

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: A Metropolitan Police Service that Islington can trust

Moved by Cllr John Woolf

Seconded by Cllr Jason Jackson

This Council notes:

- The Baroness Casey Review into the Metropolitan Police demonstrates conclusively the scale and extent of the problems within the force and their impact on communities and victims. It paints a picture of a force that is institutionally racist, sexist and homophobic. It documents systematic failures about the way it has vetted and maintained professional standards, the support offered to vulnerable victims of rape and domestic abuse, and its record of safeguarding children and protecting the public. It highlights the hollowing out of local policing and disempowerment of local leaders.
- The review shows that the Government's cut in real terms funding for the Met over the last ten years – £700 million, 18% lower than the start of the previous decade - has had an adverse impact on neighbourhood policing. Sharp decreases in the rates of crimes solved and in measures of trust and confidence coincide with the period around 2017 and 2018 when police officer, staff, PCSO and Specials numbers were at their lowest and when the Joint Basic Command Units were introduced, which the Casey Review calls 'an austerity measure'.
- Whilst youth safety and knife crime are top priorities for young people, they have consistently told us, in surveys and in one-to-one settings, that they cannot fully trust the Police. The concerns relayed are more significant and prominent for children from Black and minoritised communities.
- In Islington, only 46% of people believe the Metropolitan Police is doing a good job and only 48% of people agree the police treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are (MOPAC Public Attitudes Survey, Q4 2022/23).

- Stop and Search disproportionately affects Islington's Black residents, who make up 13.3% of the borough's population, but constitute 43.3% of subjects of stop and searches in the last 12 months.
- Local people rely on the Police to keep them safe and a good working relationship between local police and the council is vital. However, it is clear beyond any doubt that the Met requires nothing short of total reform to create the culturally competent police service that Londoners deserve. The Met must accept, as the Casey Review concluded, that it is institutionally racist, sexist and homophobic if it is to change.

This Council further notes:

- Since the culmination of the Casey Review, the Council's Executive has been working closely with the Borough Commander and Superintendent to agree a strong, local action plan to increase confidence and trust in the Police for local people.
- The willingness of the local Central North BCU to work co-operatively with the Council and local residents to agree and implement a strong action plan, attend cultural competency training, and the Just Fair Summits, plus the strong working relationship and the array of positive partnership work we currently undertake to make Islington safer.
- Given that the Met is 77% white and 70% male, and that half of officers do not live in the city they police, reform must begin with listening and understanding the lived experiences of our community. This includes those who have experienced discrimination and poor service, especially Black residents who have been under-protected and over-policed.
- Child exploitation is a serious issue which feeds into issues around organised crime, the drug trade and serious violence in London. We need a Police Service that acknowledges this, takes it seriously and has a plan to tackle it.
- Effective neighbourhood policing, including engagement with and visibility in communities and strong child-focused partnership working by the police with the council and other agencies, is essential if we are to tackle violence and the causes of violence – including poverty, domestic abuse and poor mental health
- Islington Council's work to make our borough a safer place, including over 300 safe havens, initiatives to tackle VAWG, knife bins that take thousands of weapons off our streets every year, and Safer Spaces discussions to find out where people feel unsafe, and improve it.

- In 2022/23, Islington saw a 34% reduction in knife crime offences and 9% reduction in youth violence compared to pre-pandemic levels. Also, due to the work of council services, 96% of Islington young people who committed a lower-level offence and were triaged and diverted from the youth justice system

This Council resolves to:

- Urge the Met to accept the Casey Report in full – including the finding that the force is institutionally racist, sexist and homophobic.
- Ensure our local Borough Commander agrees to:
 - A 10-point action plan— practical, tangible actions, developed with our community, and implemented swiftly, in response to Baroness Casey’s report
 - A Public Charter—outlining your commitments to neighbourhood policing in Islington.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding—between the local authority and the BCU to ensure effective communication and accountability
 - Public participation in policing— with effective ward panels that are representative and responsive; with Independent Advisory Groups that are empowered and supported; active engagement and collaboration with refugees, migrants, young people, minoritized groups and the Global Majority
 - Children as children—for there never to be a horrific incident in Islington like that experienced by Child Q and for a strong commitment to prevention and diversion
 - The highest standards—only the very best officers in our borough; rigorous SLT review, monitoring and oversight for any officer under investigation; the very best training for Islington’s police officers, including that suggested through Valerie’s Law
 - Stability and visibility —with an end to the carousel system; an end to high abstraction rates; more PCSOs and School Safety Officers: the very best SNTs in London
 - A swift response—to all incidents in Islington
 - Thorough investigations— with an improvement in outcomes for all crimes, including our priority areas such as an increase in sanction and detection rates for DV, plus watertight cases brought swiftly to the CPS
 - Clear communication—with the Victim’s Code at the heart of what the Police does
 - A trauma-informed approach— so safety, choice, collaboration, trustworthiness and empowerment guide your approach and interactions
 - A joined-up approach—across boroughs, teams and partnerships
 - An anti-racist, anti-misogynistic, anti-sexist, anti-homophobic and anti-ableist force— with a laser focus on equality and inclusivity; an end to

disproportionality and adultification; an active commitment to stamp out all forms of hate, misogyny, prejudice and discrimination

- Policing by consent— earning and maintaining trust and confidence in our community by being embedded in our community, listening to our community and understanding our experiences and needs

- Ensure our BCU Commander is accountable for the actions taken in our Borough, including those of central specialist units.

- Continue to listen to local people through our Safer Spaces conversations, learning from residents where they feel least safe and make improvements

- Continue to support the safety of young people as outlined in our Youth Safety Strategy, which includes listening to and responding to the voices of young people

- Continue to prioritise the reduction of Violence Against Women and Girls as outlined in our VAWG Strategy, which includes putting survivors centre stage

- Continue to work in partnership to deliver on our Violence Reduction Strategy

- Continue using innovative strategies and responses to organised crime groups, such as our I-CAN service

- Work with our local BCU and partners across London to make tackling child exploitation a priority, with a view to tackling drug-related crime and serious violence

- Call on the Prime Minister to make child exploitation and serious violence a national priority.

Motion 2: Age Friendly Islington

Moved by Cllr Janet Burgess

Seconded by Cllr Rosaline Ogunro

This Council notes:

- Islington is the 53rd most deprived local authority in England and the 6th most deprived in London. In 2020, 4415 (20%) of older residents lived in the most deprived areas of the borough, as this proportion was significantly higher when compared to younger adults.
- Islington also has the 4th highest levels of poverty affecting older people in London. As well as income deprivation, Islington's older people reported social isolation as a persistent challenge.
- In 2022, Islington had approximately 208,000 adult residents, of which 22,948 were older adults, aged 65 or above (11%). Islington has a significantly lower older population when compared to London (16%) and England (23%).
- Our older population aged 65+ is projected to grow most quickly (16% by 2026 and 35% by 2032), which equates to a growth of around 7,798 individuals over the next 10 years.
- Many factors can impact how we age. This includes:
 - Wider determinants – these are a diverse range of social, economic and environmental factors which impact on people's health.
 - Healthy living – taking care of one's physical health, including eating nutritious foods, limiting alcohol intake, and smoking cessation.
 - Common conditions – conditions including physical or mental health and wellbeing, cognitive functioning and falls and fractures.
- Our ageing population is a primary driver of adult social care demand. Of the 22,948 older adults in Islington, 2,720 (11%) receive support from Adult Social Care. The majority of residents receiving support are older adults (53%).
- Of the 2,720 older people we support, 55% (1,494) received long-term support from the Council. Physical support, which includes access and mobility, and personal care support, was the most common primary support reason for older adults.
- The residents we support in Adult Social Care are significantly more likely to live in more deprived areas. 21% of the older residents we support live in the most deprived areas of Islington.

- The Government has continually failed to properly fund social care across the UK, leaving it to local authorities, despite austerity, to manage increasing demand and costs.
- State pensions are set for an 8.5 percent increase in April 2024 under the triple lock mechanism, with the new state pension set to rise just over £900 per year to over £11,500.
- The UK has one of the lowest rates of state pension in Europe and the decline of Defined Benefit workplace pension schemes means that the average UK pensioner has less to live on in retirement than in most other countries.
- As outlined in the [Institute for Fiscal Studies \(IFS\) report](#) on the case for a pensions review, there are a number of key challenges facing future generations of pensioners that threaten their living standards in retirement, and which, without policy action, mean many people are likely to face substantial financial difficulties in older age.

This Council further notes:

- Islington is committed to supporting older people to live healthy, purposeful, independent, connected and fulfilling lives. The Council commissions, funds and provides a range of provisions for older people in the borough, across health (including adult social care), housing, environment, transport, digital/assistive technology, and the community voluntary sector.
- The Council's Public Health team are currently running the 'Get Active' pilot to support those with long term conditions to become more motivated and confident in relation to engaging in physical activity. This links to our broader strategic ambition to increase uptake of physical activity as outlined in the [Active Together Strategy](#).
- Our collaborative work with Camden on [Parks for Health](#) which invests in our park spaces to improve the quality and accessibility of green spaces with a particular focus on improving wellbeing and supporting older age groups to be active and stay socially connected.
- Islington provides free swimming to Over 60's 7 days per week across our pools, we also have introduced Free Swimming Lessons for Over 60's.
- LBI has joint arrangements with the NHS – Whittington Health, Camden and Islington Foundation Trust (CIFT) and Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (ICCG) to support people's health and social care needs. In addition to all regular health services, such as primary care, mental health, community health and acute care, Islington has some specialist services to support older adults, including community activities and mental health support.

- Our People Friendly Streets initiative continues to improve the accessibility of the local built environment/public realm to improve accessibility and make public spaces more attractive to support active travel uptake for everyone, including older people in the borough.
- Islington is recognised by Alzheimer's Society as a community working towards becoming dementia friendly.
- In February 2023, Islington's Ecology Centre at Gillespie Park was recognised as being a dementia-friendly venue. At both the Ecology Centre and Caledonian Park, Islington Council has been running Health and Nature Walks which are open to all, but particularly focused on older people and are dementia friendly. Further partnership work is ongoing with Age UK, for example holding "Park Cuppa" events regularly at Caledonian Park and the Ecology Centre.
- The Freedom Pass scheme provides free travel on most of London's public transport to older and eligible disabled London residents. In 2018/19, LBI contributed £11.5m to the Scheme and 23,000 Older People in Islington benefitted from Freedom Passes.
- Islington's Dementia Strategy will outline the offer across the partnership for dementia prevention, diagnosis, post diagnostic care, living well with dementia and choice and control including at end of life. A Dementia Coordinator will be created to co-ordinate the implementation of the dementia strategy action plan.
- Islington's Carers Strategy has been jointly developed with Age UK Islington who runs Islington Carers Hub. It has been coproduced with carers – 350 carers have contributed through engagement activities and a carers reference group has been utilised to coproduce the strategy.
- Islington works with local organisations and through specific programmes to reduce the impact of fuel poverty. Examples of local initiatives include the Bunhill Energy Centre and district-wide heat network, Warm Healthy Homes Programme, Seasonal Health Interventions Network (SHINE) and Angelic Energy.
- Adult Care Commissioned Services provided for older people in the borough that include Resident and Nursing Care Homes which meet the needs of residents who cannot remain in their own homes or in other accommodation-based services; specialist Housing (Extra Care) designed to meet the needs of older people with long-term conditions, and disabled people who may struggle to remain in their own home; Home Care covering a range of activities such as personal care, reablement, and support with medication; Islington Carers Hub; and Day Provision New Park Day Centre.

This Council resolves to:

- Join the UK Network of Age-friendly communities, recognising ourselves as an age-friendly borough, where Islington is a welcoming place to grow old in.
- Retain the Older Person's Council Tax discount first introduced by Islington in 2010.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for better regulation of private pensions.
- Work with local businesses to encourage them to accept cash transactions, recognising the freedom, independence, and social inclusion that this provides older people in the borough.
- Continue working with our VCS community and other stakeholders to work on reducing digital exclusion in Islington.

Motion 3: Boycott the Anti-Boycott Bill

Moved by Cllr Benali Hamdache

Seconded by Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

This Council notes:

- The “Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill”, otherwise known as the "anti-boycott bill", is slowly making its way through Parliament, and passed its second reading in July.
- The government’s planned anti-boycott bill poses a threat to local democracy, freedom of expression and civil society campaigns. It will shield states involved in practices that many people in this country find abhorrent, including genocide and occupation.
- If approved, the bill will restrict the ability of public bodies such as local authorities, universities, and some pension funds to make ethical decisions about investment and procurement. It will violate the rights of individual pension holders to invest their pensions in line with their values.
- A broad coalition of over seventy organisations including charities, trade unions, human rights and faith organisations are working publicly to stop the bill, alongside the Scottish government.
- Lisa Nandy, MP for Wigan, revealed that the Labour Party has taken legal advice over the bill, calling it “bad law” and stating that lawyers had raised concerns that the bill could lead the way for endless litigation in the courts over the practice of Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS).

This Council further notes:

- BDS has a centuries-long tradition as a successful method of peaceful protest and local government has played its part in following this democratic political practice.
- BDS campaigns have been used by social movements to change the course of history for the better.
- Concerned members of the public and local authorities have championed BDS tactics in prominent campaigns such as the 1963 Bristol bus boycott, the rejection of sugar produced on slave plantations, led by nineteenth century British citizens, and divestment from fossil fuel companies. The best-known boycott was the campaign to end apartheid in South Africa.
- During the campaign to end South African apartheid, similar limitations were introduced. Nonetheless, millions of people, including local councils, continued their support for the movement.

- In 2016, a UK High Court ruled that the boycotts of Israeli settlement goods by local authorities in Leicester and Wales were not anti-Semitic, nor did they contravene laws on equality.
- Restricting the ability of local councils to engage in BDS is wrong. In a world where Uyghur's, undergoing ethnic cleansing, are forced to produce garments and commodities, where local government pension funds are invested in arms companies known to be complicit in violations of Palestinian human rights, and where Saudi Arabia, accused of crimes against humanity, is the world's largest oil exporter, we need these tactics to hold those complicit to account.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the leaders of the Labour and Conservative parties to share the legal opinion published by the Labour Party on the rights of councils to boycott oppressive regimes and illegal practices, emphasising the need for councils to retain the ability to engage in BDS campaigning.
- Review our own ethical procurement strategy to ensure that our goods and services are not produced by the world's oppressed peoples.

Motion 4: Islington Child Friendly Community

Moved by Cllr Ernestas Jegorovas-Armstrong

Seconded by Cllr Benali Hamdache

This Council notes:

- That Lambeth council and Redbridge council have successfully applied to become UNICEF Child Friendly Communities.
- That the programme aims to create cities and communities in the UK where all children have a meaningful say in, and truly benefit from, the local decisions, services and spaces that shape their lives.
- That UNICEF provide training based to support councils to put children's rights in practice as part of a three-to-five-year journey towards recognition as a UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community.
- That embarking on this programme could rectify some of the challenges faced by children in Islington by improving and integrating services, adopting poverty reduction measures, and tackling discrimination.

This Council further notes:

- That many of Islington's children and young people are growing up in poverty; exposed to violent crime and high levels of air pollution.
- That Islington had one of the highest rates of child poverty in the country before the pandemic, with two-fifths of all children in Islington living below the poverty line.
- That children from Black and minority ethnic groups are more likely to be in poverty: 48% are now in poverty, compared with 25% of children in white British families. Structural racism results in Black children and young people being disproportionately affected by these disadvantages and that the impact of Covid-19 has been to worsen many existing problems and inequalities.
- That Islington has been taking steps in recent years to support and protect the wellbeing of children and young people, such as through the bold and ambitious Islington Together 2030 plan and its 5 missions, the 'Putting Children First' Education Plan 2030, and the Bright Start 2023-28 Strategy for all children in Islington to have the best start in life.
- That Islington council has listened to young people through the Fair Futures Commission and Let's Talk Islington.
- That Islington has a Youth Council and a Young Mayor and Deputy, with two members acting as Young People's Champions.

This Council resolves to:

- To apply to become a UNICEF Child Friendly Community, to put the rights of children and young people at the centre of decision-making; amplify the voices of children and young people; and support them to access more opportunities.
- To use this process to improve the conditions in which children and young people develop in Islington so that they are safer, healthier and happier. To do this by focusing on good quality housing, education, cultural and sporting activities, access to green space and play areas, and encouraging active travel.
- To demonstrate its commitment to its children through the budget process by examining how the budget impacts children and ensuring that children, and particularly disadvantaged children, get their fair share of resources.
- To give relevant council officers, such as social workers and housing officers, the opportunity to take UNICEF's training about putting children's rights into practice.
- To be open to working with local partners, such as the police and community organisations, to raise awareness of children's rights across the borough and put these into practice across the entire scope of services.
- To commit to working with partners to find sufficient investment to fund posts and activities to deliver these objectives.