



COUNCIL MEETING – 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Women’s Night Safety Charter

Moved by Cllr Una O’Halloran

Seconded by Cllr Kadeema Woodbyrne

This Council notes that –

- Islington has a vibrant and thriving night-time economy, which is enjoyed by thousands of local people and visitors every day, and many local people travel and work at night in the borough and elsewhere in London.
- Whilst there is less reported violent crime at night in London than during the day, approximately 23 per cent of women in London say they feel unsafe in London at night and women and girls are more likely to experience sexual violence, assault and abuse than the rest of society at night.
- 20 per cent of women have experienced some type of sexual assault since the age of 16, and 79 per cent of women aged 18-24 said they expected inappropriate comments, touching and behaviour on a night out towards them or their friends.

This Council believes that –

- All women have a right to be safe at all times, including at night, whether that’s at work, socialising or travelling on public transport.

This Council further notes that –

- Islington Council’s Licensing Policy 2018-2022 includes specific requirements for applicants to include safeguards to mitigate against sexual harassment of women in licenced venues, and services across the Council work with businesses and others to improve the safety of women in the borough.
- The Mayor of London’s Women’s Night Safety Charter has been created to make London a city where all women feel confident and welcome at night. The charter sets out guidance for venues, operators, charities, councils and businesses to improve safety at night for women. This includes better training of staff, encouraging the reporting of harassment, and ensuring public spaces are safe.
- Islington Council signed-up to the Women’s Night Safety Charter in July 2019.

This Council resolves to –

- Support and deliver on all the pledges within the Women’s Night Safety Charter.
- Encourage other businesses and organisations in Islington that operate at night to sign-up to the Women’s Night Safety Charter.
- Monitor the number of Islington businesses and organisations that sign-up to the Women’s Night Safety Charter as part of the Council’s efforts to prevent and reduce violence against women and girls in the borough.
- Work with the Mayor of London to seek to make London a safer city at night for all.

Motion 2: Opposing a ‘No Deal’ Brexit

Moved by Cllr Richard Watts

Seconded by Cllr Una O’Halloran

This Council notes that –

- on 6th December 2018, this Council agreed a motion concerning Britain’s exit from the European Union (EU), which warned that a ‘No Deal’ Brexit would be disastrous.
- since the motion was agreed, two Prime Ministers have failed to secure a deal that Parliament could support.
- the Government’s Operation Yellowhammer report has made clear the significant challenges the UK would face in the event of a ‘No Deal’ Brexit, including increased food prices, disruption to supply chains for medicines, a potential rise in public disorder and significant transport disruption at ports.

This Council further notes that –

- the Council’s Brexit Resilience Group is continuing to prepare for a potential ‘No Deal’ scenario.
- the Council has provided extensive support to local residents and staff who are EU Citizens to support them to apply for settled status, and will continue to do so.

This Council believes that –

- a ‘No Deal’ Brexit would be devastating for the UK economy, is highly likely to present significant challenges to local residents and businesses, and could put pressure on Council services.

This Council resolves that –

- it is opposed in the strongest terms to a 'No Deal' Brexit.
- a 'No Deal' Brexit should be ruled out by the Government, an extension to the date the UK is due to leave the EU negotiated and then a General Election should be called to give people their say.

Motion 3: A Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Council and School Workers

Moved by Cllr Sara Hyde

Seconded by Cllr Paul Smith

This Council notes –

- 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.
- Between 2010 and 2020, councils across the country will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- Despite 70% cuts to core government funding since 2010, the council has kept job losses as low as possible.
- The 2019 LGA survey of council finances found that 1 in 3 councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 – a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than three quarters of the local government workforce.

This Council further notes –

- That the council was proud to become the country's first accredited Living Wage Council in 2012, with all directly employed staff paid at least the London Living Wage.

- That the council is one of the first to have been awarded the Good Work Standard by the Mayor of London, in recognition of its positive employment practices.
- It has already signed up to the TUC's Dying to Work Charter, Unison's Ethical Care Charter and is a Timewise Accredited Council, to protect the employment conditions and rights of all council staff.

This Council believes –

- Our workers are public service heroes. They keep our streets clean, care for those in need and play a central role in making Islington a fairer place for all.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services that local people rely on would not be deliverable.
- The local government workforce deserves a proper pay rise, fully funded by central government.

This Council resolves to –

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON on behalf of council and school workers for a £10 per hour minimum wage and a 10% uplift across all other pay points in 2020/21.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Continue to encourage all local government workers to join a trade union.

Motion 4: Opposition to Heathrow Expansion & the introduction of concentrated flight paths over Islington

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

The Council notes –

- That the report 'Aircraft Noise' by the London Assembly Environment Committee recommended opposition to expansion at Heathrow owing to the impact on Londoners of the large increase in flight numbers.
- That World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines state that frequent exposure to noise above 45 decibels is associated with adverse health effects, yet the threshold set in the Government's guidelines is 54 decibels.
- That the impact of a new runway at Heathrow is likely to exceed 54-decibels by between 3-6 dB.
- That the expansion of Heathrow would result in 700 more flights every day over communities across London.

- That the proposed introduction of concentrated flight paths would have a significant and adverse impact on the health of local communities by creating noise canyons over parts of Islington.
- That aircraft noise has a particularly negative impact on children's health, including their cognitive development.
- The Airports National Policy Statement used a single 'minimise total' flight path scenario, which is not compatible with the Department for Transport's own key environmental policy – to reduce, minimise and mitigate significant adverse health and wellbeing impacts of aviation noise.

The Council further notes –

- Emissions from aviation have doubled since 1990, despite a 40% fall across the whole economy.
- That Heathrow is already the largest single source of carbon emissions in the UK.
- The findings of the 2018 IPCC report, highlighting the huge ecological and human cost of failure to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- The latest report from the Committee on Climate Change states that aviation must contribute to its new target of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The council stated its opposition to a third runway during the Heathrow consultation.

The Council therefore believes –

- That expansion of Heathrow is not compatible with the climate emergency recently declared by the UK Parliament and by this Council.
- That noise impacts from additional flights over London would have a negative impact on the health and quality of life of Islington residents.

The Council resolves to –

- Oppose further expansion of airport capacity in London.
- Oppose the introduction of concentrated flight paths in London.
- Campaign for UK Aviation Noise policy to be brought into line with WHO recommendations.
- Register as an 'Interested Party' in the Development Consent Order Process for the proposed expansion of Heathrow.
- Join the No Third Runway Coalition as a local authority member.

Motion 5: Single-use plastic-free Islington

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes –

- Eight million metric tons of plastic waste makes its way into the world's oceans each year. Plastic pollution is already a huge threat to life in our oceans.
- There is a growing understanding of the risks posed to human health by toxic chemicals present in plastics. Terrestrial water supplies are known to be contaminated with microplastics, the long-term effect of which on human health is not known.
- It is predicted that the amount of plastic debris is likely to increase over the next decade unless nations take strong measures to dispose of their litter responsibly.
- Six months after the introduction of the 5p bag charge, use of single-use plastic bags dropped by 85%.

The Council believes –

- That all public bodies have a role to play in reducing unnecessary single-use plastic waste
- That the council can be a local leader, encouraging residents, organisations and businesses to stop using non-medical single use plastics (SUP).

This Council resolves to –

- Bring a report to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the options for reducing the use of unnecessary non-medical Single Use Plastics (SUP) items in Islington, with the aim of:
 - ensuring that Islington Council becomes a full signatory of the 'Plastic Free Pledge' (<https://plasticfreepledge.com/>) by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the council supply chain;
 - encouraging the borough's businesses, schools, organisations and residents to go 'single-use plastic free,' working to share business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to re-usable alternatives;
 - incentivising traders on Council land to sell reusable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs;
 - requiring food and drink vendors at sporting and other events or on film locations in the borough to avoid SUPs and other high carbon single-use items as a condition of their event permission;
 - Investigating whether avoidance of SUPs could be a condition of licencing for pubs, nightclubs and music venues.