



COUNCIL MEETING – 27 JUNE 2019

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Tackling the environment and climate emergency by achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

Moved by Cllr Claudia Webbe

Seconded by Cllr Tricia Clarke

Also supported by Cllr Caroline Russell and Cllr Dave Poyser

This Council notes that –

- Climate change and the effect it is having on our planet, and will have in the years to come, has been scientifically proven and this Council fully recognises the need for society and all levels of government to respond urgently to prevent and lessen the damaging effects of human activity driven climate change.
- The United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report published in October 2018 confirms that the world has until 2030 to avoid an increase in global temperatures above 1.5°C, at which point the impact of global warming would have devastating impacts on the planet and people's lives.

This Council further notes that already –

- Islington Council has been at the forefront of efforts to reduce carbon emissions in the borough, including from its own operations, and that Islington is on target to reduce carbon emissions in the borough from 2005 levels by at least 40% by 2020.
- The existing Local Plan and the Draft Local Plan (2019-2034) seek to minimise the borough's contribution to climate change via the built environment and future development in recognition that emissions relating to buildings or building systems/processes consistently represent over 80% of all carbon emissions in the borough; and that existing policies and new policies proposed in the Draft Local Plan have been independently assessed and are forecast to reduce carbon emissions in the borough by 66% by 2034 and by 91% by 2050 from 1990 levels, including significant reductions delivered through high energy efficiency standards from new development and through expansion of the borough's decentralised energy network.

- The Council was one of the first to establish a Carbon Offset Fund, which uses planning agreements to require developers to make a payment to offset any carbon shortfall from developments, which is then used to fund projects that reduce carbon emissions. To date, the Carbon Offset Fund has made allocations of £4.8 million to projects across the borough that have delivered an estimated reduction in carbon emissions of 375 tonnes per year.
- The Islington Community Energy Fund has been established to commission innovative energy projects delivered by communities and local organisations which benefit local people and tackle climate change, with £786,000 from the Carbon Offset Fund being made available to support projects so far.
- The Council-supported Islington Sustainable Energy Partnership has helped 40 organisations in the borough across the private, public and third sectors to cut their carbon emissions by over 25,200 tonnes, saving an estimated £4.3 million in avoided energy costs.
- The Archway Zero Emissions Network has produced energy saving recommendations for local businesses in excess of 1.5 million kWh.
- The Council's Pension Fund is taking bold action to decarbonise its investments by 2022 by reducing the fund's exposure to carbon emissions by more than half, reducing the fund's equities' exposure to fossil fuel reserves by more than three quarters and decarbonising the fund's holdings in other asset classes.
- Angelic Energy, Islington Council's not-for-profit energy provider and London's first new municipal energy provider for over 100 years, has helped over 2,000 local people access fairer prices for their energy and provides electricity from 100% renewable sources.
- 800 homes, two leisure centres and offices have been connected to the Bunhill District Heat Network, a ground-breaking scheme that uses waste heat to deliver more efficient, cheaper and greener energy to local people, and work is ongoing to deliver a new energy centre that will extract waste heat from the London Underground to supply a further 1,000 homes.
- Work to insulate cavity walls in the Council's building stock has led to annual savings of 8,600 tonnes of CO₂ and financial savings of £1.5 million per annum, in addition to further savings in emissions and costs from boiler replacement works, loft insulation and the installation of solar panels.
- All streetlights in the borough have been converted to LED versions, reducing carbon emissions by the equivalent to removing almost 1,000 cars from the road each year and saving 28,280 tonnes of CO₂ over the 20-year lifespan of the more efficient bulbs.
- 1,000 tonnes of CO₂ savings have been found in schools, libraries and the Council's depot so far this year.
- The Council is enabling a shift towards more sustainable transport across the borough with the removal of dangerous gyratories and the introduction of safer and more accessible routes for pedestrians and cyclists, in addition to installing 400 electric vehicle charging points and 400 bike hangars across the borough to further reduce the use and impact of private vehicles.
- The Council's Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle Streets programme has banned all non-zero emission vehicles from the Old Street and City Fringe area at certain

times of the day and the Council will soon publish details of how it will seek to prevent the rat-running of lorries on residential roads in the borough, further reducing the emissions from transport travelling through the borough.

- The Council has pioneered an emissions based parking policy to reduce the environmental impact vehicles have in the borough, and has implemented a Diesel Surcharge on resident parking permits and paid for short stay parking to encourage a shift away from polluting diesel vehicles, in addition to calling for a London-wide ban on diesel engines by 2025, whilst ensuring efforts to reduce carbon emissions from vehicles does not impact air quality.
- The Council recently celebrated the launch of the tenth 'School Street' in the borough that restrict traffic outside schools at opening and closing times to improve road safety, encourage active travel and reduce pollution near schools, and will roll-out similar measures for all schools across the borough.
- The Council is committed to reducing the impact of its fleet of essential vehicles, with over 160 vehicles currently being replaced with vehicles that either significantly reduce or eliminate emissions, in addition to over 150 vehicles already being Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) compliant.
- The Council is committed to supporting people to reduce the amount of waste they produce, reuse items wherever possible and to recycle more.

This Council also notes –

- That meeting the challenge the environment and climate emergency poses and achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 will require a comprehensive response from not just the Council, but also from regional and national government, as well as private organisations, businesses and individuals.
- That the Council has lost 70% of its core central government funding since 2010 and will have had to make savings of £275 million in total from its budgets by 2022.
- That significant elements of the action necessary to achieve a net zero carbon Islington by 2030 are out of the control of the Council, such as the decarbonisation of the national electricity grid and the absence of powers to mandate retrofitting existing buildings.
- That meeting the challenges of the environment and climate emergency must be done in such a way that does not penalise local people on low incomes and does not limit the Council's ability to address important issues, such as the housing crisis, whilst recognising that building a greener and more inclusive economy with fairness at its heart can lead to better outcomes and opportunities for local people.

This Council resolves to –

- Declare an environment and climate emergency.
- Pledge to work towards making Islington net zero carbon by 2030, ahead of the current 2050 target.
- Make representations to regional and national government to urge them to take action to support the goal of a net zero carbon Islington by 2030,

including through the provision of the necessary resources and legal powers to the Council and others to support the action needed to achieve this.

- Continue to work with partners across the borough to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans, ensuring that reducing carbon emissions is embedded in all relevant Council decision making.
- Publish on an annual basis details of carbon emissions reduction interventions the Council is delivering and commissioning, including the progress these actions are delivering in reducing the tonnage of carbon emissions in the borough.
- Ensure local people are able to contribute to the formulation and scrutiny of the strategic actions needed to address the environment and climate emergency by consulting on proposals and by organising an annual 'Tackling the Environment and Climate Emergency' meeting, hosted by the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, in addition to the wide-range of existing opportunities for local people to make representations to the Council.
- Report to Full Council on 27th February 2020 what strategic actions the Council is taking to address the environment and climate emergency, including plans and milestones to achieve emissions reductions within the Council's control, and to share details of representations being made to other institutions to achieve reductions in emissions outside of the Council's direct control.

Motion 2: Protecting Local Welfare Assistance

Moved by Cllr Andy Hull

Seconded by Cllr Angela Picknell

This Council notes that –

- Until April 2013, emergency financial assistance was principally provided by central government through the Discretionary Social Fund.
- From April 2013, the government implemented wholesale reform of the Discretionary Social Fund. Some parts were kept; however, the government abolished Crisis Loans (other than Alignment Payments) and Community Care Grants.
- Responsibility for emergency financial assistance was devolved to the local level and reduced funding transferred to local authorities in England on a non-ring-fenced basis, with the intention that they establish their own Local Welfare Assistance Schemes to support local people facing a crisis.
- The Government then decided that, for 2015/16 onwards, there would be no separate Local Welfare Assistance funding stream. Instead, it would become part of the general Revenue Support Grant that central government provides to councils to support their spending on any local services.

This Council further notes that –

- Islington Council's Resident Support Scheme provides approximately £2 million of support to around 5,000 local people in financial difficulty each year, with awards averaging £400 to help support people pay for essentials like food, gas and electricity bills, furniture, white goods and temporary help with rent payments.
- Despite central government cuts to Islington Council's core funding of 70% since 2010, Islington is one of only two local authorities in the country to have increased its budget for its Local Welfare Assistance Scheme between 2013/14 and 2018/19, and provides the highest amount of this support per person in the country.
- The Council meets The Children's Society's 'CARES' approach of being child-friendly, accessible, referral-friendly, eligibility-aware and strategic in its leadership in relation to Local Welfare Assistance.

This Council believes that –

- Many households will at some time find themselves facing a financial crisis point – a financial problem which puts the immediate health and wellbeing of family members at risk.
- Local authorities have a crucial role to play in supporting families facing financial crisis and Local Welfare Assistance Schemes (LWAS) should be central to this local support offer.
- At a time when local government is under enormous financial pressure due to central government cuts, the government should provide further funding to ensure that local welfare assistance is protected and meets the needs of families in crisis.

This Council resolves to –

- Maintain a Local Welfare Assistance Scheme (as part of its Resident Support Scheme) to support families and young people in crisis.
- Continue to work across all council departments and with voluntary and community groups through the Islington Debt Coalition to support the borough's residents to avoid and deal with financial crisis.
- Make further representations to central government for a new funding allocation for councils to provide Local Welfare Assistance Schemes (LWAS) to be made available at the next comprehensive spending review and for it to be protected in real terms over the following years.