



COUNCIL MEETING - 9 DECEMBER 2021

Councillors of the London Borough of Islington are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **9 December 2021 at 7.30 pm.**

Chief Executive

AGENDA

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1. Minutes	1 - 26
The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 September 2021 and the special Awards Council meeting held on 18 October 2021.	
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

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| 6. | Questions from Members of the Public | 27 - 36 |
| 7. | Questions from Members of the Council | 37 - 38 |
| 8. | Presentation from Mayoral Charities - icap & forum+ | |
| 9. | Council Tax Support Scheme 2022/23 | 39 - 86 |
| 10. | Chief Whip's Report | TO FOLLOW |
| 11. | Constitution Report | TO FOLLOW |
| 12. | Notices of Motion | 87 - 98 |

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: Good, well-paid jobs for local people
- Motion 2: Stop the Government making local people pay for the pandemic
- Motion 3: Rename the Ring Cross estate after Yvonne Connolly, the first Black female Headteacher in Britain
- Motion 4: Affirmation of membership of Stonewall's Diversity Champion scheme
- Motion 5: A cleaner, greener, healthier Islington
- Motion 6: Repeal Islington Council's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods
- Motion 7: Pause and review the Edmonton incinerator project

Enquiries to : Jonathan Moore
Tel : 020 7527 3308
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 1 December 2021

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LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON

COUNCIL MEETING - 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 23 September 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Champion	Ismail	Russell
Clarke	Khondoker	Shaikh
Comer-Schwartz	Khurana	Spall
Convery	Lukes	Turan
Gallagher	Mackmurdie	Ward
Gill	Ngongo	Bossmann-Quarshie
Graham	O'Halloran	Jackson
Heather	O'Sullivan	Weekes
Hyde	Ozdemir	

The Mayor (Councillor Troy Gallagher) in the Chair

149 **MINUTES**

Councillor Ismail asked for it to be noted that she withdrew her questions at the previous meeting because councillors were not permitted to ask supplementary questions.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 July 2021 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

150 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted that there were several interests to declare in relation to Motion 5, Supporting Public Sector Workers, and these would be dealt with at the start of the agenda item.

151 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(i) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Poole.

The Mayor explained that not all members could attend because the capacity of the Council Chamber had been reduced to accommodate social distancing measures.

(ii) Order of business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

(iii) Declaration of discussion items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor advised that he had attended a number of fantastic events celebrating the very best of Islington over the last few months.

At the end of August the Mayor attended the Go Africa Festival at the Ringcross Centre. This event showcased the talent, art and culture of the borough's African communities and it was a privilege to attend. The Mayor had also opened the Angel Canal Festival on 5th September. The Mayor commented that the event was well attended and he was pleased that the festival could go ahead after the difficulties of the previous 18 months. The Mayor had also attended the Whitecross Street Party and said it was fantastic to attend such a colourful and bold celebration of the diversity of our borough.

The Mayor was proud to attend the unveiling of the Windrush Statue at the Whittington Hospital. The Mayor spoke of the important contribution of the thousands of nurses and midwives who came to this country to work for the NHS and it was right that this was recognised through the statue.

The Mayor commented on the work of his Mayoral Charities and the importance of fundraising and raising awareness of the serious issues they deal with.

The Mayor was honoured to attend the first conference on World Suicide Prevention Day and lead a minute silence on the steps of the Town Hall. The Mayor welcomed representatives of one of his charities, James' Place, to the meeting, and commented that they would be speaking to the Council about their work in suicide prevention and supporting people through crisis later in the meeting.

The Mayor reminded councillors of the Mayor's Inauguration Celebration on 1st October, the Freedom of the Borough Ceremony on 18th October, and the Remembrance Events in November.

The Mayor also paid tribute to Ken Watts, a D Day veteran from Islington, who passed away earlier in September. The Mayor said that the bravery of that generation should never be forgotten and the Council's thoughts were with his family at this time.

(v) Length of speeches

The Mayor reminded all councillors to stay within the permitted length for speeches.

152 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader spoke of her frustration at the current legislative position in relation to Council meetings and that councillors were not able to participate in meetings virtually. The pandemic was still ongoing and councillors should not be prevented from participating in council meetings if they are self-isolating, clinically vulnerable, or protecting family members with vulnerabilities. The Leader thanked the council staff working to ensure that council meetings are held as safely as possible.

The Leader thanked the Mayor and said it was great to attend many events alongside him over the last couple of months. The Leader was delighted at the unveiling of the Windrush Statue at the Whittington Hospital and said that it was wonderful to have a permanent commemoration of the contribution they had made in the borough. The Leader was also pleased to attend the Whitecross Festival and said it was brilliant event.

The Leader congratulated Councillor Champion and officers in the Environment department for winning an award at the Energy Awards for their innovative work on the Bunhill Energy Centre.

153 PETITIONS

A petition was submitted by Nazir Ahmed in relation to the proposed development of housing for homeless people at Stacey Street.

A petition was submitted by Lucy Facer in relation to traffic on Liverpool Road.

154 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question (a) from Ernestas Jegorovas to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:

How many schools (as a percentage) in Islington have CO2 monitors installed, and how is the council supporting schools to increase ventilation in school buildings?

Response:

Thank you for a question. CO2 monitors are a vital tool for stopping the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. Monitoring the levels of CO2 allows schools to identify locations that need more ventilation and take action to keep people safe. The Department for Education CO2 monitor programme is rolling out over the autumn term. Our special schools are given priority and should receive them from this month. However, this government has failed us as a local council by not giving us data on when schools will be allocated monitors. Officers are working closely with schools to provide advice on increasing ventilation in school buildings to ensure our young

people can continue in education as safely as possible. Thank you again for your question; this Council will stand together with our schools and young people to make sure that their education is delivered in a safe environment.

Question (b) from Sue Lees to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

In the absence of sufficient EV charging points, is there any provision for the council to provide a gunnel in the pavement to allow householders in street properties to safely charge an electric car from their home? I've seen people putting out a cable with a plastic protector over it. Wouldn't it be safer for vulnerable pedestrians to replace this with a gunnel, possibly paid for by the householder?

Response:

Thank you for your question. Enabling increased use of electric vehicles for journeys which can't be undertaken by walking or cycling or wheeling is a key part of our strategy to tackle both climate change and air quality. We are keen to support local people to switch to electric and we currently have 279 on-street electric vehicle charging points; we have a goal of installing 400 before the end of 2022.

I do appreciate that your suggestion sounds quite reasonable as a solution, particularly as, unlike other parts of the country, many people don't have access to private outside space to charge vehicles from. However, there are two main problems with your suggestion; if you cut gunnels into paving it creates weaknesses that can allow water in and can lead to the break-up of the paving thereby creating a trip hazard. Also, in Islington there are so many services under the pavements that it almost makes it impossible to dig on our pathways. We are trying to improve the condition of pathways, in particular for less mobile and disabled people who need them to remain clear and trip free, and cutting portions out on the pavement would make that task harder.

The following two questions received a joint response:

Question (c) from Roderik Gonggrijp to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

It has come to our attention that Islington will soon start to run consultations on its People-Friendly Streets scheme. This consultation is strongly encouraged and the intention is applauded. As you well know there are groups with strong feelings both for and against these improvements in disability access and road safety on Islington's streets; and a robust and inclusive consultation is thus most important.

Can the councillor clarify to the public what form the consultation is taking and how the council is ensuring it hears the views of all people-friendly neighbourhood residents, as well as stakeholder organisations?

Question (h) from Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

The Council has not yet made announcements regarding the first formal consultation of St. Peter's People Friendly Streets scheme. I sent a Freedom of Information request to find out more about consultation and was told we would be told in due course. There is no public awareness that this is the first chance for people to have their opinions recorded and considered on whether the scheme would be adapted or made permanent, although a local cycling group have full knowledge and sharing with those that support the scheme. It seems the council only want to hear the views of those that favour. Online surveys exclude those that are digitally enabled or require communication in different languages and are more likely to be completed by those that are politically engaged. All views should be heard when making major changes to the borough and ultimately the views of residents should be the ones that count.

How will consultation take place and who can take part? The Council should consider sending a survey to every address in the borough for a more inclusive, representative view on what the residents want and how they are affected. Therefore preventing the consultation from being railroaded by London or national campaign groups.

Joint Response:

Thank you very much for your questions. The consultation started on 13 September and will last for four weeks and will consist of a questionnaire designed to understand people's experiences of low traffic neighbourhoods. We have sent out over 10,000 leaflets to properties in the St Peter's area and its boundary roads, with details of the consultation events and information on how to access the questionnaire and website. 2,000 further leaflets will be available and distributed at on-street events during the consultation. I have been to two events in St Peter's, standing on street corners talking to people. We advertise that we are there, we put up posters, and we have had a number of people coming along to talk to us. Officers have also held another one, so in the last week we've been to St Peter's three times, for more than two hours each time. We are also promoting the consultation in the local press and on social media to ensure as broad a range of response as possible.

Paper copies of the survey are available and translations are available if necessary. We will also run a disabled person's drop-in session and there is an online event planned to ensure those who cannot join in person have an opportunity to take part. We will be reaching out to businesses and local organisations to ensure their views are reflected in consultation responses.

As a Council we do want to make sure we work with local people to create safer, greener, healthy streets.

Question (d) from Natasha Cox to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Islington's insect population plays an important part in feeding local bats and birds. Given recent findings on the detrimental affects of LED lighting on insect numbers, does the council have any plans to fit cheap filters on them to screen out blue light, especially in green spaces and areas that have vegetation?

Response:

Thank you for your question. We don't just want to protect biodiversity, but also to increase it. We are aware of the study on the impact of lighting on insects; the findings are currently under review by the Institution of Lighting Professionals. We have no immediate plans to fit blue light filters until we fully understand the impact of this; we will take into account advice from the ILP and ensure any filters are compatible with the range of lighting equipment used throughout the borough.

In 2018 we took the decision to change our street lights to LED bulbs to decrease carbon emissions and realise savings accounted for in our budget, which allows us to spend more on vital services for local people. Most of our LED lights are connected to a central management system which does enable lights to be adapted as appropriate to the local environment. We will of course keep local people updated on any changes.

Question (e) from Benali Hamdache to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

What guidance are Islington schools giving to children about attendance, when someone in the household has Covid?

Response:

Thank you for your question. Advice to schools is provided by the Department for Education, however we know that there has been a lack of clear guidance for schools throughout the pandemic. While people are not required to self-isolate when a member of their household tests positive, the Council operates regular lateral flow tests to spot infection and if anyone develops symptoms they should remain at home and take a PCR test. If the test is negative they are able to go back to school. If someone in that household tests positive, everyone in the household is strongly advised to take a PCR test as soon as possible in order to identify any other cases.

As a Council we are determined to keep our community safe. We are facing a serious situation. This government doesn't give any clear guidance or support to local schools to make sure our young people and their families and teaching staff are kept safe. We are liaising with our local schools day in day out in full collaboration to make sure every child, every student and every teacher is kept safe.

Who can protect our young people if it's not us? We stand in solidarity with our schools because we have witnessed the failure of any guidance to support education. We have put everything in place we can to make sure if they raise a problem or situation we can step in to protect, advise and support them through our Covid reactive response which is running seven days a week. We will continue to put pressure on the government to provide clear and consistent guidance to schools. As we head into winter, which will see rising of cases, we need to do our best to make sure we are protecting our young people.

Question (f) from Devon Osborne to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

How many people living in council housing have contacted the council in the past four years about mould or damp in their homes; and what action is the council taking to deal with damp/mouldy homes and ensure no one is exposed to damp and mould?

Response:

Thank you for your question. The Council is determined to provide safe, decent, genuinely affordable homes for local people. A vital part of that is maintaining and improving our current stock of council homes. The repair service is being proactive and providing accessible information on ways to prevent and report any cases of damp and condensation in the home. This is in addition to our reactive work which deals with reports of damp or mould and then looks at how to prevent it from reoccurring. Over the period 2018 to 2021 there have been just over 5,000 inspections of council homes for damp. The number of inspections has fallen slightly since 2018 with 1,177 inspections taking place in 2020 compared to 1,423 the year before. The data on reported damp in Islington is being analysed to identify hotspots of damp and this information is then used to identify areas for investment on estates to stop it from happening in the future. This is a key part of our £40million per year investment in maintaining and improving our council homes.

Question (g) from Lucy Facer to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Tree canopy cover needs to reach a critical mass of 40% to start to mitigate against climate change. Given the appetite residents have shown in supporting Islington Forest for Change, the project run by Islington Clean Air Parents, and the thousands of empty street tree pits, will Islington Council revise its current tree planting ambitions up to 40% by 2030 as part of its net zero carbon target?

Response:

I'd like to start by thanking Lucy and Islington Clean Air Parents for their help in sourcing about 200 trees for Forest for Change Islington and organising a successful fundraising campaign to defray some of those costs. I would also like to thank the council's Greenspace team in particular for enabling this to happen.

In Islington we already have tree cover of 25 percent which is above the London average of 21 percent and the national average of urban areas of 17 percent. It's an impressive level of canopy cover due to the council's determination over a number of years to protect our borough's trees and plant more every year. We have what we believe is an ambitious target of 30 percent tree coverage, but we will of course look at all opportunities to maximise our tree planting where we can.

Given the density of borough and the limited amount of land we have available for planting it is quite challenging and to achieve the existing target we will need the help of residents and other landowners in the borough to plant trees on their land as well as the council planting in our parks, housing estates and of course highways.

Our plans are made much more difficult by the government's continued austerity restricting funds for such projects. That's why community funding initiatives are so important to this work. We will continue working with local people, businesses and community groups find locations and ways to plant even more trees to make Islington the greener and healthy place we all want to see.

Question (i) Martyn Perks to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

How is Islington Council faced with a climate crisis, when the UK nation as a whole contributes 1% of carbon emissions globally?

Climate change, as we know is happening. But how is it a crisis or an emergency for us in this borough, even for Londoners? Especially when it is driving many of your policies, including the reduction of transport-related emissions, and to become carbon net neutral by 2030.

Response:

Thank you your question. The Climate Crisis is a global crisis. Every nation, every person, has to be part of the solution. It is absolutely not the case that Islington is not impacted. Recent weeks and months have shown us the effect the climate emergency as having already, both globally and locally. Just this summer many parts of London suffered from severe flooding, harming local homes and businesses. I walked down Tufnell Park Road a month or so ago to see a utility access cover and surrounding pavement damaged from the amount of water rushing through the Thames Water drains after a torrential rain storm. Just today, and very worryingly, Islington was named as one of the six London boroughs most vulnerable to climate change.

We need to contribute towards the global effort to reduce the wide-ranging impact of climate change on our planet. We know that climate change will hit poorest countries in the world hardest and they will not have resources to protect themselves from its effects. We do recognise that many elements of achieving our objectives are outside

the control of the Council. This is why we need to tackle this issue together. A collective approach is required with much of our efforts directed towards working closely with residents, visitors, partner organisations, businesses and community groups. I hope you will join us at our forthcoming climate festival where we can hear from local people about their climate concerns and discuss how we can work together to tackle the climate emergency across Islington.

155 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question (a) from Cllr Convery to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

Please can you report on progress towards Islington Housing signing Wayleave Agreements with telecommunications infrastructure providers such as G Network and Community Fibre so that households on Islington Council's housing estates can benefit from the new generation of high speed 'fibre-to-the premises' broadband connection?

Response:

Thank you very much for your question. The pandemic has proven to us how important good internet access is to everyday life, as more and more people work from home or learn remotely. Many in our borough face a digital divide. The Council has worked hard to distribute laptops and broadband access devices to people who need them, but we must do more. Everyone should have access to high-speed broadband and this is a great way of doing it. We are currently in the process of requesting expressions of interest from companies for wayleaves to enable them to deliver community fibre services to our estates. Getting this process right is important for ensuring optimum service value for money and that the work is completed safely. We've been working with a number of local authorities who have been through this process to learn best practice and ensure we provide the best possible service for local people. This is an exciting development that will bring high-speed broadband to estates across our borough. We aim to go out to market in October and will be keeping residents, members of the council, and stakeholders informed on progress and how they will be affected.

Supplementary question:

Thank you, I am delighted to hear about the progress made. The Housing Scrutiny Committee is intending to have some oversight of this issue and I would ask that this is positively engaged with.

Response:

I'd be delighted to work with the Housing Scrutiny Committee on this issue. Thank you.

Question (b) from Cllr Poole to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council:

Will the Leader of the Council provide an update on efforts to save the Royal Northern War Memorial which is the only war memorial anywhere in this country on the at risk register.

As Cllr Poole was not present, the following written response was issued after the meeting:

I understand the significance of the Royal Northern War Memorial and the Council is committed to finding ways to save it. The Council has already commissioned a report from a specialist heritage consultant which sets out what needs to be done. A funding proposal is currently being worked on to support the appointment of a project manager to move this work forward including targeting potential external funding. Governance will also be put in place to ensure all key stakeholders help to shape the programme of work as it moves forward, which I know you will play a key part in.

Question (c) from Cllr Poyser to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

Many thanks to Cllr Shaikh and everyone in getting a sculpture stuck in the basement of the Town Hall resurrected to its rightful place in our wonderful Peace Park in Hillrise. It shows our commitment to peace during this awful time with events in Afghanistan (the troop withdrawal was announced on the day of the unveiling) and it shows that socialists also want to raise statues where appropriate. I would particularly like to thank the Heritage Team for finding the sculpture, and also for ensuring that Bruce Kent and Jeremy Corbyn were there at the successful re-unveiling.

There is also a statue in the Elthorne Park proudly of African heritage. Would it be possible for a plaque, or similar, to commemorate the name of that artist somewhere appropriate in the park?

As Cllr Poyser was not present, the following written response was issued after the meeting:

Thank you for your question. My thanks to yourself, your ward colleagues and Cllr Shaikh for your work in getting the sculpture up in Peace Park, a wonderful monument in our borough.

In a borough where we will always celebrate diversity, public art and heritage plays a very important part in this. I'm really pleased to report back to you that the Heritage team are working with the Parks team to produce a sign containing information on both statues. Once the research has been completed, Parks will liaise with local councillors to agree the location of the sign as well as the timeframe for its installation.

Question (d) from Cllr Russell to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

I'm sure we can agree that the lack of government action to prepare for the return to school with improvements to ventilation in schools to mitigate against Covid infection is extremely worrying. Are you considering calling for mask wearing in schools for all secondary pupils in the absence of other mitigation measures?

Response:

Thank you for your question. Yet again, this government has failed our schools and our young people with their lack of guidance for keeping people safe during this pandemic. While we are supporting schools in implementing any measures to ensure teachers, staff, young people and their families are kept safe throughout the pandemic, this has been with one hand tied behind our back as the government have failed to provide the necessary guidance for schools. While the Council is not able to mandate the wearing of face coverings in schools, we encourage our local schools to take all measures possible to keep people safe, including the wearing of face coverings in crowded spaces.

In terms of additional measures in respect of confirmed cases, if a school reaches the threshold of five positive cases within 10 days, they are required to liaise with our Public Health team to discuss additional measures to be put in place to keep people safe.

We know the government guidance is still not clear and not strong enough to protect people. We will continue to press for improved advice for schools from the Government. We want you to join us in this journey, for the protection of our future generation.

Question (e) from Cllr Russell to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

I am aware of several estates in my ward that are overdue their cyclical (every seven years) maintenance works. I understand part of the delay was due to not having a procurement framework in place.

How many estates in Islington are now up to date with cyclical repairs and how many are overdue; and can you supply me with a written list of all council run estates in Islington with the date of their most recent cyclical works and the intended dates for future works?

Response:

Thank you very much for your question. Everyone deserves a decent, safe and genuinely affordable place to call home. We are passionate about building more council homes for local people and tackling the housing crisis; but we are equally determined to maintain and improve our current council housing stock. We invest

around £40million each year to keep our council homes in good condition. We have seen the benefit of the high level of investment carried out in our decent homes programme, with regular works often not even needed as a result. We now have a seven year inspection process which considers whether parts in people's homes require replacement imminently or whether they are still in good condition. The council can then identify works necessary for a whole estates, minimising disruption and presenting good value to the Council and its residents.

This approach allows us to invest differently in our stock; investing in areas such as resident safety and energy efficiency, which would otherwise be more challenging to fund. The Council is determined to provide high quality council homes wherever possible in this borough. This becomes more difficult when opposition councillors and parties consistently oppose the development of new council homes. I hope we will be able to work together to build more council homes for the people.

Supplementary question:

I would be very interested to know who has been opposing the building of council homes.

I think residents need more information about the seven year inspection process. It would be really helpful to have transparent information so that people living on different estates can see what the timescales are, particularly for leaseholders, so they can plan to save for their contribution to the cost of the works, and so they know what to expect and when. Could there be more information publicised about cyclical improvement works?

Response:

Since I took the housing brief, Green Party candidates have campaigned against new council housing at the Wedmore Estate, the Golden Lane Estate, and Dixon Clark Court. I know there are Green Party members who are deeply uncomfortable with this, so I would appeal for you to join us in our fight against this government and our fight for desperately needed homes. I would also be very happy to work with you on providing more clear information about our cyclical projects.

Question (f) from Cllr Khondoker to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:

The Tory Government has overseen a crisis in social care for over a decade. On the steps of Downing Street in 2019, the Prime Minister assured us he had a plan to "fix the social care crisis once and for all". Two years later, we have a tax rise on working people which hits the least well-off the hardest and still no plan to fix the social care crisis. This is an issue which is harming some of the most vulnerable people in our society who need a functioning social care system to care for them now.

Does the Executive Member agree that rather than a tax rise on local people who are already struggling to make ends meet, the Tory Government should be finding

inefficiencies in its own budget and taxing the most well-off people in our society more on wealth and dividends to fund a National Care Service, free at the point of use?

Response:

Thank you for this very important question. Two years ago on the steps of Downing Street, Boris Johnson PM claimed he had a plan to solve the social care crisis and we've eagerly awaited to see how the government will solve this longstanding issue of underfunded care which affects and impoverishes the most vulnerable people in our society. After all these years of deliberation, all we have is nothing more than class war. A raid on the living standards of workers and retired workers to pay for the protected assets of the super-rich; a tax rise for working people which disproportionately affects the least well-off and currently provides no new money for social care.

A reasonably well-off retired couple with living in a council house with savings of £100,000 from their lump sums will find that under the new system they might have to pay up to half their savings. A retired worker who owns a flat worth £360,000 will be left to pay 25 percent of their wealth to pay for their social care. But someone with a £5million pound house will probably have pay less than 1.8 percent of their wealth. It's robbing the poor to protect the assets of the rich.

National Insurance, like Council Tax, is an unfair regressive tax which means that the higher you are paid, the less you to pay. It's not as if this increased taxation for care workers and delivery drivers and nurses will lead to better funding for local authorities. The early indications are that the reforms are likely to be implemented in October 2023, yet the council and our staff and our care workers will be paying the increased national insurance contributions from next April, meaning further government cuts to council budgets and lower living standards.

The tax rise will increase the costs for us and significantly reduce the amount the rich have to contribute. They also are the people most likely to receive social care for the longest; as we know the poorer you are, the earlier you will die. We call on the Prime Minister to fix this social care crisis, but without regressive taxes like Council Tax and National Insurance to protect the wealth of the rich.

Question (g) from Cllr Hyde to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

In Islington, we are proud of our diversity and welcome all those who wish to make our borough their home, as shown by our motion passed in July 2021 to become a recognised 'Borough of Sanctuary'.

Those fleeing Afghanistan recently have been through untold trauma and been forced to leave their homes for them and their family's safety. I'm proud that the Council has offered to welcome 15 Afghan families to our borough, supporting those households to settle in, get the support they need and integrate into our community.

But at a time when the Council has had to make savings for over a decade, does the Executive Member agree that the Government should be fully funding this support for Afghan refugees?

Response:

Thank you for your question. As agreed at the July Council meeting, becoming a Borough of Sanctuary recognises our commitment to welcome and protect refugees and migrants in Islington. It is also a clear statement of support for the Council's vision of fairness, in opposition to the government's hostile environment, which punishes those who wish to make our borough their home.

Despite continued government austerity for local government, this Council has continued to fund vital services for migrants and refugees; including £1.3million per year for accommodation, and to support the No Recourse to Public Funds households, with Home Office decisions on immigration applications still outstanding.

Our borough has a proud history of welcoming migrants to our borough and this has continued to in recent months. The Afghan resettlement scheme will therefore match this approach that has already been delivered for 18 Syrian families resettled in Islington. We will we be able to deliver high quality assistance to the 15 Afghan families that we've pledged to accommodate and we're very proud of this. We will use the government funding and our own excellent expertise to fully welcome and support all those who want to make home in this borough. We're already working through our amazing Fairer Together programme, Housing Needs and the voluntary and community sector to welcome anybody that's come in here. We are a borough of fairness, so shame on this government and their hostile environment.

Question (h) from Cllr Ismail to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council:

First, congratulations as the leader of Islington Council. It's become custom with Islington Labour leaders to follow the same footsteps of the last leader since 2010. With Catherine West, we had the fairness commission, follow by Richard Watts, employment commission.

Will you be following the same with a new commission? As the health and economic impact of Coronavirus is yet to be unfolding, particularly, on families with children, young people and pensioners on low income suffer more, such as mental health, depression, loneliness and isolation is become daily realty for residents, so the Council can serve better, as our resources need to be more targeting the need.

Response:

Thank you for your question and your congratulations. I agree that the pandemic has shone a light on the health inequalities of this borough, which we know have sadly blighted our borough for too long. We know that there is much work to do in tackling these inequalities and this is one of my primary focuses.

Tackling health inequalities is sadly made much harder by continued austerity from central government. If we hadn't been forced to find £215 million from our budget in savings, we would be able to have invested much more in keeping our borough healthy. However, I still believe we can make a great difference to local people. So although we will not be setting up a commission, we will be setting up a taskforce to look at the issues, with experts but more importantly with local people, because their expertise comes from their experience. Together we will tackle this important issue for Islington.

I am proud that one of the first things I have done as Leader is to look at a way of setting up a project to look at how we tackle the poverty and inequality that plays such a profound part of the outcomes we see in health inequalities. If we work together we can tackle these disparities. That is why the taskforce, named Islington Together: let's talk about a healthier future, will engage with local people, health leaders, our wonderful voluntary sector and our Council. Together we will improve health outcomes and make our borough a healthier and more equal place for all.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. I think all Leaders have priorities, and regardless of funds and austerity, they do find funds to hold commissions. You mention that you are going to do a taskforce, that is great, but as Leader you have the power and autonomy to hold a Health Commission for the residents of Islington. I am happy to work with you on this.

Response:

The taskforce will be beyond what I believe a commission would be able to do, in terms of our collaboration with the borough, genuine engagement, listening to people with lived experience of poverty and health inequality. I have already asked Councillor Heather, Councillor Turan, Councillor Picknell and Councillor Chowdhury so we have cross-borough spread and expertise to lead this work. This will provide us with the expertise and the evidence that we need to give further resource and priority to this topic.

Question (i) from Cllr Ismail to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

This Council have been funding organisations, some do good work, others could do improvements as we roll funding again and again while others are left behind. The Black Caribbean review highlighted conducted between Feb and March 2021 by VSC with the Challenging Inequality team at the council and others have not been also address yet.

How do you see the Voluntary Community Sector to be more inclusively with tangible results and more sustainable next around funding?

Response:

Thank you for your question. I am proud of Islington's long-standing commitment to fund the voluntary and community sector during a time where the government cuts have forced us to make savings of over £250million since 2010.

Our £2.7million voluntary sector partnership grants 2021-24 provides vital core funding to more than 50 voluntary and community sector organisations. This funding is awarded through a fair, rigorous, open and transparent process, ensuring that all organisations we partner with deliver tangible results and are sustainable. Eighteen percent of the organisations awarded had never received core grant funding from the Council before, and in the last round of funding there was a 19 percent increase in the funding of Black Asian Minority Ethnic community groups, and funding commitments across all protected characteristics, showing our commitment to tackling inequality, racism and injustice.

In 2020-21, 38 organisations received grants totalling of £180,000 to deliver community based projects through Islington Council's Community Chest. Of these, 26 percent had never received funding through programme before, and 54 percent of the beneficiaries of the funding were from Black Asian or Minority Ethnic communities. Contrary to your claims, the Council has been working to implement the recommendations of our reviews. In July 2021 Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector Committee committed £30,000 per year to be used to work with Islington's Black Caribbean community to develop a programme of capacity building to support, establish and formalise a group of community representations. Our Equalities and Voluntary Community Sector Development Team are working with community leaders to support this work and we have been doing so over the last year. At the same committee meeting, £30,000 per year was awarded to support work with disabled people. All this information is in the public domain.

Supplementary question:

Why was the Black and Caribbean review 2020, while you were doing the voluntary and community sector partnership programme review to 2024? Isn't it a fact that Islington Labour, and especially under your hat, that the Black and Caribbean community, and the White community, have been left behind?

Response:

The facts are there. You can see the reports. It's in the public domain. If there is an accusation there, I'm happy for you to put it in writing for me or to speak about this further.

Question (j) from Cllr Clarke to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

The Holloway Prison Site is a once in a generation opportunity to build hundreds of new social homes in St George's and tackle the housing crisis in Islington, as well as increasing green space in the area.

What is the Council doing to ensure there are as many new social homes built on the site as possible?

Response:

Thank you very much for your question. This government thinks that our borough is a cash cow; they wanted to get the biggest possible receipt for Holloway Prison to use that money far away from Islington. We know better and we don't see our borough that way. We know that the whole prison site is a unique once in a generation opportunity to build hundreds of new social rent homes. Incidentally, hundreds of social rent homes the government at every step tries to stop us from building.

Since Peabody purchased the site we've continued to work with them to maximise the number of homes available for social rent, and this has resulted in plans that will now see 60 percent genuinely affordable homes on the site, and with 70 percent of that number being for social rent. I am very proud of that and all my colleagues should be as well.

We are still working with Peabody to make sure that the other 30 percent are London Living Rent. We're also proud of the work that we've done to ensure that the site delivers publicly accessible green space, a new central public open space, 60 extra care homes, and the women's building, which will not only honour the legacy of the previous Holloway prison, but will also provide one of the largest community spaces in our borough. Thank you very much for your question; I'm incredibly excited about the potential of this development and I want to thank you and all of your colleagues for your hard-fought work on this campaign. There's no justice without housing justice.

Supplementary question:

Sixty percent genuinely affordable homes with 42% at target council rent is a great achievement. Congratulations to Councillor Ward and all the groups involved in campaign to get this outcome. Eighteen percent of the homes on the site will be intermediate homes, which means homes at less than market rent, and to qualify for an intermediate home you need a maximum income of £60,000. Do agree that this is actually unaffordable for all residents in housing need in Islington? The Mayor of London is exploring what can be done to improve the affordability and access in intermediate homes, and I'd like to ask you to work with the Mayor of London to increase the affordability and access to intermediate homes and also the number of homes at Council rents.

Response:

Absolutely, Currently Peabody's preferred intermediate product is shared ownership, we are pushing them on this as we want London Living Rent, which is much better for people in key jobs; teachers, social workers, people who are vital to our borough but the same time can't afford to rent or buy locally. The most pressing need in this borough is more social rent homes, I will be working with the Mayor of London, with you Councillor Clarke and all of my colleagues to keep on pushing for the maximum possible number of social rent homes in this borough.

156 PRESENTATION FROM MAYORAL CHARITY - JAMES' PLACE

The Council received a presentation from Ellen O'Donoghue, CEO, and Dan Bracken, Head of James' Place London, on the work of the charity James' Place. The charity works to support men in suicidal crisis. James' Place had been selected by the Mayor as one of his charities for 2021/22.

Following the presentation the Mayor spoke about the importance of creating safe spaces for people to talk about their emotions and discuss difficult issues to ensure that people in crisis are able to receive help in the local community. Members of the Council then asked questions about the work of the charity and the services they provide.

The Council thanked James' Place for their work and for their contribution to the meeting.

157 A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE COUNCIL - ISLINGTON TOGETHER FOR A MORE EQUAL FUTURE

Councillor Comer-Schwartz moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Ward seconded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the new strategic plan be approved;
- (ii) That the approach to build on this plan over the coming year, by working with thought leaders and engaging with communities to capture lived experiences to enhance the delivery of our strategic programmes, be noted.

158 FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Comer-Schwartz seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Gill exercised his right of reply.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the 'Impact on Prudential Indicators' section of the report be noted;
- (ii) That the adoption of a Flexible Capital Receipts Strategy, as outlined in the 'Proposed Usage' section of the report, be agreed.

159 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Comer-Schwartz seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the following adaptations to the Council's current approved borrowing counterparties be agreed:

- (a) Individuals lending via a peer-to-peer platform where appropriate counterparty checks are conducted by the platform;
- (b) Investors in capital market bonds and retail bonds issued by the council

(ii) That the updated Treasury Management Strategy Statement, attached at Appendix A to the report submitted, be approved.

160 CONSTITUTION REPORT

Councillor Hyde moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That the amendments to the Constitution set out in the appendices to the report be approved, to take effect from 1st October 2021.

161 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

Councillor Hyde moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillors Ibrahim and Burgess be appointed to the Corporate Parenting Board with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- (ii) That Councillor Ibrahim be appointed as Young People's Champion with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.

- (iii) That the appointment of Peter Fehler, Director of Law and Governance, as the Council's Monitoring Officer be confirmed.

162 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 1: An adaptation plan for climate resilience

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Champion contributed to the debate. Councillor Russell exercised her right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To assess past and future risks to residents, organisations and the council from extreme weather events or hazards arising from a changing climate. This should include the impact of:
 - o Surface water flooding from extreme rainfall
 - o Extreme heat and cold in homes especially at night
 - o Extreme temperatures in workplaces
 - o Extreme wind, hail, rainfall, heat and drought
- (ii) To identify risks to public health, social care, community resilience, natural assets, infrastructure and economic development including these in corporate plans and policies
- (iii) To produce a plan and estimated costings for the adaptation and resilience measures required to protect the council, Islington residents, workers and organisations from the disruption due to future extreme weather events.
- (iv) To identify methods of funding and delivering this work in consultation with London Councils, City Hall and national government along with local organisations and residents.

Motion 2: Motion to support the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge

The Mayor noted that a proposed amendment had been circulated in the second despatch of papers.

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Champion moved her amendment. Councillor Russell exercised her right of reply.

The amendment was put to the vote and CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

- (i) To support the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge;

- (ii) To engage directly with organisations representing people with specific accessibility requirements;
- (iii) To call upon the Mayor of London through Transport for London (TfL) to respond to the Equal Pavements pledge with a comprehensive programme of support to boroughs to be delivered in this current term;
- (iv) To call on Central Government to fully fund the Council's attempts to make Islington's pavements more people-friendly.

Motion 3: Islington Together - let's talk about a greener future

Councillor Champion moved the motion. Councillor Weekes seconded.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To hold a festival during COP26, to work together with local people on making our borough a greener, cleaner and healthier place by tackling the Climate Emergency;
- (ii) To continue to work with residents and local business, third sector and public sector bodies to cut the 91% of emissions generated by non-Council sources in the borough, promoting and incentivising efforts to reduce their carbon footprint;
- (iii) To continue to work with other local authorities and the Mayor of London to call on Central Government to fully fund the Council's Vision 2030 strategy and demand a national plan to tackle the climate emergency.

Motion 4: Opposing Central Government plans for voter ID

Councillor Gill moved the motion. Councillor Ozdemir seconded. Councillors Lukes and Ismail contributed to the debate. Councillor Gill exercised his right to reply.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations;
- (ii) To write to the Government, opposing the introduction of voter ID and request this measure is not included in any forthcoming Bill;
- (iii) That should mandatory photo ID be passed into law, this council will investigate low-cost options for residents, bearing in mind the barriers outlined and focus efforts to promote the ID to those who are most likely to need it;
- (iv) To campaign for the introduction of residence-based voting rights to ensure all residents of Islington have the right to vote for their local representatives.

Motion 5: Supporting public sector workers

This motion related to the Local Government Pay Settlement and called on the Council to support the pay claim submitted by the Unite, GMB and Unison trade unions. The Mayor announced that all councillors had a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to Motion 5, as the Members' Allowances Scheme links councillor allowances to the Local Government Pay Settlement. It was also noted that councillors who are members of the Unison, Unite and GMB trade unions also had a personal interest in this motion. This included Councillors Comer-Schwartz, Ngongo, Champion, Ward, Convery, O'Halloran, Khondoker, Hyde, Lukes, Weekes, Gilgunn, Ozdemir, Turan, Bossman-Quarshie, O'Sullivan, Khurana, Ismail, Mackmurdie, Spall, Jackson, and Gallagher.

It was noted that under paragraph 14.2 of the Member Code of Conduct, Council may grant dispensations to councillors to vote on a matter in which they hold an interest, if without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business. Councillor Hyde moved a motion to grant a dispensation to the members present for this Motion. This was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That a dispensation be granted to the councillors present to enable the transaction of business under paragraph 14.2 of the Member Code of Conduct.

Councillor Comer-Schwartz moved the substantive motion. Councillor Gilgunn seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Comer-Schwartz exercised her right to reply.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOVLED:

- (i) To support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON on behalf of council and school workers for a 10% uplift across all pay points in 2021/22;
- (ii) To call on Central Government to fully fund any increase in pay for public sector workers;
- (iii) To sign the Mental Health At Work Commitment, to achieve better mental health outcomes for council staff and commit to a set of actions to improve and support the mental health of council employees;
- (iv) To work with local trade unions to improve mental wellbeing services for council staff and support calls for improved mental health services for workers across the public sector.

Motion 6: Equalities in Educational Outcomes

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to this motion was circulated in the second despatch of papers.

Councillor Ismail moved the motion. Councillor Ngongo moved the amendment. Councillor Ismail exercised her right to reply. Councillor Ngongo exercised her right to reply.

The amendment was put to the vote and CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

- (i) To continue to fund and commission supplementary education for pupils underachieving in mainstream schools;
- (ii) To continue to seek to improve the educational outcomes of the most disadvantaged;
- (iii) To provide supplementary community based education to Black, Caribbean and White British pupils as an essential aspect in improving their future and ours;
- (iv) To run an impressive series of events throughout October, celebrating Black History Month, Black culture and the contribution of Islington's Black communities to our borough.

The meeting closed at 10.15 pm

MAYOR

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London Borough of Islington

Awards Council - 18 October 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Awards Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 18 October 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Bell-Bradford, Clarke, Graham, Hyde, Khondoker, Khurana, Lukes, Nathan, Woolf, Burgess, Chowdhury, Gallagher, Hamitouche, Ismail, Comer-Schwartz, Spall, Russell, Heather, Jeapes, Kay, Ngongo, O'Halloran, Poyser, Shaikh, Turan, Ward, Wayne, Williamson, Bossman-Quarshie, Gilgunn, Ibrahim, Jackson, North and Ozdemir

The Mayor (Councillor Troy Gallagher) in the Chair

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

The Mayor explained that not all members could attend because the capacity of the Council Chamber had been reduced to accommodate social distancing measures.

2 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item 2)

None.

3 PRESENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (Item 3)

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

Councillors Hyde, Ibrahim, Williamson, Khondoker, Burgess, Russell and Ismail spoke in support of the motion.

The Roll of Honorary Freepersons was signed by Jennette Arnold OBE, Sue Seifert on behalf of Yvonne Conolly CBE, Alex Ewings on behalf of the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, and Siobhan Harrington on behalf of Whittington Health NHS Trust.

The Mayor presented framed Freedom Scrolls, verifying the admission of Jennette Arnold OBE, Yvonne Conolly CBE, the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust, and Whittington Health NHS Trust, as Freepersons. Those accepting the scrolls addressed the Council and expressed their thanks for the award of the honour.

RESOLVED:

That, by virtue of the power vested in it by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council does admit Jennette Arnold OBE, posthumously admit Yvonne Conolly CBE, and admit the London Ambulance Service NHS Trust and Whittington Health NHS Trust as Honorary Freepersons of the London Borough of Islington in recognition of their major and unique contribution made to the life of the Borough.

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm

CHAIR



COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2021

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1 **Melissa Hetherington to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

The pedestrian crossing nearest the corner of Liverpool Road and Theberton Street (outside The Pig & Butcher) had its island removed some time ago and that has made the pedestrian crossing much harder for pedestrians to cross safely, and for drivers to see. As a family we cross the pedestrian crossing at least 4 times a day and have become increasingly alarmed at just how many drivers either ignore the pedestrian crossing or fail to see it altogether, including while pedestrians are crossing. We cross with a pram so are highly visible but this has made no difference.

The crossing is a major artery between Barnsbury and Upper Street and has been rendered wholly unsafe by the changes. I have raised our concerns with Islington Council via the "Roads" webpage and my local councillors, but have had no response.

So I am writing to ask the Council what steps a concerned resident needs to take to have action taken in relation to a pedestrian crossing that is currently failing in its purpose as a safe place for people to cross and for cars to give way? In our view, the pedestrian crossing is a terrible accident waiting to happen - there simply must be a way to improve its safety as a crossing, even if that means installing pedestrian lights.

2 **Helena Farstad to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Buildings (commercial and residential) are the largest source of carbon emissions in Islington. Without addressing Islington's leaky properties Islington Council will not meet its 2030 net zero carbon target without major offsetting. When is the Councillor planning for the work to commence retrofitting the buildings and 25,000 homes under direct Council control; and how will he approach the challenge of convincing the remaining 78,000 or so households to do the same?

3 **Andrew Willett to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

My impression from the early months of the People Friendly Streets is that they have made a massively positive difference to the numbers of people walking and cycling around Islington, while it also appears that traffic on some of the main roads, for example the Blackstock Road, is starting to 'normalise'. Could the Councillors please confirm if this is in line with what the data is telling them?

4 **Lucy Facer to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Islington Clean Air Parents would like to acknowledge the council's work and commitment to addressing air pollution in Islington, however children are still exposed to illegal levels of pollution in parts of the borough and air pollution monitoring shows all schools in Islington exceed the new World Health Organisation (WHO) targets. With evidence that there is no safe level of air pollution, will the council revise current air pollution targets in their policies to meet WHO 2021 air quality recommended targets?

5 **Caroline Royds to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Does the Council agree with the Committee on Climate Change that "achieving significant emission reductions requires a step change, moving away from landfill and incineration and towards a reduction in waste arisings and reuse and recycling"?

Questions 6, 7 and 8 will receive a joint response:

6 **Jonathan Ward to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

In relation to the proposals for the redevelopment of Holloway Prison, are you happy with the poor-quality living conditions of the proposed homes?

A significant number of homes, especially social housing, will require air conditioning to keep them comfortable. It is unacceptable that the number of apartments affected is not confirmed, neither are the additional running and maintenance costs for residents, nor the additional carbon emissions. An expert has estimated that hundreds of homes will require this air conditioning. This goes against Islington and GLA policy. The extreme density and height of the buildings site also means that over half of the living rooms will fail to meet the applicable targets for annual and winter sunlight and that 208 of the rooms will fail to meet minimum daylight requirements. Are you happy with the proposed poor-quality living conditions for Islington residents, and the negative impacts on their lives?

7 **Richard Hope to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

In relation to the proposed Holloway Prison development, why do the flats facing on to Camden Road and Parkhurst Road need mechanical ventilation?

8 **Robin Nicholson to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Given the overheating of so many new homes as a result of being single aspect without through ventilation, is the Council satisfied that the high proportion of flats without through ventilation is acceptable?

- There are no flats on the whole development which are ‘through aspect’ i.e. providing ventilation from front to back
- 484 flats or nearly half all flats are ‘corner’ aspect, i.e. with a front and side window and corner aspect flats will overheat if facing south and west
- 60 flats or 6% of all flats are single aspect – i.e. no through ventilation at all and subject to overheating, especially those on Parkhurst Road who will not want to open window because of the noise and pollution
- 441 flats, or nearly half are what they call ‘stepped/double aspect’ or what amounts to a bay window and to all intents and purposes single aspect and contrary to the London Plan.

The measurements of overheating given are limited and don’t consider all flats. The social housing is particularly affected, which means they will need cooling systems, which will only add to tenants’ costs.

9 **Anita Grant to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Are you happy about the poor quality of the Holloway Prison proposal for children? It lacks a child centred site wide response, with fragmented play areas, some are shaded and windy, some are behind gates in residents’ only areas, and 0-4 year olds will be playing next to a 2-way road. It seems a shame when so much work has been done in Islington to put children first and when the need for excellent play is being recognised more and more, that this proposal for the prison site is being considered.

Questions 10, 11 and 12 will receive a joint response:

10 Nick Clarke to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

The North London Waste Authority will decide on 16 December whether to build the Edmonton Incinerator. To put this project in context the entire county of Chad emits about 900,000 tonnes of CO2 per annum - not much more than the 700,000 tonnes annual emissions from this proposed incinerator. Lake Chad has shrunk to 1/10th its size due to climate change, affecting 30 million people who rely on its water. In the words of environmentalist Hindou Ibrahim from Chad: *"Climate change is real and its not about our future it is about our present... we need solutions, we don't have time. It's now the time for action and immediate action for those people who are getting impacted who didn't create this climate thing."*

On 9 July 2020 the Council passed a motion regarding Atonement and Reparations for the United Kingdom's Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans acknowledging: *"a great deal of the wealth of the United Kingdom was founded on this vile crime against humanity, and the legacies of chattel, colonial and neocolonial forms of enslavement are still prevalent in our society today"*.

Does the Council not recognise that postponing our move to a circular economy by 25 years because we do not have the will and imagination to see beyond our waste fuelled culture and economy is a perpetuation of this crime against humanity?

11 Kate Pothalingam to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

The Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, is on the record saying "London is facing a climate emergency and I will continue to oppose new incineration capacity in London, which is not needed to manage the city's non-recyclable waste." Why does Islington Labour not agree?

12 Ben Griffith to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

On 16 December, Councillors Champion and Gill, as the Council's representatives to the North London Waste Authority, will be voting on whether to award a contract as part of the plan to incur £1.2bn of council tax payer debt to build a new bigger waste incinerator and other facilities at Edmonton. They will be encouraged to vote in favour of the Edmonton Incinerator because it is claimed there is no better alternative; and yet we know this decade is crucial to reduce our CO2 emissions - the council has set 2030 as a deadline for net zero.

Instead of the incinerator, we can sort our waste into its constituent parts. We can educate, support and incentivise the general public to do this. We can pressure companies to reduce waste. We can invest in mixed waste sorting technology. In this view I find myself supported by the Chief Scientific Advisor to DEFRA who states 'incineration is not a good direction to go in'

The NLWA commissioned Ramboll to compare the carbon impact of incineration to landfill. But would Councillors Gill and Champion please describe what circular economy alternatives to incineration have been considered by the NLWA? Please detail any specific feasibility studies that have been commissioned by the NLWA describing circular economy alternatives to incineration?

13 **Bridget Fox to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Islington Council claims to support recycling, yet communal recycling bins and waste areas on our estates are regularly left overflowing. What measures is the Council taking to clean up its act?

14 **Filip Rambousek to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

With so many families in overcrowded or unsafe council accommodation, what is the average void time to turn around council homes between tenancies, and why is it taking so long to make these much-needed homes available?

15 **Melissa Herman to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

In relation to the proposals for the redevelopment of Holloway Prison, the SPD is referenced in the emerging plan site allocations document as a document that 'will be given significant weight in terms of future determinations' and states the following:

5.44 In reflection of the council's commitment to community cohesion and the value and vitality associated with diverse communities, the residential elements of a future scheme should be based on a layout which maximises tenure integration, with affordable and private housing built to the same standards and indistinguishable from one another in terms of design quality, appearance and location on site. There should be no separation of amenity or facilities according to tenure.

In Peabody's plans for Holloway, many of the homes for social rent will be on the main road in the tallest block planned for the site and there is no pepper potting or tenure mixing with the blocks. How will the council ensure tenure integration and equality of standards (e.g. space, aspect, materials used) between tenures on the Holloway development?

16 **David Lincoln to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Advancing the health and wellbeing of residents is an important role of Islington council. There is strong scientific evidence that incorporating physical activity into their daily routine helps people live healthier and happier lives.

Does the Council agree that extending the roll out of People Friendly Streets will enable more people to choose to walk or cycle more often which will have a significant positive impact toward improving public health, perhaps greater than any other intervention available to the council?

17 **Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

People are eager to know about the final decision for St. Peter's People Friendly Streets scheme as the ETO expires and the council must now decide whether the scheme becomes permanent, is removed or adjusted, and what adjustments may take place.

As it is not on the agenda for this council meeting, how and when will that decision be announced? Please provide a specific date.

18 **Pierre Delarue to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

What is the average time taken to repair a streetlight once reported, and what percentage of street lights were fixed within one week?

19 **Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

How many residents engaged in Let's talk about a greener future two week festival? What is the council going to do to make sure more residents get involved in Islington Together festival in 2022?

20 **Devon Osborne to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

Does the council know how many estate intercoms are currently in need of repair and how many residents this effects? Does the council have a timetable for repair of intercoms on estates and a procedure with timings and deadlines that is followed after the first complaint? Does the council acknowledge the necessity of working intercoms for residents safety? And what is the council's plan to address anti-social behaviour in stairwells and supposedly secure common areas?

21 **Chuck Y to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

On Chadwell Street there is an island between the bike and car lane. This island has become a regular dumping ground for both household, commercial and building waste. This includes furniture and huge cardboard boxes among the other waste.

Given this happens on a daily basis, it was quite surprised when I was told by the Islington Waste Team that they would not be able to take any real actions to stop the fly tipping; I was told all they could do is send someone to clear the trash, which is unlikely to even be done given the number of items of litter regularly there.

My question to the council is what active steps are the council taking to prevent fly tipping? It seems at the moment that the lack of surveillance, the lack of a note or sign, and the response of the team when I called Islington Council, indicate that the Council are taking no steps to prevent fly tipping and simply addressing the after effects by cleaning up after these criminals.

Given the frequency and scale of fly tipping, is this not arguably easier to tackle than a one off occurrence of fly-tipping? If the council won't even bother with an easier case of trying to stop fly-tipping, is the council simply not trying to address fly-tipping at all?

22 **Guilene Marco to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:**

Most of the equipment in the playground in Arundel Square has been removed following a safety inspection in May. Residents, parents and children have been waiting for 6 months now for a reopening of their favourite playground. Will you be able to let us know when the Council will secure a supplier and a budget to fix the equipment in Arundel Square? Do you have a timeline for the works, and can you guarantee a reopening before May 2022?

23 **Dominic Martin to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:**

What are the 2021 figures for bicycle theft in Islington, and how do they compare with other London boroughs? What percentage of reported bicycle thefts result in successful prosecution; and what is the Council doing to reduce levels of bicycle theft in Islington?

24 **Question to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Does the Council feel confident it will meet the Net Zero 2030 plan and how much does it anticipate having to offset to be net zero by 2030?

25 **John Hartley to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Following COP26, everyone must now agree that we are in a climate emergency, and we all must reduce our emissions urgently. Islington has also committed to Vision Zero for London - to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries from our roads. Air pollution in London is killing 4,000 people every year. Tackling global heating, road deaths, toxic air - three essential, unarguable, goals. Discouraging the use of private vehicles by rolling out People Friendly Streets across the Borough will go a long way to achieving all three aims.

Is the Council aware of any alternative which is likely to be as effective in meeting these three critical goals?

26 **Question to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health & Care:**

NDP (Neuro Development Pathway) wait times are on the Whittington Trust's risk register. As the parent of a severely distressed child, whose 15 month wait for a Neurodevelopmental Pathway Assessment had already exceeded the 52 week wait time given, I was recently told that the wait time has now been extended to 32 months. Can you satisfy me there is a robust recovery plan in place rather than one that is creating systematic churn?

27 **Roderik Gonggrijp to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

The proposed Holloway Prison development is for 985 housing units to accommodate 3,450 new residents. Based on data from the Mayor's Office, this will give St George's ward the 12th highest population density of all 624 wards in London. Yet, no new amenities or even a community centre are planned, nor does the 300 document planning application appear to contain any tested impact assessment for the existing amenities in the area that the new residents are expected to use.

What assessment has been made to ensure that there are adequate health, education and sport facilities, along with green space to support the residents moving in to the new homes?

28 **Linda Clarke to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

The proposed environmental design for the redevelopment of Holloway prison, intended as a net zero energy building development, falls far short of the London Borough of Islington Net Zero Carbon targets:

- The heating demand is 72-162% more than the Islington target;
- The building airtightness mean the buildings will be 5 times more leaky than the Islington target;
- The upfront embodied carbon emissions are 650kg/CO2/m2, more than double the 300kg/CO2/m2 target for 2030;
- Not a single item from the site is proposed to be reclaimed for re-use;
- The renewable energy generation is only 62% of the Islington Council target;

In the light of the Climate Emergency, the Council's 2030 Net Zero carbon targets and recognising that the project will be completed close to 2030, surely the proposals for the site cannot be accepted by the Council given that they are at odds with its own environmental policies?

29 **Jill Ellenby to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

What would be the financial implications for Islington Council if the new north London incinerator operates at respectively 80 per cent, 60 per cent and 40 per cent of capacity, given the impact on its cost-effectiveness as well as the income from burning waste and from supplying heat and electricity?

Questions 30 and 31 will receive a joint response:

30 **Claire Zammit to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

The Holloway Prison Site is a generational opportunity to tackle the housing crisis in our borough and build hundreds of new good quality social homes on the border of Holloway ward.

We know the site has a strong legacy as it was the largest women's prison in Europe before it was closed, providing extensive services to and for the wider community. Can you tell me what the Council is doing to ensure that, if the plans are approved, the legacy of supporting women will continue and what type of services you believe the Women's Building will provide for the greater community? Also will the Women's Building be women-only and how will you ensure it will be financially sustainable?

31 Niki Gibbs to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

HMP Holloway is a site of huge historical national importance to the struggle for women's rights, and part of Islington's built heritage.

When the planning department was preparing its Design Brief for the Women's Building, 24 of 28 expert individuals and organisations said they did not support the draft plans for the HWB. The useable room space offered is approximately 920sqm within the 1500sqm floor plan; the remainder is corridors and WC facilities. Yet even the draft brief recommends approx.. 1,200sqm.

Peabody's plan is effectively disrespecting half the population with a tokenistic offer of a Women's Building on a unique legacy site for women. Is the Council willing for this important history to be erased, and its legacy reduced to a single floor under a tower block, when no feasibility study or needs assessment has been done to quantify the space, services, service delivery, viability or governance, meeting the needs of women as laid out in the SPD?

32 Debbie Humphry to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

Are you happy that there are no London Living Rent homes (suitable for low income households such as key workers who will not be able to access social rent housing) but that all 18% of Intermediate housing is shared ownership with minimum required household incomes of over £65K for a 25% share of a 2-bed Peabody property in Islington?



COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2021

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1 Cllr Poyser to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:

The Boxing Club in Elthorne Park was temporary many years ago and is now dilapidated. As I have said many times before in full Council, organised boxing has been shown to be a proactive solution to all sorts of youth issues where the Council has been active. The Club is particularly supportive of women boxers.

The Boxing Club are doing excellent work trying to renew their premises – following the ‘Queensberry Rules’. It would be knock-out if Council help kick-start Round One of this project

Could you outline the support the Council has given the rebuilding?

2 Cllr Poole to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:

As Her Majesty The Queen prepares to pass an historic milestone and celebrate her Platinum Jubilee next year, will the Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families tell the Council what plans are being formulated for Islington Schools to celebrate this great event?

3 Cllr Ismail to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:

Before coronavirus disease, black women over 50 suffered loneliness, isolation, depression, and language barriers. Now, with the current Omicron looming, what support is in place to combat further loneliness and isolation for Black women?

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

Since the stabbing of Sir David Amess MP, the Somali community has suffered badly from islamophobia, as reported on BBC London, Sunday Politics and the Guardian Newspaper. Have you engaged with the Somali community with any support and reassurances; and how and when?

5 Cllr Russell to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:

How many residents are eligible for the council tax reduction scheme this year and how many of these are in arrears with their council tax this year?

6 Cllr Russell to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

How many repairs have been requested in Islington to fix mould in residents' homes each year across the last five years? Please supply aggregated annual Islington figures at the meeting for the last five years and supply a table in writing separately broken down by ward and housing type (estate or street property and building construction type if you hold that data).

7 Cllr Williamson to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:

There was already a crisis in young people's mental health and support services before Covid-19, but the pandemic has made the situation worse.

Before the pandemic waiting times were long for CAMHS. But with an even bigger growth in demand for mental health and support services, and the escalating NHS recruitment crisis caused by a Tory government asleep at the wheel, we are witnessing a perfect storm – with disastrous effects for our young people. One of my own young constituents has already spent over a year of his childhood waiting to be assessed by CAMHS, and is expected to still wait another year before getting assessed. Waiting times are now at roughly 30 months. While we know the Tory government rhetoric of parity of esteem for mental health services needs to be matched with reality – with real funding and serious work to bring down waiting times, what is the CCG doing locally to reduce waiting times for CAMHS?

Report of: Executive Member for Finance and Performance

Meeting of:	Date:	Ward(s):
Full Council	9 December 2021	All

Delete as appropriate:		
		Non-exempt

SUBJECT: The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Council Tax Support Scheme for 2021/22 was agreed by Council on 10 December 2020. The Scheme has to be agreed by full Council by 11 March for each subsequent year, even if it remains unchanged.
- 1.2 Islington's Council Tax Support Scheme is an important part of the safety net we offer to help support and protect low-income households. As many of these households have suffered additional and disproportionate hardship as a result of the pandemic, particularly increased unemployment rates and more recently a £20 reduction in Universal Credit, a review is timely.
- 1.3 This report proposes changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme following public consultation and seeks approval for a revised scheme for 2022/23.
- 1.4 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 change the way the Council Tax Support is calculated so that:
 - The cap for working age households reduces from 8.5% to 5%. This will increase from 91.5% to 95% the level of support they would have been entitled to under the old council tax benefit rules.
 - Payment of Council Tax Support on two homes is allowed in specific circumstances.

- The age for a Class 2 reduction is aligned with the increase in state pension age.

2.2 To agree to adopt the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23 as contained in Appendix A.

2.3 To retain the amendments to council tax agreed at full Council on 10 December 2020, with 1) to 3) below continuing to apply, whilst updating 4) below to charge a premium at the maximum that is now allowed. This will mean increasing from 100% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 2 years to the amounts set out in 4) below.

This continues the Council's practice to discourage properties remaining empty that impacts on the economic and social well-being of the borough. There will be support for any vulnerable residents impacted.

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 but less than 5 years in all cases.

a premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 200% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 5 years but less than 10 years in all cases.

a premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 300% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 10 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. Further consultation was carried out in 2016 and again recently in 2021.

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.

3.3 We are proposing to retain within the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23 the following:

- allow a £100 older person discount for residents aged State Pension Age 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;

3.4 From 18 August 2021 to 30 September 2021 we consulted to seek views on the following:

- the level of support working age households receive
- allowing payment on two homes when a person has left the normal home because of fear of violence, are awaiting disability adaptations on the new home and unable to move in until these are carried out or have moved out within the last 4 weeks and still have to pay rent on the old home.
- updating the wording of Class 2 within the Council Tax Support Scheme to align it with the government's gradual increase of the state pension age.

3.5 On the level of support for working age households, two thirds of people responding to the consultation either strongly agreed, agreed or had no firm view with the general principle of increasing the level of support to those of working age through the Council Tax Support Scheme.

3.6 We are therefore recommending the Council invests in enhancing the support offered to working age households with lower incomes. By increasing the level of support from 91.5% to 95%, eligible households' bills will see an average reduction of £42 per annum.

3.7 In respect of allowing payment on two homes when a person has left the normal home because of fear of violence, are waiting disability adaptations on the new home and unable to move in until these are carried out or have moved out within the last 4 weeks and still have to pay rent on the old home, 74% of people responding to the consultation either strongly agreed, agreed or had no firm view with this proposal.

3.8 We asked about updating the wording of Class 2 within the Council Tax Support Scheme to align it with the Government's gradual increase of the state pension age. 88% of people responding to the consultation either strongly agreed, agreed or had no firm view.

3.9 The full outcome and feedback from the consultation conducted between 18 August 2021 and 30 September 2021 is included as Appendix B.

4 Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

4.1.1 The financial implications are based on a cost estimate derived from the latest current year caseload figures. The actual cost to the council would depend on future increases/decreases in working aged caseload and the level of council tax increases. The table below summarises the financial impact on Islington of increasing the working aged council tax subsidy from 91.5% to 95%.

	Estimate £m
Current total cost of CTS (WA and pensioners)	31.471
Current cost of WA CTS	22.369
Estimated LBI share of increasing WA CTS from 91.5% to 95%	0.676

There is provision in the MTFs to cover this increased, ongoing budget requirement from 2022/23.

4.2 Legal Implications:

4.2.1 The Council is required for each financial year to consider whether to revise its council tax support scheme or to replace it with another scheme (paragraph 5 of Schedule 1A to the Local Government Finance Act 1992). When revising a scheme, the Council must comply with paragraph 3 of Schedule 1A. Paragraph 3 requires that, before revising the scheme, the Council must (in the following order)

- (a) consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept to it,
- (b) publish a draft scheme in such manner as it thinks fit, and
- (c) consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have an interest in the operation of the scheme.

Consultation is lawful where the consultation principles are complied with: (1) consultation must be carried out at a time when proposals are still at a formative stage; (2) the proposer must give sufficient reasons for any proposal to permit of intelligent consideration and response; (3) adequate time must be given for consideration and response; and (4) the product of consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising any proposals.

4.2.2 In accordance with the statutory scheme, and the principles governing consultation, the proposed revision to the Council's council tax support scheme has been consulted upon with the Mayor/GLA, a draft of the proposed scheme has been published, and residents have been consulted. The consultation process was widely publicised. There was advertising of the consultation via Islington Life, social media channels, news bulletins, the Council's website, through the Council's resident support scheme and VCS networks, as well as published adverts in the Islington Gazette and Tribune. The responses to the proposed changes are available for consideration by full Council, and need to be considered carefully before the decision is made as to whether or not approve the revised scheme. The Council is entitled to proceed with the revised scheme even though some of the proposed changes (reducing the cap to 5% for working age residents) did not find favour with the majority of those who responded to the consultation.

Before making a decision as to whether or not to approve the revised scheme, members must pay due regard to the public sector equality implications of the proposed changes. The relevant duty is at section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The public sector equality implications of the revised scheme are contained in the Resident Impact Assessment.

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 State Pension Age 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.
- Despite the loss of the government grant and in the face of repeated government cuts to Islington's funding, reducing the cap to 5% is seen as an effective way that we can support our working age, low income households at this difficult time as we recover from the impacts of Covid-19.
- Applying the 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 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 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 The Council Tax Support Scheme enables the Council to provide assistance with council tax bills to the lowest income households. Financing the scheme is particularly challenging in the face of repeated government cuts to Islington's funding and the Council having to make the difficult decision to increase general levels of council tax. Despite these changes, Islington's council tax remains below the London average.

Even with these pressures we've both protected the scheme over the years and put in additional funding as it's come under pressure during the Covid-19 global pandemic. We have seen an increase in households becoming eligible for Council Tax Support as they've lost jobs or had reduced income. Given the unprecedented challenges residents faced during Covid-19, it is appropriate that we look at the scheme to ensure we are doing as much as we can for those that need the support most.

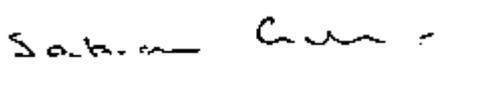
It is recommended that the Council Tax Support Scheme (Appendix A) is approved for 2022/23.

Appendices

- Appendix A: Council Tax Support Scheme for 2022/23
- Appendix B: Consultation outcome report
- Appendix C: Resident Impact Assessment
- Appendix D: From the cradle to the grave – a lifetime of support

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Finance and
Performance

Date 25/11/21

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

Financial Implications Author: Tony Watts
Tel: 02075272879
Email: tony.watts@islington.gov.uk

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

London Borough of Islington

Council Tax Support Scheme

Draft - For Approval by Council on 9 December 2021



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, repeated in 2016 and 2021;
- 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 2022 and of state pension age 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 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 11 March 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 11 March 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 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 11 March 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. Any changes will be summarised in Appendix A1.

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.

Any payment from Islington Council through the Support Payment Scheme to non-recent child abuse survivors will be disregarded as both income and capital.

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. Changes published in previous years are summarised in Appendix A1.

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 Payment of Council Tax Support for two homes

The criteria for the award of Council Tax Support on two homes applies only in the following circumstances:

- Moved out of the home because of violence or fear of violence, council tax support can be paid for both homes, if intention to return home, for a period of up to 52 weeks.
- Awaiting disability adaptations on new home and unable to move in until these are carried out up to 4 weeks.
- Moved out within the last 4 weeks and still have to pay rent on old home (for council tax support this would be one day).

5.5 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.

5.6 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.

5.7 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.

5.8 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 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.

5.9 Excess Benefit

Regulation 82 and 83 of the CTB Regulations 2006 will not apply to this scheme. If following a recalculation of the entitlement to Council Tax Support, regardless of the cause for the need for that recalculation, if the chargeable amount of the council tax bill is greater than the previous notification, the council can bill the taxpayer for the difference. Payments must be made as they fall due.

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 Community Wealth Building who will designate the appropriate officers to undertake this role. Currently, these officers are all based in the Community Financial Resilience Directorate of the Council's Community Wealth Building Department.

6.5 CTS Scheme Agreement

The CTS Scheme will be reviewed annually and subject to further agreement at Full Council prior to 11 March each year.

1. Changes to the Council Tax Support scheme

This document details changes made to the London Borough of Islington's Council Tax Support scheme published on the council website in accordance with 4.2 of the scheme.

<https://www.islington.gov.uk/benefits-and-support/council-tax-support>

1.1 Temporary absence outside of Great Britain

From 15 January 2017, the rules about getting Council Tax Support if a claimant goes abroad have changed to bring them in line with the changes in Housing Benefit rules to mirror the amendments to the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 as outlined in The Housing Benefit and State Pension Credit (Temporary Absence) (Amendment) Regulations 2016.

1.2 Restrictions on the amounts for children and qualifying young persons

From 1 April 2017, the number of personal allowances, which can be included in the applicable amount for Council Tax Support in respect of children and qualifying young people, will be limited to no more than two children. This is in line with the Child Tax Credit restrictions announced in the Summer Budget of 2015, which in turn affect the applicable amounts for Housing Benefits as outlined in The Social Security (Restrictions on Amounts for Children and Qualifying Young Persons) Amendment Regulations 2017.

Consultation on the Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2022

Introduction

A consultation on the proposals to change the Council Tax Support Scheme from 1 April 2022 was conducted between the 18 August 2021 and the 30 September 2021.

The consultation was advertised via Islington Life, social media channels, latest news bulletins, council website, through our resident support scheme and VCS networks, along with published adverts in the Islington Gazette and Tribune.

Residents were able to complete the consultation online via the council's website. Contact Islington were able to assist anyone to complete the online form to respond to the consultation and a paper copy to respond to the consultation was available on request.

Summary of responses received

1. Any changes to the Council Tax Support Scheme will be introduced from 1 April 2022. Overall do you agree with increasing the level of support to those of working age through the Council Tax Support Scheme?

Strongly agree	26.0%		13
Agree	26.0%		13
Neither agree or disagree	14.0%		7
Disagree	10.0%		5
Strongly disagree	20.0%		10
Not sure	4.0%		2
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

Q1 summary of responses

Overall a majority of respondents, 52%, were agreeable with the general principle of increasing the level of support to those of working age through the Council Tax Support Scheme.

2. Do you agree that the Council should retain the current level of support to working age households capped at 8.5% allowing the Council to invest any available resources in priorities elsewhere?

Strongly agree	24.0%		12
Agree	36.0%		18
Neither agree or disagree	4.0%		2
Disagree	16.0%		8
Strongly disagree	18.0%		9
Not sure	2.0%		1
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

Q2 summary of responses

A majority of 60% of respondents agreed with retaining the current level of support to working age households capped at 8.5%.

3. Do you agree that the Council should increase support to working age residents by reducing the cap to 5%, thus allowing up to 95% of the support they would have been entitled to under the old council tax benefit rules?

Strongly agree	12.0%		6
Agree	14.0%		7
Neither agree or disagree	24.0%		12
Disagree	28.0%		14
Strongly disagree	22.0%		11
Not sure	0.0%		0
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

Q3 summary of responses

There were 26% of respondents agreeable to increase support to working age residents by reducing the cap to 5%, thus allowing up to 95% of the support they would have been entitled to under the old council tax benefit rules. 50% of respondents indicated they disagreed.

4. Do you agree that the Council should explore increasing the level of support to working age residents by reducing the cap to 0%, thus allowing up to 100% of the support they would have been entitled to under the old council tax benefit rules.

To do this the Council will remove from the Council tax Support scheme the Older Person Discount, the Foster Care Allowance and the Care Leaves/Shared Lives Allowance?

Strongly agree	12.0%		6
Agree	4.0%		2
Neither agree or disagree	10.0%		5
Disagree	26.0%		13
Strongly disagree	46.0%		23
Not sure	2.0%		1
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

Q4 summary of responses

There were 72% of respondents that disagreed with this proposal.

5. If you disagree with allowing payment on two homes when a person has left the normal home because of fear of violence, are waiting disability adaptations on the new home and unable to move in until these are carried out or have moved out within the last 4 weeks and still have to pay rent on the old home. Please explain why you disagree.

Total respondents	13
Respondents who skipped this question	37

Q5 summary of responses

74% of respondents did not disagree with this proposal. Those that directly disagreed with this proposal based on their comments is 6% of respondents.

Comments made to this question are listed in full at Appendix A.

6. If you disagree with updating the wording of Class 2 within the Council Tax Support Scheme to align it with the Government's gradual increase of the state pension age. Please explain why you disagree.

Total respondents	6
Respondents who skipped this question	44

Q6 summary of responses

There were 88% of respondents that did not disagree with the proposal. From the comments provided, 6% of respondents directly disagreed with this proposal.

Comments made to this question are listed in full at Appendix A.

7. Are there any comments or alternative proposals that you would like to make?

Total respondents	14
Respondents who skipped this question	36

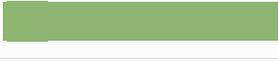
Q7 summary of responses

72% of respondents did not provide any additional comments or alternative proposals. For the 28% that did complete this section, the comments made to this question are listed in full at Appendix A.

8. Do you live in Islington?

Yes	88.0%		44
No	12.0%		6
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

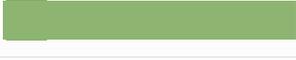
9. Are you a council tax payer?

Yes	98.0%		49
No	2.0%		1
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

10. Are you currently receiving Council Tax Support

Yes	22.4%		11
No	77.6%		38
Total respondents			49
Respondents who skipped this question			1

11. Gender

Female	51.0%		25
Male	30.6%		15
Non-binary	2.0%		1

Prefer not to say	16.3%		8
Total respondents			49
Respondents who skipped this question			1

12. Do you consider yourself to be trans or to have a trans history?
Trans is an umbrella term to describe people whose gender is not the same as, or does not sit comfortably with, the sex and/or gender/which they were assigned at birth

Yes	2.0%		1
No	74.0%		37
Prefer not to say	24.0%		12
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

13. Are you of working age?

Yes	80.0%		40
No	20.0%		10
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

14. Are you or your partner in paid employment for more than 16 hours per week?

Yes	70.0%		35
No	30.0%		15
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

15. How many Children do you have living with you?

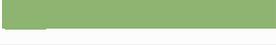
No Children	64.0%		32
1-3 Children	32.0%		16
4 or more children	4.0%		2
Total respondents			50

Respondents who skipped this question	0
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16. Do you, or does anyone who lives with you, have a disability?

Yes	32.0%		16
No	68.0%		34
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

17. Religion or Belief

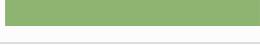
Buddhist	0.0%		0
Christian	34.0%		17
Hindu	0.0%		0
Jewish	0.0%		0
Muslim	4.0%		2
No religion	24.0%		12
Rastafarian	2.0%		1
Sikh	0.0%		0
Other	2.0%		1
Prefer not to say	34.0%		17
Total respondents			50
Respondents who skipped this question			0

18. Sexual Orientation

Bisexual	4.1%		2
Heterosexual/Straight	57.1%		28
Gay	8.2%		4
Lesbian	0.0%		0
Prefer not to say	30.6%		15

I use another term, please provide this here	0.0%		0
Total respondents			49
Respondents who skipped this question			1

19. White

British	48.8%		21
Irish	9.3%		4
Turkish/Turkish Cypriot	0.0%		0
Greek/Greek Cypriot	0.0%		0
Kurdish	2.3%		1
Gypsy/Traveller	0.0%		0
Prefer not to say	25.6%		11
Mixed <i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
<i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
<i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
<i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
<i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
<i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
White and black Caribbean <i>(Hidden)</i>	0.0%		0
Any other white background	14.0%		6
Total respondents			43
Respondents who skipped this question			7

20. Mixed

White and black Caribbean	10.0%		1
White and black African	0.0%		0
White and Asian	10.0%		1
Prefer not to say	80.0%		8

Any other Mixed background	0.0%		0
Total respondents			10
Respondents who skipped this question			40

21. Asian or Asian British

Indian	0.0%		0
Pakistani	0.0%		0
Bangladeshi	0.0%		0
Chinese	0.0%		0
Prefer not to say	100.0%		8
Any other Asian background	0.0%		0
Total respondents			8
Respondents who skipped this question			42

22. Black or Black British

Caribbean	30.8%		4
Somali	7.7%		1
Eritrean	0.0%		0
Nigerian	7.7%		1
Ghanaian	0.0%		0
Other African	0.0%		0
Prefer not to say	53.8%		7
Any other Black background	0.0%		0
Total respondents			13
Respondents who skipped this question			37

23. Other Ethnic Groups

Arab	11.1%		1
Latin American	11.1%		1

Prefer not to say	77.8%		7
Any other background	0.0%		0
Total respondents			9
Respondents who skipped this question			41

It should be noted that for questions 19 to 23, we were unable to set the questionnaire up so that once you had provided an answer you move past the remaining questions. You could opt to skip the questions that did not apply to you. The answers suggest some respondents have answered affirmatively in more than one category.

Appendix A

5. If you disagree with allowing payment on two homes when a person has left the normal home because of fear of violence, are waiting disability adaptations on the new home and unable to move in until these are carried out or have moved out within the last 4 weeks and still have to pay rent on the old home. Please explain why you disagree.

Answers in full

3	I do not disagree
6	Am exemption can be brought in using local powers available in a similar manner to downsizers exemptions
8	The burden of proof that true entitlement exists may be difficult and could be abused.
17	I believe the rules should remain the same with the council to be a right to wavier at times for the odd case but only at at times and for a short period.
19	N/A
21	There should be NO payment on two homes. The council tax is high enough as it is.
22	Its wrong to not support people in these times
31	No comments.
34	The length of time that people are required to make duplicate payments should be reduced to a minimum to keep costs down.
38	These issues should be resolved as quickly as possible. If you are supporting all these residents - who is paying for it. Everyone uses these services and everyone should be contributing to them. I don't know were you get the money to cover all the support.

39	I agree with this provision. The council however should come down harder on private landlords who leave their home empty more than two months.
45	In practice, the abuser is effectively receiving council support. Albeit I do not object support to the victim, I don't feel our tax money should be used to fund abusers and the council should make provisions to recover the benefit given to abusers.
50	If leaseholders can afford to buy their homes from LBI , they are going to make a lot of profit when they sell to whoever. I find by experience , leaseholders get on TRA `s and block any improvements to Social Housing properties = leaseholders will pay a % for any improvements , therefore they will block improvements for poorer residents . There really needs to be an investigation about the prospects of leaseholders taking over TRA `s in our Borough just to block improvements for poorer residents. It happened under Homes for Islington and increasingly now.

6. If you disagree with updating the wording of Class 2 within the Council Tax Support Scheme to align it with the Government's gradual increase of the state pension age. Please explain why you disagree.

Answers in full

N/A	
31	No comments.
37	Because poorer working class people often have shorter lives and are in poorer health younger. Support after 60 years should be given in all areas financially, health and housing, they should after 60 be made a priority
38	I don't understand what you mean
39	I disagree. Older people over 60 (especially women) are finding it very hard to find and maintain jobs at this time. If the government had really wanted to do something about unequal pension ages they should have lowered men's pensionable age to 60. With youth unemployment skyrocketing the rise in pension age makes no sense.
46	Discounting the council tax bill for everyone 65+ by £100 is ridiculous. There're lots of wealthy pensioners in Islington. The 'Older Person Discount should be dropped, as the poorest pensioners in receipt of Pension Credit will be protected. I know older people are the biggest voting demographic but for a Labour council to be bribing them for their electoral support by keeping this subsidy is, frankly, distasteful.

7. Are there any comments or alternative proposals that you would like to make?

Answers in full

8	Council Tax has already increased vastly in the last 10 years. Cuts need to be made to some support schemes to allow for an overall reduction to rate paying residents.
15	Pensioners have a higher income than many working families or unemployed people and do not need the protection
16	<p>I feel that the option explored is the most reasonable. A blanket £100 to pensioners getting partial council tax support doesn't seem the best use of available monies though, as pensioners very often have hidden resources, it should be more effectively means tested - perhaps aligned to pension savings credit only.</p> <p>It makes sense to protect care leavers and foster carers, as care leavers have no family support and foster carers save the local authority greatly. Two homes CTR provision makes sense, as it is minimally applied</p> <p>some council tax liability for those of working age is fair, and prevents the shock when coming off of benefits</p>
20	Council Tax support should be fully paid to those who rely on Benefits or struggle with low income. Those on low incomes or on benefits should not be penalised for council tax arrears for it brings them more poverty, misery and mental illness.
21	NO MORE INCREASES to Council Tax. You are bleeding working people dry!
26	Seems fair to all
28	Either make it 8.5% for all including pensioners or match the rest to pensioners.
31	All these forms of support schemes should be temporary, as they should be seen as public help to an unpredicted circumstance. The aim should be to help people who currently in financial difficulties to get back on their feet and become again financially independent. Providing benefits indefinitely is prone to abuse and exploitation by opportunists, and this is a form of injustice toward all honest people who make their best to keep up with their financial commitments.
37	And poorer elderly in Islington should be considered more, you shouldn't even consider taking away the £100
38	What checks are made to see that the ongoing support is appropriate. Where does the money come from to keep giving the support, who is paying for it. Again everyone is using the service and contributing is good. What checks are made to quantify how long the support is offered. Are people supported to find work.
42	I feel as the local authority is penalising those who work hard and earn more to be able to receive council tax support.

This additional expense is very disheartening as the area of Islington is not in good repair. It is very hard as a council employee to see what my council tax is being spent on when I see a large number of groups being advantageous. I do not feel people who work and live in the borough in particular receive any support from the local authority and I am bitterly disappointed as an employee and resident !

46 Re 'gender/which they were assigned at birth' - ridiculous stuff. Am aware this wording is widely used but - really!!!

51 It seems if you work then you have to pay for everything in the Borough not enough is being done to drive people into a job. Each year Council tax rises to pay for all sorts of other care.so the only people paying out is the people working.

52 I'm eyerolling at the way these questions are designed to reduce actual input and stop you getting good rich data. q4. Agree with the first part and not the second. If you can keep benefits the same and reallocate resources elsewhere as in q2, you can take resources from elsewhere an reallocate to this. you just don't want to.



Resident Impact Assessment

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

Contents

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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) 2022 – 2023
b) Department and section:	Community Wealth Building, Community Financial Resilience
c) Name and contact details of assessor:	Robbie Rainbird, robbie.rainbird@islington.gov.uk
d) Date initial screening assessment started:	30/9/2021
e) Describe the main aim or purpose of the proposed	To help low-income council tax charge payers pay their Council Tax

new or changed policy, etc. and the intended outcomes:

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

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

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.

	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: 30/9/2021

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

Council Tax Support Scheme (CTSS) 2022/23

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 had decided to maintain the original level of support it provides to its CTS residents and funded this additional support wholly from its own funds.

The recommendation now is to increase the level of support to working age households by reducing the cap from the 8.5% to 5%. This will equate to 95% of the support that was available under the old council tax benefit. Supporting our residents to recover from the economic impacts of Covid-19 is a priority. In 2020/21 and 2021/22 we have helped all working age households entitled to CTS with a Covid-19 hardship rebate of up to £150 on their annual council tax bill. This was funded by Government grant in 2020/21 and by the Council in 2021/22, the Covid-19 hardship rebate will cease at the end of 2021/22. Increasing the maximum level of support available to working age households allows us to provide further financial assistance to our low income households, helping them to recover from the devastating impacts of the global pandemic, whilst working with them to improve their financial situation including their employment opportunities.

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 reduce the 8.5% cap for working-age CTS recipients to a 5% cap will provide more support to our low income households who qualify for CTS.

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 continued to limit the reduction to 85% up to 2021/22.

During the Covid-19 period a range of support and financial assistance has been provided to our low income and vulnerable households. This includes the Covid-19 hardship rebate on council tax bills for working age households, increased local welfare provision support through our residents support scheme, help with food provision and payments of various grants to help with food, utilities, lost income due to self-isolation.

The Council has recently consulted on options for increasing the level of support for working age households through the CTSS. We feel this is the right time to review the level of support to working age households, having completed that review we feel we can increase the level of support available to working age households by reducing the cap to 5%. This vital support is part of our strategy to give our low income and vulnerable households the best opportunity to recover from the impacts of Covid-19. To improve their financial situation by gaining good employment, along with building some financial resilience in our communities.

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 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 (5%) leaving CTS of £19 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 £9 (£20 less £1 (5%) less £10 Excess Income = £9). But if their partial benefit was reduced by bottom slicing instead this would leave their CTS as £9.50 (£20 less £10 Excess Income = £10. Taking 5% of this leaves £9.50). 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 state pension age, 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 state pension age, 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 6 months of 2021/22 over 26,000 claimants qualified for council tax support and there have been 62 applications for additional support, as a result of which £6,815 was awarded.

For 2020/21, working age council tax support recipients received up to £150 council tax rebate as a COVID19 hardship fund award. 23,677 households received an award, totalling £2.63m of council tax relief. For 2021/22, working age council tax support recipients have again received an up to £150 council tax rebate. To date 21,605 households have received an award totalling £2.59m of support.

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 21/22 has been helped by the COVID19 hardship fund awards.

Age

Key facts

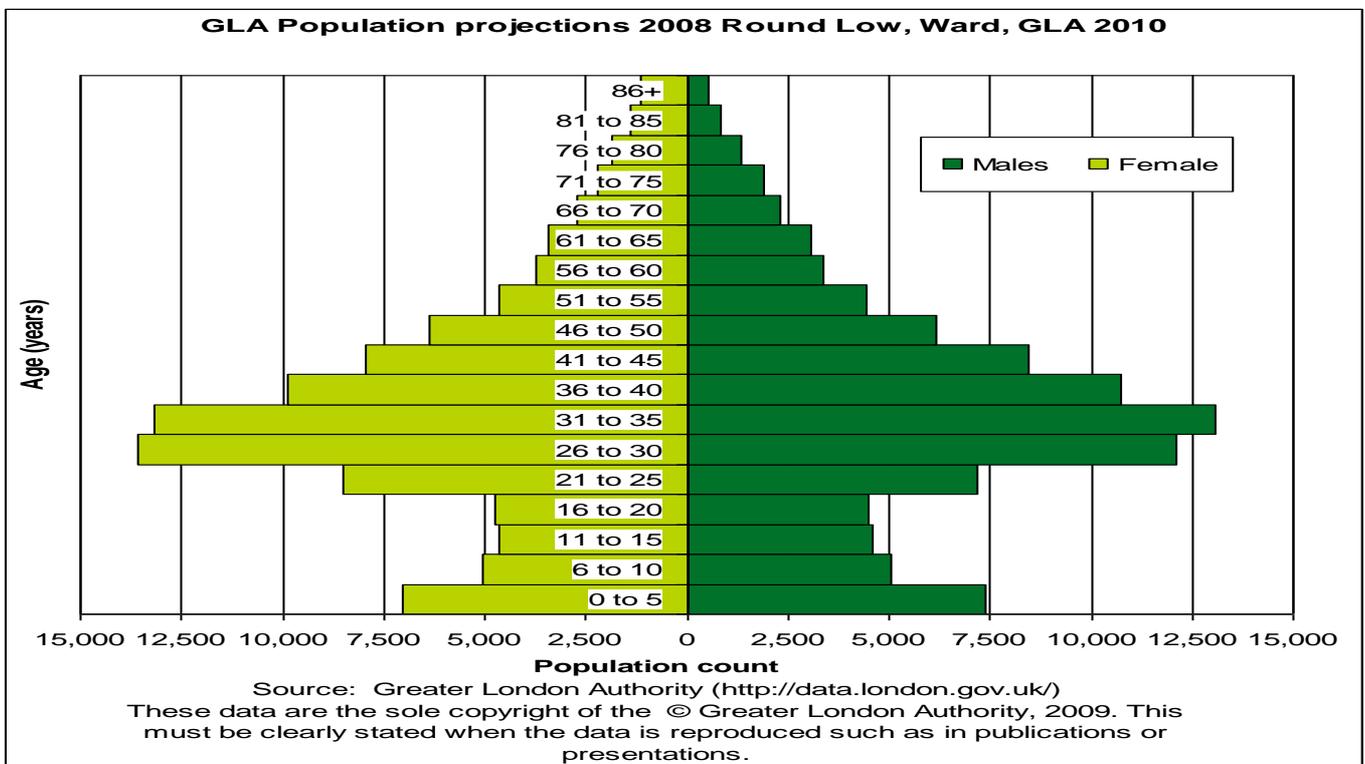
Older people

- 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;



Impact assessment

Older people of pension credit age are protected under the scheme, and those over state pension age 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.

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

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 state pension age 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.

Increasing the potential maximum support to working age households by reducing the cap to 5% will allow us to provide increased support to low income working age households.

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.

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement. In addition we will operate various benefit take-up campaigns to raise awareness in the community to claim entitlements, plus pro-actively target those who we believe should be entitled to additional benefit. In 2020/21 we ran a pension credit take-up campaign that helped pensioners claim an additional £540k of annual benefit entitlement.

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 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.

Reducing the cap from 8.5% to 5% means that working age disabled people on low incomes can get 3.5% more CTS than they did in previous years. Although the CTS scheme provides higher amounts for disabled people they still get 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.

Mitigation options

The Council has limited the reduction in benefit for disabled people from 18% to 8.5% up to 2021/22. For 2022/23 the Council has changed the limit to 5% providing more support and giving 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.

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement. We plan to have a specific focus on disability benefits in some future benefit take up campaigns, to help disabled residents claim all the benefits they are entitled to receive.

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%
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 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.

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement.

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 religion/belief. Residents are not adversely impacted by the scheme by virtue of their religion/ belief (or absence thereof).

Mitigation options

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement.

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.

2016/2021 consultation responses did not point to any significant issues emerging based on gender and none have emerged during the 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

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement.

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, 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

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	
Row Labels	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

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.

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement.

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

Assist with the claiming of all entitlements for all ages of residents. Our IMAX service during 2021/22 to date has helped residents claim an additional £2.009m of annual benefit entitlement.

b) Mitigation for people with protected characteristics

- Decreasing the cap on to 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 and provides them with more support than the scheme in previous years.
- 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 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 that they will now have to contribute 3.5% less towards their Council Tax bill than they would have done up to March 2022. 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 improve for 2022/23 if the proposal to decrease the cap to 5% is agreed by Full Council. The impact on pension age CTS claimants is probably negligible as they have been protected from the 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 2021/22 compared to 2020/21 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 (Community Financial Resilience)
The nature of any complaints about the operation the CTS scheme	Appeals & Complaints (Community Financial Resilience)
The difference in the council tax collection rates between CTS working age and all other council tax charge payers.	Andrew Spigarolo (Head of Service; Revenues)
The volume of requests made to the RSS for help to pay council tax	Eileen Broderick(IMAX & RSS Manager, Community Financial Resilience)

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:

Head of Service or higher:

Signed: 
 Date: 30/9/21

Signed: 
 Date: 30/9/21

Appendix D

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
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 State Pension age



COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2021

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Good, well-paid jobs for local people

Moved by Cllr Asima Shaikh

Seconded by Cllr Matt Nathan

This Council notes:

- In 2018, Islington Council ambitiously committed to supporting 4,000 local people into good jobs by May 2022
- This target has been exceeded nine months early with more than 4,000 people supported into work by June 2021, the equivalent of 3.4 jobs per day, every day
- This has been achieved by focusing on a Team Islington approach to bring together employment support partners in the borough into the Islington Working Partnership
- The difference a good, well-paid job makes to local people, including improving their economic wellbeing, improving their mental health and supporting families
- That despite being forced to make £250 million in savings due to Central Government austerity, the Council continues to support local people into work using our unique in-house employment service
- The Covid-19 pandemic has been tough for local people with many suffering financially and seeing their income fall, shining a spotlight on the inequalities in the labour market
- The unemployment rate in Islington is now 5.9% which has increased since the start of the pandemic, including higher youth unemployment in the borough
- Throughout the pandemic, iWork, with Islington Working Partnership and other Council services have continued to support people out of work or looking for a new job
- Islington Council's innovative £7.4million collaborative LIFT project with three neighbouring London boroughs to offer new jobs and opportunities to local people in the thriving local technology, science and digital sectors
- Events such as the Health and Social Care Jobs Fairs and the recent Hospitality Jobs Fair have helped residents in need of a new job connect with prospective

employers, with a guarantee of a job interview for those attending and positive outcomes for both

- The launch of Islington Council's first employment portal, Islington Working, earlier this year. There are approximately 2,000 residents registered on the portal already, and 110 employers offering live vacancies.

This Council further notes:

- In 2012, Islington Council became the first Living Wage local authority in the country, ensuring all directly employed staff are paid a real Living Wage, so that a day's work is rewarded with a fair wage
- Islington now has 224 accredited Living Wage employers, who are paying all of their 3,000 workers at least the London Living Wage
- Earlier this year, Islington launched an action plan to become North London's first Living Wage borough, working with local businesses to encourage even more pay a real Living Wage to their staff
- Islington Council was the first local authority in the country to work with the TUC on a Join A Union campaign to promote and support union membership during the pandemic, seeking to protect and strengthen workers rights

This Council resolves to:

- Continue supporting local people into good, well-paid work through innovative measures such as targeting in-need sectors such as health and social care
- Work with local schools and colleges to reduce the number of young people who are not in education, training or employment
- Keep working with local businesses to encourage them to pay the real Living Wage to their workers, making Islington a fairer and more equal place for all
- Work with trade unions to develop community campaigns to challenge insecurities in the labour market, improve union membership and tackle the exploitative nature of the gig economy

Motion 2: Stop the Government making local people pay for the pandemic

Moved by Cllr Angela Picknell

Seconded by Cllr Jilani Chowdhury

This Council notes:

- Since 2010, Islington Council has been forced to find around £250 million of budget savings due to Central Government austerity
- Despite these savings, the Council has continued to provide valuable services that local people rely on
- Islington Council has kept all libraries in the borough open, retained weekly bin collections, maintained free school meals for all primary school children and continued building new council homes, in the face of cuts to its budget
- The extensive support Islington Council has offered to local people throughout the pandemic
- The work of the We Are Islington helpline which has supported people with more than 22,000 requests for access to food, medicines and financial help since March 2020
- That the Council has distributed 6,600 laptops to families in need to support with remote learning and ensure young people can continue their education
- Central Government's continued attempts to make local people pay for the cost of the pandemic
- The Government is forcing councils to increase Council Tax again, rather than properly fund local government
- That with inflation at the highest level in nearly a decade, Central Government's increase in Council Tax will hit local people at the same time as the increase in National Insurance, taking even more money out of people's pockets

This Council further notes:

- That the Council continues to offer the Council Tax Support Scheme and will be extending it this year to cut Council Tax bills for some of the least well-off people in Islington by 95%
- Islington Council's continued support for the least well-off people in our borough, including the most generous resident's support scheme in the country and wraparound support for homeless people, which has seen the numbers of people sleeping rough in our borough decrease dramatically in recent years
- Central Government earlier this year cut £20 per week from Universal Credit payments for nearly 25,000 people in Islington – a figure two and a half times higher than it was in March 2020
- That without significant local investment from Central Government, it will prove even harder to agree a balanced budget and continue to provide the services local people rely on in the coming years

This Council resolves:

- To call on Central Government to provide sustained, adequate and fairly distributed funding to public services, including councils, and not impose further austerity
 - To work with LGA Labour on the 'Stop the Squeeze' campaign, seeking to stop Central Government increasing Council Tax and putting the burden on local people
 - To continue supporting local people with the cost of living crisis through targeted support to those most in-need.
-

Motion 3: Rename the Ring Cross estate after Yvonne Connolly, the first Black female Headteacher in Britain

Moved by: Cllr Rakhia Ismail

This Council notes:

- It is 52 years since the first black head teacher Yvonne Conolly, a pioneer of the Windrush Generation, first qualified as teacher in Jamaica and arrived in Britain in 1963. After working as a teacher and deputy headteacher in Swiss Cottage, she took up the role of headteacher in England -at Ring Cross Primary School in Holloway Ward 1969, when she was just 29 years old, and faced "all sorts of nasty racist abuse". I was proud in October 2021, that Yvonne Conolly was recognised posthumously for her contributions to education, the Freeperson of the Borough, yet, ethnic minorities children remain under-represented in Education establishment leadership, in our schools not just in Islington but UK, furthermore her history is not known or celebrated in Islington until her death.
- According to research by Dr Chris Vieler-Porter, who studied for a doctorate at the University of Birmingham on the underrepresentation of black and ethnic minority people in educational leadership roles, just 37% of local authorities monitor the number of applications for such roles by gender, ethnicity and disability. "The people who are making decisions are not looking at these issues," he said. "We have a system that believes itself to be colour-blind and obviously isn't."
- Black and minority British children's voices are still under-represented in great numbers in education establishments, and it is obvious that discrimination on an institutional and structural level is experienced daily in the leadership of children's learning.

This Council further notes:

- The following school teacher workforce facts and figures:
 - in 2019, 85.7% of all teachers in state-funded schools in England were White British (where ethnicity was known)
 - 78.5% of the working age population was White British at the time of the 2011 Census
 - 3.8% of teachers were from the White Other ethnic group, the second highest percentage after the White British group
 - 92.7% of headteachers were White British
 - 75.8% of teachers were women, and there were more female than male teachers in every ethnic group

While all above data is of the national trend, here in Islington, its similar too. We can lead from the front as we have historical icons in our Borough like the late Yvonne Connolly, which will give hope and aspirations to all Black youth and community in Islington schools.

This Council resolves to:

- To Rename Ring Cross Estate after Yvonne Connolly to mark of her achievement, the first Black female Headteacher in Britain, as a sign to encourage black youth to learn and understand their proud history.
- To have statue of Yvonne Connolly at Ring Cross School as great role model for Black people and work local community.
- To Collaborate with Caribbean Teachers Association annually exhibition and workshop of her work and achievement in Islington History Museum so it encourages Black Youth in Islington/UK and families too.

Motion 4: Affirmation of membership of Stonewall's Diversity Champion scheme

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- The Equalities Act 2010 requires Islington Council to actively combat discrimination and promote equality.
- That hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community have increased across the UK ^[1], while rising to a shocking 10 year high in London^[2].
- That prejudice against LGBTQ+ people is frequently combined with prejudice against people on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability and/or socio-economic status.
- That taking a firm stand against anti-LGBTQ+ prejudice and pro-actively promoting workplace equality and inclusion will promote tolerance and help to reduce other forms of hatred and discrimination.

This Council further notes:

- That Islington, in collaboration with Camden, runs one of the largest celebrations of LGBT History Month in the UK
- The UK's first gay rights demonstration was on Highbury Fields in 1970 and the first Gay Pride March in 1971 on Upper Street.
- That the Council has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to fairness and equality for all people and groups, including LGBTQ+ people.
- That Islington Council is a paid up member of Stonewall's Diversity Champion programme, affirming the Council's belief in the power of a truly inclusive workplace that welcomes, respects and represents LGBTQ+ employees.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To continue demonstrating leadership on LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion in the workplace to residents, businesses and other organisations in the borough.
- To maintain its membership of Stonewall as a Diversity Champion and continue participating in Stonewall's UK Workplace Equality Index to measure and compare the Council's performance on workplace LGBTQ+ inclusion on a national level.

Notes

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/29/spate-of-attacks-across-uk-sparks-fear-among-lgbtq-community>
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/homophobic-hate-crimes-10-year-high-london-b960451.html>

Motion 5: A cleaner, greener, healthier Islington

Proposed by: Cllr Rowena Champion

Seconded by: Cllr Osh Gantly

This Council notes:

- The urgent need to tackle the global climate emergency
- The continued rise in temperatures and extreme weather events, both globally and locally
- A new report by the Greater London Authority, highlighting that Islington is one of the six London boroughs at greatest risk from the impacts of climate change
- The disproportionate impact that rising temperatures and extreme weather has on the poorest in our society and the global south, and the need for a just transition
- The need to drastically cut emissions of greenhouse gases to limit the rise in global temperatures to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels
- The dismal failure of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow to meet these aims, with the global temperature set to rise by a catastrophic 2.1C by the end of the century, even if international commitments are met in full
- The urgent need for the UK Government to demonstrate leadership and ambition over the remaining year of its COP presidency, ensuring that targets are met and strengthened

This Council further notes:

- In 2019, Islington Council declared a climate emergency, committing to becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2030
- The 'Islington Together: Let's Talk About a Greener Future' festival, which brought experts together with residents and businesses to explore options to reach net zero carbon by 2030
- Carbon emissions in the borough fell by 45% between 2005 and 2019 (the most recent reporting year), well ahead of the borough's target of 40% by 2020, and during a period in which our population increased almost a third
- Per capita carbon emissions in Islington fell by 58% from 6.4 tonnes to 2.7 tonnes per person in the same time period – the 11th largest reduction in the country
- Both the total and per capita reductions achieved in Islington are significantly ahead of the London and national averages
- Under Islington Labour's leadership, the Council is taking radical action on tackling the climate crisis, switching all street lights to LEDs, decarbonising the energy grid through the Bunhill heat and power network, retrofitting homes, electrifying our vehicle fleet, supporting local businesses to cut emissions, promoting the use of active travel, planting hundreds of trees and investing £17m in our Vision 2030 strategy this year alone

- By contrast, the Tory Government has failed to act on the climate emergency, setting an unambitious net zero target of 2050, presiding over an energy crisis caused by a lack of investment in clean generation, privatising the Green Investment Bank, failing to adequately fund insulation and retrofitting, and even considering the exploitation of the Cambo oil field and the opening of a new coal mine in Cumbria
- Central Government's failure of leadership and lack of ambition at COP26, resulting in an agreement that comes nowhere close to what was needed to prevent further human suffering, habitat destruction and loss of livelihoods
- Islington's membership of the UK100 Net Zero pledge, joining a group of ambitious local authorities who are working together to push for more funding and powers from central government, enabling us to go even further and faster in our net zero journey
- The need for residents, businesses, the Council and public sector partners to work together to reduce carbon emissions in Islington
- Ongoing Central Government austerity has forced the Council to make £250 million of savings since 2010, making it even harder to tackle the climate emergency

This Council resolves:

- To continue to work locally, and in partnership with London councils and City Hall to tackle the climate emergency, reaching net zero carbon by 2030
- To write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, calling for the Government to match Islington's ambition with real funding for climate resilience, conversion to heat pumps, decarbonisation of the transport network, and subsidies to support further local energy generation and storage
- To build on the success of our climate festival, launching a new climate hub service to provide residents and businesses with the advice and information they need to make low-carbon decisions, alongside a climate pledge tool, allowing everyone to set their own decarbonisation target on our journey to net zero together
- To campaign for investment in green jobs, a just transition, climate resilience measures and a decarbonised public transport network to support our recovery

Motion 6: Repeal Islington Council's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Moved by: Cllr Rakhia Ismail

This Council notes that:

- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) were a response to both the Covid pandemic and the perceived risk of gridlock if even a fraction of the people who used to use public transport switch to travel by private car.
- Although the Government and the Labour Mayor of London have asked councils to provide low traffic neighbourhoods. The actual implementation of such LTNs are the responsibility of Islington Council and the responsibility for consultation rests with the council.
- Although the Council has claimed that LTNs make our neighbourhoods more accessible the opposite has occurred, with those with disabilities, those with elderly and medical care responsibilities, and those with children most affected.
- Although the Council has claimed that the LTNs are an urgent public health intervention to reduce adverse impacts from traffic related air pollution, the opposite has occurred, with respiratory illness showing a marked increase amongst those with symptoms who live on the roads where traffic has been funneled due to the marked increase in idling traffic.
- The consultation with residents in regard to the adaptation of LTN schemes occurred only after the initiation of the LTN scheme. Furthermore, ongoing consultations have not been made public, and that the commitment to consultation after a full trial period is counter to proper transparency and accountability which should be forthcoming.
- Residents have raised concerns that the decrease in traffic has made neighborhoods unsafe and has caused an increase in criminal activity.
- The correspondence the Council has received, and the feedback gained through consultation has been mostly negative, yet the Council continues to move forward with LTNs.
- There has been increasingly strong opposition to the LTN scheme, including public protests which have included hundreds of concerned residents of Islington as well as the signing of petitions against the scheme of over 2000 signatories from residents.

This Council resolves:

- As a result of the above, the Council makes a motion for the immediate repeal of all LTNs in Islington.

Motion 7: Pause and review the Edmonton incinerator project

Moved by: Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- Since 2017 the projected costs of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) incinerator at Edmonton have doubled from £650 million to £1.2 billion.
- Islington Council will be committed to pay a proportion of these rising costs.
- There is significant evidence emerging to suggest that the size of the incinerator exceeds projected demand, including a recent comment at COP by the CEO of the firm bidding to build the facility.
- The proposed capacity was based on predictions of future waste arisings from 2009 which have not proved accurate, and are too high.
- The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) appointed Arup in 2016 to investigate the effect of applying [circular economy initiatives to waste arisings](#) across London. It focused entirely on achieving waste prevention, and found that even with a moderate take-up, the result would be a 30 per cent fall in overall London waste.
- The NLWA's [Residual Waste Reduction Plan 2020-22](#) includes an objective "to reduce local authority collected waste arisings in north London, promote resource efficiency and the circular economy, minimise climate impacts and improve the local environment."
- There has been a negative impact of increased incinerator capacity on recycling rates in the Western Riverside Waste Authority Boroughs (Lambeth, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea) where [recycling has fallen each year](#) since the Belvedere Energy from Waste plant in Bexley went into operation in 2012. On average these four councils recycling rates went down by nearly 4 per cent from 2010 to 2016, making three of them in the worst six councils for recycling in England.
- The Environment Agency Pollution Inventory estimates that the incineration of 1 tonne of municipal waste produces between 0.7 and 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide [1]. The planned capacity of the new incinerator is 700,000 tonnes of waste per year.
- To date, financing has not been secured for Carbon Capture and Storage, which remains prohibitively expensive and unproven at scale [2].
- Burning solid waste does not get rid of it: each tonne of waste that is incinerated produces 15–40 kg of hazardous waste that requires further treatment. Further, incineration leads to airborne emissions of toxic heavy metals and dioxins, spreading them over large distances and potentially exposing large numbers of people to harm [3].
- Burning waste is a major contributor to air pollution, which is linked to 10,000 premature deaths annually in London – 1 in every 5 deaths. It is recognised to increase rates of life-limiting illnesses including asthma, dementia, heart disease, chronic pulmonary disease, strokes, Parkinson's and more. The effects of air pollution on children are extremely concerning, and include increased incidence of asthma, stunted lung growth, difficulties with learning and cognitive performance, and increasing rates of mental illness [4].

- The proposed incinerator would be located in one of London’s most deprived areas according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2019.
- There is significant cross-party opposition to the incinerator project, including from the MPs for Chingford & Woodford Green, and Islington North. Mayor Sadiq Khan has also expressed opposition to new incineration capacity in London.

This Council further notes:

- Islington Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and has committed to becoming net-zero carbon by 2030.
- Islington Council has committed to invest in programmes and initiatives to increase recycling rates and implement circular economy strategies for reducing waste in the borough.
- Islington Council is committed to fairness and equality in North London and beyond.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To pause, review and reconsider its support for the proposed NLWA Incinerator at Edmonton.
- To call on the NLWA to pause and review the project.
- To work with residents, businesses and organisations in Islington to reduce waste, increase recycling and move towards a circular economy in line with the Council’s commitments to net zero and waste reduction.
- Work with partners on the NLWA to prepare an alternative plan which properly “promotes resource efficiency and the circular economy, minimises climate impacts and improves the local environment” as per the NLWA’s policy statement on Residual Waste Reduction.

Notes

1 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923125/Pollution-inventory-reporting-incineration-activities-guidance-note.pdf

2 <https://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/protesters-demand-end-to-edmonton-incinerator-rebuild-8366360>

3 Abbasi 2018. Available from <https://energysustainsoc.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13705-018-0175-y>

4 <https://lrp.co.uk/the-paper/v43/n23/david-wallace-wells/ten-million-a-year>

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