

COUNCIL MEETING – 8 JULY 2021

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

a **Cllr Heather to Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:**

I have been raising for some time now the problems being caused in the borough by the platform business model when it is used, in the main, to deliver fast food to customers' premises.

In my ward the activities of the moped delivery drivers who are used to provide this service late into the evening and early morning are causing anti-social behaviour and safety hazards for local residents and the public, including: noise, road traffic offences, unsafe driving, illegal parking, riding on the pavement, pollution, urination and defecation in public spaces, and fighting and threatening behaviour. This is proving a particular problem at the Nags Head Town Centre in relation to deliveries from the 24 hour McDonalds store in Seven Sisters Road, where the council is conducting a licence review due to the high level of complaints made by local residents and the Finsbury Park ward councillors.

The underlying cause of the problem here is the platform business delivery model being operated from business locations that do not have the infrastructure to provide the service without causing vast negative impacts on the people who live and shop in the surrounding area. There is also an issue in that the delivery drivers are not employed by the fast food stores themselves, making it very difficult for them to manage and control the drivers. It is very clear that currently the council do not have sufficient powers to regulate this type of business activity to protect the amenity and safety of residents and the public. And this business model operated in inappropriate locations also presents problems for the delivery drivers too.

What steps are the council taking to address these issues?

b Cllr Russell to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Between 2014 and 2018 Islington Council bought and installed 2,700 Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) front doors from the now-dissolved Masterdor company, spending £3,400,000.

The roll-out was halted in 2018 after safety concerns emerged in the wake of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

Tests were carried out and results released by the government in February last year showed the fire resistance of the doors was only 15 minutes, as opposed to the 30 minutes advertised by the company.

In February 2021 you told me that the front door replacement programme was delayed by the pandemic but that you had managed to replace 600 doors since the start of the pandemic and were working to catch-up.

What is the current total of doors replaced and what is the current expected completion date for replacing the non-compliant front doors?

c Cllr Russell to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council:

Congratulations on your appointment as Leader of the Council. When you first became Leader you said: "I love Islington and will continue working hard to make our borough a fairer place by aspiring, improving and empowering Islington."

How will you do this and is there anything that you hope Islington residents will notice about the way you lead the council?"

d Cllr Nathan to Cllr Shaikh, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy & Jobs:

As the Council's Small Business, Co-ops and Social Enterprise Champion, I'm all too aware of the role Islington's night time and cultural venues play in the social and economic well-being of our borough. However, they are the institutions which have suffered most from the Government's delay to the easing of Covid restrictions and the subsequent failure to offer financial support to affected businesses.

Can you let me know what the Council is doing to support these venues to survive during the current restrictions and then fully reopen when possible?

e **Cllr Ibrahim to Cllr Lukes, Executive Member for Community Safety:**

As a local Covid-19 Health Champion, I am very aware of the impact the pandemic has had on our borough. The NHS vaccine roll-out has shown the merits of genuine public services run for the benefit of local people.

However, we know that some communities in Islington have been slower to take-up the vaccine than others. Can you let me know what the Council is doing to increase uptake among these communities, as well as making vaccines as easily available as possible to keep Islington safe?

f **Cllr Ismail to Cllr Gill, Executive Member for Finance and Performance:**

In the last 2 years - how many black ethnic minority senior staff and corporate directors that were employed in Islington Council and the percent that were promoted to senior staff and corporate directors?

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

I think the way the Council funds the voluntary and community sector needs to be reformed, do you agree, and how will you reform?