



COUNCIL MEETING – 29 JUNE 2017

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Protecting Islington Schools Funding

Moved by Cllr Joe Caluori

Seconded by Cllr Theresa Debono

The Council notes –

- That the Government is subjecting schools in Islington to the first real terms cut in schools budgets for over two decades, the steepest since the 1970s, and that schools in Islington are facing huge cost pressures.

The Council further notes –

- The role that head teachers, parent representatives, the community and trade unions have played in improving Islington's schools;
- That Islington now ranks in the top 20 in the country for the academic progress made by pupils between the end of primary school and their GCSE results, up from ranking in the bottom 20 local authorities for its GCSE results in 2008;
- That Islington's primary schools are in the top 10 in the country for helping children from poorer backgrounds achieve good results;
- The Council's ongoing support for the anti-schools cuts campaign, including the Leader of the Council speaking at multiple debates across the borough.

Every child has the right to reach their full potential. Schools must have the funding they need to continue to deliver an excellent education for all, but successive cuts to schools' budget and the Government's planned changes to how they fund schools make this more difficult to achieve.

Under the proposed National Funding Formula, funding per pupil to schools in Islington North is projected to fall by £603 between 2015 and 2019, and £583 per pupil for schools in Islington South. Islington could lose 400 teachers, based on the average teacher's salary of £37,250, by 2020. There are no guarantees about funding arrangements or how much Islington schools could lose out by beyond 2019-20.

The 2015 Conservative Party manifesto pledged that per-pupil schools funding would be protected but this promise has been broken. Spending on English schools overall is increasing but per-pupil funding is set to fall in real terms.

The National Funding Formula represents only 10 per cent of potential cuts to Islington schools. The real squeeze will come from other Government changes, such as pensions and National Insurance contributions and the apprenticeship levy.

Schools are already struggling to plug the gaps in funding. Further cuts to the schools budget and the new National Funding Formula would further exacerbate the problem.

The Council resolves –

- To continue to make representations to ensure Islington schools get a fair deal from the National Funding Formula;
- To work with its two MPs, head teachers, parent representatives and trade unions to make the case that Islington schools should receive adequate funding;
- For the Leader of the Council and the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education, calling for Islington schools to receive sufficient funding and a fairer deal from the proposed National Funding Formula.

Motion 2: Protecting EU nationals in Islington

Moved by Cllr Troy Gallagher

Seconded by Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Islington is proud to be a multi-cultural and welcoming borough that is home to people from all over the world. The Council is therefore very concerned that, since the UK voted to leave the EU, the Government has repeatedly refused to guarantee the rights of EU nationals living in the UK, including the tens of thousands of EU nationals in Islington.

The Council recognises the outstanding contribution of the EU nationals living in Islington. They are our friends, family, neighbours and colleagues, and they make a vital contribution to our public services.

Already, we are seeing the effects of the Government's failure to give EU nationals assurances about their future. Research from the Nursing and Midwifery Council shows that the number of nurses from the EU registering to work in the UK has dropped by 96% less than a year after the UK voted to leave the EU. Action is needed to avoid further losses of EU nursing staff and the impact this would have on our health services.

This continued uncertainty by the Government and the unnecessary difficulty in applying for UK citizenship are making many of our residents feel unwelcome in the borough which they call home.

The Council resolves –

- To continue to make representations to urge Government to stop playing politics with the lives of EU citizens currently living in the UK by immediately guaranteeing their right to continue residing here;
- To continue to work with partners and the voluntary and community sectors to co-ordinate practical support for EU nationals who want to remain in Islington.

Motion 3: Condemning Anti-Semitism

Moved by Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Seconded by Cllr Alice Perry

Islington Council has a strong tradition of celebrating diversity and championing equality. Islington is proudly multicultural and all forms of racial prejudice have no place in the borough.

Islington Council welcomes the government decision, with the full support of the Labour Party, to sign-up to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism, that:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

This motion resolves:

- That the Council adopts this working definition and continues the work to make Islington a welcoming and tolerant place to all communities;
- That the Council thoroughly applies this working definition to the Council’s operations.

Motion 4: Fire Safety in Islington

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council sends condolences to everyone involved in the terrible fire at Grenfell Tower.

This Council notes -

- Islington is home to a number of high rise towers;
- That many Islington residents will have watched the tragedy with alarm and concern;
- That the council has taken swift action to assess fire safety across the borough.

This Council resolves -

- To make public all existing fire safety risk assessments of high rise towers in Islington;
- To reassure residents in Islington about fire safety and work with local residents to hear and address any concerns;
- To assist London level efforts to support the victims of the Grenfell Tower.

Motion 5: Finsbury Park Terrorist Attack –
Standing shoulder to shoulder as one community

Moved by Cllr Asima Shaikh

Seconded by Cllr Andy Hull

This Council notes with great sadness the terrorist attack on members of Islington's Muslim community in the early hours of Monday 19th June 2017 in Finsbury Park, which has sadly taken the life of one resident and injured 11 more.

The response from the local community has been incredible; from the Muslim residents restraining the alleged perpetrator until the police arrived to arrest him, to the fundraising for victims and their families by Finsbury Park Mosque, to Muslim Welfare House going ahead with its communal Iftar dinner in defiance of an attack yards from its door that sought to intimidate its congregation. Their actions and those of many others demonstrate that our diverse, multi-cultural community will not be divided.

This Council further notes -

- the instant response of police who were on the scene within 1 minute, and established a cordon within 10 minutes, the response of the ambulance service, who sent over 60 medics to the scene, and that of the fire brigade who also attended rapidly and in large numbers;
- the moving vigil organised by Islington Faiths Forum and others, which saw people from across London coming to pay their respects and show solidarity;
- that the council quickly established a nearby rest centre for those affected and engaged its Emergency Response procedures, which included Council staff who had recently returned from supporting the response to the Grenfell Tower fire in west London.

This Council believes that Islington's strength comes from its diversity, openness and unity. We are one community that stands shoulder to shoulder with each other against any terrorists who seek to divide us.

This Council resolves to -

- Continue to support those affected by this terrorist atrocity in any way that we can;
- To work with the local community, faith leaders and the police to combat terrorism and hate crime in all its forms;
- To continue to work closely with local mosques, other faith groups, and the police, to assess security issues in the borough and to provide assistance and support where necessary;
- To condemn anyone who seeks to sow hatred in our community and our country either through their words or by their actions.