



COUNCIL MEETING – 9 DECEMBER 2021

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Good, well-paid jobs for local people

Moved by Cllr Asima Shaikh

Seconded by Cllr Matt Nathan

This Council notes:

- In 2018, Islington Council ambitiously committed to supporting 4,000 local people into good jobs by May 2022
- This target has been exceeded nine months early with more than 4,000 people supported into work by June 2021, the equivalent of 3.4 jobs per day, every day
- This has been achieved by focusing on a Team Islington approach to bring together employment support partners in the borough into the Islington Working Partnership
- The difference a good, well-paid job makes to local people, including improving their economic wellbeing, improving their mental health and supporting families
- That despite being forced to make £250 million in savings due to Central Government austerity, the Council continues to support local people into work using our unique in-house employment service
- The Covid-19 pandemic has been tough for local people with many suffering financially and seeing their income fall, shining a spotlight on the inequalities in the labour market
- The unemployment rate in Islington is now 5.9% which has increased since the start of the pandemic, including higher youth unemployment in the borough
- Throughout the pandemic, iWork, with Islington Working Partnership and other Council services have continued to support people out of work or looking for a new job
- Islington Council's innovative £7.4million collaborative LIFT project with three neighbouring London boroughs to offer new jobs and opportunities to local people in the thriving local technology, science and digital sectors
- Events such as the Health and Social Care Jobs Fairs and the recent Hospitality Jobs Fair have helped residents in need of a new job connect with prospective

employers, with a guarantee of a job interview for those attending and positive outcomes for both

- The launch of Islington Council's first employment portal, Islington Working, earlier this year. There are approximately 2,000 residents registered on the portal already, and 110 employers offering live vacancies.

This Council further notes:

- In 2012, Islington Council became the first Living Wage local authority in the country, ensuring all directly employed staff are paid a real Living Wage, so that a day's work is rewarded with a fair wage
- Islington now has 224 accredited Living Wage employers, who are paying all of their 3,000 workers at least the London Living Wage
- Earlier this year, Islington launched an action plan to become North London's first Living Wage borough, working with local businesses to encourage even more pay a real Living Wage to their staff
- Islington Council was the first local authority in the country to work with the TUC on a Join A Union campaign to promote and support union membership during the pandemic, seeking to protect and strengthen workers rights

This Council resolves to:

- Continue supporting local people into good, well-paid work through innovative measures such as targeting in-need sectors such as health and social care
- Work with local schools and colleges to reduce the number of young people who are not in education, training or employment
- Keep working with local businesses to encourage them to pay the real Living Wage to their workers, making Islington a fairer and more equal place for all
- Work with trade unions to develop community campaigns to challenge insecurities in the labour market, improve union membership and tackle the exploitative nature of the gig economy

Motion 2: Stop the Government making local people pay for the pandemic

Moved by Cllr Angela Picknell

Seconded by Cllr Jilani Chowdhury

This Council notes:

- Since 2010, Islington Council has been forced to find around £250 million of budget savings due to Central Government austerity
- Despite these savings, the Council has continued to provide valuable services that local people rely on
- Islington Council has kept all libraries in the borough open, retained weekly bin collections, maintained free school meals for all primary school children and continued building new council homes, in the face of cuts to its budget
- The extensive support Islington Council has offered to local people throughout the pandemic
- The work of the We Are Islington helpline which has supported people with more than 22,000 requests for access to food, medicines and financial help since March 2020
- That the Council has distributed 6,600 laptops to families in need to support with remote learning and ensure young people can continue their education
- Central Government's continued attempts to make local people pay for the cost of the pandemic
- The Government is forcing councils to increase Council Tax again, rather than properly fund local government
- That with inflation at the highest level in nearly a decade, Central Government's increase in Council Tax will hit local people at the same time as the increase in National Insurance, taking even more money out of people's pockets

This Council further notes:

- That the Council continues to offer the Council Tax Support Scheme and will be extending it this year to cut Council Tax bills for some of the least well-off people in Islington by 95%
- Islington Council's continued support for the least well-off people in our borough, including the most generous resident's support scheme in the country and wraparound support for homeless people, which has seen the numbers of people sleeping rough in our borough decrease dramatically in recent years
- Central Government earlier this year cut £20 per week from Universal Credit payments for nearly 25,000 people in Islington – a figure two and a half times higher than it was in March 2020
- That without significant local investment from Central Government, it will prove even harder to agree a balanced budget and continue to provide the services local people rely on in the coming years

This Council resolves:

- To call on Central Government to provide sustained, adequate and fairly distributed funding to public services, including councils, and not impose further austerity
 - To work with LGA Labour on the 'Stop the Squeeze' campaign, seeking to stop Central Government increasing Council Tax and putting the burden on local people
 - To continue supporting local people with the cost of living crisis through targeted support to those most in-need.
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Motion 3: Rename the Ring Cross estate after Yvonne Connolly, the first Black female Headteacher in Britain

Moved by: Cllr Rakhia Ismail

This Council notes:

- It is 52 years since the first black head teacher Yvonne Conolly, a pioneer of the Windrush Generation, first qualified as teacher in Jamaica and arrived in Britain in 1963. After working as a teacher and deputy headteacher in Swiss Cottage, she took up the role of headteacher in England -at Ring Cross Primary School in Holloway Ward 1969, when she was just 29 years old, and faced "all sorts of nasty racist abuse". I was proud in October 2021, that Yvonne Conolly was recognised posthumously for her contributions to education, the Freeperson of the Borough, yet, ethnic minorities children remain under-represented in Education establishment leadership, in our schools not just in Islington but UK, furthermore her history is not known or celebrated in Islington until her death.
- According to research by Dr Chris Vieler-Porter, who studied for a doctorate at the University of Birmingham on the underrepresentation of black and ethnic minority people in educational leadership roles, just 37% of local authorities monitor the number of applications for such roles by gender, ethnicity and disability. "The people who are making decisions are not looking at these issues," he said. "We have a system that believes itself to be colour-blind and obviously isn't."
- Black and minority British children's voices are still under-represented in great numbers in education establishments, and it is obvious that discrimination on an institutional and structural level is experienced daily in the leadership of children's learning.

This Council further notes:

- The following school teacher workforce facts and figures:
 - in 2019, 85.7% of all teachers in state-funded schools in England were White British (where ethnicity was known)
 - 78.5% of the working age population was White British at the time of the 2011 Census
 - 3.8% of teachers were from the White Other ethnic group, the second highest percentage after the White British group
 - 92.7% of headteachers were White British
 - 75.8% of teachers were women, and there were more female than male teachers in every ethnic group

While all above data is of the national trend, here in Islington, its similar too. We can lead from the front as we have historical icons in our Borough like the late Yvonne Connolly, which will give hope and aspirations to all Black youth and community in Islington schools.

This Council resolves to:

- To Rename Ring Cross Estate after Yvonne Connolly to mark of her achievement, the first Black female Headteacher in Britain, as a sign to encourage black youth to learn and understand their proud history.
- To have statue of Yvonne Connolly at Ring Cross School as great role model for Black people and work local community.
- To Collaborate with Caribbean Teachers Association annually exhibition and workshop of her work and achievement in Islington History Museum so it encourages Black Youth in Islington/UK and families too.

Motion 4: Affirmation of membership of Stonewall's Diversity Champion scheme

Proposed by: Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- The Equalities Act 2010 requires Islington Council to actively combat discrimination and promote equality.
- That hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community have increased across the UK ^[1], while rising to a shocking 10 year high in London^[2].
- That prejudice against LGBTQ+ people is frequently combined with prejudice against people on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability and/or socio-economic status.
- That taking a firm stand against anti-LGBTQ+ prejudice and pro-actively promoting workplace equality and inclusion will promote tolerance and help to reduce other forms of hatred and discrimination.

This Council further notes:

- That Islington, in collaboration with Camden, runs one of the largest celebrations of LGBT History Month in the UK
- The UK's first gay rights demonstration was on Highbury Fields in 1970 and the first Gay Pride March in 1971 on Upper Street.
- That the Council has repeatedly affirmed its commitment to fairness and equality for all people and groups, including LGBTQ+ people.
- That Islington Council is a paid up member of Stonewall's Diversity Champion programme, affirming the Council's belief in the power of a truly inclusive workplace that welcomes, respects and represents LGBTQ+ employees.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To continue demonstrating leadership on LGBTQ+ equality and inclusion in the workplace to residents, businesses and other organisations in the borough.
- To maintain its membership of Stonewall as a Diversity Champion and continue participating in Stonewall's UK Workplace Equality Index to measure and compare the Council's performance on workplace LGBTQ+ inclusion on a national level.

Notes

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/aug/29/spate-of-attacks-across-uk-sparks-fear-among-lgbtq-community>
2. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/homophobic-hate-crimes-10-year-high-london-b960451.html>

Motion 5: A cleaner, greener, healthier Islington

Proposed by: Cllr Rowena Champion

Seconded by: Cllr Osh Gantly

This Council notes:

- The urgent need to tackle the global climate emergency
- The continued rise in temperatures and extreme weather events, both globally and locally
- A new report by the Greater London Authority, highlighting that Islington is one of the six London boroughs at greatest risk from the impacts of climate change
- The disproportionate impact that rising temperatures and extreme weather has on the poorest in our society and the global south, and the need for a just transition
- The need to drastically cut emissions of greenhouse gases to limit the rise in global temperatures to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels
- The dismal failure of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow to meet these aims, with the global temperature set to rise by a catastrophic 2.1C by the end of the century, even if international commitments are met in full
- The urgent need for the UK Government to demonstrate leadership and ambition over the remaining year of its COP presidency, ensuring that targets are met and strengthened

This Council further notes:

- In 2019, Islington Council declared a climate emergency, committing to becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2030
- The 'Islington Together: Let's Talk About a Greener Future' festival, which brought experts together with residents and businesses to explore options to reach net zero carbon by 2030
- Carbon emissions in the borough fell by 45% between 2005 and 2019 (the most recent reporting year), well ahead of the borough's target of 40% by 2020, and during a period in which our population increased almost a third
- Per capita carbon emissions in Islington fell by 58% from 6.4 tonnes to 2.7 tonnes per person in the same time period – the 11th largest reduction in the country
- Both the total and per capita reductions achieved in Islington are significantly ahead of the London and national averages
- Under Islington Labour's leadership, the Council is taking radical action on tackling the climate crisis, switching all street lights to LEDs, decarbonising the energy grid through the Bunhill heat and power network, retrofitting homes, electrifying our vehicle fleet, supporting local businesses to cut emissions, promoting the use of active travel, planting hundreds of trees and investing £17m in our Vision 2030 strategy this year alone

- By contrast, the Tory Government has failed to act on the climate emergency, setting an unambitious net zero target of 2050, presiding over an energy crisis caused by a lack of investment in clean generation, privatising the Green Investment Bank, failing to adequately fund insulation and retrofitting, and even considering the exploitation of the Cambo oil field and the opening of a new coal mine in Cumbria
- Central Government's failure of leadership and lack of ambition at COP26, resulting in an agreement that comes nowhere close to what was needed to prevent further human suffering, habitat destruction and loss of livelihoods
- Islington's membership of the UK100 Net Zero pledge, joining a group of ambitious local authorities who are working together to push for more funding and powers from central government, enabling us to go even further and faster in our net zero journey
- The need for residents, businesses, the Council and public sector partners to work together to reduce carbon emissions in Islington
- Ongoing Central Government austerity has forced the Council to make £250 million of savings since 2010, making it even harder to tackle the climate emergency

This Council resolves:

- To continue to work locally, and in partnership with London councils and City Hall to tackle the climate emergency, reaching net zero carbon by 2030
- To write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, calling for the Government to match Islington's ambition with real funding for climate resilience, conversion to heat pumps, decarbonisation of the transport network, and subsidies to support further local energy generation and storage
- To build on the success of our climate festival, launching a new climate hub service to provide residents and businesses with the advice and information they need to make low-carbon decisions, alongside a climate pledge tool, allowing everyone to set their own decarbonisation target on our journey to net zero together
- To campaign for investment in green jobs, a just transition, climate resilience measures and a decarbonised public transport network to support our recovery

Motion 6: Repeal Islington Council's Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

Moved by: Cllr Rakhia Ismail

This Council notes that:

- Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs) were a response to both the Covid pandemic and the perceived risk of gridlock if even a fraction of the people who used to use public transport switch to travel by private car.
- Although the Government and the Labour Mayor of London have asked councils to provide low traffic neighbourhoods. The actual implementation of such LTNs are the responsibility of Islington Council and the responsibility for consultation rests with the council.
- Although the Council has claimed that LTNs make our neighbourhoods more accessible the opposite has occurred, with those with disabilities, those with elderly and medical care responsibilities, and those with children most affected.
- Although the Council has claimed that the LTNs are an urgent public health intervention to reduce adverse impacts from traffic related air pollution, the opposite has occurred, with respiratory illness showing a marked increase amongst those with symptoms who live on the roads where traffic has been funneled due to the marked increase in idling traffic.
- The consultation with residents in regard to the adaptation of LTN schemes occurred only after the initiation of the LTN scheme. Furthermore, ongoing consultations have not been made public, and that the commitment to consultation after a full trial period is counter to proper transparency and accountability which should be forthcoming.
- Residents have raised concerns that the decrease in traffic has made neighborhoods unsafe and has caused an increase in criminal activity.
- The correspondence the Council has received, and the feedback gained through consultation has been mostly negative, yet the Council continues to move forward with LTNs.
- There has been increasingly strong opposition to the LTN scheme, including public protests which have included hundreds of concerned residents of Islington as well as the signing of petitions against the scheme of over 2000 signatories from residents.

This Council resolves:

- As a result of the above, the Council makes a motion for the immediate repeal of all LTNs in Islington.

Motion 7: Pause and review the Edmonton incinerator project

Moved by: Cllr Caroline Russell

This Council notes:

- Since 2017 the projected costs of the North London Waste Authority (NLWA) incinerator at Edmonton have doubled from £650 million to £1.2 billion.
- Islington Council will be committed to pay a proportion of these rising costs.
- There is significant evidence emerging to suggest that the size of the incinerator exceeds projected demand, including a recent comment at COP by the CEO of the firm bidding to build the facility.
- The proposed capacity was based on predictions of future waste arisings from 2009 which have not proved accurate, and are too high.
- The London Waste and Recycling Board (LWARB) appointed Arup in 2016 to investigate the effect of applying [circular economy initiatives to waste arisings](#) across London. It focused entirely on achieving waste prevention, and found that even with a moderate take-up, the result would be a 30 per cent fall in overall London waste.
- The NLWA's [Residual Waste Reduction Plan 2020-22](#) includes an objective "to reduce local authority collected waste arisings in north London, promote resource efficiency and the circular economy, minimise climate impacts and improve the local environment."
- There has been a negative impact of increased incinerator capacity on recycling rates in the Western Riverside Waste Authority Boroughs (Lambeth, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea) where [recycling has fallen each year](#) since the Belvedere Energy from Waste plant in Bexley went into operation in 2012. On average these four councils recycling rates went down by nearly 4 per cent from 2010 to 2016, making three of them in the worst six councils for recycling in England.
- The Environment Agency Pollution Inventory estimates that the incineration of 1 tonne of municipal waste produces between 0.7 and 1.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide [1]. The planned capacity of the new incinerator is 700,000 tonnes of waste per year.
- To date, financing has not been secured for Carbon Capture and Storage, which remains prohibitively expensive and unproven at scale [2].
- Burning solid waste does not get rid of it: each tonne of waste that is incinerated produces 15–40 kg of hazardous waste that requires further treatment. Further, incineration leads to airborne emissions of toxic heavy metals and dioxins, spreading them over large distances and potentially exposing large numbers of people to harm [3].
- Burning waste is a major contributor to air pollution, which is linked to 10,000 premature deaths annually in London – 1 in every 5 deaths. It is recognised to increase rates of life-limiting illnesses including asthma, dementia, heart disease, chronic pulmonary disease, strokes, Parkinson's and more. The effects of air pollution on children are extremely concerning, and include increased incidence of asthma, stunted lung growth, difficulties with learning and cognitive performance, and increasing rates of mental illness [4].

- The proposed incinerator would be located in one of London's most deprived areas according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2019.
- There is significant cross-party opposition to the incinerator project, including from the MPs for Chingford & Woodford Green, and Islington North. Mayor Sadiq Khan has also expressed opposition to new incineration capacity in London.

This Council further notes:

- Islington Council has declared a Climate Emergency, and has committed to becoming net-zero carbon by 2030.
- Islington Council has committed to invest in programmes and initiatives to increase recycling rates and implement circular economy strategies for reducing waste in the borough.
- Islington Council is committed to fairness and equality in North London and beyond.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To pause, review and reconsider its support for the proposed NLWA Incinerator at Edmonton.
- To call on the NLWA to pause and review the project.
- To work with residents, businesses and organisations in Islington to reduce waste, increase recycling and move towards a circular economy in line with the Council's commitments to net zero and waste reduction.
- Work with partners on the NLWA to prepare an alternative plan which properly "promotes resource efficiency and the circular economy, minimises climate impacts and improves the local environment" as per the NLWA's policy statement on Residual Waste Reduction.

Notes

1 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923125/Pollution-inventory-reporting-incineration-activities-guidance-note.pdf

2 <https://www.hackneygazette.co.uk/news/protesters-demand-end-to-edmonton-incinerator-rebuild-8366360>

3 Abbasi 2018. Available from <https://energysustainsoc.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13705-018-0175-y>

4 <https://lrb.co.uk/the-paper/v43/n23/david-wallace-wells/ten-million-a-year>