

## COUNCIL MEETING – 29 FEBRUARY 2024

### QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**a Rebekah Kelly to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

Can you explain the budget proposal for the Green Garden Waste subscription that has been advertised on Islington Council media accounts?

**b Patricia Niclas to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

Set out below are extracts from the Councils response from the St. Peters LTN consultation:

"24% of resident feedback suggested road closures except for cycles and buses"; 76% did not and yet the Council did not publicise this;

"40% of respondents stated they walk or cycle more to local shops"; Results show that 54% say there is no change or that they do so less;

"30% of respondents state they walk or cycle more for shorter journeys instead of driving"; Statistics state 38% of their habits haven't changed, 12% walk or cycle less and 20% stated that it doesn't apply. This equates to 70% who do not walk and cycle more.

Can I have your view regarding publication of the above data which appears to be selective and the fact that no pollution monitors were used on Essex Road (St Peters LTN) and no traffic counters from St Peter's Street onwards.

**c John Hartley to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

We are pleased to see the Council's continuing commitment to rolling out Liveable Neighbourhoods in Islington to benefit us all and make Islington a Healthier, Safer, Greener, Fairer Borough.

Conscious of the fact that this project needs to deliver more than the necessary modal changes for transport, what steps are the Council taking to ensure that health benefits, particularly for children and more vulnerable people, are realised?

**d Roderik Gonggrijp to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

In light of the recent Non-Material Amendment planning application logged by Peabody with regard to the installation of second staircases on the former Holloway Prison site.

The modifications to the design affect a number of social housing units, family units and housing units that are wheelchair accessible specifically.

In our opinion no planning application that affects, and in this case even reduces the number of beds at social rent, can be considered non-material. The actual planning application as submitted, shows the applicant considers this non-material. However, in Islington, there are over 12,000 individuals on the housing waiting list, many of them families in overcrowded accommodation; does this imply that the planning committee members do not consider the provision of social housing units to be material?; who decides or how is a planning application decided to be non-material?

**e David Harrison to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

In the light of the recent and expected improvements in conditions for pedestrians the Council has made, how she plans to promote walking routes in the borough?

**f Ollie Steadman to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:**

Community engagement is vital in ensuring local people are able to have a say in the services they receive. The Whittington provides expert care to mothers and babies and yet its maternity unit is under threat of closure from the local NHS. With the consultation open until the 17th March, what is the Council doing to raise awareness and encourage people to respond to the consultation?

**g Eilidh Murray to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

When will the council reduce the cost of a place in a bike hangar in Islington which at £107.25/place plus refundable key deposit of £27.75 remains the highest in all London?

**h Peter O’Garr to Cllr O’Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities:**

Since November 2022, leaseholders on Highbury Quadrant Estate have been requesting breakdowns of caretaking costs allocated to individual properties, in the context of caretaker vacancies and inconsistent caretaking standards across the estate. The IBC estate services department insists that caretaking absences or unfulfilled caretaking tasks are not charged to leaseholders. But it has produced no evidence to account for this claim. Why has the council not responded to requests for itemised caretaking costs, including information about uncharged-for gaps in service, and will it agree to provide this information moving forwards?

**i Jonathan Ward to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:**

Now that Cycleway 50 is built, will the council assess the impacts for Islington businesses and residents, especially children, older and disabled people? Please look in particular at: differences in levels of walking and cycling, air quality, bus passenger journey times, accidents, business access difficulties, and new rat-running on residential roads to avoid queuing traffic. And will you ask TfL to provide funding for any mitigation measures if they are required?

**j Pete Gilman to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:**

How much time is there between local authorities being informed of the government allocation of funding to them and their requirement to set annual budgets? There is some concern that the time given may be inadequate causing unnecessary and avoidable difficulties. Are such concerns justified?