

COUNCIL MEETING – 3 MARCH 2022

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

1 **Cllr Poole to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council:**

To ask the Leader of the Council, why has there be no progress on the urgent work to save the Royal Northern War Memorial despite the Leader's assurances given to Council in September last year?

2 **Cllr Chowdhury to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health & Social Care:**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on the mental health of people in every part of our community. From those of us who've lost loved ones, to the trauma experienced by our dedicated health and social care staff, and the endemic loneliness felt by those living alone and in isolated care settings, this terrible time has touched us all. As we emerge from pandemic, what steps is the Council taking to support our community and those who've cared for us throughout it?

3 **Cllr Ibrahim to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:**

It was deeply moving to see the parents of so many young people who've been lost to and affected by the horrors of knife crime gather in my ward at Arsenal Football Club in January for the No More Red campaign. Their bravery and dignity in standing against violence is truly inspiring and we will always stand in solidarity with them.

What actions are the Council taking to reduce youth violence, support young people into better life choices, and make this tragic cycle of heartbreaking loss a thing of the past?

4 **Cllr Ismail to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

It is almost 12 years since the Labour administration took over this Council and I would like to congratulate them on building more homes.

This said, many Islington social housing residents, in particular, Holloway, live in some of the worst properties that are riddled with dampness and include households with children under five, who are also living with mice and vermin. They are being left behind and are not being cared for as they should be due to Islington Labour's exceptionally bad record for not resolving these issues. The inadequate services (as per my casework and yours) as Ward colleagues, have seen the mice cases and damp issues increase over the past 8 years, which is clearly shown with regards to cases in my inbox and yours. Some of the most vulnerable are suffering as are our children.

As you are fully aware, these damp properties impact our residents' health and are costing our NHS. These tenants regularly visit their GP's, they are calling the ambulance services because they are hospitalised due to the health issues raised by living with dampness. Our NHS has had a lot to deal with during the pandemic and these damp properties are contributing to putting further pressure on our NHS. Some of our Holloway residents are paying a very high price with regards to their health because of your lack of leadership and commitment on housing and development during the last 6 years as the executive lead.

What have you done for your tenants and what will you be telling them when you ask them to vote for you in the May 2022 Elections; it has been 8 years since you became Ward Councillors and it has been 6 years as an executive. When will you resolve the issues that are paramount to your tenants and your prospective voters?

5 **Cllr Ismail to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

As a resident of Bunhill for decades, many of my friends and neighbours are linked to Bunhill Heat and Power Energy 2. They have mentioned to me that they are not saving on heating and power as they were promised they would when signing up for this and it is not working properly as you know, and residents have complained too. Should we be asking what the overspend is for Bunhill Heat and Power? We believe this to be in the region of £7m for tax-paying residents and why are residents connected to Bunhill Heat and Power Energy 2 not saving on energy costs as promised by Islington Council and how much is the Council actually subsidizing this? The customer services can only be described as an extremely poor level of service, not to mention the other issues as myself a Islington Council tenant too.

6 **Cllr Jeapes to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment & Transport:**

Last month saw the introduction of Islington's eighth people-friendly streets neighbourhood in the St Mary's Church area, reducing traffic, making our streets more liveable with easier and safer walking, wheeling and cycling. It's been particularly pleasing to see so many greening elements included as part of the scheme, as well as Blue Badge exemptions for camera-enforced filters from day one.

As Islington moves forward with plans to make our streets cleaner, greener and healthier, what additional steps will the Council be taking to ensure that all residents are able to enjoy the benefits of this transformative work?

7 **Cllr Russell to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Housing & Development:**

I was concerned to see in the report of the Executive Member for Finance to Policy and Performance Committee on Jan 20th 2022, that there has been a 60% increase in housing disrepair legal cases since 2019/20 financial year. Has the council analysed what investment is required in the housing team to reduce housing disrepair legal cases in the first place?