



## COUNCIL MEETING – 8 DECEMBER 2022

### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS TO MOTIONS

#### **Motion 1: Gambling Act Review**

Proposed by: Cllr Angelo Weekes

Seconded by: Cllr Joe Croft

#### ***Alteration to motion submitted in accordance with Procedure Rule 23.7***

#### **This Council notes:**

- The government has promised to deliver a Gambling Act Review white paper, which seeks to amend our gambling laws, so they are fit for a digital age.
- The Gambling Act review has been in motion since late 2020, however various delays by the Tories, the main being the changes in personnel, with five different ministers overseeing the legislation, has meant outdated and insufficient laws failing to protect vulnerable gamblers.
- The Tories also delayed reform to the £2 cap for bets placed on fixed-odds betting machines, which have been linked to crippling debt, marriage and family breakdown and serious mental health issues. Originally due to come into force in April 2019, it was delayed to October 2019; the extra 6 months of delay allowed bookmakers to collect £900m from gamblers.
- Since August 2020, 19 Conservative MPs have taken almost £225,000 in wages and freebies from the gambling industry, demonstrating the attempt by the industry to influence the outcome of the Gambling Act review to their own advantage.
- The House of Lords Gambling Industry Select Committee found 60% of the profits from online gambling are coming from the 5% of consumers experiencing harm, with around half of the more than £6 billion in online gambler losses attributable to slots.
- The significant harms associated with gambling, not least mental health issues arising from this health-harming addictive activity.
- The Public Health England evidence review of gambling-related harms in England found that gender and poor mental health were the strongest indicators of gambling related harm:
  - men were 4.2 times more likely than women to be gambling at levels of elevated risk of harm;
  - people identified as having some mental health issues were twice as likely to participate in harmful gambling than people with no mental health issues;

- those who indicated they had a mental health condition were 2.4 times more likely to be a gambler experiencing gambling-related harms
- [The Labour Mayor of London has called on TfL to bring forward plans to ban harmful gambling advertisements on its advertising network.](#)

**To ensure the government's objectives are met, this Council formally support all of the following reforms:**

- The introduction of limits to stakes, prizes and speed of play online, as already exist for the same content found on venue-based machines. Online slots should be capped at £2 a spin, in line with Fixed Odds Betting Terminals in betting shops and machines found in other easily accessible gambling venues.
- A standardised threshold at which enhanced affordability checks take place for all licensed online gambling operators. We support the Social Market Foundation's recommendation that these checks should take place when a person's losses exceed £100 within a month.
- The introduction of a statutory levy on gambling operators for research, education and treatment that should be administered through an independent public body. This levy should initially be set at 1% of gross revenue but should be increased in line with need, in accordance with the 'polluter pays' principle.
- An end to gambling advertising, promotion, and sponsorship. Children should not be exposed to gambling advertising at all, and given the degree of harm which arises from online gambling, the sector should not be promoted in its current form. The government should emulate gambling advertising restrictions in Italy and Spain on public health grounds.
- The creation of a dedicated Gambling Ombudsman which would ensure consumers who have been treated unfairly by gambling operators are able to access a means for redress.
- Reform to the statutory 'aim to permit' so the local authorities have the power to reject premise license applications in the event that the licensing objectives of fair and open gambling, preventing gambling crime, and preventing gambling harm are less likely to be delivered with additional outlets.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Write to the Minister overseeing the Gambling Act Review, Paul Scully MP, informing him of our priorities for reform as reflected above and to ask the government to consider gambling a public health issue.
- [Subject to the Gambling Act Review, consider ~~commence~~](#) a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to push for legislative reform that will empower local authorities to better regulate gambling.
- Implement the reviewed and revised Gambling Premises Licensing Policy 2023-~~2025~~-[2027](#) (pending adoption by this Council). This robust policy will ensure applicants and operators whose premises are used for gambling have taken stringent steps to prevent gambling being a source of crime and disorder and to protect people from gambling related harm.
- [Write to the Mayor of London to call on Transport for London to ban all gambling advertisements on London's public transport.](#)

***The altered motion would read as follows:***

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  - Subject to the Gambling Act Review, consider a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to push for legislative reform that will empower local authorities to better regulate gambling.
  - Implement the reviewed and revised Gambling Premises Licensing Policy 2023-2027 (pending adoption by this Council). This robust policy will ensure applicants and operators whose premises are used for gambling have taken stringent steps to prevent gambling being a source of crime and disorder and to protect people from gambling related harm.
  - Write to the Mayor of London to call on Transport for London to ban all gambling advertisements on London's public transport.
-

### **Motion 3: Solidarity with striking workers**

Proposer: Cllr Benali Hamdache

Seconder: Cllr Caroline Russell

Amendment submitted by: Cllr Phil Graham

#### **This Council notes:**

- The UK is facing a wave of industrial action in the wake of rising inflation, a cost-of-living crisis and paltry pay offers
- That the Royal College of Nurses has announced strikes for the 15<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December
- The National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers has announced strikes on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December and on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January
- Major education unions in England are balloting their members on possible strike action over pay
- Over 70,000 staff at 150 universities across the UK took three days of strike action over attacks on pay, working conditions and pensions
- That unions already only resort to strikes after negotiations are exhausted
- That under Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of their interests
- That the Conservative government has consistently failed to offer adequate pay offers to workers and has repeatedly undermined the right to strike

#### **This Council further notes:**

- [Islington Council's 'Join a Union' campaign in 2020 where the council became the first local authority to join forces with the TUC to promote a safe return to work by joining a union as the UK emerged from lockdown](#)
- [Initial discussions are taking place with the Communication Workers' Union regarding working together on the Community Wealth Building initiative](#)
- Islington Council has committed to supporting trade unions and trade union membership, promoting the value of unionisation across the borough
- That all over the country, workers are winning pay disputes and improved wages through the power of collective action
- [The motion proposed by Cllr Ozdemir at Council in June 2022 which resolved to: "Support the RMT union and all other trade unions taking action this year to protect workers' pensions and conditions, oppose job cuts and call for a proper pay rise"](#)
- The Conservative government is trying to undermine the right to strike by allowing agency workers to become strike-breakers
- That decades of anti-union laws have given us the tightest regulations on strikes in the advanced industrial world

#### **This Council resolves to:**

- [Send full solidarity to all those striking across the country for fair pay, terms and conditions from their employer](#)

- Continue promoting union membership to Islington's residents and to work collaboratively with the unions representing the Council's workers
- Support the attendance of Islington's two MPs and councillors at picket lines in solidarity with striking workers
- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in opposition to anti-trade union laws, like the banning of online ballots and strikebreaking agency workers
- Write to the Secretary of State for Justice in opposition to the proposed British Bill of Rights, that threatens the right of workers to organise collective action, and call for the repeal of all anti-trade union legislation which aims to undermine workers rights.

***The amended motion would read as follows:***

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Proposer: Cllr Benali Hamdache

Seconder: Cllr Caroline Russell

Amended by: Cllr Phil Graham

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- The Conservative government is trying to undermine the right to strike by allowing agency workers to become strike-breakers
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**This Council resolves to:**

- Send full solidarity to all those striking across the country for fair pay, terms and conditions from their employer
  - Continue promoting union membership to Islington's residents and to work collaboratively with the unions representing the Council's workers
  - Support the attendance of Islington's two MPs and councillors at picket lines in solidarity with striking workers
  - Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in opposition to anti-trade union laws, like the banning of online ballots and strikebreaking agency workers
  - Write to the Secretary of State for Justice in opposition to the proposed British Bill of Rights, that threatens the right of workers to organise collective action, and call for the repeal of all anti-trade union legislation which aims to undermine workers rights.
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## **Motion 4: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Accommodation Needs**

Proposer Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong  
Seconder Cllr Caroline Russell

Amendment submitted by: Cllr Janet Burgess

### **This Council notes:**

- In January 2019 the London Borough of Islington commissioned consultants to undertake a Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment study (GTAA) for the period 2020-2035.
- Consultations with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller households took place between February and April 2019. Households spoke about wanting to stay in Islington or nearby, whether on a site or in housing.
- There are no residential caravan sites occupied by members of the settled community or Travelling Showpeople located within Islington.
- The consultation concluded that ten Gypsy, Roma and Traveller permanent accommodation pitches are required in the borough.
- Policy H14 of the London Plan requires boroughs to meet the identified need for permanent Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pitches and include ten-year pitch targets in their Local Plans.
- The provision for permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches is included in the latest Islington Local Plan (February 2020).
- The site search process has been initiated as part of the council's ongoing housebuilding programme.
- The London Plan highlights that around 85% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families in London have been forced to live in housing, or on roadside encampments due to overcrowding, or an unsuitability, or lack of availability of, pitches.
- The lack of legal permanent sites makes accessing key services and facilities much harder.
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families must be granted the right to a decent home that meets their needs, which for them entails sites to accommodate caravans.
- For many Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, living in a caravan is an essential part of their ethnic identity. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are covered by the protected characteristic of race under the Equality Act 2010.

### **This Council further notes:**

- [Islington Labour's manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections, 'Fairer, safer, greener together: Building a more equal Islington', committed to "we will work with our community to provide new sites for Gypsy and Roma Traveller local people."](#)
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have the worst outcomes of any ethnic group across a huge range of areas including access to suitable accommodation, healthcare, education, employment, financial services, policing, justice and probation.
- National and local policymakers have not provided for the services to support the needs of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people.
- A study carried out by The Traveller Movement (2017) found that 91% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people had experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity and 77% had been victims of hate speech or a hate crime.

- The most common forms of hate speech and crime experienced include exclusion and discrimination from and within services, e.g., health, education (experienced by 94%), reinforcement of negative stereotypes (89%), social media abuse (87%) and media incitement to racial hatred (82%).
- Hate incidents begin early in life, with school children reporting feeling that they must hide that they are Gypsy, Roma or Traveller.
- Islington Council marks Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month during the month of June.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Continue to mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month every year to raise awareness of the prejudice faced by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.
- Use this month to amplify the voices of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and raise awareness amongst Islington's residents about their unique history, culture and heritage.
- Share resources from, and promote the campaigns of, groups such as the Friends, Families and Travellers organisation, London Gypsies and Travellers, and The Traveller Movement.
- Address the inequalities that the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community face.
- Ensure that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers experience an inclusive, fair and understanding community in Islington.
- Actively nurture harmonious relations between the settled community and the residents of any future Gypsy, Roma and Traveller site in Islington.
- Provide sustainable, green and biodiverse sites with facilities that are well insulated, well ventilated and affordable to heat in winter.
- Provide effective site management for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites in the borough.
- Provide training to key staff in Islington schools around successful practice working with families from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds, including raising awareness around the culture and history of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.
- Encourage and support Islington schools in signing The Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boaters' Pledge for Schools.
- Improve data collection around the experiences of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, in order to improve their outcomes across key social and economic indicators.

***The amended motion would read as follows:***

**Motion 4: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Accommodation Needs**

Proposer Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong

Seconder Cllr Caroline Russell

Amended by: Cllr Janet Burgess

**This Council notes:**

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- Consultations with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller households took place between February and April 2019. Households spoke about wanting to stay in Islington or nearby, whether on a site or in housing.
- There are no residential caravan sites occupied by members of the settled community or Travelling Showpeople located within Islington.
- The consultation concluded that ten Gypsy, Roma and Traveller permanent accommodation pitches are required in the borough.
- Policy H14 of the London Plan requires boroughs to meet the identified need for permanent Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pitches and include ten-year pitch targets in their Local Plans.
- The provision for permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches is included in the latest Islington Local Plan (February 2020).
- The site search process has been initiated as part of the council's ongoing housebuilding programme.
- The London Plan highlights that around 85% of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families in London have been forced to live in housing, or on roadside encampments due to overcrowding, or an unsuitability, or lack of availability of, pitches.
- The lack of legal permanent sites makes accessing key services and facilities much harder.
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families must be granted the right to a decent home that meets their needs, which for them entails sites to accommodate caravans.
- For many Gypsies, Roma and Travellers, living in a caravan is an essential part of their ethnic identity. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are covered by the protected characteristic of race under the Equality Act 2010.

**This Council further notes:**

- Islington Labour's manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections, '*Fairer, safer, greener together: Building a more equal Islington*', committed to "we will work with our community to provide new sites for Gypsy and Roma Traveller local people."
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- Islington Council marks Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month during the month of June.

**This Council resolves to:**

- Continue to mark Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month every year to raise awareness of the prejudice faced by the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.
  - Use this month to amplify the voices of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community and raise awareness amongst Islington's residents about their unique history, culture and heritage.
  - Share resources from, and promote the campaigns of, groups such as the Friends, Families and Travellers organisation, London Gypsies and Travellers, and The Traveller Movement.
  - Address the inequalities that the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community face.
  - Ensure that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers experience an inclusive, fair and understanding community in Islington.
  - Actively nurture harmonious relations between the settled community and the residents of any future Gypsy, Roma and Traveller site in Islington.
  - Provide sustainable, green and biodiverse sites with facilities that are well insulated, well ventilated and affordable to heat in winter.
  - Provide effective site management for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites in the borough.
  - Provide training to key staff in Islington schools around successful practice working with families from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds, including raising awareness around the culture and history of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community.
  - Encourage and support Islington schools in signing The Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boaters' Pledge for Schools.
  - Improve data collection around the experiences of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, in order to improve their outcomes across key social and economic indicators.
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