



## COUNCIL MEETING – 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### **Motion 1: An adaptation plan for climate resilience**

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- The climate emergency is increasing the frequency of extreme weather events, including extreme heat, cold and rainfall.
- 2020 ranks as the third warmest year in the UK since 1884. 2006 and 2014 were warmer, and 2011 was almost as warm as 2020.
- 2020 was the sixth wettest year in a series from 1862.
- Total rainfall from extremely wet days has increased by around 17% over 2008-2017, for the UK overall.
- All top-ten warmest years since 1884 have occurred this century.
- Rate of change is increasing, and causing alarm to scientists - as expressed in the recent IPCC report: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-working-group-i/>
- The heatwaves experienced in 2003 and 2018 will be normal summers by the 2040s.
- A summer such as that experienced in 2018 is estimated to be 30 times more likely to happen under current emissions scenarios.
- Although it is too early for complete data on 2021, this year has seen record flooding in streets and Underground stations in London, and surface flooding impacts here in Islington at Highbury Pool.

This Council further notes:

- Extreme weather events are likely to become more common in future, with increasing impacts on local residents, businesses and organisations.
- 45% of properties in London have no flood insurance.
- Two thirds of flats could experience overheating temperatures >28°C by the 2030s.
- 80% of Londoners experienced overheating in their homes in 2015
- For every degree centigrade increase in temperature over 20°C, ambulance call outs increase by 1%.
- In 2009 there were about 30,000 domestic subsidence claims in London.

- 522 (59%) more people over the age of 75 died during the 2003 heatwave in London. Over the same period hospital admissions increased by 16% for the same age group.
- December 2010 was the coldest December for 100 years. The daily number of Category 1 (immediate life threatened) incidents for the London Ambulance Service was nearly 20% higher than November 2010
- The sector that has the least amount of evidence in terms of modelled impacts is that of workplaces and other buildings. Unlike housing there is less evidence on the number of workplaces that could potentially be affected in future. Beyond the current risks, evidence was much less specific and tended to focus on 'assets'.

This Council resolves to:

- Assess past and future risks to residents, organisations and the council from extreme weather events or hazards arising from a changing climate. This should include the impact of:
  - Surface water flooding from extreme rainfall
  - Extreme heat and cold in homes especially at night
  - Extreme temperatures in workplaces
  - Extreme wind, hail, rainfall, heat and drought
- Identify risks to public health, social care, community resilience, natural assets, infrastructure and economic development including these in corporate plans and policies
- Produce a plan and estimated costings for the adaptation and resilience measures required to protect the council, Islington residents, workers and organisations from the disruption due to future extreme weather events.
- Identify methods of funding and delivering this work in consultation with London Councils, City Hall and national government along with local organisations and residents.

## **Motion 2: Motion to support the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge**

Moved by Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- the campaign of Transport for All calling on councils and transport authorities to sign an Equal Pavements Pledge (appended below)
- 95 per cent of roads are the responsibility of London boroughs and only 5 per cent belong to the TfL network.
- the majority of disabled people polled recently by Transport for All are worried that streets remain inaccessible with many streets still lacking even dropped kerbs to enable level access along pavements or to cross the street.
- disabled people are concerned at the risk of further barriers being presented – either from the way in which changes to streets are delivered, or from al-fresco dining being delivered without consideration for the need for clear access on pavements.
- our borough continues to need investment and progress in making pavements fully accessible

This Council notes that the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge outlines a need to:

- Listen to disabled people, and act
- Keep pavements clear
- Cut pavement clutter
- Reduce the impact of waste removal
- Audit pavements and install dropped kerbs where they are missing
- Protect blue badge parking, with relocation kept to a minimum
- Work with disabled experts, committing to co-production of schemes

This Council resolves to:

- support the Transport for All Equal Pavements Pledge
- engage directly with organisations representing people with specific accessibility requirements
- call upon the Mayor of London through Transport for London (TfL) to respond to the Equal Pavements pledge with a comprehensive programme of support to boroughs to be delivered in this current term.

*Note: Further information on the Equal Pavements Pledge is available from <https://www.transportforall.org.uk/campaign/equal-pavements-pledge/>*

### **Motion 3: Islington Together let's talk about a greener future**

Moved by: Cllr Rowena Champion

Seconded by: Cllr Angelo Weekes

This Council notes:

- The global Climate Emergency we currently face and which this council declared in June 2019
- The emergency has seen global temperatures rise, with 2020 standing as the hottest year on record, and a number of extreme weather events such as flooding in London, Germany and New York at the same time as forest fires in California, Greece and Turkey
- The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26, which is being held in Glasgow in November 2021
- The importance of COP26 as the last chance for leaders, including the UK Government, to take action to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees celcius above pre industrial levels

This Council also notes:

- Islington is at the forefront of efforts to tackle the environment and climate emergency, having cut emissions in the borough by 40% already and seeing the 12<sup>th</sup> highest decrease in emissions per person for any council area in the country
- The investment in the 2021 Council Budget, including more than £17million in projects to support our Vision 2030 strategy and £8 million investment in further electrifying the Council's vehicle fleet and the supporting infrastructure
- Under Islington Labour's leadership, the Council is cutting emissions in its buildings and homes, delivering ground-breaking projects to use waste heat to fuel people's homes and has the toughest set of planning policies that are helping cut the impact of new buildings on our climate and environment
- The ambitious People Friendly Streets programme, and Islington's recognition as the top-ranked London Borough by the Healthy Streets Scorecard, as a result of our efforts on a range of measures to make Islington's streets better for everyone.
- That the Council cannot tackle the climate emergency alone and the Tory Government needs to step up, support councils and local people, and implement a national plan to reach net zero carbon emissions much sooner than the current target of 2050
- The lack of ambition shown by the Tory Government since 2010 in tackling the climate emergency, not least in the run-up to the COP26 Conference in Glasgow

This Council resolves to:

- Hold a festival during COP26, to work together with local people on making our borough a greener, cleaner and healthier place by tackling the Climate Emergency
- Continue to work with residents and local business, third sector and public sector bodies to cut the 91% of emissions generated by non-Council sources in the borough, promoting and incentivising efforts to reduce their carbon footprint
- Continue to work with other local authorities and the Mayor of London to call on Central Government to fully fund the Council's Vision 2030 strategy and demand a national plan to tackle the climate emergency

#### **Motion 4: Opposing Central Government plans for voter ID**

Proposed by: Cllr Satnam Gill

Seconded by: Cllr Gulcin Ozdemir

This Council notes:

- Councils are responsible for organising all elections in England
- The Queen's Speech earlier this year which contained government proposals to require people to show identification including a photograph in order to vote in a General Election.
- Allegations of electoral registration or voter fraud are very rare
- There is no evidence of large-scale electoral fraud relating to the 2018 local elections. Of the 266 cases that were investigated by the police, four led to convictions and two suspects were given police cautions
- All residents in Islington should have the right to vote in Local Elections

This Council further notes:

- According to the Electoral Commission, 11 million UK citizens have no driving licence or passport and 3.5 million no access to photo ID at all
- Central Government's own data shows that white people are most likely to hold one form of photo ID – 76% hold a full driving licence. But 38% of Asian people, nearly a third of people of mixed ethnicity (31%), and more than half of Black people (48%) do not
- When the Government trialled voter ID in 2019, around 2,000 people were initially turned away from the polling station for not having ID, with around 750 of them not returning to vote
- The burden to provide “free voter cards” for people in this position would fall on local authorities, at an estimated cost of £20m per election
- Voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level
- Participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity or income
- Unnecessary barriers to voting are likely to reduce voter participation in elections, proper representation of all parts of the community and so legitimacy of those elected to office
- The disenfranchisement of many Islington residents who have made our borough their home but are not allowed to vote in Local Elections because they are not UK citizens or Central Government has not reached an agreement with their country of citizenship

This Council resolves:

- To oppose the introduction of photo ID as a requirement to vote at polling stations
- To write to the Government, opposing the introduction of voter ID and request this measure is not included in any forthcoming Bill

- That should mandatory photo ID be passed into law, this council will investigate low-cost options for residents, bearing in mind the barriers outlined and focus efforts to promote the ID to those who are most likely to need it
- To campaign for the introduction of residence-based voting rights to ensure all residents of Islington have the right to vote for their local representatives.

## **Motion 5: Supporting public sector workers**

Proposed by: Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Seconded by: Cllr Mick Gilgunn

This Council notes:

- The hard work of all public sector workers, including council staff, throughout the pandemic, who have kept our borough running, maintained education for Islington's young people and cared for those who have fallen ill.
- The dedication of our NHS workers, notably at the Whittington Hospital, transport staff and all frontline services across different sectors who throughout the pandemic, have played a crucial part as key workers in our society and deserve better pay and conditions.
- The Government's public sector pay freeze which is enacting a real-terms pay cut on most public sector workers, at a time when prices are rising and many have suffered due to the pandemic.
- The local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since between 2010 and 2020.
- The joint GMB, Unite and Unison pay claim to local government employers for a 10% pay rise.
- The pandemic has had a detrimental impact on the mental health of many public sector workers.
- A survey by the GMB union found that 75% of care workers say that their work during the Covid-19 pandemic has had a serious negative impact on their mental health.

This council further notes:

- In 2012, we became the country's first accredited Living Wage Council in 2012, with all directly employed staff paid at least the London Living Wage, and earlier this year Islington was recognised as North London's first Living Wage Place.
- It has already signed up to the TUC's Dying to Work Charter, Unison's Ethical Care Charter, the Time to Change pledge and is a Timewise Accredited Council, to protect the employment conditions and rights of all council staff.
- Work undertaken by Islington Council over the past 18 months to support council staff with their mental health, including the work of James Place as one of the Mayor's charities.
- The introduction of a new wellbeing role at Camden and Islington NHS Foundation Trust to further support the health and wellbeing needs of its staff – particularly our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic workers.
- Calls by the GMB for higher wages for care workers, as well as full sick pay so care workers can afford to self-isolate, better support from employers, and national funding for new mental health services for care workers including talking therapy and specialised PTSD support.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the pay claim submitted by Unite, GMB and UNISON on behalf of council and school workers for a 10% uplift across all pay points in 2021/22.
- Call on Central Government to fully fund any increase in pay for public sector workers.
- Sign the Mental Health At Work Commitment, to achieve better mental health outcomes for council staff and commit to a set of actions to improve and support the mental health of council employees.
- Work with local trade unions to improve mental wellbeing services for council staff and support calls for improved mental health services for workers across the public sector.

## **Motion 6: Equalities in Educational Outcomes**

Moved by: Cllr Rakhia Ismail

This Council notes:

- Islington 'Equalities in Educational Outcomes: Final Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee' published 14 recommendations in June 2020.
- The report stated that, both nationally and locally, Black Caribbean and White British pupils eligible for pupil premium funding lag amongst their peers in educational outcomes at every Key Stage, from Early Years to GCSE and beyond to participation in Higher Education.
- None of these 14 recommendations addresses the acute need for tangible education reform in Islington, to support the local Black, Caribbean and White British pupils to improve their educational attainments.
- Black, Caribbean and White British pupils are constantly failing behind their peers under Islington Labour administration. This is concerning for the future generations, of Black, Caribbean and White British pupils in Islington
- Furthermore, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee report on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017, titled 'Educational Attainment of BME And White British Pupils' also stated a decline. As well as, The Black Caribbean review, Insight Report from the Workshops and Survey express that they feel they are ignored, not listened to and nothing ever changes in their community" and the Final report Recommendation 6<sup>th</sup> July 2021, which none of these reports have addressed the need to improve more targeted education for Black, Caribbean and White British pupils.
- It has been five years since first finding.

This Council further notes:

- Islington supported/s 40 plus supplementary education to boost children's educational attainments since 2001 in Maths, English, Science, as well as mother tongue supplementary sessions. This has improved the education outcome in Islington aiding them in their success going on to higher education.
- On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the Guardian newspaper published an article by Joe Clancy, after Islington Council invested in Kokayi Supplementary school for Black & Afro Caribbean children and the raised in education achievement figures in the article speaks volumes.
- Unfortunately this Labour administration withdrew all support after 2010.
- This has extinguished all hopes and aspirations for the Caribbean community, and resulting in Black, Caribbean and White British children losing out. As Labour continues to lead this council, these communities incessantly lose their voice which has led to a decline in educational attainments for the past 5 years plus.
- I therefore cannot speak for the national trend, this is an Islington issue. However, Islington residents have benefitted from Islington Education Dept, Ethnic Minority Achievement Services (EMAS) which supported Koyayia Supplementary school, since the education attainments and aspirations improved. Regardless of the data presented, Labour

abolished EMAS having a direct impact on the young Black, Caribbean and white children.

- We simply cannot wait another five years of other failures such as school exclusions, Pupil Refer Unit, over-represented in mental health services and prisons.
- In a few days it will be a Black History Month, and we need to encourage hope, aspirations, and ambition in their young lives and put to bed this horrific failure, for Black, Caribbean and White British pupils.

This Council resolves:

- To agree to fund and commission supplementary education for pupils underachieving in mainstream schools;
- To give a bold ambition that is embedded in the future prosperity and education outcomes for Black, Caribbean and White British pupils;
- To provide supplementary community based education to Black, Caribbean and White British pupils as an essential aspect in improving their future and ours too.

*Notes:*

*Motion to Council, 30 November 2004 'Kokayi School'*

[https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/Data/Council/200411301930/Agenda/\\$Motions%20to%20Council.doc.pdf](https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/Data/Council/200411301930/Agenda/$Motions%20to%20Council.doc.pdf)

*Article from the Guardian Newspaper: Aged 10 and already at college, March 2008:*

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2008/mar/11/furthereducation.news1>

*Children's Services Scrutiny Committee: Equalities in Educational Outcomes – Final Report*

<https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s22645/Equalities%20in%20Educational%20Outcomes%20-%20final%20report.pdf>

*Voluntary and Community Sector Partnerships Grants Programme 2021-2024 – Appendix 4 – Review of Black-Caribbean Provision Final Report (6 July 2021)*

<https://democracy.islington.gov.uk/documents/s25139/Appendix%204%20Black%20Caribbean%20review%20report.pdf>