

**LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON**  
**COUNCIL MEETING - 2 MARCH 2023**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 2 March 2023 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:**

Bell-Bradford	Hayes	O'Sullivan
Bossmann-Quarshie	Heather	Pandor
Burgess	Hyde	Poyser
Champion	Ibrahim	Russell
Chapman	Jackson	Shaikh
Chowdhury	Jeapes	Spall
Cinko-Oner	Jegorovas-Armstrong	Staff
Clarke	Kay	Turan
Comer-Schwartz	Khurana	Ward
Convery	Klute	Wayne
Craig	Mackmurdie	Weekes
Croft	McHugh	Williamson
Gallagher	Ngongo	Wolf
Gilgunn	North	Zammit
Gill	Ogunro	
Hamdache	O'Halloran	

**The Mayor (Councillor Marian Spall) in the Chair**

**223 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 December 2022 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

**224 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

## 225 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### (i) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Graham, Khondoker, Ozdemir, Nargund, and Nathan.

### (ii) Order of Business

The order of business would be as per the agenda.

### (iii) Declaration of Discussion Items

None.

### (iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended many important events across the borough over the last few months. The Mayor and Mayoress enjoyed celebrating Lunar New Year with Islington Chinese Association. They had received a very warm welcome and loved watching the impressive dragon dancing.

In January, The Mayor attended the Holocaust Memorial Day event in the Assembly Hall, along with many other councillors. The Mayor said it was a very moving event, and the theme of 'Ordinary People' was an important reminder of the ordinary people who were persecuted by the holocaust and other genocides, the ordinary people who perpetrated them, and also our own responsibility to create a fairer and more equal society.

In February, the Deputy Mayor attended the launch of Islington and Camden's LGBT History Month. The Mayor thanked Forum+ for organising such an exciting programme of events to celebrate Islington's LGBT communities.

Recently, pupils from Ashmount Primary School had visited the Town Hall, and The Mayor had also hosted the newly elected Youth Council in the Parlour. The Mayor commented that the young people asked great questions about the Council and the role of the Mayor. The Mayor congratulated Ameera Abdi on her election as the Islington Young Mayor.

The Mayor thanked those who had participated in the recent Charity Choir Event. Five school choirs and the Whittington Hospital's "Sing for your Lungs" Choir had performed to raise money for the Mayor's charities.

Finally, the Mayor reminded all councillors about the upcoming Civic Awards evening in the Assembly Hall on Tuesday 14 March.

(v) Length of Speeches

The Mayor reminded all councillors to take note of the timer and stay within the permitted length for speeches. The Mayor also reminded all attendees that the meeting was being webcast live on the Council's website.

**226 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader began her remarks by expressing her joy in joining the Mayor recently at Highbury Roundhouse for the Octopus Network event celebrating Islington's voluntary and community sector.

The Leader also thanked the Mayor for her words at the vigil held last week to remember the victims and all those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. The Leader was proud of Islington's communities for coming together during this time, with donations from the public and mosques in the borough.

The Leader commented on the tragic murder of Jamaly Samba Baibu in Bunhill before Christmas; her thoughts were with his friends and family at this difficult time. The Leader said the council would do all it could to keep young people safe.

The Leader commented on the council's work to tackle the cost of living crisis over the past year. This included investment in the Council Tax Support Scheme, the SHINE team that assists local people to save money on their energy bills, and investment in the IMAX team which helped residents access over £5 million of benefits they were entitled to in the last year.

The Leader commented on the budget proposals recommended by the Executive. These included a £1 million Hardship Fund, investing in building even more genuinely affordable homes, and prioritising vital services such as free school meals, libraries, and youth clubs. The Leader noted the £300 million of budget savings the council had been forced to make since 2010 due to government cuts, and emphasised that the council would keep campaigning to make the borough a more equal place.

The Leader was proud to be moving the Islington Together 2030 plan this evening. This would set out what the Council will aim to deliver over the coming years, concentrating on the issues local people care about, listening to residents, and being relentlessly focused on creating a more equal Islington for all.

The Leader of the Opposition responded by expressing her sadness over the devastating events in Turkey and Syria and gave thanks to Councillor Cinko-Oner for giving such a moving speech at the vigil held last week. Islington was home to many Turkish, Kurdish, and Syrian people and the borough had come together in a collective effort to fundraise and show support for all those effected by the devastating events.

The Leader of the Opposition remarked on the divisive language used in the media currently and how this had contributed to violent disorder at a protest outside of a Merseyside hotel housing asylum seekers. The Leader of the Opposition also reflected on the tragic murder of Brianna Ghey and expressed her condolences to her family and the LGBTQ+ community.

The Leader of the Opposition said that Green councillors stood with all those taking industrial action in this cost-of-living crisis.

Finally, the Leader of the Opposition stated that she was pleased to attend the reopening of the community centre at Highbury Roundhouse, a community space providing support to local people.

## 227 **PETITIONS**

The Council received 3 petitions.

The first petition was from Marcus Evans and related to the deaf provision at Laycock School.

The second petition was from Leyla Boulton and related to fitting energy saving measures on homes.

The final petition was from Amy Batten and related to mould and drains at Fieldview Court.

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

Question (a) from Sebastian Sandys to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

How many Islington council taxpayers had the Single Person Discount to which they are entitled removed from their account in December after they failed to notice or respond to a single email sent in November that had no follow up. And might officers time be better used in future years by making short reminder telephone calls than by first removing the discount and issuing a new bill and then reinstating it and issuing a third bill once people notice.

Response:

Thank you for your question, Sebastian. Of the 4,645 residents sent an email review notice at the start of November 2022, a total of 1,692 were removed at the end of November 2022 as they were ineligible or did not respond to the review request. We reinstated 697 following later representation from residents. The Service intention is to issue reminder alerts after the initial notices for future reviews. The review highlighted approx. 1k residents in band E to H range properties were no longer eligible for the reduction. Thank you again for your question.

Question (b) from Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

As the new Liveable Neighbourhood schemes are rolled out across the borough, what is the plan for the existing 7 Low Traffic Neighbourhoods? Will they also benefit from investment to make them into Liveable Neighbourhoods?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Rebekah. As you know, our council is committed to creating a cleaner, greener, healthier Islington. Poor air quality kills thousands of Londoners every day and the time to tackle the climate emergency has long passed.

Our people-friendly streets schemes are having a real positive impact. Air quality is improving, the number of people cycling has increased and traffic is falling within the neighbourhoods and on most boundary roads.

In our manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections, we committed to fully consult and co-design a range of Liveable Neighbourhoods across the borough, making changes to reduce car use and introduce more greening. Hundreds of people have joined recent meetings to hear about our plans and have their say on their local area. Thank you for joining me at some of them. As part of these plans, the council is committed to uplifting the 7 PFS neighbourhoods which were delivered to make them liveable neighbourhoods. This will include implementing greening improvements, people-friendly pavements, child friendly pavements public realm improvements, boundary road improvements, and improvements near businesses. The council has already started with some of this work with the delivery of Clerkenwell Green Public realm scheme, Charlton Place environmental improvements scheme, Cleveland Road Islington Greener together scheme and the improvements of numerous pavements across the 7 areas. The council is working on the delivery of the new liveable neighbourhoods schemes with the intention to return to the already delivered areas in 2025 to make them even better. Thank you again for your question Rebekah.

Question (c) from William Batemen to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

Why have the council decided not to notify residents that their parking permits are due to expire? Notification one month before expiry by both email and by letter would be courteous and in line with caring for the community and the residents that live here.

Response:

Thank you for your question, William. Parking services are continuing to notify residents when their parking permits are due to expire. A small issue occurred at the beginning of February when the parking permits moved to a new system, there was a slight delay in the reminder notices being sent out by post and email to residents. This error has now been rectified. Permit reminder notices will continue be sent out sent out via email to all customers who have an email account and sent out in writing to those who do not. Thank you again for your question.

Question (d) from John Ackers to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

Lambeth Council say in their critically received 2023 Kerbside Strategy policy 1.4 that 'Cycle parking spaces are always cheaper than all residential parking permits'. Meanwhile Islington has the most expensive bikehangar spaces in London. Cyclists have been told that the council would 'invest in secure cycle storage with enough space to meet demand'. However, there are 3000+ people on the waiting list for a space. When will the review of Islington bikehangar charges mentioned by officers in the most recent Environment and Regeneration Committee be complete?

Response:

Thank you for your question John. Islington Council is determined to support more local people to take up cycling, helping up take cars off the road and tackle the climate emergency. We are investing £450,000 to deliver 100 bike hangars with 600

new cycle parking spaces each year. So far, we have an on-street network of 488 hangars and are on track to achieve our target of 500 hangars by the end of March 2023. In the two years to March 2023, we will have delivered 260 hangars with 1,560 new spaces – a great achievement and a positive step towards encouraging cycling across the borough, particularly for those who don't have the space in their homes to store a bike. Having written to all people on the waiting list recently, we currently have 2,000 people on the waiting list, a significant reduction from the nearly 7,000 people waiting in March 2022. This is still a significant number of people waiting and we are committed to continue to tackle this by providing enough bike hangar space to meet demand by 2026, as included in the Islington Labour manifesto for the 2022 local elections.

The council is reviewing the charges it makes to rent a bike hangar space. This is not straightforward, as the council does not subsidise the cost of renting a hangar space, and the charges we make also helps contribute towards their repair, maintenance and renewal. As we continue to tackle the government austerity which has seen the Council forced to make nearly £300 million of budget savings since 2010, we have to make sure every penny counts. The council is working on introducing a new digital platform in the summer of 2023, which will improve the efficiency of the service and help reduce some of the operational costs. This in turn will help us complete the review of charges. At the same time, it is worth highlighting that the council offers secure bike parking on its estates free of charge for our estate residents. There are currently more than 2,500 spaces in secure cycle parking facilities on estates, - including an additional 110 bike hangars. Thank you again for your question John.

Question (e) from Louisa Hillwood to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

Islington has taken impressive climate action since declaring a climate emergency in 2019. In December of 2020 the council agreed to serve only vegetarian food at catered meetings and events. This was a commendable landmark decision. However, two years have passed, and the climate and ecological crises continue to become more critical. While the council has acknowledged the devastating impact that meat production has on the environment, it is yet to recognise the impact of dairy. When compared to plant-based milk, dairy causes around three times as much greenhouse gas emissions; uses around ten times as much land; two to twenty times as much freshwater; and creates much higher levels of eutrophication. According to an Oxford University study, switching to a plant-based diet is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact. Not only do plant-based diets reduce emissions, but they also require one quarter less fresh water, 76% less farmland, and reduce acidifying and eutrophying emissions which degrade land and water ecosystems.

Other councils such as Oxfordshire County, Cambridge City, Exeter, Faversham and Hythe have made commitments to serve fully plant-based food at catered meetings and events. In London, Lewisham has done the same. I'd like to see Islington take the next logical step by committing to serve only plant-based fare at catered meetings and events for which it is responsible. Not only will going fully plant-based reduce the council's own emissions, but it will help to normalise plant-based eating across the borough. By leading the way, the council has the opportunity to encourage wider

plant-based dietary shifts, which scientific consensus shows is an essential and effective way to address the climate crisis.

Given the climate emergency and Islington Borough Council's commitment to reducing emissions in line with the Vision 2030 strategy, will the council consider committing to serving fully plant-based fare at any future catered meetings and events? This will be a positive and forward-thinking step, bringing its food policy into line with its other climate-aware policies.

Response:

Thank you for your question, Louisa. As you say, Islington Council is taking great steps in cutting carbon emissions and tackle the climate emergency, something I am extremely proud of.

We are working hard to reduce reliance on motor vehicles, get more people walking and cycling, retrofitting homes and businesses, electrifying our council fleet and moving to cleaner energy, among so many other things. You are right that, globally, meat and dairy production creates a lot of emissions. I am very happy to confirm that, except for meals at the Assembly Hall which you will appreciate is a very different section of the council, we have already committed ourselves to only providing vegetarian food, a move we made a number of years ago. While we don't serve plant-based food only, I am happy to investigate this possibility in future. The council also no longer provides beverages for most internal meetings and therefore milk is not generally provided. Thank you again for your question Louisa.

Question (f) from Jonny Evans to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

At this time, I believe that the matter of funding a new community space in Tollington Ward's only significant park in Wray Crescent is going to be discussed at the full council meeting on March 2. As we understand it, the original plan at this location faced significant local opposition, as a result of which the project as originally proposed foundered and is now up to full council for review.

Given a significant number of local people were opposed to the original plans on the grounds of lack of consultation, how does repeating such lack of consultation reflect LBI's constitutional commitments to ensuring the decisions it takes lead to improvements in quality of service, community representation, and increasing community engagement, given that the plans we believe may be proposed at this meeting haven't at this time been discussed with local people to any sincere extent?

I would respectfully ask that this project be put aside pending thorough consultation with the people of Tollington as to what they need from this precious green space, which is one of very few in Islington, a borough with less public park space than any other in the UK. Having already encountered such resistance from the local community, why is LBI now raising this matter to achieve funding from a full council meeting without having first consulted with the local community concerning its revised plans?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Jonny. Islington Council is determined to provide high-quality, accessible leisure and park facilities for local people across the borough. That includes the Wray Crescent pavilion where we are working with the community to provide the only cricket facilities in the borough and ensure the park is accessible for non-cricket players.

The scheme that was fully consulted on in 2021 has been subject to a financial review due to the inflationary cost pressures that all construction projects are currently grappling with. The full consultation report is available on the Council website which shows that although there were concerns and objections to the proposed scheme, the proposal also had a substantial level of support from the local community.

Following this review, further capital allocations were required to enable the project to proceed. This year's Budget, as we are looking to pass this evening, will agree additional capital allocations to the project to enable it to proceed to the next stage. While the Council's budget pressures as a result of austerity make delivering significant projects harder, we determined to ensure Wray Crescent goes ahead with the best scheme possible, and I know the Tollington councillors feel the same. The Council will share the final proposals and engage with the community and key stakeholders prior to submitting for planning permission later in the year. Thank you again for your question Jonny.

Question (g) from Lynne Friedli to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

A report from Age UK London revealed that 81% of Londoners would be more likely to visit shops, cafes, and businesses if public toilet provision were better. Has the Council conducted a local population needs assessment on the level of public toilet provision that is required to meet the needs of Islington residents? If a needs assessment has not been undertaken, what plans are in place to conduct a needs assessment to ensure that public toilet provision in Islington is adequate?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Lynne. The Islington Labour manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections included a commitment to implement an access to toilets scheme, working with local businesses to allow people to use their toilets when out and about. I am delighted to say that we have just started this, working with Toilets4London in identifying the provision of publicly accessible toilets via the Toilets4London app. We currently have over 60 locations on this platform and we are working with local businesses to open toilet provision across the borough. On top of that, we also recently committed to spend £1 million to replace our automated public toilets, to ensure that access to toilets is fair and equal across Islington. Thank you again for your question Lynne.



Question (h) from Simon Carruth to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:

Does the Council believe that the proposed programme of major works for Charles Rowan House, Margery Street represents a responsible use of public funds and a fair and humane attitude towards leaseholders living in the estate, given that:

- The double-glazed replacement windows which account for about two-thirds of the contract cost work out at a cost of about £4,000 per window.
- As a result, the cost imposed on a leaseholder with a three-bedroom flat is estimated by the Council to be about £41,000.
- This is happening at a time of cost-of-living crisis when most leaseholders, like most of the general public, are experiencing a real-terms reduction in their income.
- There is a viable alternative way of providing the necessary improvement in insulation of the flats at a fraction of the cost – namely installing secondary glazing which can be done from inside the flats and does not require replacement of the window frames or cause any issues in respect of the listed building status of Charles Rowan House.
- Although it is often claimed that double glazing is significantly more efficient at reducing heat loss, good secondary glazing can reduce heat loss by up to 65%. It also provides excellent noise reduction and causes less condensation and damp problems than double glazing. It is recommended for historic and listed buildings because it does not change the external appearance of the building.
- Several of the leaseholders in the estate already have secondary glazing, so they will not experience any noticeable improvement in insulation in return for the vast cost imposed on them, yet the Council refuses to allow them to opt out of this wasteful scheme.
- Although there is standard protocol whereby leaseholders in Council buildings can apply for a Deed of Variation to take responsibility for their own windows, the Council will not allow applications in this case because they say the deadline has passed.

Response:

Thank you for your question, Simon. The Council invests a lot of money in ensuring that our council homes are in the best possible condition. That includes cyclical works which provide better homes for local people and include retrofitting which reduces carbon emissions and saves residents money on their energy bills.

We know that the proposed works at Charles Rowan House represent a significant investment in the property. A main component of this cost is the window replacement which currently are single glazed units and form a major part of the listed status of the building. A great deal of work has been undertaken with Planners to agree a suitable replacement to these windows with an aluminium alternative. This alternative has now received listed building approval following the review of a pilot installation on site. An important benefit of the agreed aluminium window is that they will not require the cyclical decoration currently required to the existing units.

The works identified are based on need, if the work is required, and it is our obligation to undertake, then Islington will meet its landlord requirements. The installation of secondary glazing is an option leaseholders already have and, as you point out, some leaseholders have installed. Islington would not install secondary glazing to leasehold flats because the installation would be undertaken within the demised premises and Islington has no right or obligation to undertake such work. In addition, the installation of secondary glazing would not negate the need to maintain and decorate the existing windows as per our obligations on a 7-10 year cycle. Thank you again for your question Simon.

Question (i) from Mike Sanderson to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care

In a response to Councillor Russell on the provision of public toilets in Islington, Councillor Champion said there are 'a number of toilets that are open to the public... which number 40 sites with a variety of facilities.' Will the Council provide a full list of locations and opening times for these facilities and make this information publicly available including in hard-copy format for residents without internet access?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Mike. It's vital Islington has good, accessible public toilets, so residents and visitors can take part in all that our fantastic borough has to offer. Work is well under way on action to make sure Islington gets the public toilet network it needs. Over the next two years, we will invest more than £1 million in good public toilets across Islington, with a further £200,000 of national Changing Places funding, awarded specifically to create better accessible facilities. We will replace the old automated public toilets in Islington, that are now near the end of their working lives. It's hard to find spare parts for these old toilets when they have a fault, and they're also vulnerable to anti-social behaviour. The current situation, where old toilets are regularly fixed and then quickly go out of service again, isn't good enough, and we're very sorry for the inconvenience it causes. We will replace these old facilities with modern, accessible, reliable automated toilets.

Also, as I mentioned earlier, we're launching a new programme to work with local businesses and local organisations to encourage sign up to the Toilets4London app, which gives details of toilets in the community that are available for people to use. This excellent app is really helpful, with more than 50 toilet locations listed in Islington, enabling people to plan their day better and stay out and about longer. Many Islington Council locations – like Islington Town Hall, 222 Upper Street, and libraries – are already included on the app, which is used increasingly widely by people out and about in London. Businesses and other groups can make a real difference to their local community by getting involved. Thank you again for your question Mike.

Question (j) from John McGeachy On behalf of Cornelius McAfee to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care

In a letter to the Islington Tribune, Councillor Turan and Councillor Khondoker pledged that the Council will replace all of Islington's automated toilets with accessible facilities as part of a more than £1million investment in provision in Islington. Residents who require more frequent toilet visits (in particular, older residents and/or those living with certain health conditions) have been forced to limit

their time outside or forego leaving the house at all. With works on site initially scheduled for the first quarter of 2023, can the Council provide an update on whether work has started; if the new replacements be themselves automated; and clarify what timescale residents can expect for its delivery?

Response:

I will just be repeating myself here from the previous response, but I want to make clear the Council are Committed to providing accessible toilets to everyone so people can go out with confidence they will be able to access a toilet when out in the borough free of charge.

Question (k) from Leonie Philip to Cllr Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

It is welcome that the replacement of seven toilets in the Borough will include a planning maintenance contract which will be 3 years with an option of a 2-year extension. Does this contract include the employment of toilet attendants paid at a London Living Wage with good working conditions? Is improvement of public toilet provision viewed as an opportunity to offer good jobs in the Borough? These jobs should pay a decent living wage, decent pension scheme, training to improve their prospects.

Response:

Thank you for your question, Leonie. As Cllr Champion has mentioned, we will invest more than £1 million in good public toilets across Islington, with a further £200,000 of national Changing Places funding, awarded specifically to create better accessible facilities. On top of this, we are working on the Toilets4London scheme with local businesses. As a Council, we are determined to ensure everyone is paid a fair wage. We have paid the real Living Wage to our workers since 2013 and last year we became a Living Wage Borough. The 7 toilets that are being replaced will not have attendants as they are 24hrs automated toilets but the Chapel market toilets who do have attendants are paid above the London Living Wage. Thank you again for your question Leonie.

**229 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Question (a) from Cllr Pandor to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

How is the Council seeking to challenge inequality in the delivery of our VAWG services while addressing the impacts of intersectionality for survivors of VAWG?

Response:

Thank you for your question. As set out in Islington's VAWG strategy, Islington Council is determined to challenge inequality throughout the delivery of our VAWG services, to prevent discrimination and to address the impacts of intersectionality. We need to build on the experiences of and listen to those that have been victims of domestic violence as their opinion is extremely important.

Recently we have recommissioned our Black, Asian and minoritised women's IDVA service and have increased the funding to this service. Islington is committed to ensuring that Black, Asian and minoritised women's needs are acknowledged and

addressed through an intersectional lens, when providing support around the VAWG they face.

The partnership is committed to ensuring that key agencies working with survivors are fully trained in Black, Asian and minoritised women's intersectional experiences and needs and actively encouraged to adopt a more inclusive approach. This is particularly important for the statutory agencies who have the most impact and influence on those survivors and their children's lives. Just as we adopt a zero tolerance approach to VAWG, so too we take a zero tolerance approach to racism and discrimination, and we call on all agencies to do the same. We are working with our partner agencies to deliver training and workshops on anti-racist practice and intersectionality including at the VAWG conference in November 2022.

We are working to end all forms of violence and we provide VAWG support services that work with all genders. Thanks again for your question.

Question (b) from Cllr Burgess to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care:

I read with concern that private care brokers are making millions from arranging social care beds for people who are medically fit for discharge from hospital. This is a terrible use of public funds. The situation would not have arisen had the government properly funded social care over the past twelve years. Please could I have your assurance that this is not happening in Islington.

Response:

I must firstly say I am very proud to be carrying the flag that you flew before me and thank you for all the great work you did and continue to do for our borough. I agree, public funds should not be used to line the pockets of private care brokers whose sole concerns are around profit. Islington Council does not work with private brokers. We have an in-house Brokerage team for adult services and a placements team for children and young people services whose role it is to arrange placements on the council's behalf for our residents. They also broker all the care for adults and children's needs, both in the community and when being discharged from hospital. Thank you again for your question.

Question (c) from Cllr Hamdache to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:

How many estates have cyclical repairs delayed by more than 3 years and how many residents are impacted?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Hamdache. Our housing investment programme which includes the cyclical maintenance programme is driven by the need for investment and major component renewal. Rather than adhering to maintenance cycles, estates are reviewed every seven years between the investment and technical team to identify when works are expected to be required next and whether to commission these into the upcoming 3 years programme or whether to take a further review at a suitable interval, depending on the observed condition of the estate. Some buildings will have less maintenance requirements than others and

often previous investment works are lasting well. Expected life cycles of these major components and repairs histories will be considered as part of this review.

Taking this approach means that best value can be achieved from previous investment works, major components like roofs and windows are renewed at the end of their lives and other elements such as decorations and preservation works and renewal of electrical infrastructure can be included into programmes to achieve the best value from access equipment such as scaffolding which is a significant cost within any works package.

Our investment programme is also driven by other investment priorities, such as fire safety and energy efficiency. These help to ensure that the Council meets its obligations in these areas and where it is most effective to do so, other improvements will be considered as part of these packages of work. Thanks again for your question, Cllr Hamdache.

Question (d) from Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

How many residents are behind on their council tax and how many council tenants are behind on their rent because of the introduction of Universal Credit?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong. Our Council works hard to support local people when they suffer financial hardship. As we will be discussing later this evening, our Budget includes significant investment in help with the cost-of-living crisis. Universal Credit has clearly not helped local people who receive benefit payments and that is why this Council voted to scrap it in 2018.

We do not currently hold information to allow an analysis of whether arrears are as a result of Universal Credit. Since August 2018, when Universal Credit was fully implemented, the total rent arrears have increased from under £3million to just over £9million and the arrears value has increased mostly for those in receipt of Universal Credit. The most significant changes in the percentage of accounts in arrears are the increase of those in receipt of Universal Credit and the reduction in those that were previously not in receipt of benefits.

Of all of our 111,300 Council Tax accounts, there are approximately 14.8k in arrears as at end of January 2023. In terms of rent arrears, 8,592 of our 24,499 tenanted households (35%) are in receipt of Universal Credit but currently account for around 59% of arrears cases and around 71% of the total debt. Thanks again for your question.

Question (e) from Cllr Russell to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

How much parking revenue is lost due to the Council's Roamer parking scheme and how many short car trips are generated by this policy?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Russell. As you know, we are determined to ensure that our Council's parking scheme supports us to achieve our commitment to reduce car use in the borough. We don't have access to this data at this time however we

should be able to obtain this in the near future. We are currently investigating some survey work to look at the level of usage of car journeys and potential loss of income. Resident permits are displayed on our systems as a valid permit, we are unable to ascertain whether a permit is valid in a specific CPZ or if it is roaming to neighbouring CPZ's. Thanks again for your question.

Question (f) from Cllr Heather to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

I would like to say how pleased I was to see the North London Waste Authority full-page adverts in the Islington Tribune encouraging residents to recycle their used electrical items. There was also a QR code in the advert to scan to find out more about recycling. I know the council is doing all it can to increase recycling rates in the borough working the local community and the NLWA. Can we please have an update on our recycling challenge in the borough and what more we are planning to do to increase our recycling rate.

Response:

Thanks for your question. Our new Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan is being considered for approval by Executive on 23 March and sets out our proposals for recycling over the next two years and beyond. While recycling is important, reducing waste is the most important thing to do and would also help alleviate some of the pressures of the Cost of Living crisis. Our ambitious plans were published in Islington's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan for 2023-2025, which sets out the steps the Council, residents, and businesses must take to increase levels of recycling and reduce waste.

To help create a cleaner, greener, healthier borough and as part included in the Islington Labour manifesto last year, the Council has set a target of recycling 40% of the household waste and 75% of the commercial waste it collects by 2030. Ensuring that recycling is easy and accessible for residents on estates is at the heart of this, and the council plans to spend its £2m investment over the course of three years to ensure that facilities on estates are clean, well-maintained, and easy to use.

By creating a circular economy, the Council can also ensure that more precious resources are repurposed, refurbished, and recycled instead of going for incineration. The Council has recently announced that a range of workshops will be held in the borough next week, so that residents can get their items repaired and find out more about how they can do their own upcycling. To build on this, the report sets out plans to host six Repair Café sessions each year, so that residents have regular opportunities to easily get their goods repaired.

The report also sets out how the Council will create a more environmentally friendly Islington by:

- Expanding food waste recycling collections to all suitable purpose-built blocks of flats by March 2024.
- Creating a zero emissions recycling and refuse fleet by 2030, by continuing to reduce the overall size of the fleet and by investing in more zero-emissions vehicles.
- Working with businesses and partners to ensure that by 2030 the council recycles 75% of the commercial waste it collects.

- Last year, Islington became one of the first local authorities in the country to trial a food waste recycling service for residents in flats above shops. The service has been run on a trial basis for residents on Holloway Road.

Thank you again for your question.

Question (g) from Cllr Poyser to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

I am extremely proud to represent Whitehall Park, one of the earliest Conservation areas. Some its architecture is distinctive – majestic, even. I have frequently written to Council officers where this has not been respected – in bay windows, designs for porches etc. asking them to inform transgressors, and to new residents of the area. Our planet is facing unprecedented man-made natural disaster and Islington has taken a proud lead ensuring we are carbon-neutral by 2030. What steps is the Council taking to ensure that discreet solar panels, with the absolute minimum effect on the original Victorian and historic street designs, are encouraged across the Borough? Are we a leading Council in this area? Is the perception that Solar Panels are impossible in Conservation areas in any way fair?

Response:

Thanks for your question. As you say, the planet is facing unprecedented man-made natural disaster in the climate emergency and this Council is leading on the work to tackle that. A key part of that work is ensuring that our energy supply is as clean and fossil-free as possible. I can state quite categorically that the installation of solar panels on buildings in Islington's Conservation Areas is not impossible. I am pleased to be able to clarify this point as there appears to be a lot of confusion about the council's position. Under national planning rules, planning permission for solar panels is not always needed. Outside of Conservation Areas planning permission is not needed to install solar panels on a house or block of flats. However, inside Conservation Areas planning permission is needed for the installation of solar panels on a wall or a roof that fronts onto a highway.

To support local people who wish to install solar panels and other energy reduction measures in their homes, Islington Council is producing a Simple Guide to national and local planning policies. This will be published on the council's website very shortly. These are only two of the many measures that we are introducing to ensure that our planning policies align with our Net Zero Carbon ambitions whilst ensuring that we protect the amenity of neighbouring residents and the quality of the borough's built environment.

For example, in the Summer, residents will be able to access a free of charge pre-application planning service. A dedicated planning officer will be able to work with local residents and small businesses to help them submit and prepare planning applications for carbon reduction measures. We are also preparing a Net Zero Carbon Supplementary Planning Document and will be reviewing our Islington Urban Design Guide and Conservation Area guidelines in tandem with the preparation of this document. Finally, we will be piloting a best practice approach to net zero carbon and Conservation Areas in Mildmay Ward. Thanks again for your question.

Question (h) from Cllr McHugh to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Councillor Woolf, I'm delighted and thankful to see the excellent work that you are doing to eliminate violence against women and girls in Islington.

Too often, in focusing on women and girls, there is an eradication of attention on the important role of men and boys. The violence is against women and girls, but nearly always it is initiated by men and boys. Not only are there male perpetrators to consider, but also men and boys have important roles to play in challenging social norms, speaking out and confronting prejudice.

Can you please therefore comment on how the Council's VAWG work and strategy addresses perpetrators as well as addresses men and boys in Islington more generally?

Response:

Thank you for your question. Making perpetrators visible and accountable is one of the key objectives in Islington's VAWG Strategy 2021 – 2026.

This includes commitments to:

- Offering interventions and support to people using violence in their relationships where they have expressed a desire to change their behaviour and demonstrate self-awareness and insight into what they have done;
- Working together with our statutory partners to improve criminal justice outcomes for survivors of all forms of VAWG including rape and sexual violence where offences have been reported;
- Perpetrators being visible and accountable in safety planning and work with families and services will acknowledge that they pose the primary risk to children in child safeguarding arrangements.

Since the introduction of Islington's Domestic Abuse Daily Safeguarding meeting which replaced the MARAC in January 2021, we have seen a significant increase in actions that focus on managing the behaviour of the perpetrator with a seven-fold increase in the number of requests for civil and legal protection orders. Thanks again for your question on such an important topic.

Question (i) from Cllr Bossman-Quarshie to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Islington has launched many initiatives in its effort to reduce knife crime locally such as the introduction of knife bins and no knife shops, which help to reduce the availability of knives. In my local ward, my colleagues and I are doing a lot to raise awareness on hate and knife crime, and we know some residents have felt empowered to report instances of crime. However, while we have seen rates of knife crime in the borough fall in recent years, there is still work to be done and 13 years of Tory austerity means the resources available to us to eradicate knife crime are limited. With the No More Red campaign, in partnership with Arsenal, as a starting point, how can we build on our partnership work with other key organisations in the borough to increase the work being done in the community to tackle the root causes of knife crime?

Response:

Thanks for your question. As I mentioned in my response to the previous question, Islington Council works extensively with our partners to tackle the scourge of knife



crime that affects all of our communities. Importantly there needs to be coherent plan that is agreed and delivered across the Safer Islington Partnership where only by working with the police and other partners, can we effectively respond to the problems associated with all forms of violence.

In Islington, our ambition is to reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence – making Islington a safer, fairer borough for all. This year Islington Council have proudly launched the Islington Violence Reduction Strategy. We will adopt a public health approach to tackling violence to deliver evidence-based interventions and engagement work with young people, adults, families and communities.

Our strategy to engage, build trust with, and collaborate with all communities in Islington is at the heart of our four-step approach:

- Prevention of serious violence before it occurs by providing violence-diverting information and opportunities alongside targeted interventions towards individuals most at-risk of committing violence.
- Minimise the impact of serious violence on the community by scaling-up the response to swiftly de-escalate and contain violence.
- Support those vulnerable to, at-risk of or affected by serious violence by providing them with adequate support and interventions.
- Empower communities to strengthen their own resilience and knowledge, make positive behavioural choices, and to work with others to prevent and reduce serious violence.

This plan and approach help us tackle knife crime across the borough. Thanks again for your question.

Question (j) from Cllr Hyde to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

As an Islington Labour councillor, I was extremely proud that, in the 2020 Council budget we heavily invested in our work to tackle domestic violence. Could you tell me what impact that investment has had since then on our work in this area and increased the impact of MARAC meetings on the rates of domestic violence in Islington?

Response:

Thank you for your question. Keeping local people safe is a top priority for this council and with International Women's Day next week, it is a great time to look at the work we do. The significant additional investment we made as a Council in VAWG services in 2020 (£2mill over 3 years) plus additional funding secured from Troubled Families, Public Health, MHCLG, CCG and the London Violence Reduction Unit has been used to support an ambitious programme to transform our VAWG approach and services in Islington. The aim is to intervene earlier to break cycles of violence; support survivors and families to stay safe; hold perpetrators to account and deliver a new community response to Domestic Abuse.

The funding has supported a variety of work, including a comprehensive VAWG workforce development offer, additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, a specialist Children's Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA), and two Abianda Girls and Young Women workers co-located with Targeted Youth Support and the Integrated Gangs Team.

The impact of this investment in services has been significant, for example in 2021/2022 Islington IDVA services supported 2,008 survivors and families. In January 2021 Islington replaced the monthly MARAC meeting with the new Domestic Abuse Daily Safeguarding Meeting. This is a multi-agency led, fully integrated approach to needs management for victims of Domestic Abuse across Islington. The DSM aims to address the needs at the time the intervention has the greatest impact and to maximise victim engagement. Between January 2021 – December 2022 the DSM heard 1339 cases with 1375 children residing at the households discussed.

I am incredibly proud of the work we do in this area and will always work hard to ensure we do as much as we can to keep women and girls in Islington safe. Thanks again for your question.

Question (k) from Cllr Jeapes to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:

The LGA has recently called on the government to publish the Public Health grant funding allocations which helps local councils to fund vital health services related to drug and alcohol treatment, tackling obesity and health visits. After 13 years of austerity, we know all too well the impact lack of sufficient funding can have on the services we deliver. Can you clarify whether we have received notice about our Public Health Grant funding allocation, and if not, can we commit to lobbying central government on this matter?

Response:

Thank you for your question. The money we receive from the Public Health Grant plays an important role in our work to create a healthier Islington. Unfortunately, the public health grant for 2023/24 has not yet been published or confirmed. Since 2015, the grant has been cut by more than a quarter in real terms, even though it plays a crucial role in addressing health inequalities and in spite of the importance of public health in the response to the Covid pandemic. This is just another demonstration of this Government's contempt to fund vital public services. We join the calls of the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Public Health that the grant needs to be published as soon as possible, so councils like ours know how much they can budget for essential services to help keep people healthy throughout their lives, such as for health visiting, to help people stop smoking, tackle obesity, and promote good sexual health. Thank you again for your question.

Question (l) from Cllr Cinko-Oner to Cllr Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

The cost-of-living crisis is impacting local businesses due to rising costs in food and fuel. Supporting our local businesses is key to growing our economy and providing jobs for local residents. What measures are being put in place to ensure businesses gain support to mitigate against these rising costs, and are considered in our procurement processes?

Response:

Thanks for your question. 95% of businesses in Islington are small local businesses and they are at core of our community for providing employment and affordable services to our residents. Ensuring we have a thriving local economy is vital for our Community Wealth Building agenda.

We have our business audit scheme helping businesses identify energy adaptations they can make to lower energy costs at a time when they are extremely high. We also provide grants to help directly with these energy costs for example helping them to switch to LED lights or making their boilers more efficient. We also provide direct cash grants to help those most effected such as those in the hospitality sector and those small local businesses you see on the high street to help them not only survive but thrive. We also provide affordable workspaces, which is one of the most radical things we do in the borough where we take large commercial spaces in Islington and give the opportunity to residents in one of the most densely populated boroughs to work in these spaces rent free with businesses that can provide benefit to our community. Since this programme has been running we have generated £1.2 million pounds of social investment for the Borough.

We spent millions of pounds procuring services, my predecessors did a great job at creating a procurement strategy to allow small and local businesses to have a say in the procurement chain so they can share in the wealth we generate locally, for example using local printing services. Thank you again.

Question (m) from Cllr Clarke to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

Islington Council takes the global degradation of ecosystems, the climate crisis and pollution with the utmost seriousness. Given the fact that livestock farming accounts for between 16.5% and 28% of all greenhouse gas pollution and creates more carbon emissions than all global transport combined. The heating effect of methane is rising, and livestock farming is the greatest source of methane released by human activities. Livestock farming is the greatest cause of habitat destruction and wildlife loss. Substitutes for animal products can greatly reduce this damage. What is the council doing to address the damaging effects of livestock farming and publicise alternatives to it?

Response:

Thank you for your question. We recognise that livestock farming is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and are working to encourage a reduction in meat consumption and an increase in plant-based alternatives. The Islington Food Strategy, currently undergoing review by the Islington Food Partnership (IFP) works towards reducing consumption of products of animal origin. It encourages businesses, including contract caterers to introduce more vegetable options on menus, to introduce plant-based days e.g. meat free Mondays, and to engage with animal welfare standards via Compassion in world Farming schemes such as Happy chicken and happy egg as well as Sustainable Fish Cities. The strategy is being reviewed by IFP, a broad coalition of voluntary sector, local authority, NHS and business partners, supported extensively by the council. The new Islington Food Strategy is due to be published in March.

Our current school meal contractor serves vegetarian or vegan meals for all pupils once a week, and on one other day a week the meat option contains 50% plant-based protein. On two or three days a week there is a vegan meal served. Our current provider also has just renewed their Silver served here award with Soil Association which award points for local and seasonal foods (thereby reducing carbon emissions) as well as serving animal proteins from higher welfare farming and fish from sustainable sources.

We will continue to focus on how carbon emissions can be reduced in future contracts in line with our Progressive Procurement Strategy. It is also our policy for all catering for council events in the Town Hall to be vegetarian and we promote national campaigns such as Veganuary through our communications team channels to encourage people to recognise the benefits of plant-based alternatives. One thing people can do to reduce carbon emissions individually is follow a plant-based or vegetarian diet. Thanks again for your question.

**230 ISLINGTON TOGETHER 2030 PLAN**

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

Councillor Hamdache contributed to the debate.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the new strategic plan be adopted.

**231 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2023/24 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY**

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

Councillors Hayes, McHugh, Ibrahim, Jegorovas-Armstrong and Convery contributed to the discussion.

Councillor Russell exercised her right to reply on the amendment. Councillor Ward exercised his right to reply on the budget report.

The amendment was put to the vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

**For:** Councillor Russell, Hamdache, Jegorovas-Armstrong

**Against:** Councillors Bell-Bradford, Bossman-Quarshie, Burgess, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Cinko-Oner, Clarke, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Craig, Croft, Gallagher, Gilgunn, Gill, Hayes, Heather, Hyde, Ibrahim, Jackson, Jeapes, Kay, Khurana, Klute, Mackmurdie, McHugh, Ngongo, North, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Ogunro, Pandor, Poyser, Shaikh, Spall, Staff, Turan, Ward, Wayne, Weekes, Williamson, Woolf, Zammit

The amendment was **LOST**.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

**For:** Councillors Bell-Bradford, Bossman-Quarshie, Burgess, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Cinko-Oner, Clarke, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Craig, Croft, Gallagher, Gilgunn, Gill, Hayes, Heather, Hyde, Ibrahim, Jackson, Jeapes, Kay, Khurana, Klute, Mackmurdie, McHugh, Ngongo, North, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Ogunro, Pandor, Poyser, Shaikh, Spall, Staff, Turan, Ward, Wayne, Weekes, Williamson, Woolf, Zammit

**Against:** Councillors Russell, Hamdache, Jegorovas-Armstrong

The recommendations in the report were **CARRIED**.

**RESOLVED:**

**The General Fund Budget 2023/24 and MTFs (Section 3 of the report)**

- (i) That the MTFs and balanced 2023/24 budget, including the underlying MTFs principles, in-year monitoring position (to date) and the budget assumptions. (Paragraphs 3.1-3.46, Table 1, and Appendix A of the report), be agreed as recommended by the Executive.
- (ii) That the proposed 2023/24 net budgets by directorate (Paragraph 3.3, Table 2, and Appendix A of the report) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.
- (iii) That centrally held demographic growth be allocated to service budgets in-year once a more evidenced assessment is available and has been approved by the Section 151 Officer (Paragraph 3.18 of the report) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.
- (iv) That the 2023/24 budget incorporates budget provision for manifesto commitments and provides additional support to residents in the current cost-of-living crisis (Paragraph 3.26-3.36 of the report) be noted.
- (v) That a one-off £1m Hardship Fund to support residents focussing on working households, with low incomes, who are facing large rent rises, for launch in advance of the 2023/24 financial year (Paragraph 3.28-3.32 of the report) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.
- (vi) That the annual budget for the London Councils Grants Committee, following consideration by the London Councils Leaders' Committee on 13 December 2022, be agreed as recommended by the Executive, and that this will be reported to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee on 20 March 2023 for noting (Paragraph 3.39-3.40 of the report) be noted.
- (vii) That the 2023/24 savings be agreed as recommended by the Executive, and it be noted that individual savings may be subject to individual consultation before they can be implemented. Further, that the draft savings proposals for 2024/25 and 2025/26 (Paragraphs 3.42-3.46, Table 4, and Appendix B of the report) be noted.

- (viii) That the funding assumptions following the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Settlement on 19 December 2022 (Paragraphs 3.47-3.74 of the report) be noted.
- (ix) It be noted that the fees and charges policy and the General Fund fees and charges for 2023/24 were agreed by Executive on 24 November 2022, and the amendment to the fees and charges schedule in respect of GLL activities and memberships as agreed by Executive on 9 February 2022 (Paragraphs 3.75-3.79 of the report) be noted.
- (x) That the policy on General Fund contingency and reserves be agreed as recommended by the Executive, and the movements to/from earmarked reserves assumed as part of the 2023/24 revenue budget (Paragraphs 3.80-3.90 and Table 7 of the report) be agreed.
- (xi) That the Section 151 Officer be delegated responsibility for any technical adjustments required for the 2023/24 budget (in line with the council's financial regulations) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.

#### **The HRA Budget and MTFs (Section 4 of the report)**

- (xii) That the balanced HRA 2023/24 budget be agreed as recommended by the Executive, and the latest estimates over the 3-year MTFs period (Paragraphs 4.1-4.3, Table 8, and Appendix C1 of the report) be noted.
- (xiii) That the 2023/24 savings be agreed as recommended by the Executive, and that individual savings may be subject to individual consultation before they can be implemented (Table 9, and Appendix C3 of the report) be noted.
- (xiv) That the HRA rents and other HRA fees and charges for 2023/24 agreed by the Executive on 12 January 2023 (Paragraphs 4.4-4.39, Tables 10-12, and Appendix C2 of the report) be noted.
- (xv) It be noted that the HRA 30-year business plan is currently being updated to reflect latest government policy (Paragraph 4.2 of the report).

#### **Capital Investment and Treasury and Investment Management (Section 5 of the report)**

- (xvi) That the proposed 2023/24 to 2025/26 capital programme be agreed as recommended by the Executive, and the indicative capital programme for 2026/27 to 2032/33 (Paragraphs 5.3-5.6, Table 13, and Appendices D1 to D2 of the report) be noted.
- (xvii) That the estimated funding of the 2023/24 to 2025/26 capital programme be noted, and authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, where necessary, to apply capital resources to fund the capital programme in the most cost-effective way for the council (Paragraph 5.10 and Table 14 of the report).
- (xviii) That the estimated borrowing levels for the General Fund and HRA in relation to the 2023/24 to 2025/26 capital programme (Paragraph 5.13 and Tables 15-16 of the report) be agreed.
- (xix) That the Capital Strategy, Investment Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement and Treasury Management Strategy (Paragraph 5.14 and Appendices E1-E4 of the report) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.

**Council Tax and Retained Business Rates (Section 6 of the report)**

- (xx) That the calculations required for the determination of the 2023/24 council tax requirement, and the level of council tax as detailed in Section 6 and summarised below, be agreed as recommended by the Executive:
1. The 2023/24 council tax requirement of £113,039,838.03 (Paragraph 6.7 and Table 19 of the report);
  2. The relevant basic amount of Islington Band D council tax of £1,380.52, a 4.99% increase compared to 2022/23 (comprising 2% specifically for expenditure on adult social care and 2.99% for all expenditure), and that this is not 'excessive' in accordance with the council tax referendum principles for 2023/24 (Paragraph 6.9 and Table 20 of the report);
  3. The basic amount of Islington Band D council tax for dwellings to which no special item relates (i.e. outside of the Lloyd Square Garden Committee area) of £1,380.25 (Paragraph 6.11 and Table 22 of the report);
  4. The amount of 2023/24 council tax (excluding the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the council's areas (Paragraph 6.11 and Table 21 and Table 22 of the report);
  5. The total amount of 2023/24 council tax (including the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the council's areas (Paragraph 6.13 and Table 24 and Table 25 of the report);
- (xxi) That the council's estimated retained business rates funding in 2023/24, as per the 2023/24 NNDR1 return estimate (Paragraph 6.15 and Table 26 of the report) be noted.
- (xxii) That the council's forecast NNDR surplus/(deficit) for 2022/23 (Paragraph 6.16 and Table 27 of the report) be noted.

**Further Matters to Consider in Setting the Budget (Section 7 of the report)**

- (xxiii) To have regard to the Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves when making decisions about the budget and the level of council tax, as required under Section 25(2) of the Local Government Act 2003 (Paragraphs 7.1-7.7 of the report).
- (xxiv) That the Monitoring Officer comments (Paragraphs 7.8-7.12 of the report) be noted.
- (xxv) That the Equality Impact Assessment (Paragraphs 7.13-7.15 and Appendix F of the report) be noted, and to take fully account of it in approving the overall budget and related proposals.
- (xxvi) That the assessment of compliance against the CIPFA Financial Management Code, and that this will be re-visited at least annually as part of the budget process, with any actions or recommendations implemented on an ongoing basis (Paragraphs 7.16-7.17 and Appendix G of the report) be noted.
- (xxvii) That the council invited business rate payers or representatives of business rate payers in Islington to comment on the 2023/24 budget proposals in this report, as required under Section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Paragraphs 7.18-7.20 of the report) be noted.

- (xxviii) That the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 (Paragraph 7.21 and Appendix H of the report) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.
- (xxix) That the Retail Relief Scheme for 2023/24 (Appendix I and Paragraph 7.22 of the report) be agreed as recommended by the Executive.

**232 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT**

Councillor Hyde moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) To note that Councillor Burgess has stood down from the Grievance Committee and to appoint Councillor Ogunro as her successor;
- (ii) To appoint Councillor Heather as a substitute member of the Grievance Committee;
- (iii) To appoint Councillors Burgess, Chapman, Hamdache and McHugh as substitute members of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee;
- (iv) That Councillor Ogunro be appointed as a member of the Grievance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (v) That Councillor Heather be appointed as a substitute member of the Grievance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (vi) That Councillors Burgess, Chapman, Hamdache and McHugh be appointed as substitute members of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until successors are appointed.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm

**MAYOR**