



COUNCIL MEETING – 15 DECEMBER 2016

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: 'Count Them In' Campaign

Moved by Cllr Gary Poole

Seconded by Cllr Rakhia Ismail

This Council notes –

- The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community in Islington as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most;
- The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community with Islington. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans and their families;
- That the availability of such data would greatly assist the Council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within Islington.

The Council also notes –

- Its long-standing respect and admiration for the courage, service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces, past and present;
- The Council passed a motion agreeing to the signing of the Community Covenant in 2013;
- It was noted at the 15 September 2016 meeting of the Council that there is limited data available to assess the numbers of current and previous Armed Forces personnel living in England.

The Council resolves to –

- Support and promote The Royal British Legion's call to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community;

- Call upon the UK Parliament, which will approve the final census questionnaire through legislation in 2019, to ensure that the 2021 census includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community.

Motion 2: Affordable Homes for Teachers

Moved by Cllr Joe Caluori

Seconded by Cllr Theresa Debono

This Council Meeting notes the transformation in education in Islington in recent years, that has seen nine in ten local schools rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted and GCSE results improve to be in the top 20 in the country.

This Council Meeting notes that the improvements in local schools, that mean that results for primary school pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds are in the top 10 in the country, has been driven by dedicated and highly qualified teachers working alongside parents, school governors, trade unions and the Council.

This Council Meeting further notes –

- Research by Journalistic.org has shown that a primary or secondary school teacher on the average London teacher's salary of £40,580 a year would need to find at least a 63 percent deposit to fund the purchase of the average property in London. Estate agents HouseSimple have estimated that teachers earning the average London salary would need more than 71 years to save up for a 63 percent deposit;
- The Halifax Building Society has found that the price of an average London property is 11 times the typical salary of a local teacher;
- TeachVac found that secondary schools in London advertised more posts than any other region last year;
- The NUT has found that three in five teachers under 35 cannot see themselves teaching in London in five years' time, with two-thirds of respondents citing the cost of living as the reason.

This Council Meeting believes that one of the most significant challenges facing schools in Inner-London is a lack of affordable housing for teachers.

This Council Meeting also notes that the Education Funding Agency purchased Ladbroke House, Highbury for £33.5million earlier this year.

This Council Meeting resolves to –

- Make further representations to the Government concerning its purchase of Ladbroke House, proposing that the building is developed as genuinely affordable accommodation for teachers;
- Support the Council to continue to build genuinely affordable homes in Islington across a range of tenures, to ensure that people, including key workers, can find a home in the borough;

- Request that the Executive ensures that sufficient school places continue to be planned for and provided by the Council, meaning there is no need for the development of new mainstream Free Schools in the borough outside of those already in place.

Motion 3: Scrap GP Fees for Domestic Violence Victims

Moved by Cllr Janet Burgess

Seconded by Cllr Michelline Safi Ngongo

This Council notes –

- Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner. One in four women will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. These national statistics have not changed for decades;
- Legal Aid is a lifeline for women fleeing domestic abuse. It helps them to protect themselves, their children and secure their financial situation. However, under Government changes to the rules, women now need to provide a prescribed piece of evidence to prove they have been subjected to abuse to qualify for legal aid;
- One of the accepted forms of evidence is a letter from a GP. However, some GPs charge a fee – in some cases as much as £75 – to produce that letter.

The Council also notes –

- As the service is not part of the national core GP contract, individual practices in Islington may charge for it at their own discretion;
- That Islington Council must work towards stopping domestic violence and abuse in order to create a fairer Islington for all, where everyone can enjoy a good quality of life, regardless of their background;
- That it is everyone's responsibility to stop domestic violence and abuse;
- No GP should charge victims of domestic abuse for a letter they need to access legal aid. It is unfair, immoral and has to stop.

The Council resolves to –

- To support the Scrap the Fee campaign;
- To call on the Government to scrap this unfair and unjust charge, by bringing this service back under the NHS contract;
- For Cllrs Burgess and Ngongo to write to the local press to raise awareness of this vital issue.

Motion 4: Support the Mayor of London's air pollution plans and promote his healthy streets agenda in Islington

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

Air pollution is a major public health problem in Islington. Community monitoring projects continue to expose illegally high levels of nitrogen dioxide on busy roads and side roads across the borough.

This Council therefore welcomes the proposals for action from new Mayor of London Sadiq Khan, including planning a wider area for the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) and potentially a sooner start for this initiative, alongside swifter action to clean up the Transport for London bus fleet.

This Council asks the Leader and Executive to –

- 1) respond positively to the Mayor's current air pollution consultation (closes 18th Dec) that calls for the Ultra-Low Emission Zone to extend to the North and South Circular and to be brought forward from the previously proposed 2020 start date;

and,

- 2) bid for Transport for London (TfL) Local Implementation Plan (LIP) funding for further measures that would reduce the exposure to pollution for Islington residents and achieve pollution levels within legal limits in 'as short a time as possible' for Islington, as required by the law.

These measures should include:

- plans to reduce traffic levels and the distances people and goods are driven;
- plans to adopt the Mayor's "healthy streets" approach to managing Islington's street network;
- plans to create a "liveable neighbourhood" in Islington, working with residents and learning from the success of "Mini Holland" in Waltham Forest.
- support for car-free housing in planning policies;
- practical support for school, hospital and workplace travel plans, which will also help with parking problems;
- a network of automatic pollution monitoring sites, with clear real-time information for residents about levels of pollution and support for community air pollution monitoring;

and,

- 3) ask the Mayor to prioritise cleaner buses running on routes that use Islington's busiest roads, which have been found to have the highest levels of pollution.

Motion 5: Firework Safety in Islington

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes there have been a number of high profile incidents regarding fireworks this year. Hackney, Enfield and Haringey have all seen particularly nasty incidents of local residents and police being attacked with barrages of fireworks. Islington too has seen smaller scale incidents.

The Council notes that Islington is also one of the few boroughs that does not have an official fireworks event. For residents wanting to see fireworks in November there is no free public safe event in our borough.

This Council also notes –

- that Islington already has a local plan around dealing with firework nuisance, drawn up by the Metropolitan police;
- that Islington Council already maintains a public facing page around dealing with firework safety, that includes resources for teachers;
- that residents at the Highbury East ward partnership meeting called for the restoration of Islington's local Firework event on Highbury Fields.

This Council believes –

- Proper education of young people is a vital part of preventing fireworks misuse;
- The police have a vital role to play around dealing with fireworks misuse;
- Providing a free public safe fireworks demonstration is a good way to provide an alternative to private use of fireworks.

This Council resolves –

- To work with police to keep fireworks out of the hands of under 18s and to ensure challenge 25 is being used in all firework retailers;
- To develop a free public firework demonstration for 2017, exploring opportunities for partnering with local businesses and communities to put on a public event.