



COUNCIL MEETING – 10 DECEMBER 2020

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Universal Basic Income

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes that –

- Financial security is critical to a stable and thriving society
- According to Trust for London,
 - Islington's rate of child poverty (47%) is well above the London average of 38%.
 - The borough has one of the highest proportions of working-age residents on out-of-work benefits in London, at 9.5% compared to the city average of 4.9% and pay inequality is higher than the London average.
 - Islington also performs badly on premature mortality; recording 365 deaths per 100,000 people who are under the age of 75, compared to the London rate of 303
- A Universal Basic Income (UBI) could help alleviate poverty, opening the door to opportunities that might otherwise be out of reach, and liberate people from the anxiety of job insecurity through a monthly income regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status.
- A network of UBI Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus.
- There are many potential benefits to a UBI including:
 - More flexible workforce and greater freedom to change jobs;
 - Supporting a caring economy to value unpaid work;
 - Removing the negative impacts of means testing, benefit sanctions and conditionality;
 - Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce pressure on the environment; and
 - Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy
- The current crisis has increased the risk of poverty for many Islington residents. This is the right time to trial Universal Basic Income.

This Council resolves to –

- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, and to both Islington MPs calling for a fully evaluated trial of basic income in our borough
- Work with other local authorities to help test UBI in London

Motion 2: Making misogyny a hate crime

Moved by Cllr Alice Clarke-Perry

Seconded by Cllr Flora Williamson

This Council notes –

- That the Law Commission is currently reviewing all current hate crime legislation to consider whether any additional characteristics, including misogyny, should be granted legal protection, and is due to report back to Parliament before the end of 2020. Misogyny is not currently recorded as a hate crime by the vast majority of police forces in the UK, outside of a handful of trial areas.
- That this review was due to the work of Labour MPs' campaigning to have misogyny classified as a hate crime - which her amendment to the Voyeurism (Offences) (No.2) Bill, or Upskirting Bill seeks to secure – alongside groups such as Citizens UK, HOPE Not Hate, Southall Black Sisters, Tell MAMA UK, and the Fawcett Society.
- That like women and girls across the country, Islington residents suffer harassment and abuse every single day. A YouGov national survey in 2016 showed that 85% of women aged 18-24 were subjected to sexual harassment in public and approximately 23 per cent of women in London say they feel unsafe in London at night.
- Women aged 16-30 experience greater rates of sexism than those aged 31-93 at school/work, on public transport, in taxis and outside on the street.
- The UN's The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, running from 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, until 10th December, Human Rights Day.
- The adoption of misogyny as a hate crime has been successfully implemented in Nottingham, where analysis has shown an increase in reporting as well as an increase in the use of wider services. It has also shown that the vast majority of local people wanted the scheme to continue.
- Studies have also shown that the intersectional nature of discrimination means that women with additional protected characteristics, such as those who are BAME, disabled or LGBT+, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse.

This Council further notes that –

- Islington Council's Licensing Policy 2018-2022 includes specific requirements for applicants to include safeguards to mitigate against sexual harassment of women in licenced venues, and services across the Council work with businesses and others to improve the safety of women in the borough.
- The Mayor of London's Women's Night Safety Charter has been created to make London a city where all women feel confident and welcome at night. The charter sets out guidance for venues, operators, charities, councils and businesses to improve safety at night for women. This includes better training of staff, encouraging the reporting of harassment, and ensuring public spaces are safe.
- Islington Council signed-up to the Women's Night Safety Charter in July 2019.
- Islington Council invested an additional £2million funding from April 2020 to tackle Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) over the next three years, to support an ambitious programme of service transformation to increase services and support to vulnerable victims and families and support behaviour change in people using violence in their relationships.
- In 2018, the Council appointed London's first Women and Girls Champion.

This Council believes that –

- Making misogyny a hate crime would mean police forces would log and monitor incidents of hostility towards women and girls, as they do with other forms of hatred.
- It would not make anything a crime that isn't already an offence but, could help track, detect and prevent these crimes and so improve the protection of women and girls from abuse.
- That it would also allow courts to take into account this behaviour when someone is sentenced for such a crime.
- That, moreover, it would help to change not only the prosecution and detection of such crimes but the culture of acceptance of this abuse too, as well as making women and girls feel safer and more comfortable.

This Council resolves to –

- To make a submission to the Law Commission's Consultation at the earliest opportunity in favour of strengthening hate crime legislation and making misogyny a hate crime.
- To call on the Government to listen to the lived experience of women and girls across our country and to urgently act on any recommendations the commission makes to strengthen the law on hate crime, and to reform legislation around harassment to recognise as hate crime that which targets women and girls in their community.

- To call on the Government to provide the resource and funding for police forces across the UK to effectively tackle harassment, misogyny and domestic abuse.
- To call on the police force in Islington to record harassment of women as a hate crime, following successful trials in Nottingham and elsewhere.

Motion 3: Reducing School Exclusions

Moved by Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Seconded by Cllr Vivien Cutler

This Council notes –

- The leaked Central Government plans for a 'harder narrative on discipline', including support for the use of 'reasonable force'.
- The rise of 'zero tolerance' approaches to behaviour, and increasing acceptance that this is 'what works', without regard for current or previous traumas within children's lives; the policy's impact on young people's mental health and access to education for our most vulnerable learners.
- Exclusions disproportionately affect young Black people. Black Caribbean and White British children are over-represented among those excluded from Islington schools.
- The work of the National Education Union to reduce school exclusions and tackle the disproportionate impact of school exclusions on young Black people.
- The work of No More Exclusions, a grassroots coalition movement in education with a focus on race-disparities in school exclusions and inclusive quality education for all.

This Council believes that –

- 'Zero tolerance' approaches are inhumane, ignoring the key idea that there are contributing factors to aspects of behaviour. They promote surface level compliance without addressing the needs and reasons underlying challenging behaviour.
- 'Zero tolerance' approaches are leading to students being informally excluded from classrooms and to young people spending inappropriate and harmful amounts of time in isolation within school.
- This year has been a challenging year for school children as the majority have outside of school for at least 6 months and exclusions following such disruption would be particularly unfair in the majority cases.
- Exclusions should only ever be used as a very last resort, if all else fails

- Policies that aim to control students' behaviour, rather than helping them control it themselves, undermine the very elements that are essential for motivation: autonomy, a sense of competence, and a capacity to relate to others.
- The upward trajectory in exclusions nationally has too often led to excluded children being exploited for crime and, consequently, enduring involvement in the criminal justice system.
- The disproportionate number of African Caribbean and other minority groups being excluded reflect both a historic injustice and evidence of institutionalised racism.

This Council further notes –

- That, last year, fixed period exclusion from Islington secondary schools has reduced by 40% and from primary school by 25% over a 12 month period. Permanent exclusion from secondary school has also reduced by 10%.
- That fixed period exclusion of Black Caribbean children reduced by 95 in 2019-20, representing a 29% fall. White British children receiving a fixed period exclusion reduced by 97, representing a 15% fall. The number of Black Caribbean children permanently excluded fell from 4 to 2, but the number of White British children permanently excluded rose from 9 to 11.
- Islington Council is working to analyse the correlation between school exclusions of Black and minority ethnic students and their involvement in youth crime, gangs and serious youth violence in a bid to strengthen the evidence base for the positive action Islington is undertaking.
- The action plan drawn up by Islington Council, follows its involvement in a project that uses academic research as the basis for improving the life chances of young people from Islington's Black and ethnic minority communities, in relation to their involvement with the judicial system This research and the council's scrutiny into both Exclusions and the Attainment gap between both Black children and White FSM children and their counterparts also feeds into the recently adopted Youth Safety Strategy.

This Council resolves to –

- Campaign for education policy development in support of:
 - More funding for schools, to adequately address the needs of all children;
 - The promotion of approaches to behaviour management that are trauma informed, humane and respect the rights of the child;
 - The overhaul of official exclusion practice and outlaw unofficial practice (known as Off Rolling);
 - Exclusion being used only as a very last resort, if all else fails.
- Work with local schools on approaches to behaviour management that are trauma informed, humane and respect the rights of the child.

- Work with schools, voluntary sector, health practitioners and police to provide long-term diversionary pathways away from exclusions.
- Continue the work initiated by the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee to implement recommendations to help our schools to prevent exclusions and support young people at risk of exclusion.
- Lobby for national policy changes that would support children to remain in mainstream education.

Motion 4: Opposing the Government's planning reforms

Moved by Cllr Martin Klute

Seconded by Cllr Roulin Khondoker

This Council notes –

- That in 2018, Islington Labour was elected with an overwhelming majority on a mandate to build much-needed, genuinely affordable and council homes for local people.
- The Government's proposed extension of permitted development rights as part of the publication of a white paper on planning reform, "Planning for the Future."
- That the proposals in the white paper are to replace the established planning system with a new system whereby land is classified into "growth," "renewal" or "protection" zones, with outline permission granted automatically where a development meets the criteria for the relevant zone, and that public consultation on local development will be limited to the 'zoning' stage, with consultation with the public on individual applications disallowed, which will effectively remove any public involvement in planning decisions.
- The significant concerns raised by key bodies to the proposals. The Royal Institute of British Architects have suggested that the plans are "shameful" and would do "almost nothing to guarantee the delivery of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes." Homelessness charity Shelter have argued that social housing "could face extinction" if the proposals go ahead. The Town and Country Planning Association has noted the success of the current system in delivering permissions for volume house builders, and yet the huge number of permissions granted that remain undelivered by developers, and the threat the proposals make to local democracy.
- That, despite the fact that Islington is one of the smallest local authorities with less than six square miles of land, and has the joint highest density of population in the country, delivered 15,841 units in the period 2008/09 to 2017/18 compared to a housing target of 11,952 for the same period.
- That the current Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has admitted to making an unlawful decision which withheld funds

from a London borough which could have been used to improve the lives of local residents.

- The importance of a robust, transparent planning process, with democratic control and public consultation at its heart, to safeguard local communities and promote local priorities.

This Council believes that –

- There is a desperate need for more homes to be built, especially here in Islington, where the housing waiting list is 14,000.
- These proposals will fundamentally undermine democratic local control of planning, and is clearly intended to give developers a free reign to build what they like without having to answer to the local community.
- The current planning system is fit for purpose and is delivering planning permissions, whilst the lack of homes being built is due to a failure on the part of developers to deliver approved developments, and a lack of funding from Central Government to deliver genuinely affordable and council homes.
- The proposal to raise the 'small sites' exemption for affordable housing to 50 units would be very damaging to Islington. Over a third of the borough's affordable housing delivery in recent years has come from sites of less than 50 units and such sites are set to make up an increasing proportion of the boroughs housing supply as land supply becomes increasingly scarce and fragmented. This policy would dramatically reduce both genuinely affordable housing delivery and the ability of the borough to meet its identified housing needs.
- Replacing section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy contributions, which the National Housing Federation notes are the single biggest contributor to new affordable homes in the country, with a much smaller Infrastructure Levy, will massively reduce the targets for contributions, rather than trying to find ways to reach the current targets, which are so badly needed, as well as forcing councils to choose between new social housing and other new infrastructure, such as playgrounds. There is also no clarity on how the new levy, which would be centrally collected, would be distributed across the country, and on what basis.
- Central Government's reforms are clearly intended to benefit private property developers and well-off private home owners, at the expense of genuinely affordable, socially rented homes for local people.
- Overall, the changes proposed in the consultation are highly likely to lead to a major reduction in homes built in Islington and, significantly, a reduction in genuinely affordable homes built. These are the homes that many Islington residents need to be built so they can get off the council's waiting list and get a safe, secure home of their own.

This Council resolves to –

- Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing our significant and valid objections to the Government's proposals as set out in the Council's comprehensive formal response to the proposals, and seeking a meeting to discuss this as a matter of urgency.
- Work with local developers to maintain the current supply of genuinely affordable and Council Rent homes built in Islington.
- Continue building much needed, Council-led genuinely affordable and council homes for local people.

Motion 5: Motion in support of Islington Council's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes that –

- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) are a response to both the Covid pandemic and the risk of gridlock if even a fraction of the people who used to use public transport switch to travelling by car.
- Both the Conservative government and the Labour Mayor of London have asked councils to provide low traffic neighbourhoods, wider pavements and pop up bike lanes to make safe and convenient alternatives to driving as we continue to use public transport less.
- LTNs make our neighbourhoods accessible by enabling local trips on foot, with a white cane, using a wheelchair, mobility scooter or bike and by reducing the likelihood of car use for local journeys.
- The Islington Labour council manifesto in 2018 included: "We see the need to close certain roads to through traffic to prevent rat-running, make neighbourhoods more liveable and improve cycling routes. We will investigate doing this in consultation with local residents and business".
- LTNs are an urgent public health intervention to reduce adverse impacts from traffic related air pollution and road danger.
- LTNs work on the principle that every home is accessible from the main road network and side roads cannot be used as a shortcut from one main road to another.
- LTNs will contribute to achieving the council's commitment to net zero by 2030;
- Recent research shows that the vast majority of people live on streets that could be part of LTN schemes and found no evidence that schemes that try to limit "rat-running" traffic along residential streets disproportionately benefit better-off households.
- The Office for National Statistics has reported a 74% increase in traffic on side roads between 2009 and 2019. This growth coincides with the increasing use of sat nav and apps like Waze that direct traffic on to side roads.

- Some Islington streets have already been protected from traffic leaving a few streets now carrying an unfair burden of increasing sat-nav enabled through-traffic.
- Car ownership in Islington is just 26% of households.
- The roll out of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to the north and south circular roads by 2021 will sharply reduce the most polluting vehicles bringing down emissions on Islington's main roads.
- Traffic on London's main roads will be reduced by measures such as work place parking levies, freight consolidation and smart, fair, privacy-friendly road pricing.

This Council further notes –

- The ongoing consultation with residents with adaptation of LTN schemes as they are rolled out in response to any issues if they arise.
- The ongoing collection of data on air pollution and road traffic volumes to enable analysis of health impacts, congestion and carbon emissions.
- The ongoing collection of data on numbers of school-children and other residents walking and cycling.
- The commitment to a consultation at the end of the full trial period.

This Council resolves to –

- Seek opportunities to make streets as accessible as possible with well-maintained pavements, dropped kerbs and tactile paving in the right places.
- Seek funding from TfL for main road mitigation measures like new pedestrian crossings, pavement widening, greening, new seating and protected cycle routes.
- Continue to roll out Low Traffic Neighbourhoods across the borough.