

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 27 FEBRUARY 2020

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD - Islington Town Hall on 27 February 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

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

The Mayor (Councillor Rakhia Ismail) in the Chair

92 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 5 December 2019 be agreed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

93 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

94 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Caluori, Clarke-Perry, Gallagher, Hamitouche, Kay, Khondoker, Nathan and Picknell.

b) Order of Business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

c) Declaration of Discussion Items

No items were declared.

d) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir everyone to the first Council meeting of 2020 and highlighted some of the events she had attended recently.

The Mayor was pleased to attend the excellent "We Are Islington" event at Islington Green. The event brought our communities together to celebrate our diversity, as well as provide important support and information to the EU citizens who have chosen to make Islington their home and who are a valuable part of our community. The Mayor said that it is important that all of our communities feel welcome in our borough.

The Mayor was honoured to attend events marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The event in the Assembly Hall was very moving and was well attended by the local community, local councillors, our local MPs, and local schools. It is so important that we remember and never forget.

February was LGBT History Month and many events had been held across the borough commemorating Islington's rich LGBT history. The Deputy Mayor was pleased to attend the Camden and Islington LGBT History Month launch at St Pancras Hospital and the Mayor had attended the second Islington Gratitude Dinner at the Business Design Centre that evening.

The Mayor was also honoured to attend the Lord Mayor's Local Government Dinner at Mansion House, celebrations to mark the 100th Birthday of Gladys Smith at St Lukes and the opening of a special sensory garden at the Bridge School. Each in their own way was a reminder of the important role local councils' play in their communities.

The Mayor congratulated Islington's new Youth Councillors on their election. It was fantastic to see young people engaging in democracy and standing up for what they believe in.

The Mayor reminded everyone that the Mayor's Civic Awards would be held on Thursday 12 March in the Assembly Hall. These annual awards celebrate the enormous contribution made by many members of our communities who would otherwise go unrecognised.

95 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor Watts noted that it was the first time Council had met in the chamber since the general election and offered his congratulations to Councillor Claudia Webbe MP on her election and former Councillor James Murray on his election to Parliament, both of which were richly deserved. Councillor Watts also congratulated Councillor Gulcin Ozdemir on her election in the St George's Ward by-election.

Councillor Watts advised that he always respected the will of voters, but was concerned that the result of the general election was a disaster for the borough and that it will mean years austerity and cuts we can't afford, that we will not receive the investment we need for council housing, there will be planning laws that make things easier for private landowners, there will be no government action on the climate emergency, there will be a hard Brexit damaging to our economy and our communities and the roll out of Universal Credit will take pounds out of the pockets of the families in the borough who need it most. Councillor Watts said that when it inevitably goes wrong, the government will blame migrants and the poor and those least able to defend themselves. Councillor Watts advised that he was very clear that the Council's role now will be to defend, protect and improve the public services that so many people in the borough rely on, to build an inclusive economy providing jobs for residents, to take action on the climate emergency and continue to build a welcoming and inclusive borough.

Councillor Watts advised that he was delighted to join the Mayor at the We Are Islington event on the day after Brexit and put on record his thanks to council staff, partners and members of the community for organising the event at such short notice. Everyone is welcome in Islington and we are proud of the diversity of the borough. Councillor Watts advised that only through showing leadership on this will we be able to divide the forces that want to split the borough's communities. It is absolutely right that the Council supports the more than 20,000 residents of Islington, our friends, neighbours, colleagues and partners who are citizens of the remaining EU countries and that he was delighted to work with Islington in Europe and others on a whole range of community events. Councillor Watts advised that he was proud to be Leader of a Council standing together in these difficult times.

Councillor Watts advised that he was also proud to stand with the Mayor and other colleagues on Holocaust Memorial Day. The Holocaust was the most evil of events and it did not start with the gas chambers, they were the outcome of many years of hate building and it was immensely powerful to hear the words of Hana Kleiner, Holocaust Survivor, and Mevlida Lazibi, Bosnian genocide survivor. Councillor Watts advised that we have an enormous job in Islington, not just to protect services, but to stand up for what we believe, to stand up for the good. Councillor Watts advised that he is proud to work with the colleagues across the chamber to do that.

Councillor Watts noted there had been some changes to the Executive team and thanked Councillor Claudia Webbe MP for all her hard work, driving work on the green agenda over the last few years and for all the preparation work on low traffic neighbourhoods and the climate emergency. Councillor Watts confirmed that he had

been delighted to welcome Councillor Rowena Champion to the role of Executive Member for Environment and Transport and thanked Councillor Champion for all the work she had done since December. Councillor Watts also wished Councillor Andy Hull every success in his new role and noted what an outstanding Executive Member he had been and thanked him for all his work on the London Living Wage, the Fairness Commission and steering the finances of the council through the most difficult time, for championing community safety and protecting women and girls from violence. Councillor Watts thanked Councillor Hull for his contribution and for his friendship and support. Councillor Watts advised that Councillor Satnam Gill, who has enormous experience in both the public and private sector, will replace Councillor Hull as the Executive Member for Finance and Resources and that Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families, will take on additional responsibility for Community Safety.

96 **PETITIONS**

Conor McHugh submitted a petition concerning tree removal at Highbury Corner.

Rachael Swynnerton submitted a petition on behalf of Islington Clean Air Parents calling on the council to implement further measures to tackle air pollution.

Cllr Chapman submitted a petition opposing a planning application that would lead to an increase in polluting vehicles in close proximity to Yerbury School.

97 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Question a) from Sebastian Sandys to Councillor Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Would the Executive Member for Environment and Regeneration please explain why I have not had a response to my petition submitted to Council on 27 June 2019 and could they please tell me the full costs of the installation and subsequent removal of the parklet in Baldwin Street EC1V, and where the parklet is now?

Response:

Thank you for your question Sebastian and please accept my apologies that you have not received a formal response from the council to your petition, I will make sure that you do and I can assure you that it was not ignored. Parklets are small green oasis, installed on streets to make them greener and pleasanter. Unfortunately, this parklet generated complaints from local residents that it was being used as an outside drinking area by clients of a nearby pub. An investigation has taken place but complaints have continued so this parklet has been removed and is in storage until we can find an appropriate alternative location. In relation to the point you made about cost, the Bunhill parklet costs and installation were match funded out of planning gain funds that had to be spent in the local area and cost £15,000 including installation. The cost of removing it was £1200 including moving it to another area where it can be enjoyed by local residents.

Question b) from Gill Weston to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

In 2018 Islington Council granted itself planning permission to build accommodation for 11 adults with learning disabilities at Windsor Street. In 2014 council officers calculated that the scheme would cost £1.98 million and by December 2017 council officers had determined that the costs had risen to £4.12 million. Please can Councillor Ward provide an update on the estimated costs of building this accommodation, providing both build costs and development/consultancy costs?

Response:

Ms Weston was not present in the Chamber and a written response will be sent.

Question c) from Ian Fearnley to Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:

Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulations specify that no more than six people with a learning disability and/or autism should live together in supported living housing; and they have called for "small domestic scale setting within a community". In 2018 and 2019 two tribunal cases ruled in favour of the CQC's decision to refuse applications to register services for accommodation that deviated from this maximum number of six.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/tribunal-upholds-cqc-decision-refuse-registration-campus-style-accommodation-people>

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/tribunal-cqc-decision-learning-difficulties>

Later this year Islington Council propose to start building its residence for 11 adults with learning disabilities and/or autism at Windsor Street which contravenes these regulations as it provides shared facilities and exceeds the maximum number of six people per site.

The CQC state that 'new services should not be developed as a campus and/or congregate setting due to this not being in the best interests of people with a learning disability and not promoting their rights of choice, independence and inclusion'. Given this, how does the Council propose to modify the accommodation to comply with the CQC regulations?

Response:

Mr Fearnley was not present in the Chamber and a written response will be sent.

Question d) from Helena Farstad to Councillor Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:

Islington Council declared a Climate Emergency (CE) June 2019 with the target to become net zero carbon by 2030. This is 20 years ahead of the Government and is demonstrating the urgency this crisis demands. The CE action and communication plan is eagerly anticipated and should have been released for consultation in advance of this question being heard.

Sadly, regardless of what Islington is doing, or indeed all the other London boroughs and UK as a whole, unless the most polluting countries in the world are taking similar, bold action, there is likely to be irreversible changes to our climate that may directly impact Islington and its residents. Be that increased temperatures, increased droughts, erratic rain fall leading to flooding, increased sea levels threatening the lower lying parts of London to be uninhabitable, spread of disease, unexpected and rapid movement of people, food shortages etc. I wonder whether the Council is planning with these eventualities in mind and whether any conversations with other boroughs and indeed the Mayor of London are taking place addressing these possible and increasingly likely future risks?

Response:

Thank you for your question. As we have said the consequences of climate change are already with us and having a devastating effect on many countries and here in the UK. We have seen extreme climate events in recent years and this is likely to continue. We do have a very experienced Emergency Planning team who work with City Hall and government to ensure that we do have robust plans in place. To go back to the broader point you make, the task before us is huge, I do however believe that it is incumbent on us all to do what we can, in the Council and beyond and this is why the Council declared a Climate Emergency on 27th June. 2019, with a commitment to report back on 27th February 2020, today. We have also gone one step further and developed a Zero Net Carbon Strategy. A huge amount of thinking and work has taken place across the council to embed net zero carbon in everything we do moving forward.

Our collective challenge is to eliminate 700,000 tonnes of carbon emissions despite only 4% of these emissions arising from the council, which is why we need the government to make significant and on-going funding, including capital grant funding in order to deliver our ambition for Islington. Specifically, the cost of retrofitting the council's housing stock to become both energy efficient and zero carbon in terms of energy is well in excess of what the council can afford. As a council it is vital that we take a lead role. We have started initial stakeholder and resident consultation and a special meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has been arranged to take place on 9 March. There will be opportunities for residents to give feedback on the strategy. Thank you again for writing to me and for giving feedback on the consultation.

Question e) from Ernestas Jegorovas to Councillor Comer-Schwartz, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

Will the council add tackling climate change to Islington's Fair Future commission?

Response

Mr Jegorovas was not in the Chamber and a written response will be sent.

98 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question a) from Councillor Gantly to Councillor Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport

Highbury East councillors are grateful to Cllr Champion for attending the recent Highbury East Ward Partnership, where Cllr Champion witnessed first-hand the enormous enthusiasm for making Highbury East a low traffic neighbourhood. In view of this enthusiasm, and given the council has made budget provision for low traffic schemes, could Cllr Champion please share her plans for a low traffic neighbourhood in Highbury East?

Response

I would like to thank Councillor Gantly for her question and I was extremely pleased to attend the Ward Partnership meeting.

I agree that there was real enthusiasm and engagement on how we can improve the area. We are proposing to invest £1M to develop 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' to improve the local environment for everyone. The Mildmay / Highbury East area has been selected as the first Liveable Neighbourhood in Islington, but this is part of a much wider borough vision to introduce Liveable Neighbourhoods in every residential area of the borough in the coming years. We believe Liveable Neighbourhoods cleaning our boroughs air and creating a nicer more pleasant environment for everyone. The proposals for Liveable Neighbourhoods will be closely designed with local communities to stop through traffic, to make it easier to walk and cycle, and will include measures such as road closures and cycle routes, better crossings and improved public spaces to remove barriers to cycling. Thank you again for your question and I look forward to working with you and other ward councillors to shape the Liveable Neighbourhood.

Question b) from Councillor Poyser to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council

For how long will the European Flag fly from Islington Town Hall?

Response:

Thank you for your question Councillor Poyser and thank you also for attending the We Are Islington event in such a memorable fashion. 20,000 of our neighbours and friends are EU citizens. Brexit has now happened, but we will continue to respect their rights and the role they play in our borough and as we have not left the institution of the EU yet, I think it is appropriate that we keep the flag flying until the end of this year when it is proposed that we do. However, in doing some research, I found out that the flag that I had always assumed that the flag that I had always thought was the flag of the EU is actually the flag of the Council of Europe. It is a different organisation, which Britain joined in 1949. It wasn't until 1985 that the EU adopted the flag as well and as Britain remains a member of the Council of Europe, I think that is a very good reason for continuing to fly the flag and as the Council of Europe is the guardian of our human rights. The European Flag is rightly down at the moment whilst we celebrate LGBT history month, but it will be back flying proudly from our Town Hall.

Question c) from Councillor Turan to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Trees play a vital role in tackling the climate emergency and improving the air we breathe, as well as contributing to better mental health. We have just under 40,000 publically managed trees in Islington and the borough currently has a canopy cover of 25%, which is better than the London average of 21% and the UK urban average of 17%. I am incredibly proud of the canopy cover we currently have here and I'm glad we will be increasing this from 25% canopy cover in 2019 to 30% canopy cover by 2050 in alignment with the target of London to achieve 30% canopy cover, as part of the Council's commitment to clean up the air we breathe.

However, Islington also has a housing crisis and the only way to solve this crisis is to build more council homes. The Dixon Clark Court development in St Mary's will deliver 27 new council homes for local people. This scheme is a big step towards achieving our ambitious target of delivering 550 new council homes by 2022, as part of Islington's largest council house building programme in 30 years. Can Cllr Ward commit to ensuring that any lost trees at the Dixon Clark Court Site will be replaced nearby and see lead to a net gain of tree canopy cover across the borough.

Response:

Thank you very much for your questions Cllr Turan, this is a really important issue. Islington Council's top priority is delivering safe and affordable homes, including Council homes. The Dixon Clark Court development will deliver 27 new council homes for people and that is a big step towards achieving our target of 550 council homes by 2022. It is part of Islington's largest council home building programme in a generation and we should be proud of this. The scheme does include a small number of private homes but these will pay for not only the council homes but landscape improvements across the whole area. I really wish I could say that the council will deliver 100% council homes on that site, I really do, but unfortunately

with the ongoing cuts in government funding, the council to deliver some private homes in order to cross subsidise desperately needed council homes.

Trees play a vital role in tackling the climate emergency and helping us achieve our ambitious target of net zero carbon by 2030. The Council has 40,000 trees and the borough currently has a canopy cover of 25%, better than the London average of 21% and certainly better than the UK average of 17%. The redevelopment at Dixon Clarke Court includes the removal of 18 trees, a small palm and four groups of trees/shrubs across the estate. These currently provide around 770 metres of canopy cover.

But the approved scheme already includes 12 replacement trees on the estate which will provide around 470 metres of canopy cover over time, as part of the landscaping strategy developed with the residents at Dixon Clarke Court. The council is now working to identify suitable locations in the local area, to not only replace the remaining 300 metres of canopy cover, but to provide an increase in the current number of trees. Further increases in tree canopy cover will also be sought as part of development schemes across the borough. The proposals at Dixon Clarke Court will therefore deliver 27 desperately and urgently needed new council homes, and also an increase in tree canopy cover in the local area and I am very keen to work with the St Mary's councillors on this and thank you very much for your question.

Question d) from Cllr Gill to Cllr Rowena Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

Last year, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2030. Last week, I was delighted to see the Council publish its report on progress towards that goal so far, as well as the Council's capital investment proposals which will go some way to tackling the emergency we face. Toxic air pollution is a major worry for many of our residents and the work the Council is doing to improve air quality is welcome. The figures published recently that show air quality around our schools improving were encouraging and show the benefits of the School Streets scheme. I noted that one of the schools with higher levels of toxic air pollution was Yerbury Primary School in my St George's ward.

I was concerned recently to see the proposal put forward by Ocado for a delivery hub adjacent to the playground of Yerbury. All evidence shows that toxic air pollution is particularly harmful to the physical and mental development of children. Ocado's plans would mean hundreds of polluting vehicles driving along the boundary of the school every day, as well as the installation of a diesel tank and pumps to refuel the vehicles, increasing Islington's carbon emissions and harming air quality. In light of this, would you agree that the proposal put forward by Ocado, is irresponsible and flies in the face of everything the Council is trying to do to clean up our Borough's air quality.

Response:

Thank you for your question. I think you mentioned earlier that there is an error in the papers which puts Yerbury in St George's Ward rather than Junction and I just wanted to mention that. Thank you to you and the other ward councillors and particularly to Councillor Chapman for presenting the petition and representing the local community who oppose these proposals. I agree that Ocado's proposal to use diesel vans and diesel pumps in close proximity to Yerbury School and green spaces such as Whittington Park is extremely irresponsible. It flies in the face of everything we are trying to do to provide cleaner air for Islington residents, especially around our schools.

Tackling air pollution is a top priority for the council. Poor air quality kills over 9000 Londoners every year and affects everyone in some way and is particularly harmful for children and young people, as we have heard tonight. Our extremely popular School Streets scheme has helped clean up the air around many of our schools including Yerbury, but it is still not good enough. The council recently became the first local authority in the country to publish air quality data for all of the schools in the borough. The data showed that despite having a School Street, Yerbury's air quality is still one of the worst in Islington. The Ocado depot will make this worse.

As you know, I have been working with the Leader of the Council, the ward councillors, the school community and Jeremy Corbyn MP to lobby Ocado to reconsider its plans. In response to the lobbying, Ocado has given a public commitment to pursue improvements to the power supply to the site, but it's response is nowhere near enough and I assure you I will continue to work with the Leader of the Council and the ward councillors to lobby Ocado to obtain assurances that the children of Yerbury are able to go to school in a safe and healthy environment.

99 UPDATE ON THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Councillor Champion moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Poyser seconded.

Councillors Russell, Ozdemir and O'Sullivan contributed to the debate.

Councillor Champion exercised her right of reply.

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

RESOLVED:

- a) That the actions the Council has taken since the declaration and the development of a Net Zero Carbon Strategy, based on 6 key priorities: 1. Residential, Commercial & Industrial Buildings & Infrastructure; 2. Transport (including Fleet); 3. Sustainable Energy Generation & Supply; 4. Affordable Energy & Fuel Poverty;

5. Green Economy & Planning and 6. The Natural Environment, Waste Reduction & Recycling and Carbon Offsetting; be noted.

- b) That the scale of the challenge faced by the borough to reduce net carbon emission by 700,000 tonnes (including carbon offsetting), be noted.
- c) That the council's operations produce approximately 4% of Islington's total emissions and that this rises to approximately 8% of emissions if gas boilers in council-owned homes are included, be noted.
- d) That an approach for engaging and collaborating with residents, businesses, borough public sector and partner organisations, regional and national government, will be developed to support the delivery of the net zero carbon vision, be noted.
- e) That the draft Net Zero Carbon Strategy has identified what we can commit to immediately and actions we will take; what we would like to commit to that requires further investigation; and what we need from others in order for Islington to achieve net zero carbon e.g. funding, powers and legislation, be noted.
- f) That a cross-departmental approach to implementing the strategy, including the creation of zero carbon working group and developing detailed action plans for each priority, be noted.
- g) That initial stakeholder and resident consultation in relation to the draft Net Zero Carbon Strategy has started and that a special meeting of the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has been arranged to support that consultation process, be noted.
- h) That the final strategy will be presented to Executive for adoption and approval in June 2020, be agreed.

100 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

The Mayor advised that a revised version of the report had been circulated in an additional despatch.

Councillor Gill moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Turan seconded.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the appointment of Cllr Champion as the Executive Member for Environment and Transport be noted.

- b) That the appointment of Cllr Gill as the Executive Member for Finance and Performance with effect from 2 March 2020 be noted.
- c) That Cllr Comer-Schwartz will be the portfolio lead for Community Safety from 2 March 2020 be noted.
- d) That Cllr Debono be appointed as Chair of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- e) That Cllr Gill has stood down as a substitute member of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- f) That Cllr Hull be appointed as a member of the Audit Committee from 2 March 2020 for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- g) That Cllr Ozdemir be appointed as a member of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- h) That Cllr Graham be appointed as a member of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- i) That Cllr Gill has stood down as a substitute of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- j) That Cllr Ozdemir be appointed as a member of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee with immediate effect, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- k) That Cllr Gill has stood down as a substitute of the Children's Services Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- l) That Cllr Clarke-Perry be appointed as a member of the Licensing Regulatory Committee with immediate effect, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- m) That Cllr Gill be appointed as a member of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- n) That Cllr Gill has stood down from the Grievance Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- o) That Cllr Gill has stood down from the Standards Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- p) That Cllr Gill has stood down from the Licensing Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted
- q) That Cllr Gill has stood down from the Standards Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.

- r) That Cllr Gill has stood down as a substitute member of the Planning Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- s) That Cllr Gill has stood down as a substitute member of the Health and Care Scrutiny Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- t) That Cllr Gill has stood down as a substitute member of the Housing Scrutiny Committee with effect from 2 March 2020, and that a successor will be appointed, be noted.
- u) That Andrew Fraser, Interim Corporate Director – People Directorate, be appointed as the substitute member for Carmel Littleton on the Health and Wellbeing Board for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- v) That Councillor Gill be appointed to the North London Waste Authority with effect from 2 March 2020, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- w) That Cllr Comer-Schwartz be appointed to the Safer Neighbourhood Board with effect from 2 March 2020, for the remainder of the municipal year or until a successor is appointed.
- x) That Cllr Gill will stand down as the Chief Whip, with effect from 2 March 2020 and that Cllr Turan, Deputy Chief Whip, will take on the Chief Whip's responsibilities with effect from 2 March 2020 until a replacement is appointed be noted.
- y) That Cllr Hamitouche has stood down as the Carers Champion and that Cllr Spall has been appointed as Carers Champion be noted.
- z) That Cllr Hamitouche has stood down as the Equalities Champion and that Cllr Ismail has been appointed as Equalities Champion be noted.
- aa) That the appointment of Steve Key, Director Service Finance, as the Acting Section 151 Officer be noted.

101 **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2020-21+**

The Mayor advised that Councillor Russell's proposed amendment to the budget was circulated in the additional despatch.

Councillor Hull moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Watts seconded. Councillor Russell moved her amendment. Councillors Hyde, Clarke, Heather and Woolf contributed to the debate.

Councillor Russell exercised her right of reply on the amendment. Councillor Hull exercised his right of reply on the recommendations.

The amendment was put to the vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

For: Councillor Russell

Against: Councillors Burgess, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Clarke, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Cutler, Debono, Gantly, Gill, Graham, Heather, Hull, Hyde, Jeapes, Khurana, Klute, Lukes, Mackmurdie, Ngongo, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Poole, Poyser, Russell, Shaikh, Smith, Spall, Turan, Ward, Watts, Wayne, Webbe, Williamson, Woodbyrne and Woolf.

The amendment was **LOST**.

The recommendation in the report were put to the vote. Voting was recorded as follows:

For: Councillors Burgess, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Clarke, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Cutler, Debono, Gantly, Gill, Graham, Heather, Hull, Hyde, Jeapes, Khurana, Klute, Lukes, Mackmurdie, Ngongo, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Poole, Poyser, Russell, Shaikh, Smith, Spall, Turan, Ward, Watts, Wayne, Webbe, Williamson, Woodbyrne and Woolf.

Against: Councillor Russell

The recommendations were **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That the comments of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee on the Budget Proposals 2020/21 were received by the Executive on 6 February 2020 be noted.

The General Fund Budget 2020/21 and MTFS (Section 3)

- 2.2 That the assumed MTFS and budget gap, subject to the comments of the Acting Section 151 Officer in Section 7 regarding the additional medium-term budget risks that are not currently factored into the budget gap (paragraph 3.6, Table 1 and Appendix A of the report) be noted.
- 2.3 That the revised 2020/21 to 2022/23 savings and income generation programme (paragraph 3.18 and Appendix B of the report) and the revenue budget growth and additional/expanded service provision funded from existing budgets and external funding (paragraphs 3.22-3.23, Table 5 and Appendices C1-C2 of the report) be agreed.
- 2.4 That there are significant risks around the savings currently assumed in the MTFS and that a risk-based review of all assumed savings is currently underway and will feed into the next refresh of budget assumptions at the

outset of the 2021/22 budget setting process (paragraphs 3.19-3.21 of the report) be noted.

- 2.5 That the 2020/21 net budgets by directorate (paragraph 3.24, Table 7 and Appendix A of the report) be agreed.
- 2.6 That the variables that could still significantly affect the 2020/21 budget (paragraph 3.25 of the report) be noted.
- 2.7 That the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement for 2020/21 and related funding assumptions (paragraphs 3.26-3.33 of the report) be noted.
- 2.8 That the 2020/21 fees and charges that have been approved by the Executive (paragraphs 3.34-3.36 and Appendices D1-D4 of the report) be noted.
- 2.9 That the budgeted movements to/from earmarked reserves assumed as part of the 2020/21 revenue budget and to note the policy on the minimum target level of General Fund balances (paragraphs 3.37-3.41 and Table 8 of the report) be agreed.
- 2.10 That any underspend on the General Fund budget at the end of the current 2019/20 financial year will be transferred to General Fund reserves and balances in order to improve the financial resilience of the Council (paragraph 7.11 of the report) be agreed.

The HRA Budget and MTFS (Section 4)

- 2.11 That the balanced HRA 2020/21 budget and note the latest estimates over the 3-year MTFS period (paragraph 4.3 and Appendix E1 of the report) be agreed.
 - 2.12 That the 2020/21 HRA rents and other fees and charges have been approved by the Executive (tables 10-13 and Appendix E2 of the report, as amended at the Executive meeting on 27 February 2020) be noted.
- #### 2.13 Capital Investment and Treasury and Investment Management (Section 5)
- 2.14 That the 2020/21 to 2022/23 capital programme and Capital Strategy (paragraph 5.1, Table 14 and Appendices F1-F2 of the report) agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 27 February 2020, be agreed.
 - 2.15 To authority be delegated to the Section 151 Officer, where necessary, to apply capital resources to fund the capital programme in the most cost-effective way for the Council (paragraph 5.6 of the report) be agreed.
 - 2.16 That the annual Treasury Management Strategy for 2020/21, which was considered by Audit Committee on 28 January 2020 and the Investment Strategy disclosures required by the Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments (paragraph 5.7 and Appendices G1-G4 of the report) be agreed.

Council Tax and Retained Business Rates (Section 6)

- 2.17 That the calculations required for the determination of the 2020/21 council tax requirement and the level of council tax as detailed in Section 6 of the report and summarised below, be agreed.
- 1) The 2020/21 council tax requirement of £98,768,282.10 (paragraph 6.2 of the report)
 - 2) The relevant basic amount of Islington Band D council tax of £1,216.04, a 3.99% increase compared to 2019/20 (comprising 2.00% for expenditure on adult social care and 1.99% for other expenditure), and that this is not 'excessive' (paragraphs 6.3 and 6.4 of the report)
 - 3) The basic amount of Islington Band D council tax for dwellings to which no special item relates (i.e. outside of the Lloyd Square Garden Committee area) of £1,215.81 (paragraph 6.5 of the report)
 - 4) The amount of 2020/21 council tax (excluding the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas (paragraph 6.7 of the report)
 - 5) The total amount of 2020/21 council tax (including the GLA precept) for each valuation band over each of the Council's areas (paragraph 6.9 of the report).
- 2.18 That the arrangements for the London Business Rates Retention Pool in 2020/21, which will continue on a non-pilot basis (paragraphs 6.10-6.13 of the report) be noted.

Matters to Consider in Setting the Budget (Section 7)

- 2.19 That the requirement to have regard to the Acting Section 151 Officer's report on the robustness of the estimates included in the budget and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves when making decisions about the budget and the level of council tax, as required under Section 25(2) of the Local Government Act 2003 (paragraphs 7.1-7.11 of the report) be noted.
- 2.20 That the comments of the Monitoring Officer (paragraphs 7.12-7.16 of the report) be noted.
- 2.21 That the Resident Impact Assessment (RIA) on the budget proposals (paragraphs 7.17-7.19 and Appendix H of the report) be noted.
- 2.22 That the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2020/21 (paragraph 7.20 and Appendix I of the report) be agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.06 pm

MAYOR