under Class 3, including the date that any change will take effect. The Council shall publish this detail on the Council website prior to the commencement of these changes or as soon as practicable thereafter.

From time to time, the components and some income will be subject to uprating by the government to reflect changes in the consumer price index. This scheme provides that the Council shall uprate all the components and income in accordance with the Government's uprating of the same or equivalent components (as identified by the Council) in the equivalent national scheme.

5.4 Decisions and notifications of decisions

The Council shall make a decision on a claim within a reasonable timescale after receiving all required information and evidence. In order to inform a claimant of the decision, the Council shall send them a revised council tax bill showing the amount and period of the CTS award. The bill itself shall be formal notification of the CTS decision unless CTS is not awarded as a result of us deciding to treat the claim as incomplete or the person does not qualify for CTS, in which case a letter will be issued to the claimant. Claimants may request a statement of reasons to explain how the award was calculated. The council tax bill shall include a person's appeal rights, how they can request a statement of reasons and details of how to apply for further discretionary help from the Council Tax Welfare provision in the Resident Support Scheme. The claimant can elect to receive their bill by post or by using Islington's web portal 'My eAccount', also known as e-billing. For the avoidance of doubt, the requirements in the Regulations to notify a person of their CTB entitlement

in a manner and including detail prescribed by those Regulations shall be revoked for the purposes of the CTS scheme.

5.5 How CTS will be paid

All CTS will be 'paid' by crediting the amount of CTS against the claimant's council tax liability to reduce the bill. Should a bill that attracts a council tax reduction be in credit at the point that a council tax liability is ended, the Council may use that credit to reduce any other sum that is owed to the Council by that person.

5.6 Changes of circumstances

The recipient of CTS or their appointee must notify the Council of any change to their household circumstances, income or capital that may affect the amount of CTS they are entitled to. Any change of circumstances must be reported within one calendar month of the change happening. Any change can be reported to Islington Council by telephone, email, via website or in writing. Supporting information may be required. Each material change shall result in a recalculation of CTS entitlement and a revised bill if appropriate.

A process for reviewing current CTS entitlement may be implemented by the Council. CTS may be reviewed at any time after its commencement. Failure of the claimant to fulfil any reasonable request made by the Council during a review of their CTS award shall result in the termination of that CTS award from the commencement date of the review.

5.7 Appeals

If the claimant disagrees with the CTS award or non-award following a claim, they can request that the Council looks at this again (this is known as an application for revision). They must do this within one month of the date of the council tax bill that shows the amount and period of their CTS or within one month of the date of their CTS non-qualification letter. If an appeal made by the same claimant about a housing benefit decision would also impact on CTS, the Council may also treat this as an appeal against CTS if it is made within one month of the date of the council tax bill that shows the amount and period of their CTS. The Council shall check if the decision is correct and inform the claimant of its decision in writing. If, the Council believes that its decision is correct or the claimant does not receive a response from the Council within 2 months, the claimant has another 2 months to appeal to the Valuation Tribunal where a final decision can be made. Any appeal against a decision regarding CTS will not mean that payments of council tax may be withheld. Payments must be made as they fall due and if an appeal is successful any additional CTS award shall be credited against the claimant's council tax liability at that time as directed.

6. General Provisions

6.1 Council Tax Welfare Provision

There is a welfare scheme available for council tax payers receiving CTS experiencing exceptional hardship. This is part of the Resident Support Scheme and the procedure for application is contained within the detail of the Resident Support Scheme approved by the Council's Executive.

6.2 Fraud

The Council will investigate any case where it has reason to believe that an amount of CTS has been awarded as a result of a claim which is fraudulent in any respect. This will include any

incidence of a claimant not notifying the Council of any change in household circumstances, income or capital that results in a higher reduction under the CTS scheme than a person is due.

6.3 Consultation

The Council recognises its legal duty to consult should there be future changes to the scheme. However, from time to time the council will need to make minor changes to the practice and operation of the scheme and, should these occur, we will consult by way of publishing a notice on the Council's website during the last 2 weeks of January of the year that immediately precedes the new council tax year to which the CTS shall apply. A consultee shall then have until 31 January of that same year to respond to this notice. The Council officers delegated to operate the scheme will give due regard to this response.

6.4 Delegation

The Council shall delegate the operation of this scheme to the Corporate Director of Resources who will designate the appropriate officers to undertake this role. Currently, these officers are all based in the Financial Operations and Customer Services Directorate of the Council's Resources Department.

6.5 CTS Scheme Agreement

The CTS Scheme will be reviewed annually and subject to further agreement at Full Council prior to 31 January each year.

This page is intentionally left blank

Resident Impact Assessment

**Screening and full assessment of Islington's
Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme.**

Contents

Click to navigate to sections

1. [Introduction and context](#)
2. [Initial Screening](#)
3. [The proposal](#)
4. [Equality Impacts](#)
5. [Socio-economic, safeguarding and Human Rights impacts](#)
6. [Summary: key findings of the RIA](#)

1. Introduction and context

A Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) is a way of systematically and thoroughly assessing policies against the Council's responsibilities in relation to the Public Sector Equality Duty, Human Rights and Safeguarding.

This RIA will describe the CTS scheme, its intended purpose and how it has been implemented. It will detail which residents are expected to be affected by the policy and the expected impact in relation to:

- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#);
- Safeguarding responsibilities; and
- Human Rights legislation, specifically with regard to Article 3 (Inhuman Treatment) and Article 8 (Right to Private Life)

We will identify evidence, such as data and research, to assess the impact of the CTS scheme and identify options for addressing issues raised by the assessments.

2. Screening

a) Title of new or changed policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision being assessed:	Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) 2021 – 2022
b) Department and section:	Finance, Financial Operations
c) Name and contact details of assessor:	Robbie Rainbird, Financial Operations, robbie.rainbird@islington.gov.uk
d) Date initial screening assessment started:	1/9/2020
e) Describe the main aim or purpose of the proposed new or changed policy, etc. and the intended outcomes:	To help low-income council tax charge payers pay their Council Tax
f) Can this proposal be considered as part of a broader Resident Impact Assessment? For example, it may be more appropriate to carry out an assessment of a divisional restructure rather than the restructure of a single team.	No
g) Are there any negative equality impacts as a result of the proposal? Please complete the table below:	

Select **Yes**, **No** or **Unknown** by clicking on the 'Choose an item' boxes below and enter text in the text boxes in the right-hand column:

Protected characteristics	1. Will the proposal discriminate?	2. Will the proposal undermine equality of opportunity?	3. Will the proposal have a negative impact on relations?	What evidence are you using to predict this impact?
Age	The CTS has some different conditions according to age	No	No	Described in Section 4
Disability	The CTS provides some additional support for disabled people	No	No	Described in Section 4
Gender reassignment	No	No	No	Described in Section 4
Marriage and civil partnerships ¹	No	N/A	N/A	Described in Section 4
Race	No	No	No	Described in Section 4
Religion/belief	No	No	No	Described in Section 4
Pregnancy and maternity	No	No	No	Described in Section 4
Sexual Orientation	No	No	No	Described in Section 4
Sex/gender	No	No	No	Described in Section 4

Please list any opportunities in the proposal for advancing equality of opportunity for any of the protected characteristics.

These are described in section 4.

¹ Only the requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination in employment should be considered.

	N/A
h) Please list any opportunities in the proposal for fostering good relations for any of the protected characteristics.	N/A
i) Is the proposal a strategy that lays out priorities in relation to activity and resources and likely to have a negative socio-economic impact on residents?	No
j) Do you anticipate any Safeguarding risks as a result of the proposal?	No
k) Do you anticipate any potential Human Rights breaches as a result of the proposal?	No

3. The policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision

a) Date full assessment started: 1/9/2020

b) Title of new or changed policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision being assessed?

Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) 2021/22

People on low incomes who cannot pay their Council Tax bill can receive CTS to help them.

As part of the Spending Review 2010, the Government announced that expenditure allocated to this localised scheme would be reduced by 10% from the subsidy previously provided for council tax benefit and any increase in expenditure above what is forecast by The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) from that point on must be funded locally by the Council. In 2013/14, the council received in the region of £2.9 million less to give out in support to claimants. This meant the council had to make savings or increase income to fund the shortfall. The Government also stipulated that people of pension credit age must be protected, which meant that the CTS reduction was directed exclusively at working age claimants and would have meant a reduction of around 18%-20% if the cuts were shared in equal proportions across all working age claimants. Originally, the Council chose to make up for this shortfall by introducing a standard reduction to all Council Tax Support recipients of 8.5%, by taking up the Government's offer of a temporary transitional grant and reducing the level of discounts that those with empty properties could apply for. The Government has subsequently withdrawn any transitional grant but the Council has decided to maintain the original level of support it provides to its CTS residents and is funding this additional support wholly from its own funds. As a result of the Council's additional support, the standard reduction to all Council Tax Support recipients' remains capped at 8.5%.

c) What is the profile of the current service users and residents impacted by the change?

It affects everyone in Islington who has to pay Council Tax which broadly speaking means that it affects all residents. The number fluctuates but there are about 146,000 households with a liability for Council Tax.

d) What is the profile of the workforce impacted by the change?

The workforce is not impacted.

e) How will the proposed change impact this profile?

A decision to continue with an 8.5% reduction for working-age CTS recipients does not affect the profile of service users, residents or the workforce.

4. Equality impacts and mitigations

No significant issues have arisen as to the impact of Islington's Council Tax Support Scheme since it was introduced in 2013 and the analysis provided in this section should be seen in this context.

Since the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) relates to the distribution of money based on criteria relating to income, it is predominantly data relevant to these issues that has been analysed in order to assess the impact of the CTSS proposals on different groups.

Although it is difficult to update demographic data or information about population statistics without recent national survey data, there is no reason to believe that figures we refer to in this analysis have materially changed from the previous years'.

As the funding for the scheme has been cut by 10% by government and not increased subsequently despite demographic change, the scheme would tend to disadvantage at least some residents with protected characteristics and/or those living in poverty, unless money was found from other parts of the council budget to make up the shortfall. The Government has also stipulated that people of pension credit age must be protected, which means that the benefit paid to other CTS claimants would need to be reduced by an estimated 18%-20% if cuts were shared in equal proportions across all remaining recipients.

However, in order to keep the extent of the financial burden on our working-age CTS claimants low, the Council did not make an 18%-20% reduction but will continue instead to limit the reduction to 8.5% in 2021/22 at a cost of approximately £2.1m within the Council's 2021/22 budget.

Given the scale of local government budget cuts over the past few years, it is unlikely that additional funding can be found from other sources which would not have a detrimental impact in other ways, potentially on groups with protected characteristics. The council has made the decision to keep within the budget set by central government, and while other choices are available, this appears to be a reasonable decision in the context of the council's actual and forecast financial position.

The council tax system holds very little data on most of the protected characteristics, including gender, disability and race. It has therefore been necessary to look at different local and national sources of data from different years in order to build a picture that can be used for this impact assessment.

The 2011 census shows that there are 206,100 residents in Islington and 96,100 households. This is 27,000 more than the 2001 census upon which much of the data in this assessment is based. Notwithstanding its shortcomings, the data is sufficient to get an idea of potential impacts arising from CTS.

Our CTS scheme incorporates full protection for older people against the previous council tax benefit scheme and mitigation for disabled people and large families. Applying the percentage reduction to the end of the benefit award (bottom slicing) rather than taking this from the liability (top slicing) helps people on partial benefit and there was a message from the public consultation that those on partial benefit are more concerned about the impact of the CTS. To illustrate this, in the case where the reduction is 8.5%:

1) for someone who was in receipt of £20 full CTB, whether the reduction in benefit was top sliced or bottom sliced the reduction is £1.70 (8.5%) leaving CTS of £18.30 for those previously receiving “full” benefit in this example;

2) however, in the case of someone who was previously on partial CTB because they had additional income from working, to reduce their benefit by top slicing would (if the starting point was £20) leave their CTS as £8.30 (£20 less £1.70 (8.5%) less £10 Excess Income = £8.30). But if their partial benefit was reduced by bottom slicing instead this would leave their CTS as £9.15 (£20 less £10 Excess Income = £10. Taking 8.5% of this leaves £9.15). Therefore, choosing to bottom slice makes it better for those on partial benefit which supports the consultation findings.

There is also mitigation for those who might be deemed to be better off by allowing savings of up to £16,000 before someone is disqualified from receiving CTS (this is known as the “capital limit”) and giving an additional discount of up to £100 to all pensioners over the age of 65, whether or not they currently qualify for CTS. Although the net effect of providing support to those deemed to be better off is that less money is available for others that may be in greater need, there are positive aspects to Islington’s scheme. People who are not particularly well off but have accumulated savings will not be penalised and even if savings were limited to £8,000, because less than 200 claimants out of over 20,000 existing claimants have capital over this limit, the money that would have been available to others is relatively small. In relation to pensioners over 65, Islington’s minimum CTS of £100 means that there will be no marginal cases of older pensioners who are not quite poor enough to receive the benefit but who are still financially fragile. This age group is likely to have less access to the labour market.

Compared to council tax payers who are not in receipt of CTS, there is a more favourable recovery regime for CTS. Even if a CTS council tax payer is summonsed, we will not use enforcement agents to recover the money and we will remit court costs if they agree to and keep up with a new schedule of payments [which the Council Tax service call Special Arrangements].

Catering for exceptional hardship

Additional support is available to the most vulnerable residents by way of a council tax welfare fund of £25,000 within the Council’s Resident Support Scheme (RSS) to support cases of exceptional hardship resulting from additional council tax charges. This will be available on a time-limited basis to residents who apply and meet the hardship criteria. Money has been generated for this fund by removing the 10% discount on second homes in Islington and charging more council tax on empty homes.

In the first 7 months of 2019/20 over 26,000 claimants qualified for council tax support and there have been 26 applications for additional support, as a result of which £1,465 was awarded. This is currently a small reduction from the previous year and it still appears from the low volume of requests that our CTS claimants have not been impacted to the extent that most need additional support from us.

For 2020/21, working age council tax support recipients have received up to £150 council tax rebate as a COVID19 hardship fund award. To date, 20,606 households have received an award, totalling £2.4m of council tax relief.

Further analysis by protected characteristic

Summary

Since the introduction of the CTS scheme there is no evidence that any particular group is particularly impacted.

Our welfare reform response team (iWork) and our IMAX teams have not reported issues with CTS.

By September 2013 - the first year of the scheme - we had collected 50.1% of council tax monies owed; by September 2015 we had collected 51.5%; by September 2018 we had collected 51.1%, by September 2019 we had collected 51.75% and by August 2020 we had collected 56%. Overall, it appears that our council tax collection performance continues to be strong. There is evidence that working age CTS claimants are less likely to pay than any other type of council tax charge payer. This should be expected as this group are defined by a low income and the majority have previously been unused to paying anything towards Council Tax. The collection rate for 20/21 has been helped by the COVID19 hardship fund awards.

Age

Key facts

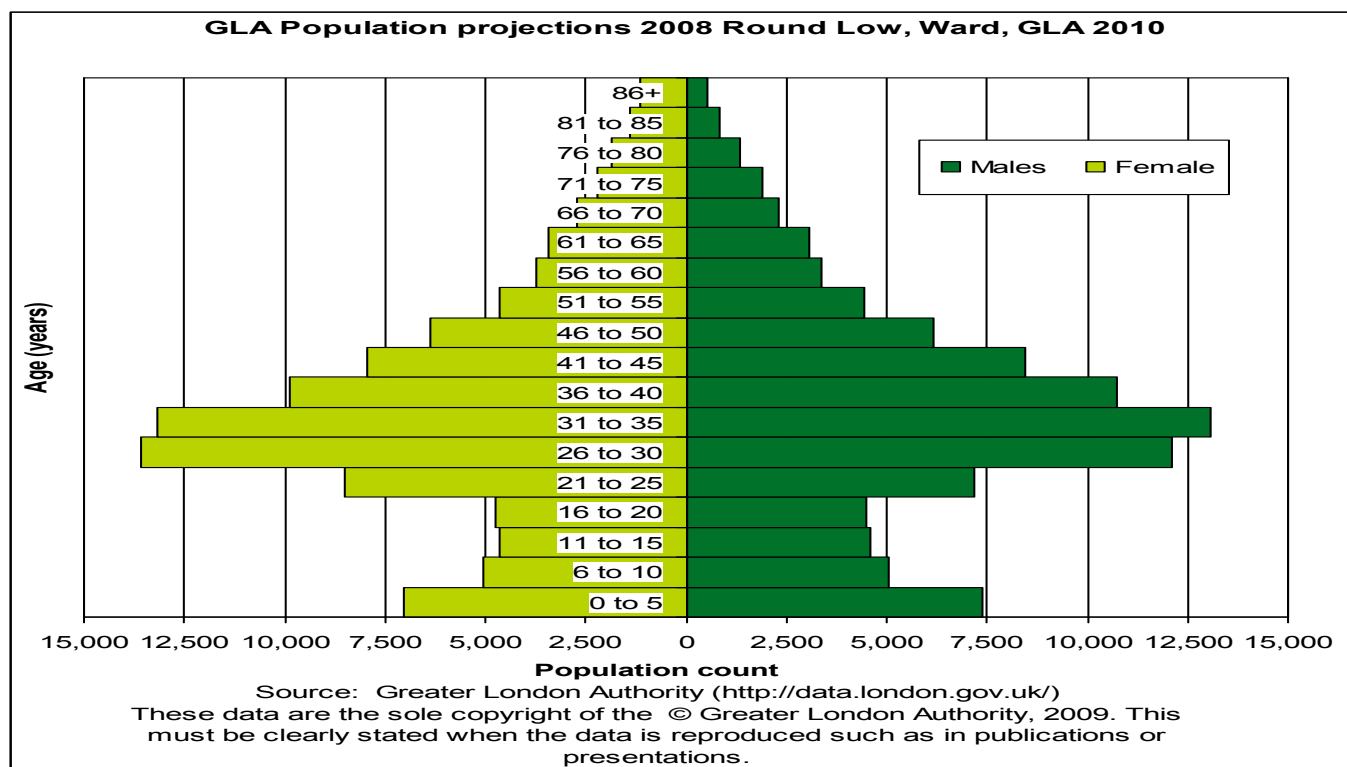
Older people

- 41% of over 65s in Islington are income deprived and 53% are in fuel poverty
- Pension poverty affects women more than men
- The older the pensioner the greater the likelihood to be living in a low income household.
- Pensioners living in a household headed by someone from a BME community² were more likely to be at the lower end of the income distribution curve.
- Disabled pensioners in households not claiming appropriate disability benefits were much more likely to be in a low income household.
- There are approximately 22,750 people aged 51 to 65 in Islington – evidence indicates that people in this age group are least likely to find another job if they become workless. Islington, alongside Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham have the highest proportion of pensioners receiving the Guarantee element of Pension Credit

Younger people

- There are approximately 800 known carers under the age of 19 in Islington.
- There are 1,575 residents aged 18 to 24 and 4,180 aged 25 to 49 claiming Job Seekers Allowance
- There are 5,100 residents aged 25 to 49 claiming Employment Support Allowance;

² In this context BME refers to the non-White population. Link:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbai/hbai2010/pdf_files/full_hbai11.pdf



Impact assessment

Older people of pension credit age are protected under the scheme, and those over 65 will also continue to receive the £100 rebate. The proposals therefore do not lead to any financial impact on older people who currently receive the benefit or are eligible. From the information available, it is not possible to assess whether the scheme is accessible to older people (who may have a range of access needs) or their carers. Given needs are met once identified, it would be important to make very clear through a range of channels that information etc is available in other formats, and that staff and voluntary sector and community organisations can also provide support.

When it comes to age, much of national policy on this and related welfare reforms protects pensioners while working age benefit recipients experience cuts. The council proposals reinforce this distinction by retaining the £100 older person's discount. Although it could be argued that this leads to disproportionately worse impacts on those of working age, national and local data on the number of older people living in poverty and not necessarily claiming benefits means that the council's position is reasonable from an equality perspective. Furthermore, those in the over 65 category are less likely to access, or have access to, the labour market to supplement their income than those of working age. People of working age, including young people, are only eligible for CTS where they have an additional need, for example because of a disability or they are on a low income. The cumulative impact of welfare reforms on this group is significant and eligible younger residents may not be aware of what they are entitled to. Communication methods more suited to younger people such as text messaging, social media etc, may be useful in raising awareness.

In respect of this characteristic, no significant issues have emerged during the first 6 years' operation of the CTS scheme.

Mitigation

Develop plans to ensure that information, support and advice is accessible and that the option to claim and ways to do so are well signposted by services and organisations in contact with potentially eligible residents and through proven communication channels.

Disability

Key facts:

- There are 26,327 households with one or more person with a limiting long-term illness
- 12,540 claim out of work sickness benefits (incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance)
- There are 7,350 working age Islington residents claiming Disability Living Allowance (a non-means tested benefit available to employed or out-of-work disabled people) - 6,270 have been claiming for at least two years and 4,860 for at least 5 years.
- There are 2,240 people claiming Carer's Allowance (CA), of which 2,080 are of working age
- The employment rate amongst disabled people is 48.2%
- Nationally 50% earn less than half the mean earnings after adjusting for extra costs
- Twice as likely to live in poverty but less likely to be in low income if in a workless household
- Disabled pensioners in households not claiming appropriate disability benefits were much more likely to be in a low income household.

The public consultation responses in 2012 and 2016 provide indications that disabled people are concerned about being able to cope financially but the numbers of respondents where this kind of data appears is low. A relatively small number of disabled and non-disabled respondents volunteered the view that disabled people should pay less council tax, with a greater proportion of working age as opposed to pension age respondents expressing this view.

In respect of this characteristic, no significant issues have emerged during the first 6 years' operation of the CTS scheme.

Impact assessment

Disabled people are disproportionately likely to be poor, out of work and on benefits. They are disproportionately affected by welfare reform overall. It is estimated that those IB claimants who have already migrated to ESA Support Group will be £17 a week better off. However, 33% will be on ESA Work Related Activity Group and be £4 a week worse off and 18% will migrate to JSA and be £40 a week worse off.

Although the CTS scheme provides higher amounts for disabled people they still get 8.5% less than they did from council tax benefit in 2012. The higher costs of care, transport and general living combined with the labour market disadvantage faced by disabled people could make the reductions stemming from the CTS scheme difficult for them to cope with. However, while members of this group are often economically disadvantaged, the rationale of a universal rather than means tested approach was challenged at the disabled group workshop. Some disabled people may not need the extra financial support and the argument made was that looking at groups rather than more specific individual or household circumstances is too simplistic.

In any event, with respect to this characteristic no significant issues have emerged during the first 7 years' operation of the CTS scheme.

Mitigation options

The Council has limited the reduction in benefit for disabled people from 18% to 8.5%. Continuing this for 2021/22 will continue to give people greater opportunity to adapt their financial circumstances.

Supporting those with long-term health conditions into employment is the best route out of poverty and is also recognised to be of benefit, particularly to people with mental health problems. We will have a particular focus on ESA claimants in the employment work of our iWork Team, utilising specific funding to increase the number of work coaches as well as continuing the work started under the Universal Services Delivered Locally trial.

Race

Key facts:

- Employment
 - Non-white employment rate in Islington is 51.4%
 - Nationally, the rate is 59% for non-White compared to 72% for White people
 - Nationally 10% Indian and 15% White British men over 25 are not working compared with 30% to 40% for Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Black Caribbean and Black African. The high number of students explains much of the higher proportion for Black African. The ethnic profile of people starting to claim JSA in Feb 2010 showed that the proportion that were Black/Black British was 6 percentage points higher than their proportion in the 2001 census, while the proportion that were White was 22 percentage points below their proportion in the 2001 census.
- National data on earnings shows that those from Bangladeshi and Pakistani backgrounds are almost twice as likely to earn less than £7 per hour than those from Black African, Black Caribbean and White British backgrounds.
 - 48% Bangladeshi, 42% Pakistani
 - 27% Black African, 23% Black Caribbean
 - 25% White British
- Households below Average Income (HBAI) survey shows that children are much more likely to live in poverty if they are in a family headed by a BME parent, especially someone of Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Black Non-Caribbean origin.

The following table shows the ethnic distribution of families in Islington, differentiated between those who received Council Tax Benefit and those who did not.

	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	Grand Total	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	All
1 White British	2252	4950	7202	29%	38%	35%
2 Other White	597	1286	1883	8%	10%	9%
3 Turkish / Turkish Cypriot	503	242	745	6%	2%	4%
4 Kurdish	57	21	78	1%	0%	0%
5 Bangladeshi	355	333	688	5%	3%	3%

	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	Grand Total	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	All
6 Asian	131	218	349	2%	2%	2%
7 Black Caribbean	328	483	811	4%	4%	4%
8 Black Somali	324	187	511	4%	1%	2%
9 Black African	480	649	1129	6%	5%	5%
10 Black Other	345	424	769	4%	3%	4%
11 Chinese	53	92	145	1%	1%	1%
12 Mixed	882	1469	2351	11%	11%	11%
13 Other	235	386	621	3%	3%	3%
14 Not Obtained / Refused	78	183	261	1%	1%	1%
15 Unknown*	1060	1564	2624	14%	12%	13%
Missing	155	416	571	2%	3%	3%
Grand Total	7835	12903	20738	100%	100%	100%

Reviewing CTS take-up within this cohort, the biggest discrepancy is among 'white British' residents who are significantly under-represented, and 'other white' who are slightly under-represented. Bangladeshi, Black Somali, Turkish/ Turkish Cypriot and to a slightly lesser extent Black African are all over-represented. These figures are in line with what might be expected given the employment data briefly stated earlier, which indicate relative levels of poverty in different communities.

- **Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

- Data from 2002 indicates a 29% employment rate nationally among refugee and asylum seekers, which is much lower than average for BME people. (Bloch 2002)
- From a small Islington sample, the data suggests those who work are in low paid, low-skilled jobs

- **Gypsies & Travellers**

There are estimated to be 55 gypsy and traveller families in Islington, mostly living in houses. Although this community is small, its challenges are acute, with significantly disproportionate outcomes compared to any other group. For example, gypsies and travellers have the worst health outcomes of any racial or ethnic community and are twenty times more likely to experience the death of a child.

The consultation responses did not point to any significant issues emerging based on ethnic background and none have emerged during the first 6 years' operation of the CTS scheme.

Impact assessment

Welfare reforms, the economic situation and historic inequalities in employment together are likely to result in lower incomes for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents, who will therefore be disproportionately affected by the reduction in CTS. Known barriers such as limited English and lack of familiarity with the system need to be mitigated by improving accessibility, especially for the most disadvantaged groups.

Mitigation options

Working through partners as well as using our own resources, we will ensure that access to CTS, as well as the Resident Support Scheme (RSS), is made known to those in greatest need, so that eligible residents from all ethnic backgrounds receive support.

Religion/Belief

Key facts:

- Muslims experience much higher rates of unemployment (15.4%) and economic inactivity (51.4%) compared with the average for all groups (6.5% and 32.4%)
- National research also suggests a “Muslim penalty” in employment, especially for women

Impact assessment

From available data there appear to be no significant negative impacts that can be distinguished from ethnicity. Residents are not adversely impacted by the scheme by virtue of their religion/belief (or absence thereof).

Mitigation options

None

Gender and relationships

This section covers gender, marriage, civil partnerships and gender re-assignments.

Key facts:

- Employment rate: 71.7% men, 63.8% women
- The majority of lone parents of children living in poverty are women
- Incapacity benefit: 5,320 men (57%), 4,030 women (43%)
- Over 75% Bangladeshi & Pakistani women not in paid work
- Nationally, the number of women not working is decreasing while the number of men not working is increasing, however the difference between the sexes of those aged 18 to 24 is low.

2016 consultation responses did not point to any significant issues emerging based on gender and none have emerged during the first 7 years' operation of the CTS scheme.

Impact assessment

There appear to be no significant negative impacts for most people in this group due to any of these protected characteristics. The arrival of a new child increases household expenditure but this fact is already acknowledged in existing regulations which retain family premiums and disregard child benefit as income. **Mitigation options**

None

Pregnancy, maternity and family life

Key facts:

- There are 20,387 households with dependent children in Islington, of which 6,859 (34%) headed by a lone parent

- 8,702 with children aged 0 to 4
- 7,204 no adult working (35%)
- 46% living in poverty – 2nd highest nationally
- Most significant factors are lone parent, BME parents, disability, 3 or more children
- Of all the children in Islington HB/CTS data shows that:
 - 39% (14,867) are in families on out of work benefits
 - 15.2% (5,746) are in working families on incomes low enough to qualify for HB/CTB
- 45.8% (17,348) are in families sufficiently well off enough not to need to claim HB/CTB

Table below showing Information from Children Services showing the number of households in Islington with dependent children:

Households Below Average Income (HBAI) survey shows that children are much more likely to live in poverty if they are in a family headed by a BME parent, especially someone of Pakistani, Bangladeshi or Black Non-Caribbean origin; living in overcrowded accommodation; with three or more children; headed by a lone parent or with a disabled family member.

There are 1,400 households with 2,420 child dependents (aged up to 18) claiming IB or Severe Disablement Allowance.

It is estimated that the vast majority of Islington households with children, whose housing will become unaffordable due to LHA changes and the overall Benefit Cap will be workless households.

In this information, over 55% (11,306) of all households with children were on housing and/or council tax benefit, but a far higher proportion of these were headed by lone parents than the population as a whole: 59% (4,036) of lone parent households on HB/CTB compared with 37% (5,045) of the couple households

The consultation responses segmented by those with and without children indicated that concerns about family finances were high for both groups, but that those with four or more children were particularly concerned, and those with children were more likely to raise the issue,

lone parents

all children

Row Labels	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	Grand Total
lone parent	6636	5564	12200
two parents	9903	17669	27572
Unknown	16	81	97
Grand Total	16555	23314	39869

lone parents

households

	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	Grand Total
lone parent	3489	3114	6603
two parents	4332	9722	14054
Unknown	14	67	81
Grand Total	7835	12903	20738

low income

all children

Row Labels	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	Grand Total
low income	16103	8025	24128
not low income	452	15289	15741
Grand Total	16555	23314	39869

low income

households

Row Labels	Yes - on CTB	Not on CTB	Grand Total
low income	7626	3623	11249
not low income	209	9280	9489
Grand Total	7835	12903	20738

unprompted, of struggling with money because they have children to care for. However, it should be noted that the actual number of responses received voicing these concerns was very low and in respect of this characteristic no significant issues have emerged during the first 6 years' operation of the CTS scheme.

Impact assessment

The council has in place a number of measures to support families with children – a key issue in looking at poverty in the borough as the data above indicate. By retaining all family premiums and applicable amounts, the council recognises that families require a higher level of income to support their household.

It has been decided not to cap benefit at the higher bands and their benefit will be based on the actual charge for the property. This means that there will be no adverse impact for families in larger properties because they are in a higher band. They will be no worse off because they are in a higher banded property. If benefit was capped at band D or E, benefit could only be paid up to this band and the customer would have to pay the full amount above that, which might mean they incur hundreds of pounds of new costs.

Mitigation options

As with other affected groups, it is important that take up is encouraged and that families in greatest need are provided with additional support through the RSS.

Sexual Orientation

Key facts:

- 84% LGBT economically active compared to the 75% population
- Economic activity is more likely to continue beyond age 55
- 73% female and 79% men on incomes above the average for London
- 3% live in households with children under 18
- 10% live in social housing compared to 49% of the overall Islington population
- 37% experience mental health problems at some point

Source: Revealing LGBT Islington study 2005

Impact assessment

The data indicates that LGBT people tend to be economically better off than other groups, as they are more likely to be in work, work for longer and be on higher salaries. This group may be more at risk of specific conditions, such as mental health problems or being HIV+, than the general population, but where this is the case then their situation is addressed in the disability section. There are no negative impacts associated with sexual orientation triggered by this scheme.

Mitigation options

None.

b) Mitigation for people with protected characteristics

- Continuing to hold the cap on benefit at 8.5% despite no longer having a transitional grant from government to cover this and many local authorities moving away from this level of cap and passing the full extent of the government council tax benefit funding reduction to residents. This will ensure that those with protected characteristics are not impacted by the full possible extent of the government funding reduction.
- The regulations of the council tax benefit scheme have been retained, and these already make extra provision for disabled people and families by:
 - retaining all disability premiums so that the level of allowable income before tapers are introduced is higher than for the average working age person;
 - continuing to disregard as income certain disability benefits such as Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and War Disablement Allowance;
 - ensuring that no non-dependent deductions apply if a person is in receipt of DLA (care component) therefore allowing him/her to qualify for a disability premium;
 - retaining all family premiums and applicable amounts in recognition of the fact that families need a higher level of income to support their household;
 - continuing to disregard Child Benefit as income in the calculation of benefit entitlement – this means that there is an allowance for each child and a premium for disabled children.
 - Further to the original regulations we agreed to afford recipients of Personal Independence Payments (PIP) the same favourable premiums and allowances in the CTS scheme as we did DLA recipients, from the start date of the new benefit.
- The regulations also encourage moving into employment by:
 - offering a 4 week guaranteed payment of existing benefit level to those attaining work
- The re-use of the existing regulations also:
 - supports and promotes an incentive for saving by retaining the savings limit of £16,000 that exists within the current scheme
 - does not cap the reduction/support for higher property bands to ensure that there is no adverse impact on families in higher banded properties

In addition, current practice in Islington to support people with accessibility requirements will be retained. Therefore, documents are made available in different formats such as large print, audio and Braille and once known, the requested format will be provided as a matter of course. Translation services and interpreting services are also available when requested.

5. Socio-economic, Safeguarding and Human Rights impacts

a) Socio-economic impacts

Socio-economic disadvantage is not a protected characteristic but is a consideration included in the resident impact assessment given the significant income inequality within the borough. The previous Council Tax Benefit scheme was a means tested benefit available to households on a low income. Therefore, all recipients would be considered to be at a socio-economic disadvantage, particularly lone parents (more likely to be women), part time workers (more likely to be women) and large households (more likely to be from BME backgrounds). Currently there is little or no Council Tax Benefit data breakdown on the following protected characteristics: gender reassignment/identity, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion/belief or sexual orientation. During the lead up to the new CTS scheme, extensive consultation and communications were undertaken. Raising the awareness of residents of the CTS scheme. We have made available Council Tax payment options that include 2 weekly instalments over 12 months and direct debits have been widely publicised. The service will work with debt counselling and financial inclusion provisions within the borough. Islington is increasing the employment and skills provision in the borough through an Employment unit called iWork and is leading on a trial employment support initiative called “Universal Support Delivered Locally” to work with residents affected to increase their skills and the potential for them to get into employment. Actions to minimise causing further hardship to people already on low incomes have been identified in earlier sections.

b) Safeguarding risks

No safeguarding issues for children or vulnerable adults were identified.

c) Human Rights breaches

No human rights issues were identified.

6. Summary: core findings of the RIA

a) Key impacts of the **proposal**:

- Since the Council Tax Support Scheme (CTS) relates to the distribution of money based on criteria relating to low income then all residents on low income who are liable for council tax are affected by this proposal.
- Since the Council is using its own resources to limit the extent of the reduction in benefit to 8.5% then all residents are impacted by this proposal as they all have a stake in how the Council uses its limited resources.

b) **Equality impacts** of the proposal:

- The impact on all working age CTS claimants and potential claimants is the same in that they now have to contribute 8.5% more towards their Council Tax bill than they would have done up to March 2013. By not changing the agreed council tax support scheme since its inception, affected residents have not been subject to any further subsequent disadvantage. This position will remain for 2021/22 if the proposal to retain the existing scheme is agreed by Full Council. The impact on pension age CTS claimants is probably negligible as they have been protected from 8.5% reduction.
- No other impacts specific to people with protected characteristics have emerged during the previous 12 months' operation of the CTS scheme.
- No complaints or appeals specific to the CTS scheme have been received.
- The percentage of collection rates for 2020/21 compared to 2019/20 are very similar.

c) Safeguarding **risks** identified:

- None

d) Potential Human Rights breaches identified:

- None
-

e) **Monitoring:**

Issue to be monitored	Responsible person or team
The nature of any appeals against the operation of the CTS scheme	Appeals & Complaints (Fin Ops)
The nature of any complaints about the operation the CTS scheme	Appeals & Complaints (Fin Ops)
The difference in the council tax collection rates between CTS working age and all other council tax charge payers.	Andrew Spigarolo (Head of Service; Fin Ops)
The volume of requests made to the RSS for help to pay council tax	Karen Mckenzie (Improvement Manager; Fin Ops)

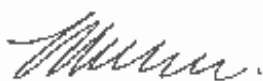
Additional items to be monitored:

- None

Please sign and date below to confirm that you have completed the Resident Impact Assessment in accordance with the guidance and using relevant available information. (A signature must also be obtained from a Service Head or higher. If this is a Corporate Resident Impact Assessment, it must be signed by a Corporate Director).

Staff member completing this form:

Signe
d:



Date: 22/9/20

Head of Service or higher:

Signe
d:



Date: 22/9/20

Appendix C

The Council is determined to tackle poverty and reduce inequality in Islington. As a result, it makes extensive efforts to support especially those who are vulnerable or less well-off to thrive in the borough. By way of illustration, this appendix provides a non-exhaustive list of some of the types of financial support and other discounts which Islington Council offers residents at different stages of their lives.

From the cradle to the grave – a lifetime of support

What we offer	Reason
Early years childcare subsidy	Making early education available for the borough's children All 3 and 4 year olds, and some 2 year olds, can get free early learning or childcare, usually 15 hours a week for 38 weeks of the year. Some working families can get up to 30 hours a week of free childcare for their 3 and 4 year olds
Free school meals for all primary school children	Support children's health and education whilst tackling poverty
Lunch bunch – free meals in school holidays	Tackling holiday hunger among children
School uniform grants	Providing children with necessary clothing for school
11 free cultural experiences for Islington schoolchildren by Year 11	Providing access to the wealth of cultural activity available in the borough
100 hours experience of the world of work by 16	Preparing our children for employment
Post-16 education bursary	Enabling continued studies for qualifying Islington students past the age of 16 by awarding a £300 bursary
Council Tax exemption for foster carers	Encouraging foster carers for children and adults by awarding a full exemption
Council Tax exemption for care leavers	Helping care leavers to transition into independent living up to the age of 25 by awarding a full exemption
Disabled facilities grant	Enabling adults and children to lead independent lives through adaptations in their homes
Home renovation grant	Making necessary major repairs
Accidents in the home grant	Preventing likely accidents in the home through repairs
Home from hospital grant	Supporting home repairs that prevent people leaving hospital from planned treatment or an emergency
Hoarding grant	Helping vulnerable clients in private dwellings with significant hoarding

Dementia grant	Providing facilities or minor adaptations to the home
Armed forces support	Disregarding war widows or war disablement allowance to increase housing benefit, council tax support and social care assessments
Disabled provision grant	Creating accommodation for disabled people through private housing partnerships
Empty property grant	Working with owners/landlords to create new accommodation through private housing partnerships
Housing under-occupation grant	Helping people moving from homes to allow larger families to move in
Housing rent-deposit scheme	Paying rent deposits for people at risk of homelessness
Discretionary Housing Payments	Providing, through the Resident Support Scheme, extra housing cost support for housing benefit or universal credit claimants
Crisis Support	Providing, through the Resident Support Scheme, crisis support for people needing assistance with food, some clothing and energy charges
Community Care Support	Providing, through the Resident Support Scheme, support for independent living in the form of items such as white goods, beds and furniture
Council Tax Welfare Support	Providing, through the Resident Support Scheme, support for people struggling to pay their council tax
Concessionary leisure memberships	Providing a reduction for nearly half of the 23,000 leisure membership
Free swimming for over 60s	Providing access for older people 7 days a week.
Safe and warm grant	Providing boiler replacement, predominantly for the over 60s
Council Tax older people's discount	Reducing by £100 the council tax bill for all over 65s



COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Universal Basic Income

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes that –

- Financial security is critical to a stable and thriving society
- According to Trust for London,
 - Islington's rate of child poverty (47%) is well above the London average of 38%.
 - The borough has one of the highest proportions of working-age residents on out-of-work benefits in London, at 9.5% compared to the city average of 4.9% and pay inequality is higher than the London average.
 - Islington also performs badly on premature mortality; recording 365 deaths per 100,000 people who are under the age of 75, compared to the London rate of 303
- A Universal Basic Income (UBI) could help alleviate poverty, opening the door to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach, and liberate people from the anxiety of job insecurity through a monthly income regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status.
- A network of UBI Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus.
- There are many potential benefits to a UBI including:
 - More flexible workforce and greater freedom to change jobs;
 - Supporting a caring economy to value unpaid work;
 - Removing the negative impacts of means testing, benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce pressure on the environment; and
 - Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy
- The current crisis has increased the risk of poverty for many Islington residents. This is the right time to trial Universal Basic Income.

This Council resolves to –

- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, and to both Islington MPs calling for a fully evaluated trial of basic income in our borough
- Work with other local authorities to help test UBI in London

Motion 2: Making misogyny a hate crime

Moved by Cllr Alice Clarke-Perry

Seconded by Cllr Flora Williamson

This Council notes –

- That the Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including misogyny, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament before the end of 2020. Misogyny is not currently recorded as a hate crime by the vast majority of police forces in the UK, outside of a handful of trial areas.
- That this review was due to the work of Labour MPs' campaigning to have misogyny classified as a hate crime - which her amendment to the Voyeurism (Offences) (No.2) Bill, or Upskirting Bill seeks to secure – alongside groups such as Citizens UK, HOPE Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, and the Fawcett Society.
- That like women and girls across the country, Islington residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A YouGov national survey in 2016 showed that 85% of women aged 18-24 were subjected to sexual harassment in public and approximately 23 per cent of women in London say they feel unsafe in London at night.
- Women aged 16-30 experience greater rates of sexism than those aged 31-93 at school/work, on public transport, in taxis and outside on the street.
- The UN's The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, running from 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10th December, Human Rights Day.
- The adoption of misogyny as a hate crime has been successfully implemented in Nottingham, where analysis has shown an increase in reporting as well as an increase in the use of wider services. It has also shown that the vast majority of local people wanted the scheme to continue.
- Studies have also shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are BAME, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.

This Council further notes that –

- Islington Council's Licensing Policy 2018-2022 includes specific requirements for applicants to include safeguards to mitigate against sexual harassment of women in licenced venues, and services across the Council work with businesses and others to improve the safety of women in the borough.
- The Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter has been created to make London a city where all women feel confident and welcome at night. The charter sets out guidance for venues, operators, charities, councils and businesses to improve safety at night for women. This includes better training of staff, encouraging the reporting of harassment, and ensuring public spaces are safe.
- Islington Council signed-up to the Women's Night Safety Charter in July 2019.
- Islington Council invested an additional £2million funding from April 2020 to tackle Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) over the next three years, to support an ambitious programme of service transformation to increase services and support to vulnerable victims and families and support behaviour change in people using violence in their relationships.
- In 2018, the Council appointed London's first Women and Girls Champion.

This Council believes that –

- Making misogyny a hate crime would mean police forces would log and monitor incidents of hostility towards women and girls, as they do with other forms of hatred.
- It would not make anything a crime that isn't already an offence but, could help track, detect and prevent these crimes and so improve the protection of women and girls from abuse.
- That it would also allow courts to take into account this behaviour when someone is sentenced for such a crime.
- That, moreover, it would help to change not only the prosecution and detection of such crimes but the culture of acceptance of this abuse too, as well as making women and girls feel safer and more comfortable.

This Council resolves to –

- To make a submission to the Law Commission's Consultation at the earliest opportunity in favour of strengthening hate crime legislation and making misogyny a hate crime.
- To call on the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise as hate crime that which targets women and girls in their community.

- To call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle harassment, misogyny and domestic abuse.
- To call on the police force in Islington to record harassment of women as a hate crime, following successful trials in Nottingham and elsewhere.

Motion 3: Reducing School Exclusions

Moved by Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Seconded by Cllr Vivien Cutler

This Council notes –

- The leaked Central Government plans for a 'harder narrative on discipline', including support for the use of 'reasonable force'.
- The rise of 'zero tolerance' approaches to behaviour, and increasing acceptance that this is 'what works', without regard for current or previous traumas within children's lives; the policy's impact on young people's mental health and access to education for our most vulnerable learners.
- Exclusions disproportionately affect young Black people. Black Caribbean and White British children are over-represented among those excluded from Islington schools.
- The work of the National Education Union to reduce school exclusions and tackle the disproportionate impact of school exclusions on young Black people.
- The work of No More Exclusions, a grassroots coalition movement in education with a focus on race-disparities in school exclusions and inclusive quality education for all.

This Council believes that –

- 'Zero tolerance' approaches are inhumane, ignoring the key idea that there are contributing factors to aspects of behaviour. They promote surface level compliance without addressing the needs and reasons underlying challenging behaviour.
- 'Zero tolerance' approaches are leading to students being informally excluded from classrooms and to young people spending inappropriate and harmful amounts of time in isolation within school.
- This year has been a challenging year for school children as the majority have been outside of school for at least 6 months and exclusions following such disruption would be particularly unfair in the majority cases.
- Exclusions should only ever be used as a very last resort, if all else fails

- Policies that aim to control students' behaviour, rather than helping them control it themselves, undermine the very elements that are essential for motivation: autonomy, a sense of competence, and a capacity to relate to others.
- The upward trajectory in exclusions nationally has too often led to excluded children being exploited for crime and, consequently, enduring involvement in the criminal justice system.
- The disproportionate number of African Caribbean and other minority groups being excluded reflect both a historic injustice and evidence of institutionalised racism.

This Council further notes –

- That, last year, fixed period exclusion from Islington secondary schools has reduced by 40% and from primary school by 25% over a 12 month period. Permanent exclusion from secondary school has also reduced by 10%.
- That fixed period exclusion of Black Caribbean children reduced by 95 in 2019-20, representing a 29% fall. White British children receiving a fixed period exclusion reduced by 97, representing a 15% fall. The number of Black Caribbean children permanently excluded fell from 4 to 2, but the number of White British children permanently excluded rose from 9 to 11.
- Islington Council is working to analyse the correlation between school exclusions of Black and minority ethnic students and their involvement in youth crime, gangs and serious youth violence in a bid to strengthen the evidence base for the positive action Islington is undertaking.
- The action plan drawn up by Islington Council, follows its involvement in a project that uses academic research as the basis for improving the life chances of young people from Islington's Black and ethnic minority communities, in relation to their involvement with the judicial system This research and the council's scrutiny into both Exclusions and the Attainment gap between both Black children and White FSM children and their counterparts also feeds into the recently adopted Youth Safety Strategy.

This Council resolves to –

- Campaign for education policy development in support of:
 - More funding for schools, to adequately address the needs of all children;
 - The promotion of approaches to behaviour management that are trauma informed, humane and respect the rights of the child;
 - The overhaul of official exclusion practice and outlaw unofficial practice (known as Off Rolling);
 - Exclusion being used only as a very last resort, if all else fails.
- Work with local schools on approaches to behaviour management that are trauma informed, humane and respect the rights of the child.

- Work with schools, voluntary sector, health practitioners and police to provide long-term diversionary pathways away from exclusions.
- Continue the work initiated by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to implement recommendations to help our schools to prevent exclusions and support young people at risk of exclusion.
- Lobby for national policy changes that would support children to remain in mainstream education.

Motion 4: Opposing the Government's planning reforms

Moved by Cllr Martin Klute

Seconded by Cllr Roulin Khondoker

This Council notes –

- That in 2018, Islington Labour was elected with an overwhelming majority on a mandate to build much-needed, genuinely affordable and council homes for local people.
- The Government's proposed extension of permitted development rights as part of the publication of a white paper on planning reform, "Planning for the Future."
- That the proposals in the white paper are to replace the established planning system with a new system whereby land is classified into "growth," "renewal" or "protection" zones, with outline permission granted automatically where a development meets the criteria for the relevant zone, and that public consultation on local development will be limited to the 'zoning' stage, with consultation with the public on individual applications disallowed, which will effectively remove any public involvement in planning decisions.
- The significant concerns raised by key bodies to the proposals. The Royal Institute of British Architects have suggested that the plans are "shameful" and would do "almost nothing to guarantee the delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes." Homelessness charity Shelter have argued that social housing "could face extinction" if the proposals go ahead. The Town and Country Planning Association has noted the success of the current system in delivering permissions for volume house builders, and yet the huge number of permissions granted that remain undelivered by developers, and the threat the proposals make to local democracy.
- That, despite the fact that Islington is one of the smallest local authorities with less than six square miles of land, and has the joint highest density of population in the country, delivered 15,841 units in the period 2008/09 to 2017/18 compared to a housing target of 11,952 for the same period.
- That the current Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has admitted to making an unlawful decision which withheld funds

from a London borough which could have been used to improve the lives of local residents.

- The importance of a robust, transparent planning process, with democratic control and public consultation at its heart, to safeguard local communities and promote local priorities.

This Council believes that –

- There is a desperate need for more homes to be built, especially here in Islington, where the housing waiting list is 14,000.
- These proposals will fundamentally undermine democratic local control of planning, and is clearly intended to give developers a free reign to build what they like without having to answer to the local community.
- The current planning system is fit for purpose and is delivering planning permissions, whilst the lack of homes being built is due to a failure on the part of developers to deliver approved developments, and a lack of funding from Central Government to deliver genuinely affordable and council homes.
- The proposal to raise the 'small sites' exemption for affordable housing to 50 units would be very damaging to Islington. Over a third of the borough's affordable housing delivery in recent years has come from sites of less than 50 units and such sites are set to make up an increasing proportion of the boroughs housing supply as land supply becomes increasingly scarce and fragmented. This policy would dramatically reduce both genuinely affordable housing delivery and the ability of the borough to meet its identified housing needs.
- Replacing section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy contributions, which the National Housing Federation notes are the single biggest contributor to new affordable homes in the country, with a much smaller Infrastructure Levy, will massively reduce the targets for contributions, rather than trying to find ways to reach the current targets, which are so badly needed, as well as forcing councils to choose between new social housing and other new infrastructure, such as playgrounds. There is also no clarity on how the new levy, which would be centrally collected, would be distributed across the country, and on what basis.
- Central Government's reforms are clearly intended to benefit private property developers and well-off private home owners, at the expense of genuinely affordable, socially rented homes for local people.
- Overall, the changes proposed in the consultation are highly likely to lead to a major reduction in homes built in Islington and, significantly, a reduction in genuinely affordable homes built. These are the homes that many Islington residents need to be built so they can get off the council's waiting list and get a safe, secure home of their own.

This Council resolves to –

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing our significant and valid objections to the Government's proposals as set out in the Council's comprehensive formal response to the proposals, and seeking a meeting to discuss this as a matter of urgency.
- Work with local developers to maintain the current supply of genuinely affordable and Council Rent homes built in Islington.
- Continue building much needed, Council-led genuinely affordable and council homes for local people.

Motion 5: Motion in support of Islington Council's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes that –

- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) are a response to both the Covid pandemic and the risk of gridlock if even a fraction of the people who used to use public transport switch to travelling by car.
- Both the Conservative government and the Labour Mayor of London have asked councils to provide low traffic neighbourhoods, wider pavements and pop up bike lanes to make safe and convenient alternatives to driving as we continue to use public transport less.
- LTNs make our neighbourhoods accessible by enabling local trips on foot, with a white cane, using a wheelchair, mobility scooter or bike and by reducing the likelihood of car use for local journeys.
- The Islington Labour council manifesto in 2018 included: "We see the need to close certain roads to through traffic to prevent rat-running, make neighbourhoods more liveable and improve cycling routes. We will investigate doing this in consultation with local residents and business".
- LTNs are an urgent public health intervention to reduce adverse impacts from traffic related air pollution and road danger.
- LTNs work on the principle that every home is accessible from the main road network and side roads cannot be used as a shortcut from one main road to another.
- LTNs will contribute to achieving the council's commitment to net zero by 2030;
- Recent research shows that the vast majority of people live on streets that could be part of LTN schemes and found no evidence that schemes that try to limit "rat-running" traffic along residential streets disproportionately benefit better-off households.
- The Office for National Statistics has reported a 74% increase in traffic on side roads between 2009 and 2019. This growth coincides with the increasing use of sat nav and apps like Waze that direct traffic on to side roads.

- Some Islington streets have already been protected from traffic leaving a few streets now carrying an unfair burden of increasing sat-nav enabled through-traffic.
- Car ownership in Islington is just 26% of households.
- The roll out of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the north and south circular roads by 2021 will sharply reduce the most polluting vehicles bringing down emissions on Islington's main roads.
- Traffic on London's main roads will be reduced by measures such as work place parking levies, freight consolidation and smart, fair, privacy-friendly road pricing.

This Council further notes –

- The ongoing consultation with residents with adaptation of LTN schemes as they are rolled out in response to any issues if they arise.
- The ongoing collection of data on air pollution and road traffic volumes to enable analysis of health impacts, congestion and carbon emissions.
- The ongoing collection of data on numbers of school-children and other residents walking and cycling.
- The commitment to a consultation at the end of the full trial period.

This Council resolves to –

- Seek opportunities to make streets as accessible as possible with well-maintained pavements, dropped kerbs and tactile paving in the right places.
- Seek funding from TfL for main road mitigation measures like new pedestrian crossings, pavement widening, greening, new seating and protected cycle routes.
- Continue to roll out Low Traffic Neighbourhoods across the borough.

This page is intentionally left blank