

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 8 DECEMBER 2022

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1
2UD on 8 December 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Bossman-Quarshie	Heather	Poyser
Bell-Bradford	Hayes	Russell
Burgess	Jeapes	Spall
Champion	Jegorovas-Armstrong	Staff
Chowdhury	Khondoker	Turan
Cinko-Oner	Khurana	Ward
Clarke	Klute	Wayne
Comer-Schwartz	McHugh	Williamson
Craig	Nathan	Wolf
Croft	Ngongo	Ibrahim
Gallagher	O'Halloran	Jackson
Gilgunn	O'Sullivan	North
Gill	Ogunro	Weekes
Graham	Ozdemir	Zammit
Hamdache	Pandor	

The Mayor (Councillor Marian Spall) in the Chair

208 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 September 2022 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

209 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

210 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

(i) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Hayes, Convery, Hyde, Ozdemir, Mackmurdie, Nargund and Shaikh

(ii) Order of Business

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

(iii) Declaration of Discussion Items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor said she had taken part in a number of remembrance events, including the Islington and Camden Cemetery Service, the two-minute silence at the Town Hall to mark Armistice Day and the three services that took place across the borough on Remembrance Sunday. She thanked everyone involved in the planning of these events and noted they were very poignant commemorations to show our respect for the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces community.

The Mayor had hosted a Charity Dinner to raise money for her charities: Whittington Health Charity and Ronald McDonald Moorfields House. She thanked all those that supported including local businesses for donating raffle prizes.

Over the coming weeks she was looking forward to sharing in more festivities and also excited to attend events celebrating Chanukah with the borough's Jewish Community.

(v) Length of Speeches

The Mayor reminded all councillors to take note of the timer and stay within the permitted length for speeches. The Mayor also reminded all present that the meeting was being webcast live on the council's website.

211 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader thanked the Mayor and said it was great to see so many councillors at the remembrance events; it was great to see Islington come together as a community. The Leader also thanked the Mayor for hosting the Charity Dinner and for her work in raising money for good causes.

The Leader highlighted that there is a diverse and wonderful voluntary sector across Islington that have done so much to help people through the cost-of-living crisis, including creating warm community spaces, financial support and supporting mutual aid. The council was providing huge amounts of support to help local people with an extra £500,000 in cost-of-living support, using a windfall payment from the publicly owned Edmonton Eco-Park. Later in the meeting there would a vote on the Council

Tax Support Scheme. The Leader commented on the support available from the council, including the work to tackle the digital divide by distributing laptops to young people that were in need.

The Leader commented further on the cost-of-living crisis stating it was unacceptable that people had to choose between heating and eating. Councillors had to delivered a letter to Downing Street calling for more support, including the removal of the benefit cap, roll-out of universal free school meals for all young people and the introduction of the real Living Wage.

The Leader offered solidarity to all those striking up and down the country in search of fair pay and conditions.

The Leader commented on the successful campaign to save local bus routes, noting that these were a vital lifeline for local people during the cost-of-living crisis. Finally, the Leader congratulated England and Arsenal Player Bukayo Saka for the quarter final performance against France in the World Cup and wished everyone a happy holiday season.

The Leader of the Opposition echoed how the cost-of-living crisis is hitting people hard and the historic dependence on gas and other fossil fuels was increasingly becoming more of an issue. The Leader of the Opposition commented that communal heating systems based on heat recovery, ground and air source or heat pumps was preferable to powering communal heating with gas, a fossil fuel, as this had led to rising costs and increases in people's bills.

The Leader of the Opposition was saddened by the shocking death of Awaab Ishak, a child who had sadly passed away from a respiratory condition caused by living in a home that was prone to condensation and mould in Rochdale. The Leader of the Opposition commented that damp and mould issues must be taken very seriously. The Leader of the Opposition stated that there needed to be a transformation in the way things were built, repaired, heated and ventilated in homes. The Leader of the Opposition commented that green solutions had always been the answer, such as: insulation with ventilation, double glazing, heat pumps and solar energy.

212 PETITIONS

The Council received a petition from Hilary Green relating to the building of mansard extensions in the borough.

213 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions (a) from Luke Howard to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

How will the council ensure their green credentials and commitment to expanding and protecting the current lack of open space in the densest area and borough in the U.K, the Islington St. Luke's area, and in keeping with their sustainability commitment, how will you re-utilise the surplus of unused office space and flats in the St. Luke's area to address Islington's housing need?

Response:

Our Council is committed to building more council homes for local people and providing more green space for residents to enjoy. That's why, in our manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections, we committed to providing 1.5 hectares more green space over the next four years, this is the equivalent space to Paradise Park. Further to that, we were incredibly proud that recently, a report by the University of Sheffield found that Islington is the second greenest urban centre in the country. An amazing achievement for one of the most densely populated boroughs in the country. With regards to the Bunhill and St Luke's area, there is no evidence of surplus office accommodation in St Luke's or indeed in any part of the borough. Demand for high quality office space remains strong across Islington but particularly in the south of the borough. If anything, we are seeing an increase in the number of planning applications to refurbish existing offices and build new offices. In line with the council's planning policies, we expect new and refurbished offices to be more sustainable and energy efficient contributing to the council's Net Zero Carbon 2030 ambition and our wider environmental policies.

It is of course shocking and disgraceful that there are empty private homes in Islington at a time when the borough is facing a greater than ever unaffordable housing crisis. Action is urgently needed from central government to ensure that investors do not buy homes in our borough and then leave them empty. I have also been very proud to work with Labour Councillors from right across this Chamber on the campaign to get the Ministry of Justice to bring the 28 empty three and four bedroom flats at Wilmington Square back into use.

The council already has strong planning policies in place to protect and improve open spaces and increase biodiversity. We are strengthening these policies through our new Local Plan. In this year alone, we have secured a new public park on the Holloway Prison site and investment into three parks and open spaces in Barnsbury. There is of course a careful balance to be struck between providing affordable homes, an inclusive economy and social infrastructure that Islington needs and ensuring that our open spaces and biodiversity are protected and improved. This balance is particularly complex and challenging in high density areas such as St Luke's. I am confident however that the policies set out in the council's existing and emerging Local Plan strike the right balance between enabling inclusive growth to take place whilst protecting and enhancing the local environment.

Supplementary Questions:

Islington is the densest borough in the UK according to the most recent census. When in 2011 Islington became the densest borough the Leader of the Council at the time said the council were 'determined to protect green spaces. However, we don't believe the existing plans of the St Luke's area will protect green spaces. The Council plans to reach Net Zero by 2030 will be impacted by the knocking down of buildings in the area and we urge the council to rethink these plans and redevelop these spaces instead. There are already many existing unused buildings that the council can use to redevelop, and we urge you to do so.

Response:

I appreciate your candour and I would like not work with you and ensure your views are heard. I will make no apology for 100 new council homes in the Finsbury Leisure Site area. The council has a mandate to house people and homeless families and overcrowded families are on the rise and in dire need to be homed. I am very excited about the brand-new leisure centre, medical facilities, and brand-new football pitches that will also be built alongside the 100 council homes.

I would like to build 100% council homes but due to government funding this is not possible and a percentage of these need to be private property to be able to fund the project. I hope you all agree that with a register of 14,000 families we do need to build more council homes.

Question (b) from Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

At the councils executive meeting in October 2021, the People Friendly Pavements scheme was launched. Can you provide an update to what has happened since to improve pavement conditions in Islington since then?

Response:

Thank you for your question on pavement conditions. The delivering of pavement improvements has started this year. Since April of this year there has already been 0.75km of footway renewal completed which includes improvements such as decluttering of bollards, improved tree pit treatments, new cycle stands and 24 new and improved dropped kerbs for accessibility. By April of 2023 a further 0.25km of highway renewal will be completed with approximately 20 new or improved dropped kerbs. At present dropped kerb renewal is being prioritised on the main road network. How do we make it most effective moving forward? The Council is in the planning stages of the people friendly pavements programme. When complete, the programme will improve local connectivity and enable sustainable modes of travel by delivering pavement and footway improvements to remove physical obstacles to accessibility. In order to ensure that the investment delivers value for money the locations for improvements are identified by carrying out an audit of streets in each ward, liveable neighbourhood or existing low traffic neighbourhood. So far, 44% of the borough has been audited or commissioned to be audited.

As well as this it is important to look at other areas to improve access and mobility around the borough such as benches along pavements for those with low mobility to be able to take a break while moving around. Climate change increasing temperatures mean people need shade. Street trees may need to be moved as these can break up the pavement.

Most importantly going forward we need to ensure we are using resources and money wisely and taking a holistic approach.

Supplementary Questions:

My original question was, it was ratified last October, for the People Friendly Pavements for 44% of the borough but we are yet to see any improvements despite pedestrians and cyclists being said to be a priority. Being in a low traffic neighbourhood it feels as though we have been forgotten and our bins have been taken away and the streets have not been swept. Existing trees are not being maintained. We don't want whole new plans we want basic needs being met and pedestrians being a priority but there still has been no improvement to pavements around the area.

Response:

I understand your views on people friendly streets, as said last year there has already been 0.75km of footway renewal completed, and by April of 2023 a further 0.25km of highway renewal will be completed with approximately 20 new or improved dropped kerbs. As well as a whole manner of other improvements already stated. As a council we would love to lay more pavement and make even more improvements to make areas more pedestrian friendly, but we do not have the resources or budget to do so due to government funding.

Speaking on low traffic neighbourhoods, more pedestrians will benefit than cyclists. They also benefit those with mobility issues as if you are trying to cross the road as if there are less vehicles on the street this becomes easier. We know less traffic means less danger on the roads and less risk to pedestrians.

Question (c) from Pete Gilman to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

How much has central government funding to Islington Council been cut by the Tories since 2010, and what is the cumulative total; how has this impacted on Islington Council's ability to provide essential services and its house building programme; how do these cuts compare with those made to wealthier boroughs like Richmond; can Islington Council give assurance it will press for a restoration of central government funding?

Response:

Since 2010, Islington Council's total funding has been cut by £281 million. This has severely impacted on our ability to provide vital services at a time where demand is at an all time high. People are living longer and need more specialist support to ensure a good quality of life. People also need a decent home to enable them to thrive. This requires money and without it, the quality of lives for many here in Islington will suffer.

Labour councils have borne the brunt of government cuts for over a decade as a result of their austerity agenda. This has resulted in deep inequalities which we saw exacerbated during the pandemic.

Despite the government cuts, Islington Council have managed to make savings of £281 million while protecting front-line services. We have been able to deliver 550

new council homes since 2018, help over 4,000 local people into good jobs and keep council tax below the London average, extending the council tax support scheme. Even during this government imposed cost of living crisis, we have supported residents, distributing £2.2 million of 'lifeline' support.

However, with the recent Autumn budget announcement and the lack of commitment to invest in local authorities like ours, it is inevitable we will have to make tough decisions. No matter what, we will ensure that our services are delivered as efficiently as possible, rethinking how we design our services so that we meet our residents' needs.

But we also won't take these cuts lying down. As we've always done, we will campaign against this government austerity. We took our demands for cost of living help to the steps of Downing Street recently and we'll do the same for our demands on council funding.

Supplementary Question:

I understand the government mandated cuts but why do the people of Islington have to pay when we did not cause the crises. Despite an increase in profits corporations such as Tesco do not seem to be lowering prices or paying higher taxes. Shell and BP have projected profits of 52 billion pounds combined, they need to pay more tax. Tax avoidance and evasion costs the exchequer between £20 billion and £150 billion a year. We want that money back.

Response:

I am with you. We need to tax energy companies and those still using fossil fuels. We need a national homes programme funded by these energy companies. We need a general election to get rid of the chaos.

We know how hard the cost-of-living crises is on residents and we have produced a toolkit to help residents. Islington Council is fighting for you against the chaos of the government.

Question (d) from Steven Nyandu to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Research by Be Gamble Aware has revealed one in ten (12%) women have turned to gambling in an attempt to supplement their household income. How can the council strengthen its collaboration work with VCS groups to help prevent vulnerable people becoming victims of gambling-related harm, particularly as the cost of living crisis has seen an increase in gambling as a means to resolve financial hardship?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Steven. I'd also like to express my gratitude for the work you and Bet No More have contributed to in the delivery of our renewed Gambling Licenses Policy.

The Council recognises that the current cost of living crisis is having a devastating impact on residents and the importance of ensuring residents are being supported, avoiding a situation where some feel they need to turn to gambling as a means to try and resolve their financial issues. After speaking to people in my ward and colleagues in the voluntary and community sector, they put it clearly 'residents have a choice between food or fuel this Christmas'.

On 22 September the Council declared a "cost of living emergency" and pledged to do all it can to help the tens of thousands of residents likely to be hit hardest by spiralling energy and food costs and soften the blow for local small and medium-sized businesses. We continue to support residents through our ongoing delivery of our core offer of financial, food and other support including effective targeting and distribution of government grants to ensure residents are getting the support they are entitled to. We are working closely with the voluntary and community sector to support residents including setting up 'warm spaces', a warm, friendly place within the community offering support and helping with energy bills. We have 38 venues across the borough operating as warm spaces. To oversee this work, we have set up a new Cost of Living Board to ensure there is an effective and co-ordinated response across the borough working closely with VCS and partners. The board review data through a new a cost of living dashboard and use the data analysis to monitor the impacts to ensure we target support where it is most needed.

Council/Licensing Committee is mindful of the devastating impact that gambling can have on people who gamble beyond their financial means and the significant resultant harm to children, families and friends.

We have strengthened our Gambling Premises Licensing Policy and placed the need to protect all people from gambling related harm at the heart of our new policy for 2023-2025. The discussion with members has resulted in this policy realignment, in particular exploring the extent to which council may deal with any new gambling premises licence applications when its objective is to protect vulnerable people from gambling related harm, including those residents who may have a vulnerability due to economic and societal pressures such as the cost of living crisis.

Supplementary Questions:

I work for a charity, Bet No More, to help tackle gambling harm. Research by Be Gamble Aware shows 1 in 10 have turned to gambling in an attempt to supplement their household income, how can the council strengthen collaborations with its voluntary and community sector groups to reduce to risk of people turning to gambling as a means for income especially with the cost-of-living crisis.

Response:

Thank you for all your hard work in the borough, people like you are really the backbone of society and thank you for sharing your lived experiences as these are vital for helping others who may find themselves in these situations and in forming our response as a council to help those in need effectively.

The Gambling Act that frames this broader work makes no reference to remote or online gambling or saturation. This means as a council we have to be as robust as possible in our response to reducing this addictive inducing activity and recognising the public health impact that it has.

Moving forward there's more we can do with working with the cost-of-living board and listening to our partners. As well as our advice centres and collaborating with organisations such as Octopus and SHINE. Also, there is the cost-of-living phonenumber to seek advice for those that need it.

Thank you so much to you and Bet No More and all the work you do.

Question (e) from Sarah Jane Elvin to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Can the Council confirm and give reassurance to the local community that the Islington Boat Club site will remain a dedicated charitable community led boat club (on the site of 16-34 Graham Street as indicated in the Bunhill Ward plan 2019) for the provision of water sports for young people and community groups and will not be taken over by another high rise building and/or commercial interests?

As the questioner was not present, a written response was sent, as follows:

Islington Council is committed to providing safe, enjoyable and accessible leisure facilities for local people to enjoy.

Unfortunately, the Council was forced to close the Islington Boat Club site because dangerous structural and electrical health and safety issues were found on the site. This was necessary to protect the safety of club users.

The Council considers that City Road Basin is a unique and special resource. The Council wants to see it being fully used by local people for boating activities and is very disappointed that it has had to close the site.

Islington Boat Club is a Charity and is not funded by the Council. As an independent organisation with responsibility for the site they need to show that they are able to put right the problems that resulted in the Council having to close the site, and that they can prevent similar problems from happening again. The Council needs to have confidence that the site and the club will be safely and properly run.

214 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions (a) from 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.

Response:

Islington's commissioned carers support service, Islington Carers Hub is run by Age UK Islington. It is commissioned to provide information, advice, signposting, and support to help carers in their caring role and prevent carer breakdown. This includes financial and employment support, including practical support with completing paperwork. They also work with specialist partners including LBI's Income Maximisation and iWork teams to support carers with income maximisation and access to suitable employment opportunities. The council's Cost of Living support campaign has been shared with Age UK Islington and other providers supporting carers in the borough, so they are able to direct carers and other residents to the support available.

Age UK Islington are doing tremendous work to support our local carers, but as we are witnessing across the care sector, they face a lot of pressure. The pandemic, and now the cost of living crisis is seeing many of our residents needing complex support, but to deliver this requires central government intervention. That's why we have and continue to call on the government for more support to guarantee better care for older and vulnerable people, support for unpaid carers and decent pay for care workers.

Age UK Islington have also been addressing residents' concerns about the Cost of Living crisis at resident events over the last few months, for example at October's Let's Talk Peer Group meeting where the manager of the Income Maximisation team provided a presentation on support available to residents. This was attended by more than 50 people in person and many more online, including carers. Age UK Islington are working with Help on Your Doorstep and other Islington voluntary sector organisations such as the Local Wellbeing Network, and Octopus Community Network on a series of Cost of Living events. Around 100 residents attended the first one and the second "Cost of Living" community open day took place earlier today.

Question (b) from 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?

Response:

I share the concerns about Barclays record for investing in fossil fuels. Our Council has committed to becoming a net zero carbon borough by 2030 to help tackle the climate emergency and that impacts everything the Council does. To address those concerns I arranged a meeting with the Barclays Bank Chief Executive C.S Venkatakrisnan. Barclays set out their position and direction of travel which seemed broadly positive, but the issue is about pace. Whilst many of their investments in fossil fuels are decades old and they have been phasing out some of the more controversial fossil fuel exposures this is not being done quickly enough. I set out to the Chief Executive that the Council would like Barclays to introduce robust exclusion policies for all direct and indirect investment in Arctic, Tar sands,

Ultra Deep Water and Fracking. They have yet to come back to me with those robust policies, so we need to keep pushing them.

The Council's contract does indeed expire in 2025. Procurement will begin next summer, and the Council will incorporate social value (including the record on climate) as part of its scoring process. Regardless of who the Council chooses to provide our banking services, it is vital that Barclays do more to address climate concerns, as one of the top fossil fuel investors in the world.

Supplementary Questions:

Do you agree we need to be investing in companies and banks that are committed to ending the climate crisis and what are the steps being taken to do this?

Response:

Yes, I agree Councillor Clarke, we absolutely do need to do this. The power local authorities need to enhance is through public procurement and using this to ensure the companies that want to work with the council have socially and environmentally robust policies.

The public procurement policy for our banking needs to be the most robust for social and environment policy and is the most fit for the climate emergency.

Question (c) from 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?

Response:

As you know, a top priority for our council is providing safe, decent homes for local people. But we also know that, due to a range of issues, some of our homes aren't up to the standard they should be, and we are working hard to improve that. In relation to the Andover Estate, which has experienced damp issues over the years exacerbated by the design of some of the flats, significant investment has been allocated to the estate which will address these issues. Cyclical improvements totalling £14 million have started on site to insulate properties across the estate, including those backing onto garages, as well as improving the ventilation within the units. Works have commenced on site and residents events have been well attended.

Where cyclical work is delivered elsewhere in the borough, a priority is given to insulation and ventilation. Planned works are on site for a group of pilot properties which have received Social Housing Decarbonisation Funding to improve their

thermal efficiency and in turn reduce the likelihood of damp. Significant further funds have been identified to improve properties with the lowest SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) ratings amongst our stock and where dampness is more likely to occur.

We will continue to bid for grants such as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to increase the range and speed of insulation works and continue doing all we can to improve our current stock of council homes, as well as building more to help households out of overcrowded homes.

Supplementary Questions:

These issues have been raised for around 20 years. On the walkways, the asphalt needs to be done correctly, the water pipes and drainage needs to be done properly as well as insulation done correctly as these all contribute to the issue of damp. Our council officers need to check in with residents that we know are facing damp to alleviate the issue as this has not been done properly and it is unacceptable. The council needs to receive value for money on cyclical works and currently this is not happening. While I'm talking about the Andover estate, this applies all over the borough and we need to protect all residents from damp homes.

Response:

I make a promise now that all residents mentioned and those that have had damp in the last two years will receive a visit. As well as ensuring any company that does cyclical work for the council is doing this to the best standard or we will no longer use their services and put the money into other companies that will.

While I completely sympathetic with the issue, unfortunately some issues occur due to the way estates were built and if they were being built now this would not occur. But I want to make a promise under my watch that once work is complete we will check in on residents and ensure they are satisfied with the work that has been done.

Question (d) from Cllr Jeapes to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

The latest contemptable 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?

Response:

I agree, this new policy set by the Government will severely disenfranchise thousands of voters here in Islington and across the country. But we will do everything we can to ensure residents are not excluded from taking part in democracy.

Voter ID will be introduced from May 2023. The government has set out a list of acceptable identification but unfortunately there are none on the list that are free and available for all, apart from the Voter Authority Certificate. Anyone that doesn't have acceptable identification will be able to apply for a Voter Authority certificate either online or by using a paper application. The production of certificates will be done centrally so the costs for those will be covered. Council officers will be required to process the applications for the certificates, and it is estimated that on average, online applications will take 6 minutes to process while paper applications will take 8 minutes. The cost of staff time will be funded via a new burdens funding grant but as it is estimated that between 2-6% of people do not have suitable identification, we have work to do to ensure that our residents are aware that voter ID will be required at polling stations and that they know how to apply for a Voter Authority Certificate if they do not have any of the other acceptable documentation.

But we will also be working very hard to ensure local people are aware of the changes and they're not negatively impacted by them. We will be running a campaign to raise awareness and to get people the ID they need so they can continue to be able to vote.

Supplementary Questions:

As a result, the turnout is going to be extremely low and the electorate will become disenfranchised, so please as a whole council can we work on raising awareness of this so residents don't get turned away at the polls? Or as a borough run a campaign of 'civil disobedience' where the Council and Councillors do not apply doing this and let people vote with no ID.

Response:

My passport is out of date, and I have only recently got a driving license so would have previously also struggled with this policy. This policy will disenfranchise the most vulnerable and is a political move from the government to do so. This council has been at the forefront of many campaigns over the year, beating poll tax, saving the buses and the Leader has put this on the Agenda for the Labour Group of London Councils for the meeting next week.

Question (e) from 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?

Response:

While we have monitoring powers, the issue is we don't have the powers we need to do more, the only power we have is if they constitute a statutory nuisance and they don't. An officer has written to Emily Thornberry MP asking that the date that allows us to have more powers over the generators is brought forward from 2029. We want increased powers to regulate.

We are aware of the concerns of residents and we ensure Officers are in attendance at every full day test of the back-up generators in case Lumen cause a statutory nuisance and enforcement action can be taken.

We have been proactively working with Lumen (and its previous incarnations Level 3 and Century Link) for many years to address concerns from residents. Whilst we are not the enforcing authority for the use of back-up generators, that is the Environmental Agency, the council has used its convening powers to get improvements in communication from the site to local residents as well as improvements to the exhaust flues on the roof of the building.

Pollution monitoring has taken place on Peregrine House and has recently started at Moreland School to try and detect impacts of the testing of the back-up generators on the local environment. So far, the pollution monitoring does not indicate a measurable increase in pollution levels when the generators are tested.

Lumen are working closely and positively with our Energy team and their GreenSCIES (Green Smart Community Integrated Energy Systems) project. Lumen will be the major supplier of heat to this programme. GreenSCIES will help reduce the use of fossil fuels and carbon in the borough.

Supplementary Question:

Will you join me in publicly calling on Lumen to do the right thing and invest less in disruptive and polluting technology. Will you also continue to work to raise the matter with government so we have all the right powers to tackle poor air quality in our borough?

Response:

Yes.

Question (f) from 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?

Response:

You're completely right that the government's cost of living crisis is already having a significant impact on people in our borough. We declared a cost-of-living emergency at the last Full Council and pledged to do all we can to help residents and businesses impacted by the cost-of-living crisis. Despite the lack of financial support from this government, we are helping residents to claim all benefits they are entitled to, with over £3.5m of annual benefit entitlement secured for residents this financial year, so far. We are distributing financial support effectively to those that need it most. £13m has been distributed from the council tax energy rebate and £4.4m from the Household Support Fund, with a further £2.2m currently being distributed now. We continue to support residents into employment, helping them secure good jobs. We are providing more support for local people to tackle the cost of living crisis this winter through the £500,000 windfall payment from the publicly owned waste plant in Edmonton. We are also helping families impacted by the digital divide by distributing laptops to over 600 pupils who started secondary school this autumn, coupled with our work in rolling out high-speed broadband to council estates across the borough. We have also launched a communications campaign to raise awareness with residents on where to get help. A cost-of-living board is ensuring a co-ordinated response, working with voluntary and community sector partners to maximise the collective offer, including a network of warm spaces. We are monitoring the impacts to target support where it is most needed, through a cost-of-living dashboard. We will continue to do all we can to help those hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis.

Question (g) from 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?

As Cllr Nargund was not present, a written response was sent, as follows:

I'd like to reassure you that as a council, we are committed to continuing to engage with local people in the development of liveable neighbourhoods across the borough. At the start of the people-friendly streets programme in 2020-21 we ran a borough-wide Commonplace platform which attracted over 6,000 comments from residents telling us about issues in the area and suggestions for how we could make the area cleaner, greener, and healthier. Since then, we have run six low traffic neighbourhood public consultations, including a programme of consultation events for each, to which

we received thousands of responses. Our reports on all of these consultations have been published on the council website. We have also processed and responded to in the region of 5,000 emails relating to people-friendly streets schemes.

Recently we have held public meetings to kickstart two liveable neighbourhood projects. The meetings, prior to any designs, were to listen to local people's views about how they would like us to improve streets in the area. This is just the start of a year-long engagement process for each scheme. We will hold numerous events to give local people many opportunities to give us feedback on design proposals. This will help us to finalise designs on which we will hold a formal public consultation before a decision is made on whether to and how proceed with each liveable neighbourhood scheme. We look forward to hearing local people's views on our liveable neighbourhood schemes as they develop.

Question (h) from 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?

Response:

The NHS was founded by a Labour Government after the second world war; after seeing the worst of humanity, we created a system intended to meet three core principles: that it meets the needs of everyone, that it be free at the point of delivery and that it be based on clinical need, not ability to pay. It is Our NHS and we don't want to lose it. Every single one of us in this chamber would have received NHS care at some point in our lives. Do we want a system that only caters to those who can afford it or a service that is universally available to us all?

The chronic underfunding of our NHS by this government is an ideological move and is setting up our NHS to fail, putting staff under pressure and cutting training available for health and social care professionals. This is all evidence of how an ideology based on privatisation and supporting profit making companies can lead to the destruction of some of our most valued assets, namely the NHS and social care. The US cooperation Centene is listed on the New York stock exchange with an annual revenue well over 100 billion dollars. It is the parent company of Operose Health which is in control of 58 GP surgeries over the country, making it the largest GP network in the country, covering half a million patients. Privatising the NHS isn't without consequence and will lead to deterioration of care. Privatised GP practices have failed to employ permanent GPs and turns work into profit-centred work not care-centred work. In 2021 the government of Valencia, Spain announced the reversal of private healthcare due to corruption of a company owned mostly by Centene, the same company in ownership of 58 GP practices in the UK. This highlights what could be to come.

The decision to not renew the contract of a very large international corporation is just one step in ensuring public services are kept in public hands.

There is still more for us to do – the contract for Hanley Primary Care Centre will now go out to tender. We will continue to campaign for an NHS in the hands of local patients, not for-profit healthcare giants.

The Mayor advised that the time allowed for questions had expired and that the following questions would receive a written response:

Question (i) from 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?

Written response:

Providing safe, decent accommodation for our Gypsy and Roma Traveller community was a key commitment in our manifesto for the Local Elections in 2022. The GRT community is one of the most discriminated against across the country and it is vitally important that we work as hard as we can to secure them safe places to live. As part of our Local Plan process, we have identified three sites for GRT community accommodation. These include one on Ronalds Road and two on Junction Road, one of those is on the current Shaolin Temple site.

The Shaolin Temple is an important cultural and religious centre that serves many people in Junction Ward, Islington and beyond. The decision about the future of the Temple now sits with an independent Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State. If the Inspector decides to confirm the proposed allocation of this site to provide permanent homes for Islington's gypsy and traveller community, the council is fully committed to working with the Temple to find it a new home.

The site is owned by Transport for London and leased to the Temple. The Temple's lease of the site is due to end in 2026. As you know, Transport for London is under the control of the Mayor of London. I have committed to working with the Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development to seek to find a new home for the Temple. Transport for London's Director of Property has written to the Temple. In their letter they state:

“The current lease for the China Cultural Fund runs through to 2026. As one of London’s largest landowners with 2,500 commercial tenancies across London, I am confident that we would be able to find a suitable alternative location for the Shaolin Temple should that be required. Throughout this period, we will of course continue to liaise closely with both the Council and our tenant.”

Question (j) from 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?

Written response:

As I mentioned in my answer to Cllr Clarke, our council is totally committed to tackling the climate emergency, and that includes reducing the environmental impact of our pension fund. The latest figures from March 2022 show the Council has reduced its weighted average carbon intensity by 30% from the 2016 baseline and the potential emissions of the fund from fossil fuel reserves have been reduced by 78.9%. The fund recently transitioned its in-house equity portfolio to the Legal and Generally Paris aligned passive fund over the summer, which will see further substantial reductions when the next measurement is taken in early 2023. Exposure to any companies involved in fossil fuel activities will be very limited after this point and the Pension Fund continues to work to reduce emissions as a whole.

Question (k) from 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?

Written response:

Our council is determined to ensure local people have safe, secure, decent places to call home.

We appreciate that major works invoices are unwelcome at any time but the council as the freeholder has a responsibility to repair and maintain buildings, and leaseholders have an obligation under their lease to pay their share of the cost of repairs and maintenance through their service charge.

Strictly under the terms of the lease, service charges including major works are payable in full within 14 days. However, we realise to apply the lease terms about payment very rigidly would cause many leaseholders significant hardship, and for that reason we offer a range of payment options and hardship solutions which compares well with payment packages offered by other local authorities. Our payment options help resident leaseholders spread the cost of major works charges over a several years, including an interest-free period. In cases of hardship and where there is no other reasonable means of a leaseholder paying, we can consider putting a charge

on the property so that no payment is required until the property is sold. We give leaseholders 12 weeks to choose their payment option and we also promote free and independent debt advice services.

There is no general power to waive the recovery of leaseholder service charges, and this would be incompatible with the council's fiduciary duty. The "shortfall" of expenditure not recovered from leaseholders as a result of a waiver would fall on tenants. The council has limited discretion under the Social Landlords Discretionary Reduction of Service Charges (England) Directions 2014 to reduce major works bills in exceptional circumstances (where leaseholders are experiencing exceptional hardship, have no alternative access to funding the full amount and other unforeseen circumstances have contributed to their inability to pay). Consideration is given on a case by case basis. As most leaseholders have a sufficient level of equity for a charge to be placed on their property to cover their major works bill, hardship capping will not apply.

Question (I) from 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?

Written response:

Islington council currently has 9 public toilet facilities made up of 7 automated public toilets located around the borough.

The 7 Public Automated Public Toilets which are open 24 Hours are

- Holloway Road
- Seven Sisters Road
- Highbury Crescent
- Highbury Fields
- Newington Green (Currently Closed)
- Islington Green (Currently Closed)
- City Road

With a set of public toilets which are staffed at Chapel Street Market in the south of the borough and a Urilift pop-up urinal based in Cowcross street.

Within the borough we also have a number of toilets that are open to the public at Islington Offices, Libraries, Leisure Centres, and Parks which number 40 sites with a variety of facilities, but they are not open 24 hours.

The 7 automated public toilets are the end of their natural life and parts are now obsolete for these. The council has identified a budget of £1m to replace the 7 automated public toilets with planning and the procurement of the toilets already in motion. Works on site should start in the first quarter of 2023 and the works completed in the fourth quarter of 2023. This will also include a planning maintenance contract for the 7 automated toilets which will be 3 years with an option of a 2-year extension to the maintenance contract.

The Key Decision report is being drafted and has been added to the Commissioning and Procurement Board agenda of 26th January 2023. We are pushing forward the procurement of the toilets and not waiting for the full planning consultation to be complete as this could delay the project programme by a further 3-6 months. All bar one of the toilets needs some form of planning consideration. Therefore, this route to procuring the toilets should save us time in delivering them and any planning issues will be picked up as part of the procurement process.

Furthermore, in our manifesto for the Local Elections in 2022, we committed to developing a community toilet scheme where we work with local businesses and they open up their toilets for local people to use when they're out and about. This is a scheme we're really excited about and currently working on, with more news coming soon.

Question (m) from Cllr Russell to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:

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?

Written response:

The death of Awaab Ishak has caused the social housing industry to rightly review urgently its approach to damp and mould. As a large landlord with a complex and varied stock Islington is also reviewing its approach.

Additional funding for remedial works has been agreed to allow packages to ventilate and insulate homes. We are recontacting all tenants who requested a damp and mould survey in the last two years and we are prioritising based on number of reports, vulnerabilities and complaints. Additional resources are being brought in to ensure we can visit any of these homes who still have an issue.

We will be reviewing all reported complaints over the last 2 years, members enquiries and resident reported cases of condensation, damp and mould and what additional

interventions can be made to address and resolve the issues. This may include additional works such as new ventilation or insulation.

The council has already conducted work to reduce the likelihood of damp on the most affected estates and further investment is ongoing. We will continue to use repairs data to source estates that need investment to reduce the chance of damp and mould.

We are working with health partners to overlay information about families with health conditions that may require we go even further in those houses prevent damp and condensation.

Our repairs service is investing in and will make greater use of remote loggers to help diagnose the cause of damp in properties. All staff are being retrained on damp and condensation and its impacts on health and possible treatments.

We are setting up a dedicated phone line and email contact for residents concerned about damp and mould. This line will offer advice, the ability to report concerns and book a surveyors visit.

A weekly panel will review cases of repeat reports of damp and mould with a view to sending senior surveyors and or increasing the levels of work or moving the family. We are also working with local housing associations to encourage them to take a similar proactive approach.

In addition, we're working with UCL and Building Expert Mike Peret to ensure we are using the best investigative techniques and designing an affordable retrofit package for the worst cases.

Damp and Condensation can only be controlled through effective repairs, investing in improving our stock, reducing overcrowding, and supporting residents with the cost of living. Islington is committed to delivering these across the borough.

215 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2023/24

Councillor Ward moved the recommendations in the report, Councillor Comer-Schwartz seconded. Councillor Russell contributed to the debate.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To adopt the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2023/24 as contained in Appendix A to the report submitted.
- (ii) To retain the amendments to council tax agreed at full Council on 9 December 2021. To be clear, this means that, from 1 April 2023, numbers 1 – 4 below will continue to apply and 5 will be added:
 1. Council tax exemption classes A (unoccupied and unfurnished property that requires or is undergoing major repairs) and C (unoccupied and unfurnished property) will have a discount of 0% for all cases
 2. Council tax discount for second homes will be 0% in all cases

3. 3. Council tax discount for empty furnished lets' will be 0% in all cases; and
4. A premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 100% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 2 years but less than 5 years in all cases. A premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 200% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 5 years but less than 10 years in all cases. A premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 300% on the council tax of all properties that have remained empty for over 10 years in all cases.
5. In addition, where the Legislation allows for a higher potential council tax premium for Second Homes (also known as "dwellings occupied periodically"), the Council will levy the maximum council tax premium allowable from the earliest date that the Legislation allows.

216 MID YEAR TREASURY REPORT

Councillor Ward moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Treasury Mid-Year Review be noted.
- (ii) That the prudential indicator breach be noted.

217 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023-27

Councillor Woolf moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the continuation of the council's cumulative impact policy for a further 3 years be confirmed.
- (ii) That the Licensing Policy 2023-2027 be adopted, as attached at Appendix A to the report submitted.
- (iii) That the Licensing Policy 2023-2027 shall apply to all applications for a premises licence or club certificate submitted after 1 January 2023 be agreed.

218 STATEMENT OF GAMBLING POLICY 2023-25

Councillor Woolf moved the recommendations in the report; noting a typographical error in the agenda and that the duration of the Policy was 2023-25. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the results of the consultation feedback, as detailed in Appendix B to the report submitted, be noted.
- (ii) That the council's response to the consultation, in particular the proposed revisions to the policy, as described in Appendix B and section 3.9 of the report, be noted.
- (iii) That the Gambling Premises Licensing Policy 2023-2025 be adopted, as attached at Appendix A to the report submitted.

- (iv) That the Policy shall apply to all applications for a premises licence or club certificate submitted after 1 January 2023 be agreed.
- (v) The resolution of the Council not to issue any casino licences in the period 2023-2025 be renewed.

219 GRANT OF DISPENSATION

Councillor Khurana moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillor Rowena Champion be granted a dispensation, to allow her to participate in debates and votes on matters relating to waste disposal, energy from waste, waste facilities, waste transfer stations, reuse and recycling and any other waste related issues until Councillor Champion ceases to be a director of London Energy Ltd or until 28 July 2026.

220 CONSTITUTION REPORT

Councillor Khurana moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the amendments to the Constitution be approved as set out in the appendices to the report.

221 CHIEF WHIP'S REPORT

Councillor Khurana moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That Councillor Jackson be appointed as a substitute member of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (ii) That Councillors Staff and Weekes be appointed as substitute members of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until successors are appointed.
- (iii) That Councillor Pandor be appointed to Cripplegate Foundation until September 2024, or until a successor is appointed.
- (iv) That the appointment of Marie Rosenthal as Interim Director of Law and Governance be noted, and to approve her appointment as Acting Monitoring Officer, until further notice.

222 **NOTICES OF MOTION**

Motion 1: Gambling Act Review

The Mayor advised that an alteration to the motion had been circulated in the second despatch of papers and this was formally noted by the Council.

Councillor Weekes moved the motion; Councillor Croft seconded. Councillors Hamdache and Gallagher contributed to the debate.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) To commence a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act to push for legislative reform that will empower local authorities to better regulate gambling.
- (iii) To implement the reviewed and revised Gambling Premises Licensing Policy 2023-2025 (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.

Motion 2: Right to Food

Councillor O'Halloran moved the motion; Councillor Clarke seconded. Councillors Jegorovas-Armstrong and Craig contributed to the debate. Councillor O'Halloran exercised her right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To become a Right to Food borough and to support the Right to Food Campaign's five demands to Government urging that these be delivered nationally as a matter of urgency. These demands are:
 1. Universal free school meals. No child should go hungry and the Right to Food campaign is calling for free school meals for every child.
 2. Government to state how much of minimum wages and benefits (on which people are expected to live) is for food. The Right to Food Campaign wants Government to reveal how much money is factored in for food when setting minimum/living wages and benefits.
 3. Independent enforcement of legislation. Right To Food legislation must be accompanied by oversight and enforcement powers granted to a new independent regulatory body that will hold Government to account.
 4. Community Kitchens. The Right to Food Campaign believes Community Kitchens provide a workable solution to food poverty. Government

should fund dining clubs and 'meals-on-wheels' services for older people and others who are not able to shop and/or cook meals, school holiday meals for those most in need and cookery clubs for the wider community.

5. Ensured food security. Government must ensure food security and take this into account when setting competition, planning, transport, local Page 254 government, and all other policy.

- (ii) To stand alongside our communities in the face of the cost-of-living crisis, demonstrating leadership in tackling food insecurity and going further than the Right to Food Campaigns demands on a local level by committing to Islington's upcoming Food Strategy 2023-28 as pledged in the Islington Labour manifesto for the 2022 Local Elections.

Motion 3: Solidarity with striking workers

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to the motion had been circulated in an additional despatch.

Councillor Hamdache moved the motion; Councillor Russell seconded, Councillor Graham moved the proposed amendment. Councillors Heather and Gilgunn contributed to the debate.

The amendment was put to the vote and CARRIED.

The amended motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Continue promoting union membership to Islington's residents and to work collaboratively with the unions representing the Council's workers
- (ii) Support the attendance of Islington's two MPs at picket lines in solidarity with striking workers Page 255
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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.

Motion 4: Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Accommodation Needs

The Mayor advised that a proposed amendment to the motion had been circulated in an additional despatch.

Councillor Jegorovas-Armstrong moved the motion; Councillor Russell seconded, Councillor Burgess moved the proposed amendment.

The amendment was put to the vote and CARRIED.

The amended motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) To 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.
- (iii) To 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.
- (iv) To address the inequalities that the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community face.
- (v) To ensure that Gypsies, Roma and Travellers experience an inclusive, fair and understanding community in Islington.
- (vi) To actively nurture harmonious relations between the settled community and the residents of any future Gypsy, Roma and Traveller site in Islington.
- (vii) To provide sustainable, green and biodiverse sites with facilities that are well insulated, well ventilated and affordable to heat in winter.
- (viii) To provide effective site management for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller sites in the borough.
- (ix) To 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.
- (x) To encourage and support Islington schools in signing The Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boaters' Pledge for Schools.
- (xi) To 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 meeting closed at 10.15 pm

MAYOR