

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 26 September 2019 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Ismail	Gill	O'Halloran
Bell-Bradford	Graham	O'Sullivan
Burgess	Hamitouche	Poole
Champion	Heather	Poyser
Chapman	Hull	Russell
Chowdhury	Hyde	Shaikh
Clarke	Jeapes	Smith
Clarke-Perry	Kay	Turan
Comer-Schwartz	Khondoker	Ward
Convery	Khurana	Watts
Cutler	Klute	Wayne
Debono	Lukes	Webbe
Fletcher	Mackmurdie	Williamson
Gallagher	Nathan	Woodbyrne
Gantly	Ngongo	Woolf

The Mayor (Councillor Rakhia Ismail) in the Chair

70 MINUTE'S SILENCE

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, a minute's silence was held for former councillor and Leader of the Council Steve Hitchins who passed away on 24th September. Members of the Council paid tribute to former councillor Hitchins.

71 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meetings held on 27 June and 25 July be agreed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

72 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Mayor advised that all councillors had a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to Motion 3, '*A Fully Funded, Proper Pay Rise for Council and School Workers*', as the Members' Allowances Scheme links councillor allowances to the Local Government Pay Settlement. The Monitoring Officer had granted a dispensation to all members of the Council to allow the Motion to be considered.

Members of the Unison, Unite and GMB trade unions had a personal interest in Motion 3. Councillors Bell-Bradford, Burgess, Caluori, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Convery, Comer-Schwartz, Cutler, Debono, Fletcher, Gallagher, Gantly, Hamitouche, Hull, Hyde, Ismail, Jeapes, Kay, Khondoker, Khurana, Lukes, Mackmurdie, Nathan, N'gongo, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Shaikh, Smith, Turan, Ward, Watts, Wayne, Webbe and Williamson declared a personal interest in relation to the Motion.

73 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(i) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Spall, Caluori and Picknell.

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillors Khondoker and Gantly.

(ii) Order of Business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

(iii) Declaration of Discussion Items

No discussion items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had attended several great events over the summer, including Archway Festival, Soul in the City Festival, Hillrise Summer Fair and the excellent Angel Canal Festival. The Mayor was proud to represent a borough with such diversity and strong community spirit. It was amazing to see so many local people, and many councillors, at these community events. The Mayor commented that she looked forward to working with the council to further develop Eid celebrations in future years.

The Mayor had attended the Islington in Bloom Awards. The awards recognised local people for their contribution to the local environment. The Mayor said that it is important that we look after our green spaces and do our best to make Islington beautiful. The Mayor thanked everyone who took part in the competition. The Mayor announced that the winner of "Best Ward" was Highbury West and presented a trophy to the Highbury West ward councillors, with Councillor Webbe, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

The Mayor had attended the Climate Strike outside of the Town Hall on Friday 20th September. The Mayor said that the climate emergency is an important issue and the Council would have discussions on this topic tonight and at future meetings.

The Mayor congratulated Islington's young people on their excellent exam results. The Mayor attended St Aloysius, Central Foundation and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson schools on GCSE Results Day and was impressed with the determination and hard work of Islington's young people. The Mayor said that we should be very proud of progress our local schools have made over recent years.

The Mayor encouraged everyone to attend the Remembrance Sunday events in November.

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor passed on her best wishes to Maggie Kufeldt, the former Corporate Director of Housing and Adult Social Services and Head of Paid Service, who was leaving Islington and taking up a new role in Camden.

The Mayor welcomed Linzi Roberts-Egan, the new Chief Executive, to the Council. The Mayor said that councillors were looking forward to working with the new Chief Executive.

(v) Length of Speeches

The Mayor reminded members to take note of the timer and to keep within the permitted length for speeches.

74 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts thanked the Mayor and welcomed Linzi Roberts-Egan, the new Chief Executive, to the meeting. Councillor Watts also thanked Maggie Kufeldt for her contribution to the council and wished her the best in her new role.

Councillor Watts noted the government's recent one year spending announcement and expressed his disappointment that the government had not acted on its previous announcement that austerity was over. Councillor Watts had been involved in budget discussions with government through his role at the Local Government Association. The budget cuts would not be as immediate as in previous years, however since 2010 the Council's budget had been cut by around £270m a year. Councillor Watts was proud at how the Council had stood up to the austerity agenda and also how the Council had protected the services that residents value most. Councillor Watts had written to the government prior to the spending review demanding proper funding for local government, money to deliver genuinely affordable council housing, support for early intervention to keep young people safe, changing national policies to ensure that local authorities are funded and supported to tackle the climate emergency, and reform of the grossly unfair business rates system to ensure that small local businesses receive a fair deal. These demands had not been met through the spending announcement. Councillor Watts said that the spending announcement was

not the end of austerity, it was a continued attack on public services by the government. Councillor Watts said that the Council would continue to challenge the government on these matters as austerity had decimated the services that local communities rely on.

Councillor Watts said he was surprised to read allegations that the Council had done nothing to act on the climate emergency. This was not true. The Council was developing a detailed action plan to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 and the Council was committed to holding a public consultation on the plan. The Council had lobbied the government to provide the resources to allow the Council to make its plans a reality. The Council had successfully lobbied for the government to restore the climate change levy exemption for renewable energy which made it cheaper for local authorities to purchase energy from renewable sources. All council decisions were now required to consider the climate change implications and their contribution to achieving net zero carbon by 2030. New key performance indicators had been agreed to enable the council to evaluate its progress on carbon reduction. The council had continued to decarbonise its pension fund and was working on plans to stop heavy goods vehicles from driving on residential roads in the borough. The Council had also lobbied the Mayor of London to deliver all electric buses at the Holloway bus garage. The Leader was delighted to confirm that the Mayor of London had taken this into account and the 43 bus route was one of the first all-electric double decker bus routes in the country. Councillor Watts thanked Fossil Free Islington and other campaign groups for engaging constructively with the Council and said that their input would inform the council's plans. Islington Council had a strong track record on carbon reduction, meeting its previous target of a 40% carbon reduction by 2020 a number of years early. Councillor Watts recognised that there was more to do and said that this would be discussed further in the petition debate.

Councillor Watts thanked all the council staff who were planning for a possible 'No Deal' Brexit. Leaving the EU without a deal would present many challenges and the council was preparing for all eventualities. The reality was that food, fuel and medicines came to the borough through the English Channel and transport delays could result in disrupted supplies of essential goods. This would have significant consequences for local people.

Councillor Watts said the national political rhetoric was inflaming community tensions and this was disgraceful. Councillor Watts used to work with Jo Cox and said that to use her memory to argue for government policy was disgraceful. Islington knew what happened when far right rhetoric played to the fears of vulnerable people, as that is what led to the Finsbury Park terror attack. The consequences of politicians inflaming community tensions were severe and real people were the victims of this. Councillor Watts said that Islington would stand up for a united and cohesive community no matter the result of the Brexit process. Islington would stand together and stand against hatred.

75 **PETITIONS**

Sebastian Sandys presented a petition regarding the climate emergency, calling on members of the Council to participate in a forthcoming event held by Extinction Rebellion.

76 **PETITION DEBATE: DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN ISLINGTON AND PLEDGE TO REACH NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2030**

The petition was presented by Jen Cronin.

Councillor Webbe moved the motion to debate the petition. Councillor Clarke seconded. Councillors Russell and Heather contributed to the debate. Councillor Webbe exercised her right of reply.

The following main points were raised during the debate:

- Climate change was having a devastating impact on communities around the world and urgent action was needed to avert climate catastrophe.
- Islington Council had proudly declared a climate emergency at its 27 June 2019 meeting.
- Islington was the 12th best local authority in the UK for carbon emission reduction and the best in London.
- Islington Council had implemented a number of measures to bring about climate justice. These included setting up London's first municipal energy provider for over a century; Angelic Energy gave all households in the borough the opportunity to purchase 100% renewable energy at fairer prices. Islington Council was one of the first local authorities to establish a carbon offset fund, which ensured that any additional carbon produced by developers in the borough was charged for and the proceeds paid for projects to reduce emissions. Islington was the first borough to introduce emissions based parking permits through the diesel surcharge.
- Further work was required to meet the target of net zero carbon by 2030 and detail would be published in an action plan in due course. This would be subject to public consultation.
- Change at a national level was also required to achieve the net zero carbon target. Members called on government to invest in new sustainable energy sources, develop green jobs and fund local authorities to implement environmental improvements in their area.
- Reducing carbon emissions in Islington would improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- It was suggested that Islington Council needed to act faster to implement the measures required to achieve the net zero carbon target. In response, it was commented that some would always consider that the council was not acting fast enough, however the council would publish a comprehensive action plan that would be available for public consultation in early 2020. All of those present were encouraged to engage in the consultation process.

- It was commented that local councillors understood climate issues and the need for decisive action.
- Developing a low-carbon economy would be crucial to avert climate disaster.
- Achieving significant climate improvements would require collaboration between local, regional and national government.
- The Council was open to new ideas and suggestions for how it could address the climate emergency.
- Councillors thanked members of the public for campaigning on this issue.

RESOLVED:

To continue to encourage residents to participate in local democracy by carefully considering the concerns raised in the petition and to undertake the debate in a spirit of openness and transparency.

77 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question (a) from Rose Pryce to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

The dangers of EMF radiation from wireless technology have prompted the U.K. towns of Glastonbury, Frome and Totnes to apply the Precautionary Principle and halt the roll out of 5G. (The cities of Brussels & Geneva have done the same and there are many other worldwide campaigns to stop it). With zero studies to prove that 5G will be safe and considering its Duty Of Care, why isn't Islington Council also putting the health of its community - particularly our children - first?

Response:

Thank you for your question and for drawing my attention to the position of Frome, Glastonbury and Totnes. I note that Glastonbury Council have passed a motion resisting the rollout of 5G equipment, however Glastonbury Council will not be able to put the motion into effect, because planning policies and planning decisions must be in accordance with national planning guidelines. These have been set by national government and have recently been updated. Our position in Islington is informed by the national guidance regarding radio frequency electromagnetic fields and their impact on health. The guidance is based on the latest scientific evidence.

There have been many scientific research projects and studies looking at the impact of exposure to radio waves on health. This body of research has been examined by groups of UK and international independent experts, who have concluded that there is no evidence of adverse health effects if exposure remains below the levels set by current standards. In fact, the World Health Organisation has classified the health effect of radio frequency radiation in the same category as using talcum powder, so I hope that is of some reassurance. However, I do assure you that the council will continue to regularly review our position, based on the latest scientific evidence, national guidance from Public Health England, and national planning policy, to ensure we continue to deliver a healthy Islington for all. Thank you again for your question.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. Can this be raised properly as an issue at a future meeting and given more time so that more evidence can be discussed?

Response:

Thank you. The business that is carried on in this chamber does follow certain rules, but you will have seen tonight that there was a petition that attracted a lot of signatures and triggered a debate. However, I do emphasise, we can only follow the law and the guidelines, including from the World Health Organisation in this case, which is a pretty respected organisation.

Question (b) from John Hartley to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

I was shocked to discover that Islington does not provide a food waste recycling service to many flats, including for example, Xchange Point in Market Road. Modern, gated, plenty of ground level storage areas, with a regular refuse and recycling service – this large block of flats does not have a food waste communal collecting point because Islington will not provide a collection service. Why does Islington fail to provide a food waste recycling service to 75% of its households?

Response:

Thank you for your question, John. Islington Council is committed to creating a cleaner, greener and more sustainable Islington. To help achieve that ambition, we are working hard to reducing waste, and drive up recycling rates across the borough. Islington Council already provides a weekly food waste collection and recycling service to all street properties with a weekly recycling service, and to approximately half of all-purpose built flats. This means that we are providing food waste recycling to approximately 75% of all households in Islington.

We are working hard to deliver food waste recycling to 100% of households in Islington. We have just consulted on our draft Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, which is due to be adopted soon, and one of our proposals in that is extending our food waste recycling to all remaining purpose-built blocks of flats and trialling communal collection points for flats above shops. We of course need to ensure that we have the funding to do that.

It's not just about providing the resource; it's ensuring that residents understand the importance of food waste recycling. So we have been rolling out a really clear campaign to make clear that food is not waste, it is a resource. Food can be transformed in to so many things, from electricity to compost. We are making that very clear as part of our Small Change Big Difference campaign, to encourage more local people to recycle food waste. I'm with you; I can't wait until I'm also able to access food waste recycling at home too.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. I applaud the policy of trying to reduce waste. However, I did submit a Freedom of Information request asking how many households did not receive food waste recycling services, and I received the response that approximately 75% of households do not receive it. So I am surprised by your response that 75% of households do receive it. You've said you would like to increase this to 100%, can you give a timescale of how long this will take?

Response:

I'm really sorry that you received incorrect information. We've just consulted on our Waste and Recycling Plan that sets out our intention to expand food waste recycling to 100% of households. We're working through the consultation responses now, but we are hoping to take that to our Executive for agreement on 17th October. We will make the decision, then work towards getting that 100%, subject to us having the funding. It will then need to be considered in our budget for the coming financial year. By April by next year, I hope you will see this beginning to be implemented.

Question (c) from Richenda Walford to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

There are many items that can be recycled in Hornsey Street but to do so you have to arrive in a polluting motor vehicle. Arrive at the recycling centre on foot or bike and you will be told to take your recycling away and arrange for a motor vehicle to collect it. Why does Islington discourage zero-carbon journeys in this way?

Response:

Thank you for your question Richenda. We are committed to driving up recycling rates in Islington and our Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy sets out a number of actions to help us achieve this. The Reuse and Recycling Centre does have a drop-off facility for pedestrians and cyclists, where local people can drop off many items. However, the site is an industrial site which is used almost 24 hours a day by heavy good vehicles who manage the large volumes of waste and recycling and consequently. It is simply not safe for pedestrians and cyclists to access the site.

There are a number of other ways in which local people can recycle items without needing to drive a polluting car to the centre. Including at public recycling points for smaller items, using council collection services. We will continue to promote those, as well as the use of car clubs, which are a greener, more sustainable option for anyone who needs to drop-off bulkier items to the Reuse and Recycling Centre.

If you are walking or cycling, you shouldn't need to go all the way to the Waste and Recycling Centre. You should be able to drop items of locally. We are committed to working with local people, to make it easier to recycle, and so people can drop off items that need to be recycled.

The safety aspect of the Waste and Recycling Centre is important. There is, however, a drop-off point at the entrance to centre for smaller items.

Supplementary question:

There is indeed a drop-off point, but there are other items such as asbestos and household chemicals that are not allowed at the drop-off point. We had some asbestos that we couldn't drop-off at the gate; you have to get a local vehicle to do it for you. Why do you not encourage zero carbon journeys in this way?

Response:

You raise an interesting point. Asbestos and chemical items are too dangerous for individuals to drop-off themselves so would require those to be transported safely. I will look at that closely, as we wouldn't want asbestos or dangerous chemicals to be dropped-off at other points either. It shouldn't be right that a pedestrian is carrying asbestos or chemical products by hand through the streets of Islington. We need to protect our residents. These are important questions and I am sure there will be an adequate solution.

Question (d) from Talia Hussain to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

The draft Transport Strategy says that Islington will investigate the elimination of parking permits for diesel & petrol vehicles by 2030. At the same time, the target for privately owned cars is over 30,000, which suggests that Islington could see 30k electric vehicles on the streets by 2030. How many vehicle charging points will this require on our streets, how much will this cost and how will they be paid for?

Response:

Thank you for your very important question. In June the Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency and committed to making Islington net zero carbon by 2030. To achieve this bold ambition and clean up the air we breathe, we want to see Petrol and Diesel vehicles removed from our streets by 2030. Nevermind the government's plan to end the government's plan to end Petrol and Diesel cars by 2041. In Islington, we want to ensure that those who need to use vehicles do so sustainably, that is why we have called on the Mayor of London to end diesel vehicles in London by 2025.

We want Islington to be a place where people use healthy, efficient and sustainable modes of transport, where there are no barriers to walking, cycling and using public transport. In terms of targets for charging points, we want to make sure that the number of charging points is sufficient for the future. We have committed to installing 400 electric vehicle charging points by 2022. We have already delivered 167 on-street charging points. Our ambition is for zero emission vehicles; electric cars are part of that agenda, but there is also talk of using hydrogen and other technologies.

There will be a need to ensure that those who need to make car journeys are supported in doing so as sustainably as possible.

Supplementary question:

I know that Councillor Webbe is very passionate about carbon reduction and is engaging with climate campaigners on environmental issues. What science tells us about electric vehicles is that they emit as much particulate matter as conventional vehicles. They include carbon emissions from their production which are as much as 90% of conventional vehicles and of course they represent the same road danger. The answer isn't more vehicles on our roads. Will the council engage with the evidence on electric vehicles, including that they use rare minerals that are mined in poor countries with poor labour standards such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, that produces 60% of the world's cobalt and has terrible child labour laws?

Response:

As I set out, our future isn't necessarily electric vehicles. What we are seeking to do is move with the advances in technology. At the moment the technological advances suggest that, for the UK right now, that for those who need to use a vehicle, it is better if they are using an electric vehicle. They are available in the UK right now. We have looked at other types of vehicles, but the infrastructure isn't there to take this forward. What we have now is electric vehicles.

Electric vehicles may not be the latest technology in 2030. What our strategy sets out is that we want to move to zero emission vehicles. We hope that technological advances will mean that we will get new forms of vehicles that will not emit particulate matters. We are concerned about particulate matter and that is why our Air Quality Strategy sets out that we will move to World Health Organisation standards on particulate matters. Our agenda for moving forward is based on the reality. We understand these issues and will challenge the industry to get answers quicker; we will not sit still.

Question from a member of the public to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

What measures are you taking to reduce car parking in Islington?

Response:

Thank you for your question. What we want to do is create a transition and rebalance our roads in favour of walking, cycling and public transport. For too long our records have been designed for cars. What we want to do is change and transform our roads so that we improve opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport. We are removing parking spaces and delivering cycle parking across the borough.

78 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

Question (a) from Councillor Heather to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

Finsbury Park Ward is afflicted by a drug related crime crisis. The ward also has high levels of anti-social behaviour (ASB) related to business activities, with motor traffic offences being committed regularly by Uber and Deliveroo delivery drivers, servicing food and alcohol retailers, whose activities are proving to be incompatible with ethical trading and the well-being of residents living nearby.

In view of this situation, would you agree that in order to tackle these problems more effectively, the council and the police need to work together much more closely with people in the local community, and that to assist this cooperation the processes for reporting crime and ASB to the authorities, and the procedures for using CCTV to prevent and detect crime and ASB, need to be improved and communicated much more effectively to the public?

Response:

Thank you for the question, Gary. Islington Council is committed to making our borough a safer place for everyone. To tackle anti-social behaviour effectively we must continue to work with police, other partners and the wider community. That is why we share the deep concerns expressed by local residents, businesses, councillors and police about current levels of drug dealing, drug use and associated issues of antisocial behaviour, crime and violence in the wider Finsbury Park area.

The Safer Islington Partnership has taken on the issue of drug-related offending as one of its five key priorities for this year. We have put in place a joint Finsbury Park Community Safety Plan, involving council and police colleagues in Hackney, Haringey and British Transport Police, and will continue to work with other partners like the NHS and local charities to tackle the problems you have raised. We are committed to improving the safety, security and welfare of all of the area's residents and have already introduced a number of measures in the Finsbury Park area to prevent and tackle crime including –

- seven extra uniformed police officers
- increased the size of policing teams
- increased police patrols, stop-and-searches and arrests
- a knife-bin outside St Mellitus Church
- installed new CCTV cameras in crime hotspots
- physical improvements to 'design out' crime
- needle-exchange schemes
- disabled the free-calls-to-mobiles function on BT Inlink booths
- expanded the network of Safe Havens
- substance misuse support for both adults and young people
- specialist targeted support for children at risk and their families
- safe and secure accommodation for rough sleepers

- an extensive programme of positive activities for young people during the summer.

These measures have already seen the closure of 8 crack houses, the removal of over 1,000 weapons from local streets and helped get 39 rough sleepers from Stroud Green Road into secure accommodation.

We are also working hard to find practical ways to reduce the anti-social behaviour caused by the congregation of delivery drivers linked to the gig economy including tackling noise pollution and parking and traffic violations, mainly around the Nags Head area. We are engaging with delivery companies including Uber Eats and Deliveroo to ensure that drivers are given clear instructions on parking legitimately, noise nuisance and behaviour whilst working. Some of their drivers have been suspended as a result. A number of pro-active patrols have been carried out in the area already, and the ASB team are monitoring the area at night. They have identified a number of mopeds at the location and are gathering evidence of unreasonable behaviour, leading to enforcement action against drivers.

The Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Policing Team and traffic officers patrol the area regularly. On their last patrol three riders were reported for various offences. Finally, while deliveries are not currently a licensable activity forming part of a restaurant's licence conditions, in the future consideration may be made to adding conditions to new licenses regarding the use of motorised deliveries.

I welcome this progress but know there is so much more to do, and you are right that we need to do even more work with our communities, not just for them.

Supplementary question:

Thank you Councillor Hull for your comprehensive answer. I've noticed that, with all the problems we talk about in the Finsbury Park area, there is a lack of reporting and communication. This is one of the key things we need to improve. For example, in relation to the Police, there was a very useful newsletter that went out, but it would have been helpful to include contact numbers for Safer Neighbourhood Teams in the area, or even an email address. I think an area that needs more attention is the anti-social behaviour telephone line. It's an opaque and uphill complaints process. I've heard lots of complaints about the process, and I'm not blaming council staff, but I think the process needs to be looked at. It seems to have random hours, sometimes you don't get a response, it's really complicated and time consuming and doesn't lend itself to efficient reporting. In terms of traffic offences, I think we need to give more publicity on how you report those. As for CCTV, we can make improvements by working with the Police, looking at where it is deployed and how it is used.

Response:

Yes, we are enhancing our communications plan. We have written to every household in Finsbury Park ward and many households in Highbury West. Around 16,000 letters went out in my name and the name of the Borough Commander

raising a number of the issues you have raised. We wanted to ensure that local residents and businesses are informed on the progress we are making and understand the critical value of reporting crimes as they occur. I think you're right that the ASB service and the CCTV service could be further improved and I'll ensure that I raise this in my conversations with officers. Despite central government cuts, that have seen the council's core funding cut by 70% and 300 police officers taken off our borough's streets, we are determined to do all we can to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour that blights communities and make Islington a safer place for everyone. I look forward to working with you and the other Finsbury Park and Highbury West ward councillors to make that happen.

Question (b) from Councillor Clarke to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

All councillors in Islington received a letter from Unite London Region about a month ago informing us about the Unite members dispute with GLL in Bromley – they have been on strike since 6th June this year. They are striking about staff cuts and to protect the service and staffing. They say that 70% of GLL staff are on zero hours contracts are not paid the London Living Wage (LLW.) They also state that GLL refuse to recognise trade unions.

As a user of GLL run leisure facilities in Islington I am concerned in case the problems Unite members are having in Bromley are happening in centres run by GLL in Islington. Some of my concerns are whether GLL Islington pay the LLW, whether they use zero hours contracts, whether they recognise trade unions and provide facility time for union reps, practicing collective bargaining. I am also concerned about the accountability of the top level of managers in GLL and who they are answerable to.

Can you confirm that we as a council support the workers in GLL and will work with GLL and the unions involved to ensure that workers' rights to organise in a union are being protected, jobs are being protected and that GLL is adhering to our contract with them?

Response:

We are committed to making the borough a fairer place and that includes that staff working directly for the council, or through contractors, receive fair pay and terms and conditions. I'm pleased to have this opportunity to assure you and all members that GLL is adhering to the terms of our contract. They have been responsible for the management and delivery of leisure services in the London Borough of Islington since April 2014 and they have been paying the London Living Wage to staff since that time. I think we were probably the first borough in London to pay the London Living Wage to leisure centre staff. They do recognise trade unions, they engage in collective bargaining, and they provide facilities for union representatives to protect the rights of workers. In Islington the relevant union is Unison. They also have Investors in People Silver Status, and they have contractual obligations to employ local residents. In 2017, 17 local residents were trained and that led to 8 being

employed locally. The following year, 39 local residents were trained and 15 of those were locally employed. There were 10 local apprenticeship placements in 2017 and 7 in 2018. They have had some trouble in getting people to fulfil those apprenticeship roles, so they are working hard to get more and we are helping them with that.

Islington Council does not support the use of exploitative zero-hours contracts, which deny employees the opportunity to take work with other employers or to refuse work that is offered by their main employer. GLL have confirmed that they do not use exploitative zero-hours contracts of this nature and about 70% of the hours of work at GLL locally is carried out by people on permanent contracts. However, sports coaches and fitness instructors often prefer the flexibility of casual contracts.

GLL is a charitable social enterprise owned by its staff on a one-person-one-share basis and the management are accountable to the elected management board which includes staff members, independent trustees and Greenwich councillors. I'd be happy to give you more information after the meeting.

Supplementary question:

Thank you, that is very reassuring. To give you an update, in Bromley GLL are running the libraries. The Bromley library service, supported by Unite, have been on strike for 15 weeks. Does GLL have an anti-bullying policy in Islington, and is it in operation in all centres and at all levels of the organisation, including management?

Response:

I assume they have an anti-bullying policy but I'd need to find out. I'm not responsible for GLL elsewhere in the country, but I know in Islington we keep them to the contract we have with them, that I think is a very good contract. It would be up to Bromley Council to give their workers a better deal, but it's not something I can comment on I'm afraid.

Question (c) from Councillor Russell to Councillor Webbe, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

What lessons did you learn from Car Free Day?

Response:

Thank you for your question. We were very excited by Car Free Day and our ability to participate in the London-wide celebrations. Islington Council is committed to cleaning up the air we breathe and creating healthy streets, safe for walking and cycling. World Car Free Day allows people of all ages and backgrounds to reimagine their city free from cars and reclaim their streets while walking, cycling and exploring the place they live. We've learned that we can close our streets and can experience what it feels like to reimagine those streets.

This year's World Car Free day was Islington's biggest by far, with a council organised event in St John Street. The councillors of Bunhill and Clerkenwell were delighted to attend that event. We also made it possible for residents to apply for a Play Street; we had 18 Play Streets organised by local residents across the borough. Play Streets enable children and their families and their wider community to reclaim their streets by enabling residents to close residential streets to traffic and vehicles for a few hours turning them into a place where children can play and where residents and their neighbours can get together and by participating in Play Streets residents can celebrate World Car Free Day with us.

The council will go back to those who organised the Play Streets and work with them and encourage them to run a regular Play Street, so those 18 streets can be added to our existing Play Streets, so we can continue to grow the notion of closing your street to make it more enjoyable and reclaim that street for people not cars.

Supplementary question:

Thank you for your response. Car Free Day was fantastic, at St John Street the council staff were doing an amazing job in the rain, people were really enjoying themselves. I'd just like to read something from a 7-year-old about Car Free Day: "It feels really strange to be playing in the streets; I felt scared I was going to get hit by a car, but then I remember there are no cars. It's amazing". Thank you Councillor Webbe, you enabled a really good thing to happen. Some parents tried to organise a play street but were told that they couldn't do one because they'd already had one this year. I think there may have been a problem with communication between all the different bits of the council that manage the process, so what I'm asking is, can we work together to try and make sure that the process is as smooth as possible to make sure we have an even bigger Car Free Day next year?

Response:

Thank you. We are absolutely clear that we want these celebrations to grow. Next year will be even bigger than this year. We also want our Play Streets to grow. We will remove all barriers to that growth. Play Streets have been in Islington for as long as I can remember. There is no notion that if you run a Play Street in a year once you can't hold it again; the whole point is that you run them time and time again. That is what this Council is committed to; so absolutely, we will do more to allow Play Streets to grow and develop. After all, it is residents themselves that know their streets. We want residents to organise together, work together, and enable their streets to feel free and be free of cars, as it is right that our streets are reclaimed for people. Thank you.

Question (d) from Councillor Russell to Councillor O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

Can you provide an update on the Council's preparations for a No Deal Brexit?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Russell. The Council is doing all that it can to prepare for all Brexit eventualities, but as you will hear me say later tonight, it is clear that a 'No Deal' Brexit would be devastating for the country and the uncertainty of what 'No Deal' would mean for the services and support the council provides for local people is a huge challenge. The Brexit Resilience Group, which brings together services across the council to assess risks and issues facing the council as a consequence of Brexit, including a 'No Deal' Brexit, has been meeting regularly to ensure that contingency plans are in place. We are also in close contact with bodies such as London Councils and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to provide updates on preparations and to raise issues of concern.

The BRG has produced and continues to monitor the Islington Brexit risk register and has been engaged in civil contingency planning with partner organisations. A comprehensive update on Islington's Brexit readiness was presented at the last Audit Committee on the 2nd September. A full report detailing the work that has been done and the risk register can be found online with the papers of this meeting, but I want to take this opportunity to repeat our commitment to our dedicated staff and people living in Islington from other EU countries – you are welcome here, you all play a vital part in our community, and you have our full support in continuing to do so. We will continue to monitor the risk register, and update it if further messaging is received from Central Government and the situation changes or becomes clearer. Thank you again for your question.

Supplementary question:

Thank you. Can I thank you for the constructive and helpful way in which you followed up on my question at the last Council meeting, I really appreciate it. I'm really reassured at your update, particularly in that solid commitment to EU citizens in the event of a crash-out 'No Deal' Brexit. EU citizens are concerned that they may not be able to vote in the London Elections next year in the event of a 'No Deal' Brexit and I just hope that Islington Council will make representations to make sure EU citizens are able to continue to vote.

Response:

As far as I am aware that information is not true; but I will defer to Councillor Watts on this point.

Response from Councillor Watts:

As I understand it, the legal position is clear. EU citizens have the right to vote until Parliament passes primary legislation to remove their right to vote. The message needs to be really clear from all of us this evening, that our EU friends, neighbours and citizens can absolutely democratically participate in those elections until that right is taken away by Parliament, and I would never support any legislation that did that.

79 BYELAW FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BARBEQUES ON Highbury Fields

Councillor Webbe moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Webbe exercised her right of reply.

The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That it be noted that the Council has now received provisional approval for the barbecue byelaw submitted to them on 14 June from the Secretary of State, and further that the Secretary of State has stated that subject to the consideration of any objections which the Secretary of State may receive, the byelaws may be submitted to the department for confirmation if they are formally adopted by the Council.
- (ii) That the Proposed Byelaw, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report submitted, be adopted and to proceed with the next steps to formalise the byelaw as set out in the report.

80 LONDON COUNCILS' TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE - GOVERNING AGREEMENT AMENDMENT FOR GREATER LONDON DOCKLESS VEHICLE HIRE BYELAW

Councillor Webbe moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Gill seconded. The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That authority be delegated to London Councils Transport and Environment Committee to make a byelaw to regulate dockless vehicles in Islington, as set out in paragraph 3.10 of the report submitted.
- (ii) That the Council's Acting Director of Law and Governance be authorised to sign any necessary documents to give effect to the amendment to the London Councils' Transport and Environment Committee Governing Agreement dated 13 December 2001 (as amended).

81 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

The Mayor advised that a revised report has been circulated in the second despatch of papers.

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Hamitouche seconded. The recommendations in the report were put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Cllr Cutler be appointed to the board of City of London Academy Islington from 15 October 2019 for a four year term or until a successor is appointed.
- (ii) That Cllr Heather be appointed to the board of the Finsbury Park Trust from 15 December 2019 for a three year term or until a successor is appointed.
- (iii) That Cllr Shaikh be appointed a substitute member of the board of the Finsbury Park Trust from 15 December 2019 for a three year term or until a successor is appointed.
- (iv) That Cllr Gill be appointed to the Community Chest Panel with immediate effect for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- (v) That Laura Eden, Director of Youth and Communities, be appointed as the substitute member for Carmel Littleton, Corporate Director – People Directorate, on the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- (vi) That Zaleera Wallace be appointed as the Secondary Parent Governor Representative on the Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee for a four year term or until a successor is appointed.
- (vii) That the designation of the Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety as the Champion for Victims (of crime) be noted.
- (viii) That the following paragraph is removed from the Personnel Sub Committee’s Terms of Reference: ‘The making of the council’s personnel policies and procedures and the setting of the terms and conditions of employment.’

82 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1 – Women’s Night Safety Charter

Councillor O’Halloran moved the motion. Councillor Woodbyrne seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To support and deliver on all the pledges within the Women’s Night Safety Charter;
- (ii) To encourage other businesses and organisations in Islington that operate at night to sign-up to the Women’s Night Safety Charter;

- (iii) To 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;
- (iv) To 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

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to the motion had been circulated in the additional despatch of papers.

Councillor Watts moved the motion. Councillor O'Halloran seconded. Councillor Russell moved her amendment. Councillor Lukes contributed to the debate.

The amendment was put to the vote and **LOST**.

The motion was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Council is opposed in the strongest terms to a 'No Deal' Brexit;
- (ii) That 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

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to the motion had been circulated in the additional despatch of papers.

The Mayor reminded members of the interests already declared in relation to this item.

Councillor Hyde moved the motion. Councillor Smith seconded. Councillor Russell moved her amendment. Councillors Graham and Watts contributed to the debate.

The amendment was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) 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;
- (ii) To call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the National Joint Council (NJC) pay claim;
- (iii) To 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;
- (iv) To continue to encourage all local government workers to join a trade union.

Motion 4 – Opposition to Heathrow Expansion and the introduction of concentrated flight paths over Islington

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to the motion had been circulated in the additional despatch of papers.

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Webbe moved her amendment. Councillor Russell exercised her right of reply.

The amendment was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To reaffirm the Council's position to oppose further expansion of Heathrow airport;
- (ii) To oppose expansion of airport capacity in London if the Government cannot demonstrate that it is accommodated within the emissions budget that the Climate Change Committee (CCC) recommends for aviation in 2050, as well as other environmental limits, such as air quality;
- (iii) To make representations to London City Airport and the Civil Aviation Authority calling for a fairer distribution of flight paths in London;
- (iv) To make representations to the Government urging UK Aviation Noise policy to be brought into line with WHO recommendations;
- (v) To register as an 'Interested Party' in the Development Consent Order Process for the proposed expansion of Heathrow;

- (vi) To investigate joining the No Third Runway Coalition as a local authority member.

Motion 5 – Single-use plastic-free Islington

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to the motion had been circulated in the additional despatch of papers.

Councillor Russell moved the motion. Councillor Webbe moved her amendment.

The amendment was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

The motion as amended was put to the vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- (i) 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;
 - further 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;
 - supporting more 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 licensing for pubs, nightclubs and music venues.
- (ii) To continue to call on National Government to take robust action in reducing single-use plastics.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm

MAYOR