

COUNCIL MEETING – 8 DECEMBER 2022

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

a **Cllr Burgess to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:**

It is estimated that there are about 19,000 unpaid carers in Islington; that's nearly 10% of the population. These are family members or friends who look after those who need assistance for various reasons. The cost of living crisis will be impacting very heavily on these unpaid carers. Please could you let us know what the Council is doing to assist unpaid carers.

b **Cllr Clarke to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

Barclays Bank has one of the worst records for investing in fossil fuels. When the council contract with Barclays comes up in 2025 will you look at other options if Barclays has not cleaned up its record on fossil fuels by then?

c **Cllr Heather to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:**

Council homes on the Andover Estate have reported for years of ongoing damp issues, which previous cyclical works have unfortunately failed to resolve. In recent years, unused garages have been redeveloped to build new council homes with natural through ventilation that mitigate against damp. Can the council reassure me and residents not just on the Andover Estate, but across the borough, that the Council is doing all it can, through its cyclical works programme, to tackle damp in council homes and ensure they are the best they can be?

d Cllr Jeapes to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

The latest contemptible policy conceived by this Conservative Government, desperate to cling on to power, is to require UK citizens to produce mandatory voter ID when turning up to vote at all elections. This draconian policy, which is a transparent block to the democratic process, will make it harder for millions to cast their vote, potentially excluding eligible citizens from voting and suppressing turnout particularly among disadvantaged groups.

The final list of what sort of ID will be accepted has still not been announced by the government. It is proposed to make it the duty of councils to issue people with an electoral identity document if they do not have any of the agreed forms of photo ID, such as a driving licence or passport. Therefore, it is imperative that all Islington residents need to be made aware of this change to their voting rights and provided with the documentation needed to exercise their right to vote.

There is a Government proposal to issue new free "Voter Authority Certificate" for those without any other form of photographic ID. However, implementing this unnecessary bureaucratic policy of disenfranchising the Populus will cost considerable officer time and public finances. Is it possible to estimate the costs of time and money to the Council of implementing this burden to democracy?

e Cllr North to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

The Lumen data centre (located in the former gin factory building at 260-266 Goswell Road) uses diesel-powered generators to provide an emergency electricity supply in the event of power outages. Neighbours at Kestrel House, Peregrine House and on Moreland Street report that these generators are running more and more frequently, emitting black smoke and harmful fumes into our local environment.

In the context of Islington Labour's efforts to improve air quality and tackle the climate emergency, can the Executive Member assure me that the council is doing everything possible within our powers to monitor these polluting activities at the Lumen data centre, enforce against them where possible and reduce the impact on local residents?

f Cllr Ogunro to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

The cost of living crisis is having a severe impact on people across Islington right now. I am seeing it in my casework, and it is only going to get worse. In the absence of any action from the Tory Government, what support is the Council providing to help vulnerable families through the current cost of living crisis?

g Cllr Nargund to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

In the Islington Labour manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections, we promised to genuinely consult and co-design a series of Liveable Neighbourhoods with residents, to ensure we are making changes that they want to see. Can you confirm this is still the case and that the Council's work to create a cleaner, greener, healthier borough will be undertaken alongside local people?

h Cllr Khurana to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

We all know that public services should always be in public hands. It was wonderful news to hear that Centene's contract was not renewed at Hanley Primary Care Centre. In your role as Executive Member for Health and Social Care, how will you campaign to ensure our local NHS services are not once again put into the hands of profiteering corporations?

i Cllr Burgess to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

We all know that Islington is one of the most densely-populated boroughs in the country. Islington Council continues to provide more safe, decent, genuinely affordable homes for our whole community, and that must include our Gypsy and Roma Traveller community.

One of the sites identified for Gypsy and Roma Traveller accommodation during the Local Plan process is 207A Junction Rd, the current site for the Shaolin Temple. Our community fully supports the provision of accommodation for the Gypsy and Roma Traveller community but wants to make sure that the Shaolin Temple isn't lost. Can you confirm that the Council will support the Shaolin Temple as much as possible to source an alternative site if the Local Plan is approved?

j Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

Can the council update us on progress against the target of completely divesting the council's pensions fund from fossil fuels?

k Cllr Hamdache to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:

Many leaseholders are coming to us in huge distress in face of the bills they're facing for cyclical repairs. What is the council doing to help those households struggling to pay?

l Cllr Russell to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

At the time of submitting this question, the Islington Council website states that:

“There are eight public toilets located conveniently around the borough. Seven of these are automated, fully accessible and are open 24 hours a day. There is a 20p charge to use these but are free for RADAR key holders.

There is also an attended public toilet, which is fully accessible, serving traders and shoppers at Chapel Market. It is open 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Saturday and 8am to 4pm on Sundays.

To help deal with anti-social street urination around Clerkenwell at weekends, a pop up urinal is available in Cowcross Street outside The Hope pub. It is available on Friday from 7pm to 6am on Saturday morning and from Saturday at 7pm to 6am on Sunday.

You can find our automated public toilets at the following locations: Holloway Road, Seven Sisters Road, Highbury Crescent. Highbury Fields, Newington Green, Islington Green (closed) and City Road (closed).”

Age UK London campaigners are concerned that the automated toilets are all out of order. What is your plan to get them reopened?

m Cllr Russell to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

Following the tragic death of Awaab Ishak after breathing mould in his home in Rochdale, what action has the council taken to review repairs processes for cases of mould?