



COUNCIL MEETING – 6 DECEMBER 2018

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Scrap Universal Credit

Moved by Cllr Troy Gallagher. Seconded by Cllr Una O'Halloran.

This Council notes –

- That, in 2011, the Coalition Government published proposals for a new system of social security that would replace six existing benefits with one payment from 2013 called Universal Credit.
- That, since 2010, the Government has made significant cuts to social security budgets, including annual cuts that mean the budget for Universal Credit is £3 billion lower than the benefits it replaces.
- That Universal Credit 'Full Service' began being rolled out in Islington in June 2018 and will eventually see 22,000 households transfer to it.
- That Islington Council has provided support to residents affected by Universal Credit through its advice services, offering digital help, making crisis payments and through voluntary and community sector partners.
- That the Council is working to identify residents who will transition to Universal Credit, to offer them support, including families with children under 5 years of age.
- That, in December 2017, this Council passed a motion that resolved to make representations to the Government to urge them to pause the rollout of Universal Credit in order to fix the significant problems with the system.
- That the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee is currently conducting a scrutiny review of the rollout of Universal Credit in Islington, to understand the impacts on residents and services, and to ensure that measures are in place to address or mitigate any risks or challenges. The scrutiny review is also aiming to facilitate effective challenge to the Government where appropriate.

This Council further notes –

- That, despite some changes by the Government, almost 10,000 households in Islington will be worse-off under Universal Credit, with the average affected household over £500 per year worse-off.
- That 75% of all people living in council homes in Islington that are in receipt of Universal Credit are in rent arrears, with the average arrears currently at £1,124 – eight times the average level of rent arrears for all council tenants.
- That, between June 2018 and September 2018, 44 referrals were made to local food banks due to Universal Credit.

This Council believes –

- That Universal Credit has been universally discredited and represents a Government policy of deliberate destitution.

This Council resolves to –

- Agree that this Council has no confidence in Universal Credit.
- Call on the Leader of the Council to make representations to the Prime Minister to urge her to scrap Universal Credit and to replace it with a social security system that supports people and ensures that nobody is worse-off, rather than driving them into poverty.
- Authorise Council officers to commit appropriate resources from within the Council's budget to continue supporting local residents affected by Universal Credit.

Motion 2: The Cuts Don't Work

Moved by Cllr Andy Hull. Seconded by Cllr Sheila Chapman.

This Council notes –

- That, since 2010, the Tory Government, and the Coalition Government before it, has pursued an austerity agenda that has seen huge cuts to public services and vital social security support for local people.
- That Tory Government austerity has meant that:
 - o By 2020, Islington Council's core central government grant will have been cut by 70% since 2010;
 - o 300 Islington police officers have been cut;
 - o Local schools have on average over £300 less to spend per pupil;
 - o NHS hospital waiting times are longer;
 - o Around 10,000 families on Universal Credit will be, on average, over £500 a year worse-off, once UC's rollout is complete.
- That growing pressures on local government, including cuts to funding by the Government and rising demand for services, will see councils across the country face a funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025, and that some councils are increasingly at financial breaking point.

This Council further notes –

- That despite the cuts to the Council's funding, it is determined to continue to make Islington a fairer place for all.
- That the Council is making a difference for local people by:
 - o Building new council homes for local people through the largest council house building programme in Islington for 30 years;
 - o Providing Free School Meals for all nursery and primary school pupils, saving families over £400 per child each year;
 - o Supporting over 4,600 local unemployed people into work, including 1,300 young people, since 2014;
 - o Protecting frontline Council services, such as care for older people, keeping all our libraries open and maintaining weekly bin collections; and

- Supporting young people to get the best start in life, with 9 out of 10 Islington schools rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted.

This Council believes –

- That, after 8 years of Tory Government austerity, it is clear the cuts don't work and Islington urgently needs a government that ends cuts to public services and invests in the services and support which people rely on.

This Council resolves to –

- Support calls by the Local Government Association for the Government to close the funding gap facing local councils.
- Support the Leader of the Council to continue making representations to Government that the upcoming Government Spending Review and 'Fair Funding Review' for local government must reflect genuine need.
- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local council, and calling on the Government truly to end austerity in local government.

Motion 3: People's Vote motion

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council –

- Recognises that Islington residents voted overwhelmingly (75.2%) in favour of remaining in the European Union (EU) in the referendum on Britain's membership of the bloc that took place on 23 June 2016.
- Acknowledges that on 20 October 2018 an estimated 700,000 people, including many Islington residents, marched in favour of a People's Vote, calling for the public to be given a final say on the terms of leaving the EU.
- Notes the negative impact on the local economy and public services in Islington already created by uncertainty over the terms of leaving the EU, as well as on the lives of our borough's EU citizens.
- Notes the work of the Council along with Islington In Europe and local law firms to support residents from other EU countries facing uncertainty caused by the referendum vote, including the provision of free legal advice.
- Condemns the worrying rise in racist hate crime since the vote to leave the EU in particular the terror attack outside Muslim Welfare House In Finsbury Park in June 2017.
- Acknowledges that the divisive environment created by the vote to leave the EU can only be addressed by tackling the issues of inequality and lack of opportunities that led so many people across the UK to vote for change.

- Believes that neither the Prime Minister's EU exit deal nor a "no deal" exit is preferable to remaining in the EU.
- Notes that the London Assembly and twelve London Councils have passed motions in support of giving citizens a say on the terms of any final EU exit deal negotiated by the Government and that nine of those councils have included a specific option to remain.

This Council resolves –

- To formally support the call for a People's Vote on any final EU exit deal negotiated by the Government, including in the event of a no deal scenario, with the option to remain in the EU on the ballot paper.