

COUNCIL MEETING – 29 FEBRUARY 2024

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

a Cllr Wayne to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Consumers deserve to be protected from unscrupulous and unethical traders. Is the council committed to maintaining a robust trading standards department and what is it doing to deter rogue traders?

b Cllr Craig to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

Over 20 Islington residents die each week, but many of those bereaved don't know where to turn for support, or face delays in accessing services. Earlier this year the Good Grief Trust launched the Sit with Hope campaign, to improve access to support. The aim is to place plaques with a QR code direct to their website on benches and seats across the community, in parks, urban spaces and hospital gardens. To purchase a plaque for each of Islington's 39 parks would cost under £600 and will signpost residents to immediate advice and support, help and hope. Is this something the council is willing to support?

c Cllr Staff to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture, and Inclusion:

What is the Council doing to ensure that its decision-making processes have diverse representation from all of Islington's communities?

d Cllr Zammit to Cllr Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:

London's youth unemployment rate (those aged between 16-24 years old) stood at 14.1% in the 2nd quarter of 2023, compared with 3.4% in those who are 25-64 years old. We know that being in work contributes to wellbeing and the local economy. What is Islington Council doing specifically to support young people into work?

e **Cllr Gilgunn to Cllr Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy and Jobs:**

Labour's New Deal for Working People, launched by Angela Rayner in 2021 at Labour Conference and reaffirmed unanimously at this year's conference, in partnership with Labour's affiliated trade unions is a comprehensive plan that aims to improve the lives of working people by empowering both individual and collective rights. It also sets out repealing anti-trade union laws, including the Trade Union Act. It plans new laws protecting workers from fire and re-hire and other exploitative practices. The new deal for working people will set out rights for collective bargaining which the Institute of Employment Rights in partnership with the unions and the Labour Party have researched that this is a way to challenge low pay. The New Deal will introduce new rights for unions to organise and recruit new members. As a council, how are we protecting the rights of working people and how can we strengthen our collaboration with the unions?

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

The Mayor of London has committed to his election pledge on the delivery of cycleways across the capital, with progress being made right here in Islington with cycleways 38 completed and cycleway 50 currently in construction. How will the council continue to work with the Mayor of London and TfL to ensure more people feel safe and confident to cycle in our borough?

g **Cllr Hamdache to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Planning, Finance and Performance:**

Council budgets have never been more strained. We have a responsibility to try to protect frontline services. But there's a number of cost saving and revenue raising measures adopted by other council's that are absent from the budget here. A workplace parking levy. Fortnightly non-recyclable waste collection. Ending free electric parking on estates. Can we expect any movement from Islington Labour before the end of this council term?

h **Cllr Ozdemir to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Planning, Finance and Performance:**

As a ward councillor in Tufnell Park, I share the many views of my residents in strongly opposing the significant reduction in the number of 3-bedroom flats for social rent and adapted homes. There are families that are desperate and have been stuck on Islington's housing list waiting for years to have a 3 bedroom property in Islington. We saw during lockdown the adverse impact overcrowding had on the emotional and physical wellbeing of these families, especially young children. Will Islington Council reject these plans and instead insist that Peabody locate the number of 3-bedroom flats for social rent on the massive site that the Holloway development is and insist we do not lose the wheelchair accessible homes?

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

Around 12 babies are born every day at the Whittington Maternity Unit in Archway, and the unit provides essential care for families from a wide range of backgrounds. However, the unit is currently under threat of closure, with the consultation due to close on the 17th March. What has the council done to campaign to keep the maternity unit open?

j Cllr Staff to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Last December, the government announced a series of measures it will be taking to tackle spiking, including clarifying the language under the Criminal Justice Bill so that without a doubt, spiking is illegal, more training for door staff and funding for testing kits. In Islington, measures have been put in place to crackdown on spiking and support businesses to help victims under our recently refreshed Licensing policy 2023-27. Could you please provide us with specific examples of how we have worked with local businesses and the police to crackdown on spiking?

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

With less than two thirds of the one million pounds hardship fund going directly to residents, and less than four fifths spent by February 2024. What has the council learned about getting money into the hands of residents?