

COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

a **Cllr Convery to Cllr Watts, Leader of the Council:**

What is the purpose of the Council's Twitter account? Whilst it is self-evidently an "outbound" communication channel from the Council to the public, is it also an "inbound" channel for our residents to speak to the Council?

b **Cllr Poyser to Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:**

I would like to thank the Heritage Team for finding the 'Upon Reflection' sculpture, thought to be lost, in the basement of the Town Hall, and Cllr Shaikh, for organising meetings, despite lockdown, of all the many interested parties, including our local MP, to get the sculpture 'resurrected' in our local Peace Park, part of Elthorne Park, N19. I would also like thank Parks and Heritage for getting a quote to resurrect the statue in a way that makes it less likely to be stolen for a third time.

Hillrise has far, far lower S106 funds than most Wards but, for our part, the local councillors are happy to put money aside for 'resurrecting' this sculpture as it helps our Philip Noel-Baker Peace Park maintain its atmosphere as a place for meditation and reflection - particularly on Peace.

When can we expect the sculpture back in its rightful place, at the end of the fountains, rather than lurking, unloved, in the basement of Town Hall? Thanks to all concerned, particularly our MP Jeremy Corbyn who was present when the statue was unveiled in the 1980s.

c Cllr Heather to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

At a Council Housing Scrutiny Committee meeting, Partners for Improvement indicated that the Council could propose changes to them regarding their housing services performance reporting system and its measures, including their Key Performance Indicators.

In my view the current system of KPIs used by Partners does not allow for adequate scrutiny of their housing services performance, and consequently this detracts from achieving service improvement for tenants; and this is especially the case in relation to their housing repairs service.

Therefore, do you agree with me that the Council needs to approach Partners to adopt a revised performance measurement system whereby they learn from job failures in order to improve the housing repairs service that they provide to tenants? This would include deeper qualitative analysis of the population of repair jobs that they fail to fix first time, so as to identify the causes of failure and solutions, in order to improve their housing repairs service to tenants.

d Cllr Ismail to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Metropolitan Police figures from 2019 showed that half of all knife crime offenders in London are teenagers or even younger children. As knife crime continues to rise consistently, the number of young people directly or indirectly involved in violent knife crime will only continue to grow sadly. Islington is not immune to this trend, as we have lost far too many young people, there has been tragic example in September in my ward Holloway.

My question is, as a newly appointed Community Safety Executive member, what are your priorities and how are you going to engage young black and brown boys, who are often marginalised, misunderstood and far too often this Council ignored parents crying out for support?

e Cllr Ismail to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

Since 2010 this Council has been supporting and funding our voluntary organisations who do some excellent work in Islington. Has the Council made a proper review of tangible outcomes holistically to see what has been achieved and the gaps to improve future Council services and Voluntary Community sector delivery for Islington residents?

f Cllr Russell to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment and Transport:

The newly adopted transport strategy policy 1C committing “to provide alternatives to car ownership” is welcome. The policy commits to reduce the number of privately owned cars in the borough by 6.9% from a baseline of 37,372 cars by 2041. That is a reduction of just 2,578 cars over twenty years to 2041 leaving 34,794 cars still being parked in Islington in 20 years time. The policy states you expect car ownership to be down by 3.7% by next year, that's 1,382 fewer cars parked in Islington compared to the baseline. Do you expect to meet this target?

g Cllr Russell to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:

Over recent years council tax arrears have increased year on year for the cohort of residents eligible for council tax relief. The number of cases of arrears has increased, the amount these households owe has increased and the council's overall net liability has increased. How many open cases are there for council tax relief arrears for the year 2019/20 and what is the value of the open cases?

h Cllr Smith to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:

This year, more than any other, public sector workers have been the everyday heroes keeping our borough running. From carers looking after those in need, to paramedics keeping people safe and refuse collectors keeping our street clean, they have all played their part throughout the pandemic.

In light of this, will the Council condemn the Government's shameful public sector pay freeze, putting the burden of paying for the pandemic on those everyday heroes?

i Cllr Ozdemir to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Community Development:

The Windrush scandal was a racially-motivated Government-led disaster on our Black community. People who had lived their whole lives here were put through misery and some deported to places they had never lived in their lives. That was bad enough but the fact that the Government's supposed compensation scheme is delaying payments and then offering derisory amounts of money rubs salt in the wounds for those who suffered so much.

Will the Council agree to write to the Home Office, expressing its dismay with this process and calling on the Government to immediately provide adequate funding for those who have been wronged?

j Cllr Graham to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

As the Government's policy which requires leaseholders to get an ESW1 form is clearly not fit for purpose, what is the Council doing to support leaseholders in this?