

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 14 DECEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 14 December 2023 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------|
| Bell-Bradford | Hayes | North |
| Burgess | Heather | Ogunro |
| Champion | Hyde | O'Halloran |
| Chapman | Ibrahim | O'Sullivan |
| Chowdhury | Jackson | Ozdemir |
| Cinko-Oner | Jeapes | Pandor |
| Clarke | Jegorovas-Armstrong | Russell |
| Comer-Schwartz | Kay | Shaikh |
| Convery | Khondoker | Staff |
| Craig | Khurana | Turan |
| Croft | Klute | Ward |
| Gilgunn | Mackmurdie | Wayne |
| Gill | McHugh | Williamson |
| Graham | Nathan | Woolf |
| Hamdache | Ngongo | Zammit |

The Mayor (Councillor Gary Heather) in the Chair

260 **MINUTES**
RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28 September 2023 be agreed as a correct record and the Mayor be authorised to sign them.

261 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Flora Williamson and Councillor Toby North's details of interests remain published on the website and a copy of the register remains available for inspection at the Town Hall during working hours in relation to agenda item 11 and their register of interests has been updated.

262 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(i) Apologies

– Apologies were received from Councillors Weekes, Poyser, Bossman-Quarshie, Spall, Gallagher and Nargund.

(ii) Order of business

The order of business was as per the Agenda.

(iii) Declaration of discussion items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's announcements

– The Mayor expressed their condolences for the recent passing of former Hillrise Councillor Lorraine Constantinou, acknowledging their significant contributions as a campaigner in the Elthorne community.

The Mayor updated the Council on their activities since the last Council meeting in September. The Mayor highlighted their attendance at numerous community events, emphasising the joy of connecting with Islington residents. Some notable events include recognising a firefighter's long service at Upper Street fire station, participating in citizenship ceremonies in the council chamber, attending the Andover Estate fun day, and witnessing the formal opening of the south Family Hub on the Bemerton Estate. The Mayor also shared experiences from art projects in Bunhill Fields and at Angel Central. The Mayor mentioned awarding recognition certificates to children and volunteers, visiting schools, youth centres, churches, and attending carol services in the borough and engaging with food projects at community centres, recognising their vital role in the current cost-of-living crisis.

The Mayor reported on the success of a recent fundraising dinner at Fish Central, which raised over £2,000 for Voluntary Action Islington. They expressed support for the Poppy appeal, attending Remembrance Day ceremonies, and commended the diversity, community, tolerance, and solidarity in Islington. The Mayor was also involved in switching on festive season lights in six town centre areas,

The Mayor encouraged nominations for the upcoming Civic Awards, which spotlight local individuals and organisations making significant contributions to the community.

263 **LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Leader expressed condolences for the tragic murder of Mohamed Abdi Noor in Tufnell Park. The Leader said her thoughts were with his family and friends and emphasised the need to prioritise the safety of local residents. Reassurance patrols were taking place in the area.

The Leader condemned an antisemitic attack at Islington Green during Hanukkah, asserting that hate crimes had no place in the borough. The Leader underscored Islington's commitment to standing against all forms of hate crime.

The Leader commented on the successful Remembrance services held in November, and thanked all those involved in the events.

The Leader addressed the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict on local residents and highlighted the council's efforts to support the community, advocating for a motion promoting peace in the region.

Turning to healthcare, the Leader expressed concern about the Whittington Hospital's maternity services facing potential changes due to inadequate government funding. The Leader commended efforts to save the Whittington Maternity Unit and encouraged support for the cause.

The Leader expressed pride in the proposed scheme that would exempt 8,000 households from paying Council Tax and reduce the bill for another 6,000 households, particularly in the context of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

The Leader highlighted the council's commitment to supporting the community, emphasising the importance of community spirit and caring for each other in making Islington special.

The Leader of the Opposition began by expressing the difficulty they had faced in finding suitable words for the evening. They reflected on the tragic loss of Mohamed Abdi Noor to knife violence and the desecration of a menorah.

The Leader of the Opposition called for the Council's support for a lasting ceasefire in Gaza, emphasising the need for genuine negotiations and justice. They noted the Prime Minister and government had not adequately addressed these pressing issues, highlighting a perceived lack of commitment to peace-making and humanitarian efforts.

The Leader of the Opposition acknowledged the challenges faced by residents in Islington, addressing instances of abuse based on race, faith, or values. They expressed solidarity with those who had suffered such abuse and wanted for Islington to be a borough that promotes safety, sanctuary, acceptance, and equity.

The Leader of the Opposition condemned the Home Secretary for prioritising the next leadership election over her responsibilities and the Prime Minister for scapegoating migrants and protesters to save his job. They asserted that the government had failed on various fronts, including justice, peace, and climate action. The Leader of the Opposition also commented on the Labour Party, particularly its stance on international law in Gaza, and its policies on migration, austerity, and green investment. The Leader of the Opposition acknowledged and supported colleagues within the Chamber who had been working to improve the Labour Party. They expressed hope for positive change, both within the party and in addressing the broader challenges facing the community.

264 PETITIONS

The Council received a petition from Pauline Cartwright related to the proposed redevelopment of the Oasis Café on Highbury Fields.

265 QUESTIONS FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL

(a) YCllr Eva to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

We recently attended a Youth Debate organised by Islington Faith Forum and Islington Council. What measures has the Council taken in 2023 to minimize the impact of climate change and what plans are in place for next year?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Eva. The council is committed to tackling climate change and is working hard to deliver against the commitments made in our Vision 2030: Building a Net Zero Islington strategy. The latest data on the council's own direct carbon emissions (correct at end of financial year 2022/23) shows an overall 6% reduction in the council's operational emissions (buildings and transport) between 21/22 and 22/23, and a 43% reduction within the last five years.

Our own carbon emissions reduction has been supported by the council switching the electricity supply of most of its corporate buildings to a renewable tariff in 2021, resulting in the electricity related emissions of those buildings reducing to zero. A key milestone this year was the installation of solar panels on 5 council sites. The new panels will save approximately 18 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. We have also progressed work to decarbonise housing estates and our first school. In addition, over the past year we have improved the energy management of our corporate buildings, as well as completing Heat Decarbonisation Plans for more of our buildings to support external funding bids to fund the decarbonisation measures.

Our people-friendly streets programme is the cornerstone of our transport strategy and we have delivered seven Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and are continuing the programme by developing proposals for liveable neighbourhoods and cycleways, alongside electric vehicle charging infrastructure and our active travel programme.

We are also supporting the green economy through the green skills hub in partnership with Peabody, and our Energising Small Business Grants scheme.

We have been delivering our Greener Together programme in partnership with the community, and our Waste and Recycling Team has delivered repair and reuse workshops and are focused on increasing recycling on our estates.

Our new local plan includes strengthened policies on low carbon development and retrofit, and we have supported this with free planning advice for householders interested in retrofit and engagement workshops on how to develop net zero guidance for householders and developers.

In terms of finance, we have continued to decarbonise the council's pensions and investments.

We work with London Councils, the GLA and other boroughs to share best practice and develop collaboration. The 6 week Go Zero campaign this spring was our first campaign delivered in partnership with our Anchor Institutions Network.

We will continue to deliver and further develop all of these initiatives next year, as well as:

- Launching climate awareness training for all staff
- Working with Public Health to understand our climate risks and climate adaptation needs.
- Launching a citizens panel to focus on climate change
- Publishing our draft net zero Supplementary Planning document

We report on our progress towards Vision 2030 to the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and the latest report, detailing activity from April to September 2023 is available to download from the council's website.

(b) YCllr Areeb to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture and Inclusion:

How is the council supporting and reassuring young people from all faiths, to feel they are welcome to practice their faith freely in Islington?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Areeb. Doing all that we can to keep children and young people safe is one of the council's top priorities embedded in all council work. Supporting young people who are part of a particular faith group is subsequently important, as we recognise that this is key to helping them thrive and realise their full potential.

Young people are able to attend and access the youth groups attached to various places of worship in Islington. This is where they will be able to meet other young people who share the same faith as them. They are also able to go directly to places of worship where they can connect with other members of their faith community. We encourage young people to do this through our youth hubs, VCS organisations and other youth focussed services.

Proximity is important to young people and they tend to go to places of worship that are near to them to practice their faith safely. If they travel further afield, this can introduce other risk factors. We want them to be able to practice safely and will continue to promote these places to our young people.

There was also a Youth Debate forum on 15th November at Lift Youth hub. This was delivered by Islington's Faith Forum with support from the council's Young Islington department. At this forum, young people had a safe space to talk about topical issues from a faith perspective. A video of this was created of this and is available online.

In addition, we have also continued to work closely with the Police to ensure that perpetrators of hate crime are reprimanded. Young people and their faith

communities should feel free to practice without fear of repercussions, harm or violence. We will continue to encourage our young people to report any threats or violence should they experience this and are open to debates and discussions with them on this topic. Thank you again for your question.

(c) YCllr Vincent to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

The Olympic Games will be held in Paris in 2024, what sporting, and leisure opportunities can Islington's young people look forward to participating in, next year?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Vincent. Both now and next year, young people in Islington can take part in twenty-one sports that will take place at the Paris Olympics: archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics and trampolining, handball, judo, rugby, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, and volleyball. The council's website has further information, including a map that shows where these sports are on offer and information specifically for young people.

The council plans to hold a free sports event during the Olympics, which will be an opportunity for young people to try many of these sports and other opportunities to be active in Islington.

We are proud to have many leisure centres and sporting facilities in our borough which young people have access to. Thank you again, Vincent.

(d) YCllr Ameera to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

We have enjoyed participating in events held during the "Standing together fortnight". This included promoting the youth night and sharing our views in recorded podcasts. What plans are in place to promote Safe Havens so more young people are aware of their locations and purpose?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Ameera. And thank you for all your work as youth Mayor.

We have increased our Safe Haven scheme from the original 75 sites to currently over 350 in the past 18 months, meeting our manifesto pledge ahead of schedule. We are now focusing on ensuring that people are aware of the sites and are accessing them successfully so that we can develop a culture of care in our community.

About 30% of our Safe Havens say they have helped somebody in the past year and we have examples where they have been used to flee significant violence including a stabbing in Canonbury, Robberies in St Peter's & St James' ward and predatory sexual behaviour in the Arsenal ward.

We work closely with Young Islington and most recently have developed a Safe Haven video specifically for young people to be more aware of the scheme. This video was designed, written and recorded by the young people themselves as experts in messaging for their peers. The video was screened for the first-time last week at a VCS event to support young people and will form part of an ongoing campaign to raise awareness and will be uploaded online.

We worked with service users at Islington Learning Disability Partnership to create In Case of Emergency cards which are available for ordering from our website. As part of the new council website, we'll be updating our pages and adding videos to that, as well as updating the interactive map which has all of the Safe Haven sites listed. Thanks again for your question, Ameera.

Supplementary Question:

Do you have any other schemes to help young people in Islington?

Response:

There are various initiatives undertaken by the Council to support and assist young people. The Council aims to work alongside communities and young individuals. In terms of prevention, the Council provides a range of resources, including youth centres and diversionary activities, aimed at offering enjoyable experiences and skill development opportunities for young people. There is a team specifically dedicated to working with vulnerable youth to prevent exploitation.

The presence of targeted youth support that offers one-on-one assistance and engages with schools. Additionally, a hate crime prevention champion scheme has been recently developed, with the intention of involving young people in becoming champions for hate crime prevention. The overarching goal is to support those vulnerable to difficulties in the borough and create an environment where young people feel active, heard, and safe.

266 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(a) James O'Doherty to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Please explain the legal basis for parking e-bikes on pavements in Islington. I am asking for the explicit legal permission that e-bike companies have that allows the dumping on e-bikes on pavements. How does this reconcile with Rule 64 of the Highways Code which states, "You MUST NOT cycle on a pavement." I understand the need to promote cycling however why does the Council allow this kind of irresponsible dumping on pavements of e-bikes and why do resident have to deal this nonsense?

As the questioner was not present in the Council Chamber, a written response was sent:

Thank you for your question, James. You are correct to point out that Rule 64 of the Highways Code states "You must not cycle on a pavement." Cyclists should dismount and walk with their bikes when on a pavement. However, the Highways Act 1980 permits bikes to be parked anywhere they do not cause nuisance or obstruction on

the public highway so that pedestrian access is maintained. In order to try and regulate the scheme the council has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with three operators (Lime, Forest and Tier).

We do believe that they provide a good option for local people to use sustainable ways of travelling in Islington and beyond. They are certainly very well used. In the past year there have been 1.5 million trips made by dockless hire bikes in Islington alone.

But, with the strong uplift in trips last year there has also been an uplift in the number of poorly parked bikes causing very significant issues for people walking and wheeling especially those with visual or mobility impairments. This is something we do take very seriously. The Lime bike hack did not help.

Officers work with the hire bike companies to require them to take what steps they can to make sure that bikes are not causing problems and that includes fining people who park their bikes inconsiderately as this does lead to behaviour change. It includes ensuring badly parked hire bikes are either removed or relocated as soon as possible.

It also includes setting up exclusion zones where there are particularly sensitive locations, such as near the RNIB offices on Pentonville Road or where there are particular problem areas. However, we recognise that we need to do more and are also rolling out the introduction of bays where users who park on the pavement outside of a designated space will be subject to penalties. A pilot of up to 10 locations are expected to be installed in the coming weeks, with a further 50 to follow in summer 2024.

Thank you again for your question.

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

The latest proposals for the Barnsbury and Laycock Liveable Neighbourhood shows clear winners and losers, where some benefit from a "Liveable Neighbourhood" and some do not. How does this create a more equal borough?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Rebekah. The Council's top priority and focus is to challenge inequality to work towards a more equal Islington. The development of Islington's Liveable Neighbourhoods is a key part of this and we are working with teams across the council on this so people really can benefit from this.

Evidence from studies of Low Traffic Neighbourhood across London, including [a study by the University of Westminster](#), shows that traffic filtering schemes do not benefit more affluent residents at the expense of less affluent residents. This is particularly prevalent in a place like Islington where large, expensive houses exist right beside large estates. The Barnsbury-Laycock Liveable Neighbourhood area includes some of the parts of Islington with the highest level of social housing. We want to make sure everyone can benefit from less traffic and cleaner air.

By addressing the negative impacts of through traffic, Liveable neighbourhoods aim to make the borough's streets better for people who live, work, walk, wheel or cycle on them, transforming streets into more environmentally-friendly places where communities can come together and flourish. With car ownership in London increasing with household income, public space improvements which support walking and cycling have a wide role to play in increasing inclusion and reducing inequality.

In parts of the Barnsbury and Laycock area, the historic traffic calming measures and traffic filters have resulted in areas of low traffic volume, speed, and noise, and it is clear that people do value these spaces. There are, however, still a number of streets which, aided by satnav, provide cut-through routes and receive traffic volumes which are too high for the nature and design of these streets. One of our priorities is to reduce the volume of overall traffic in the area, including streets which are not suited to the volumes of traffic they are currently experiencing, so that others in Barnsbury and Laycock can also benefit from low traffic volume, speed and noise.

The strategic placement of traffic filters in Barnsbury and Laycock will enable us to extend the benefits of low traffic environments to many others who live in the area, including children, people with more limited mobility, and people who would be inclined to walk, cycle or wheel more if there was less traffic and they felt safer doing so. When there is less traffic on our streets, they also become spaces that can be enjoyed more by everyone with other improvements such as places for people to stop and rest, planting and trees which help the borough's resilience to the impact of climate change including heat and flooding.

Supplementary Question:

Considering that these roads, like Holloway Road, are community main roads used by a diverse group of people, including those who are vulnerable and from minority or lower-economic communities. Do you find it fair that such a burden is placed on specific areas, potentially leading to social injustice for those residents, while the Council's inflexible approach may adversely impact people living, working, and going to school in those locations? Additionally, are you awaiting the air quality report to demonstrate the success of diverting traffic and improving air quality, particularly for individuals who may not have a choice in where they live or how they travel?

Response:

The annual report is currently being prepared and is expected to be released in the next few months. I completely understand your concerns, and we do share the same level of concern for every street and road. We've been closely monitoring road traffic in neighbourhoods, and what we've observed is that the feared impact hasn't materialised in Blackstock Road, particularly between Brownswood and Finsbury Park.

While traffic has reduced, we are committed to ensuring that streets like Blackstock Road also benefit from our initiatives. The challenge lies in addressing the serious traffic volumes on streets designed to accommodate them while encouraging people to make different choices. We aim to tackle issues such as freight to ultimately remove vehicles from main roads and local streets.

We recognise that some people will still need to drive, but there are alternative ways to encourage behaviour change. Combining trips and making car use inconvenient for short journeys can be effective. It's crucial for us to focus not only on internal areas but also on improving the experience for those who live, work, and travel on main roads. Additionally, we want to empower individuals who may not have considered biking or walking as viable options to feel confident in making such choices.

(c) Siobhan Cartwright to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

I'd like to address the problem re LTNs, road closures, left and right turn changes that are causing huge traffic jams on Islington main roads:

- Upper Street
- Holloway Road
- Seven Sisters Road
- Caledonian Road
- Tufnell Park Road

How are the emergency services expected to reach an emergency situation when the traffic is jammed throughout the day on the above roads listed above? Emergency services are hampered by road and turning changes as none (to my knowledge) are indicated on GPS systems. Reliable GPS is absolutely vital for Emergency Service vehicles, along with access on ALL roads. Cars are unable to move out of their way due to traffic jams, cycle lanes and parked cars. Has there been enough consideration in the planning discussions re: Emergency Services response routes re: the latest road closures? It is apparent to anyone living, working, walking, driving and trying to navigate a way out of the latest traffic nightmare in Islington that planning consideration was not given to the points listed above.

As the questioner was not present in the Council Chamber, a written response was sent:

Thank you for your question, Siobhan. Resident health and wellbeing are at the forefront of all of our decision making as a Council, and supporting the emergency services to carry out their vital job is a top priority.

I am happy to assure you that the council does engage with the emergency services and liaises with them during the development of transport schemes so that they have an input at that stage.

Finally, before a scheme is implemented they are given a further opportunity as statutory consultees, that being a legal requirement to comment. A number of designs have been changed in response.

Their feedback is the reason we use so many camera-enforced traffic filters rather than a physical (bollard) filter. These filters allow emergency vehicles to drive through them, and therefore directly through the traffic calmed streets within the neighbourhoods.

As you can imagine, the council also has ongoing relationships with the emergency services as part of other council operations, which also gives other opportunities for feedback outside the transport planning forum.

In relation to the point about the satnavs, the council provides updates on any new traffic measures to one.network (a cloud-based platform that centralises official data from multiple road agencies) and satnav companies via the Traffic Information Manager at TfL. As far as we are aware, all changes to the road network as part of the people-friendly streets programme are shown on sat nav systems, but we are happy to investigate any examples where these are not shown. Thanks again for your question.

(d) Patricia Niclas to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Regarding all the LTNs currently in operation and planned for the borough and the method for recording and presenting data and statistics for use in consultation results.

Please confirm whether such data recording has ever been carried out during school holidays and if so, when and which LTNs has this applied to and if data has been collected during school holidays would she agree that this data cannot be considered as a true reflection of actual traffic counts?

As the questioner was not present in the Council Chamber, a written response was sent:

Thank you for your question, Patricia. Data collection has been central to the development and decision making on all of the council's LTNs and continues to inform the council's Liveable Neighbourhood programme. This is one of the reasons why we implemented all our LTNs as trials, allowing monitoring to take place both before and during the trial period to inform decision making on whether or not to make the LTNs permanent.

When planning traffic counts as part of our monitoring strategy for the LTNs, we do try to make sure that the data is as representative as possible and I believe that this would avoid school holidays.

All LTNs are now permanent and the dates of the data collection that took place for each LTN is set out in each final monitoring report – this can be found at the beginning of each report in the 'Traffic Counts Approach' section. Thanks again for your question, Patricia.

(e) Antionette Fernandez to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities

What support is given to smaller charities and CICs to bid for council funding and to deliver council services?

As the questioner was not present in the Council Chamber, a written response was sent:

Thank you for your question. There are several methods and ways the Council supports smaller charities and Community Interest Companies to be able to bid for council funding and to deliver services.

One way is through the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-24. We fund Voluntary Action Islington (VAI) as the CVS (Council for Voluntary Service) for the borough. Through their capacity building work, they deliver:

- a. 121 support in areas such as funding and finance
- b. Host regular meet the funder sessions such as The Big Lottery
- c. Host and deliver training on how to write successful bids

Additionally, the Community Partnership team and VAI are working in close partnership to relaunch The Compact. The Islington Compact is a written agreement outlining a shared commitment to working together effectively to meet the changing needs of Islington's communities. The Compact which is currently being redeveloped and will come into effective in 2024 and is the framework in which the Council and the VCS sector form alliances to enhance the relationship and equity in which we work. This provides a tool where the VCS are partners in delivering our ambitions of a 'fairer Islington'. The Compact will look at thematic areas such as Funding and Commissioning cycles. Thank you again for your question, Antoinette.

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(f) Rose McDonald to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

We're aware that the council and Peabody plan to put out a tender for the managing agent and operator of the Holloway women's space early next year. It's key that these are chosen with the unique character of the site and the ethos of the Supplementary Planning Document in mind. What support will be offered to smaller organisations, who may have less experience but may have a connection to HMP Holloway? How will the council ensure that the bidding process to manage and operate the space is transparent, widely publicised, and managed in a fair and equitable.

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Response:

Thank you for your question, Rose. The council is committed to tackling all forms of inequality in Islington including gender inequality and the unequal treatment that women receive in the criminal justice system.

I am pleased to say that the construction of the Women's Building is now underway as part of Phase One of the redevelopment of the Holloway site. Since the moment we knew that the Holloway site would become available for redevelopment, the council has always been very clear that we expect to see a Women's Building provided on the site.

Under the terms of that legal agreement, Peabody is responsible for commissioning the operator of the building. However, the council is responsible for agreeing the operator prior to their appointment.

The legal agreement also requires Peabody to set up a Steering Group and for the Steering Group to guide the development of a Feasibility and Commissioning Plan. The membership of the steering group includes experts in the field of women's services and a representative of the Community Plan for Holloway Group.

During the preparation of the Plan, there has been extensive engagement with a very broad range of women's organisations including local women's organisations. This Plan is currently being finalised and will guide the process for commissioning an operator. The council will be responsible for approving the Feasibility and Commissioning Plan.

You are of course correct that Peabody will start the process of commissioning an operator next year. I hope that this will be another major step forward in the delivery of the building.

I am assured that there will be an open and public commissioning process. Transparency will be secured by the fact that the documents setting out an invitation to tender will be in the public domain. As I have already said, the council is responsible for approving the operator prior to their appointment. We will therefore work with Peabody to ensure that:

- the opportunity to tender is publicised as widely as possible; and
- any recommendation in relation to the appointment is made in an open and transparent manner.

I have worked long and hard to secure the best possible Women's Building. I will continue to do so in 2024 to ensure that we make the best possible use of this once in a generation opportunity to tackle gender inequality in Islington. Thanks again for your question, Rose.

Supplementary Question:

Would the criteria for occupants of commercial units include considerations for community benefit and the contributions that organisations or businesses can provide? This is to ensure that the development remains a community-oriented space and doesn't primarily cater to private rentals or purchases, potentially squeezing out social tenants. Additionally, can you commit to providing regular updates on the Peabody build at each housing scrutiny committee meeting? We would like to be involved as campaign for Holloway and collaborate with you to ensure that the community and social tenant elements are not overlooked in the planned construction. Can you confirm these commitments, acknowledging our desire for a closer working relationship with Campaign for Holloway, increased transparency, and representation of tenant interests in the decision-making process?

Response:

Thank you for your points. Social value is a priority in Islington, and we're deeply invested in community wealth building efforts. I collaborate with various community groups across the borough, and I fully support the involvement of local community organisations in these initiatives. Regarding updates on the Peabody build, while it might not happen at every housing scrutiny committee due to the slower pace of the process, I am open to discussing how we can ensure relevant updates are shared, whether through the housing or planning committees. I attended a recent community planning event where efforts were made to align with shared goals, including 415 social rent homes, a public park, and a women's building. I'm proud of these achievements and am committed to continuing collaboration with Campaign for

Holloway and other community groups to keep residents at the centre of this transformative project. I'm more than willing to meet and discuss further.

(g) Susanne Lamido to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

The Community is really looking forward to seeing much needed council homes on the Holloway Park site. At least 40% of the flats will be sold privately. The last thing our community needs is a ghost development where flats are sold to overseas investors and remain empty for most of the year or let as Airbnb. Peabody has offered assurances that private leases will stipulate that flats can not be sublet for periods of less than six months and flats can not be left empty for periods of more than six months. There are strong concerns that these assurances might not always be met: what power does the council have to ensure that they are?

Response:

Thank you for question, Susanne. I too am looking forward to the delivery of 415 new high-quality homes for social rent on this site. 60% of the homes on the site will be affordable. This substantially reduces the risk that the new neighbourhood will be a ghost development. I do however share your concern that all the homes in the development including the private homes must be fully occupied. I therefore welcome the assurances that Peabody has provided.

The council is aware of the scourge of buy to leave properties. These are properties that are bought as investments and left empty by their owners. The council is the only local authority that has sought to tackle this problem through the introduction of a Supplementary Planning Document and the use of planning conditions.

However, our plans to formalise this policy in our newly adopted Local Plan were rejected by the Planning Inspectorate. We were deeply frustrated and disappointed by this decision. It means that we cannot now use our planning powers to address the problem of new homes being permanently left vacant by their owners.

At present, it is estimated that nearly 4,700 short term holiday lets in Islington are advertised on the Air BnB platform alone and nearly two thirds of these lets are entire homes rather than single rooms. These are homes that could be providing permanent homes to either owner occupiers or renters. The council has consistently lobbied for greater planning and regulatory powers to control short term holiday lets in the borough.

Earlier this year the Government consulted on planning proposals to enable yet more deregulation of the short term holiday let sector. We strongly objected to these proposals as they would greatly undermine the council's ability to use its planning powers to regulate short term holiday lets where this would lead to a reduction in housing supply. We await an announcement from Central Government on this matter.

As I have said above, I very much welcome the commitment that Peabody has already made on this matter, and I can assure you that the council will work with Peabody to ensure that it keeps to these commitments. Thanks again for your question, Susanne.

Supplementary Question:

Can the council take action to address concerns about private houses being left unattended and the potential for anti-social behaviour issues? Given that Blackpool, Oxford, and Cambridge having a proactive stance on managing AIRBNBs and ensuring compliance with regulations, can the council implement a similar approach to control potential issues before Peabody completes construction? It's alarming that houses are already being sold in Hong Kong before completion, and there is a need to establish control mechanisms to address potential problems once the construction begins. Can the council initiate measures to ensure responsible behavior and prevent issues like parties leaving a mess in these properties?

Response:

We do have some powers regarding ASB and Environmental Health. However, the critical issue here is that, as a local authority, we lack the authority to halt short-term lets, and this extends to the Mayor of London as well. It's truly disappointing that in a global city like London, landlords, often from overseas, can freely use London property as a global reserve currency. It's imperative that we advocate for change at the government level and push for proper regulation in this sector. Similar to cities like New York and Berlin, London needs the authority to regulate short-term lets effectively. While we will work with the local community to address ASB and utilise the powers we currently have, the real solution lies in obtaining the necessary powers to ban short-term lets, ensuring that homes are available for genuine, long-term residents. This is crucial given the significant housing crisis we're facing, and we need every possible solution to address it.

(h) Pete Gilman to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance

Across Britain many local authorities are in a dire financial position with some rumoured to be close to bankruptcy, and Islington council is facing an almost impossible situation. The reason is the withdrawal of government funding from local authorities on a massive scale. With next year's probable change of government will Islington council, preferably in alliance with many other local authorities, press for the restoration of government funding?

Response:

Islington provides over 600 services to our 239,000 residents including schools, services for vulnerable adults, support to local businesses, libraries, street cleaning and community safety.

Much of the funding for these services comes from central government, which is why the last 13 years of austerity cuts have had a devastating impact on councils like ours, forcing us to make nearly £300 million worth of budget savings.

At the same time, demand for many local services continues to rise, including adult social care and support for children with special educational needs and disabilities. We're working hard to make the most of the finance and resources we do have to protect the things that matters to residents like yourself.

Since 2010, we've managed to make savings with only a limited impact on front-line services. We've done this mainly by being as efficient as we possibly can, for instance, selling our services to bring in revenue, and sharing services with other councils.

We have also had to be creative and rethink how we design our services around the people who use them to make sure they are joined up and residents get the support they need easily and quickly.

But you're right, we cannot go on like this. The current piecemeal approach to funding is not sustainable – we need an ongoing settlement that creates a resilient adult social care system fit for the future and increases local government funding in real terms to help protect local services from further cuts.

Ahead of the Autumn Statement, the Leader of the Council and I wrote a letter to the Chancellor outlining our position and it is every intention that Islington would lobby a future Labour government to reverse the austerity measures implemented by the Tories. Thanks again for your question, Pete.

- Supplementary Question:

Councils are performing actual miracles given the financial challenges, with many local authorities facing bankruptcy due to the government's fund withdrawal. Given the government's options, such as selling off assets, and the potential impact on council housing and estates, isn't the only viable solution a new government? Despite the possibility of a new government next year, concerns arise about the shadow chancellor's statement on 'no money for local authorities', potentially leading to widespread bankruptcies. In light of this, can we unite councils across London and beyond to demand the funds owed to us as taxpayers?

- Response:

In a word, yes. I am incredibly proud to lead this campaign, and the Leader of the Council and I have already reviewed the Government's plans ahead of the autumn statement. This situation is unsustainable. We must have adequately funded local services provided by local councils to serve the people of Islington, particularly those in urgent need in areas like adult social care, children's services, and council housing. The current financial strain on these essential services cannot continue, and we will persist in our fight for change.

- (i) Naomi Peck to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture, and Inclusion:

It is my understanding that the only way that an Islington resident can ask a question at Full Council and be given a verbal response, along with the opportunity to ask a follow-up question is to attend in person. However, attending in person is simply not possible for many: those with caring responsibilities, those who work in the evenings, those who would find the formal setting challenging for all kinds of reasons, those who cannot afford the travel fare, those who do not feel safe leaving their homes in the evenings.

I know that the meetings are streamed but given that, since the pandemic, so many meetings in so many organisations are of a hybrid nature, does the Council not agree that it is somewhat behind the curve on this issue and it should implement a policy that offers an option for its residents to ask a question and optional follow-up question by Zoom (which seems to be the best option for meetings with external participants).

This would help to make the process a bit more inclusive than at present and this step towards an 'equalisation of access' would be in alignment with what seems to be a goal of the Council's Islington Together 2030 plan. If the Council does agree, could this policy be implemented by the next Full Council meeting?

- Response:

Tonight, your question highlights an important issue. Some people couldn't attend for various reasons, and it's worth noting that even if you're not present, you can submit a question and receive a response. I acknowledge the barriers such as caring responsibilities, work commitments, challenges with the formal setting, affordability of travel, and concerns about safety, all of which you rightly pointed out. I agree with these challenges and aim to make our meetings more accessible, especially in the evening.

This Full Council meeting is crucial in our democratic calendar, but it's set in an archaic manner. It should be a space where councillors and the public can come together, discuss issues, address concerns, and find solutions that matter to local people. We are regularly reviewing our meeting arrangements and democratic processes to enhance engagement and accessibility. Since May 2021, we've been broadcasting meetings, recording them for six months, and making improvements for accessibility.

We've even gone further than other councils, making our Scrutiny and Executive meetings open to the public, allowing them to ask questions in person. Despite our efforts, challenges arose in June 2021 due to social distancing, leading the council to pass a motion calling on the government to allow hybrid and virtual meetings. Unfortunately, it wasn't allowed, presenting a challenge that we continue to address.

While we can't immediately resolve this, we are committed to finding technical solutions that make these meetings more accessible. Thank you for raising this issue, and we appreciate your question.

- Supplementary Question:

Can we include this issue on the list of concerns to be raised with the government, emphasizing the importance of making Council meetings more accessible to those who cannot attend in person? Given the challenges some people face in attending, could we explore the possibility of allowing proxies, similar to how they are used in local elections, to represent individuals who cannot participate virtually or in person? This could potentially enhance involvement and address mistrust by making participation easier for a wider range of people.

- Response:

Absolutely, I'll take that first point. Regarding the second point, I'll definitely look into it. While I'm not certain about what we can or can't do, it's a priority for me to make council services and our activities more accessible. I'm actively discussing this with council officers, addressing inclusivity and accessibility across all our different directorates. It's crucial that we don't just sit in a room with only a few people understanding what's happening. If we can't get everyone in the room, how do we re-engage with them? How can we ensure their voices are heard, listened to, and inform the decisions we make? It's an ongoing conversation for us.

The Mayor announced that the time allowed for questions had expired and a written response would be sent for all remaining questions.

(j) Gill Shepherd to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

How aware is the Executive Member of the cumulative impact on boundary roads of more and more LTNs/LNs extruding traffic onto the same fixed number of boundary roads? This will shortly become a major problem for Upper Street and the Holloway Road if Barnsbury and Laycock LTN goes ahead. And if Highbury New Park goes ahead this will have massive impacts on St Paul's Road and the Blackstock Road.

Written response:

Thank you for your question, Gill. Liveable Neighbourhoods are designed so that choosing alternatives to car travel is an easy choice to make. And we have the evidence to show it is working across our network of now permanent LTN's, we have seen a reduction in the volume of traffic within the LTNs, and an increase in people cycling.

We also monitor the volume of traffic on the boundary roads of LTNs, before implementation and throughout the schemes as trials. In most cases, traffic on boundary roads did not increase, and on a number of roads, decreases in overall traffic volumes were observed. On a small number of streets, we have seen an increase in the volume of traffic, including on Blackstock Road. In terms of Blackstock Road, as the Highbury LTN scheme settles in, we are observing that the overall volume of traffic on the street is reducing, and we expect this to continue. This is set out in the recently published Highbury LTN decision and monitoring report.

All LTN schemes have published monitoring reports, publicly available to view on the council's website, including monitoring data related to the main road network.

The council will continue to monitor boundary roads in areas where new Liveable Neighbourhoods are being developed and will work with Transport for London to understand and protect bus journey times. Liveable Neighbourhoods are intended to support more shorter journeys to be made by active and sustainable modes of transport, helping to keep the main roads clearer for journeys that must be made by motor vehicle. Thanks again for your question, Gill.

(k) David Twine to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

Climate Emergency UK assessed all UK councils on the actions they have taken towards net zero carbon and the findings were published in October 2023 - Council Climate Action Scorecards | Climate Emergency UK (councilclimatescorecards.uk). The assessment found that Islington scored more poorly than its neighbouring boroughs of Camden and Haringey for the following three questions on Buildings and Heating.

What lessons have the council learned from this Climate Emergency assessment for Buildings and Retrofit - especially in relation to at least matching, and ideally exceeding, what Camden and Haringey have achieved, and what actions will it take, and by when, to address these lessons?

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, David. The council has undertaken a full assessment of its housing stock and the capacity for net zero carbon retrofit providing both location opportunity and with an overall additional investment cost estimated at. £1.5billion.

The council has successfully applied for numerous grants and is progressing several schemes decarbonising street properties and retrofitting communal heating systems.

The council does not have sufficient funds to undertake all of this work within the current economic framework without Government subsidy, as the investment requirements to maintain our homes are substantial against a background of additional regulatory burdens, and inflationary cost pressure while rental income has been capped below inflation in 7 of the preceding 12 years by Government representing a real terms cut of £1.7bn in investment available to maintain Council homes.

The council will continue to work up schemes and bid for funding wherever possible balancing investment in this area with investment on fire and building safety and maintaining homes.

The council is also ensuring that where possible the delivery costs to leaseholders and running cost to residents are not negatively impacted by these schemes.

The areas the council scored low points reflect the challenges of investment and retrofit the borough is grappling with and will continue to work on. Thanks again for your question.

(l) Phillipa Dowswell to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families

Whilst we, at the NEU, appreciate that the council has no wish to close any school in the borough, we are very concerned that the time for the proposed merger between Montem and Duncombe (which in practical terms is a closure of Montem) is too short for there to be time to explore alternative options. We are also concerned about the likelihood of academisation of our primary schools - Blessed Sacrament is already exploring this option. Will the council consider a longer time frame for consultation, ensure that the borough NEU reps are consulted at an early stage in any future changes, and will the council take a collaborative approach, involving all the schools in the borough, not just those with the lowest rolls? The Council and NEU should

challenge the Department for Education on the school funding formula, to address the funding gap facing our schools.

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, Phillipa. Our School Organisation Plan sets out our approach and strategy for managing the high levels of surplus capacity in our schools to ensure the best outcomes for children and sustainable schools.

Phase Two of this plan was approved by the Executive on 19 October 2023 which agreed to consult on a proposal to amalgamate – or merge – Duncombe and Montem Primary schools.

We have regular meetings with education unions to encourage a strong channel of communication and we have added additional meetings with representatives from all the teaching unions, specifically on the school organisation plan, to understand the rationale for the proposals we are making.

The consultation started on 15 November and will closed on 20 December. We have held a series of meetings at the school for parents and are including a public meeting on 12 December at Arts and Media School Islington (AMSI). We encouraged the NEU and anyone else to attend this meeting, and to submit their comments on the proposal on the Let's Talk Islington site.

The process for managing school closures, including amalgamations, is determined by statutory guidance which includes a requirement to complete an informal consultation, and then to issue a formal proposal and a formal representation period. A final decision on the future of Duncombe and Montem Primary Schools will not be made until April 2024.

The Local Authority does not decide on whether schools can academise. A school can academise through one of two routes: either a forced academisation following an 'Inadequate' judgement from Ofsted, or a voluntary academisation by the school. Schools could choose to take this option to avoid being prioritised for amalgamation or closure, the final decision-maker is the regional director within the Department for Education and not a Local Authority decision. One of the determining factors for prioritisation within the school organisation plan is falling rolls and subsequently poor financial health which would be an influencing factor in their decision. Thank you again for your question.

(m) Caz Royds to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport

How is the Council responding to Islington's recycling rate falling from around 30% to 27%, and in the light of this fall will its representatives on the NLWA board press for an urgent exploration of the potential for advanced mixed waste sorting to extract recyclables from residual waste?

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, Caz. While we're disappointed to see this drop in the recycling rate, other Local Authorities have seen similar trends in waste tonnages and recycling rates and our overall tonnage of waste per household continues to be

relatively low. The dry summer of 2022 resulted in significantly less garden waste being generated. In addition, there have been some issues relating to data compilation which has resulted in some recycling tonnages from 2022/23 being allocated to the following year's data set. Islington's provisional recycling rate for the first quarter of 2023/24 is 29.2%.

Islington has a Reduction and Recycling Plan that sets out a range of initiatives for increasing recycling in Islington, as well as reducing overall levels of waste, which is equally as important. As part of this plan, significant investment is being made to improve recycling facilities across Islington's estates.

Food waste recycling services are being provided to all residents living in purpose built blocks of flats, and we also aim to provide this service to residents in flats above shops and businesses. However, we continue to wait for government to confirm details of promised funding to support food waste recycling services for our residents, as well as details of their important policy proposals relating to Deposit Return Schemes and Extended Producer Responsibility.

We've also been delivering a series of community repair events, aimed at supporting the Circular Economy, reducing waste and helping residents to reduce, reuse and repair.

NLWA's focus is on maximising the quality of recyclable materials at the kerbside rather than after waste is already collected, because recyclables become highly contaminated in residual waste. NLWA has campaigned for compulsory recycling and powers for Local Authorities to enforce more recycling as well as a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), which evidence shows greatly incentivises recycling. The DRS is due to be implemented across England in 2025. Likewise, Extended Producer Responsibility, once implemented by the Government, should help to create a change in the design of packaging, minimising waste and reducing plastics in residual waste. Incoming government legislation will also mandate the collection of plastic film for recycling, which will further remove the amount of plastic in residual waste.

We have looked at the performance of sorting facilities in the UK and these have not shown that it is viable to implement large scale advanced sorting of recycled materials from all residual waste, and it would not result in net zero carbon. However, as discussed with members of the Islington Environmental Alliance, we will look at the technologies in use overseas and their viability at the scale we need. There are opportunities to explore this more as we open the new recycling facilities at the EcoPark, where there is more space and flexibility to consider removing recyclable items from waste. NLWA officers have procured a consultant to look at a range of technologies which could be installed at the new Resource Recovery Facility, with an options appraisal to be completed next year.

We will request an update from NLWA regarding exploration of pre-sorting of household waste and share their response. Thanks again for your question.

267 **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

(a) Cllr McHugh to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

The Casey Report found the Met Police to be institutionally sexist, racist and homophobic. Cllr Woolf, we passed a motion calling on the Met to adopt and implement the Casey review at September Council. What have you done since September to push for policing that is fair and safe for people of all genders, races, and sexual orientations in Islington?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Hannah.

Since our last Full Council in September, we have been working hard alongside the Met to deliver on our 10-point action plan. I am proud to say we are the only BCU in the Met area to have a 10-point action plan in place with the police, which shows our commitment as a council to be bold and innovative in how we push for policing that is fair and safe for our residents.

On action point 2 of the plan, 'Enhancing Professionalism', we established the Central Professional Board which will ensure effective grip and governance of all professionalism matters. Dealing with discrimination will be a key priority of the BCU & the Board. This will ensure that our borough is anti-discrimination of all kinds including being anti-racist, anti-misogynist, anti-ableist and anti-homophobic. Senior leadership across the BCU and the Board will deliver visible leadership and daily check ins and role model behaviours that communities of Islington expect.

We are also working with Islington's Young Black Men and Mental Health programme and delivering Cultural Competency Training to enhance knowledge and compassion. Met officers will be trained on taking a Trauma informed approach to Policing.

We've developed a Memorandum of understanding which has helped to guide us in our relationship and building this work in partnership. Colleagues and I here have also contributed to the Stop & Search Charter Consultation, giving us space to tell the Met what our communities expect from local policing and more broadly how to better engage with residents.

As well as the uplift in neighbourhood policing officers, there has been a commitment to align the locality of police teams to that of the Community Safety team in a North, Central and South Cluster arrangement.

Other pieces of work we have been delivering include:

- Conversations around the Youth IAG
- Recruitment of School Safety Officers
- Weekly Walk & Talks
- Ward Panel Partnership Promise
- Tri-borough work regarding Love Finsbury Park

There is a lot of work going on to ensure we create a safer Islington, and I am pleased that we are able to work collaboratively with the Met and other key stakeholders to achieve our ambitions.

Supplementary Question:

Can you commit to ongoing collaboration with the police to enhance trust and confidence, ensuring the safety of the borough? Specifically, can you continue to advocate for increased diversity within the police force in Islington, addressing the

urgent need for representation that reflects the population, encompassing individuals of different genders, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and backgrounds?

Response:

Yes, I can.

(b) Cllr Hamdache to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

Could the council spell out the total spend on drug and alcohol services from Islington Council each financial year since 2014, and the percentage of residents who successfully complete drug treatment?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Benali.

Since 2014, the council has spent between £9.9 million and £7.1 million each year on drug and alcohol services. In the most recent year, 2022/23, the spend was £9.2 million. This covers the full range of services and help for people with drug and alcohol needs, including treatment and care, social support, prevention and harm reduction.

50% of residents successfully complete drug and alcohol treatment, which is similar to London and England averages where successful completions are 51.5% and 50% respectively.

Through the new national strategy for drug and alcohol addiction, we are investing in increased capacity for treatment and recovery so that more residents can get the help they need.

We are investing in more street-based outreach with people who are rough sleeping and vulnerable and work with hostels for people who are homeless to support engagement with care.

Recognising the importance of wider economic and social factors in supporting people to recover and to live well without drugs and alcohol, we are investing in individual placement support to help people with training and access to employment.

We are also working with the local criminal justice system including prisons to improve the transition of people with drug and alcohol needs into on-going treatment and care in the community service. Staff from the Better Lives drug and alcohol service co-located with criminal justice services to facilitate continuity of care into their service.

People from African, Caribbean and Dual Heritage backgrounds are over-represented in prison and largely underrepresented in drug and alcohol services. An additional investment of £150k will support a new, innovative programme called Support When It Matters (SWIM). SWIM aims to proactively reach and support Black men who are in or leaving the prison system and may not have accessed prison substance misuse services. The programme, using culturally sensitive approaches, will support at least 60-70 men to access community substance misuse services this year.

Thank you again for your question.

Supplementary Question:

Might we try and quantify the cost to the Council of people not completing these services, and might it be more worthwhile to invest more into these services to help more people out of addiction and save the Council money in other budgets?

Response:

Yes Councillor, I agree with you. We are making more investments and I will be happy to share these with you after the meeting via email.

(c) Cllr Convery to Cllr Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Ensuring that children have the best possible start in life is vital in reducing inequalities and making sure that every single child can start school healthy and is not limited in reaching their potential. How is the Council using family hubs to ensure parents and children access the best wellbeing and developmental support in the crucial early years?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Paul.

Family Hubs give us the opportunity to enhance wellbeing and developmental support in the early years including during the crucial perinatal period through the Family Hub Start for Life offer delivered through Bright Start.

The existing Bright Start integrated health and early childhood partnership approach has enabled us to build quickly on our current offer to target support and services that evidence shows have the most long-term impact for those that would benefit the most whilst ensuring universal access means every child and their family benefits from the best start in life. The single point of access through the physical hubs and online platform means we are able to connect families with the right help from the right people in the right way.

Following a recent visit to Family Hub Central at New River Green Childrens Centre with DfE and DHSC representatives, Dame Andrea Leadsom the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Public Health, Start for Life and Primary Care gave feedback on how impressive the strength of the integrated partnership across Bright Start was. They confirmed how this has given Islington a strong base from which to deliver the Start for Life offer. In addition, professionals demonstrated high levels of expertise and knowledge about the programme and how universal services have long lasting impact for children's learning and development.

Family Hubs give us further opportunity to close the inequality gap through increased reach to global majority families and those with SEND as well as targeted parenting programmes for specific communities e.g., Somali and Turkish Incredible Years programmes. Our enhanced Family Hubs offer includes more opportunities for early identification of need, expanding infant feeding peer support and more breast feeding

welcome venues across Islington, a greater parent-infant relationships and perinatal mental health offer including increasing the number of fathers supported by the Parent Baby Psychology Service, targeted home learning and additional communication and language support by speech therapists for those children most impacted by Covid so their developmental needs can be supported before they start school and parent support to build resilience in all families including an increase in access to evidence based parenting programmes.

Thank you again for your question.

Supplementary Question:

Can we plan to expand the family hub provision to encompass more of the council's children's centres, reframing the modern Sure Start as not just specialized targeted services, but an integral component of comprehensive early years provision within the entire system of state education in our borough? This approach, echoing the success of the past, could ensure that all children in our borough not only survive but thrive, receiving the best possible start in life.

Response:

We are fully committed to serving our children, and that's why we prioritise Children's Services. In response to your question, we're currently assessing where the gaps are and exploring what more we can do. Despite the challenges of austerity, we are actively advocating for additional funding from the government. We understand the importance of early investment in mental health for our children, and we are determined to secure more resources to better serve our local community. While the budget constraints pose challenges, we continue to send a strong message to the government, urging them to allocate more funds to ensure the well-being of our local pupils.

(d) Cllr Chapman to Cllr Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, and Jobs:

Islington is filled with diverse organisations, making the borough a melting pot of opportunity for local people, however – these opportunities are not always accessed equally. What is the Council doing to ensure that employment opportunities are accessible to everyone?

Response:

it's clear that opportunities are not equally accessed in our borough. Drawing inspiration from successful community wealth-building strategies in places like Preston and Cleveland, I've focused on prioritising opportunities to bring about positive change. Residents in areas like Bunhill, living in the shadow of the City, emphasise the lack of access to opportunities. Over the past decade, our community wealth-building strategy aims to tackle this issue head-on.

To give you a glimpse of our interventions, we're running impactful programs to level the playing field, such as getting women apprentices onto the Holloway prison site. A dedicated staff member is working towards bringing 50 apprentices, specifically women, to work on the site. Our Lift program directly engages with young working-class individuals, those with disabilities, and women residents, placing them in high-

growth sectors for long-term job prospects. Collaborating with anchor institutions ensures a commitment to hiring Islington residents and lowering barriers to job opportunities.

We've also launched a childcare bursary scheme to support mothers in re-entering the workforce. Our collaboration with Isaacs, a specialist team assisting those with disabilities, involves working directly with employers and employees, creating dedicated support for those with disabilities. We even have a dedicated refugee team to ensure a swift and smooth path for refugees in our borough to secure long-term and permanent employment.

In essence, when it comes to community wealth-building and accessing opportunities, our focus is on prioritizing those furthest from opportunities, ensuring they have the necessary resources to bridge the gap. This principle has guided our efforts over the last decade in addressing and solving the challenges faced by our community.

Supplementary Question:

Could the Council provide standard and tailored apprenticeships to address qualification gaps? Additionally, given your involvement with the Archway town centre group, can you continue local procurement efforts to support independent businesses that can offer work experience to young people facing challenges in Islington?

Response:

I collaborate closely with Michelin to ensure that care leavers receive holistic support, addressing various aspects of their lives as they transition into adulthood. This includes assistance with housing, employment opportunities, and meeting their fundamental needs.

In terms of employment, while we already have initiatives in place, I recognise the need to further tailor our efforts to better support care leavers in securing and maintaining employment. This involves exploring targeted support programmes that specifically address the challenges they may face in entering the workforce.

The Archway Town Centre Group, I acknowledge the significance of local procurement. We are actively involved in initiatives like mock trailer courses, which have shown a notable success rate—around 70-75%—in helping individuals from the community start market stalls. This is part of a broader strategy to empower local residents to initiate and grow small businesses, contributing positively to places such as Oxford Market.

(e) Cllr Hayes to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture and Inclusion:

We know that Islington's Libraries are vital – they not only offer access to books but also to the internet, warm spaces, and community events. With winter coming up and the cost-of-living crisis continuing, what is the Council doing to make our libraries accessible and welcoming to all residents?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Ruth.

Since last year when we declared a cost of living crisis, the 10 libraries in the borough have been designated as warm spaces, enabling residents to access a comfortable space during the winter months as well as a wide range of free services and activities.

To also help residents with the cost of living crisis we've abolished library fines as these (or the fear of them) are seen by many residents as a barrier to library use. In addition, all outstanding fines were waived to encourage Library users to return to us.

Our libraries have also worked with a number of other services and organisations to provide advice sessions in libraries to help residents reduce costs. For example, a member of the Shine team provided information and advice on reducing energy costs, insulating homes and other relevant themes. The service ran a Repair Café where residents were able to get small electrical items repaired for free.

The library service engages with residents from all walks of life and embodies the council priorities in creating a child-friendly Islington; supporting local communities and creating a healthier, greener Islington.

At two of our libraries, we've started an initiative to offer free period products to residents in need in partnership with Happy Flow, who work with a number of libraries across London.

At Central library we've started an initiative to offer free sim cards to eligible adults facing digital exclusion. This is in partnership with Good Things Foundation.

We work to make all libraries usable and accessible

Thanks again for your question, Ruth.

Supplementary Question:

Please explain what steps the libraries are taking to improve links with the different community groups in the borough and what they are doing to improve access to lifelong learning.

Response:

We currently provide a range of adult learning classes covering subjects like maths, English, and IT, and we are committed to expanding and enhancing this offering. To better understand the community's needs, we are actively engaging with libraries and seeking feedback to identify any service gaps and opportunities for improvement.

Additionally, our outreach efforts extend to collaborating with community groups and organizations such as Age UK and Help on Your Doorstep. Given the challenges posed by the cost of living crisis and the upcoming winter, we are intensifying our collaboration with them to disseminate information about the support services available in Islington. This includes services not only at libraries but also at various locations throughout the borough.

Through outreach activities conducted at libraries and community spaces like Manor Gardens, we aim to connect with residents and communities. Our team actively reaches out to different community groups, exploring potential collaborations and synergies. Similar to our partnerships with Help on Your Doorstep and Age UK, we are open to establishing place-based services either in our locations or theirs, facilitating broader access to community support services.

(f) Cllr Clarke to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health, and Social Care:

Islington GP Federation is an outstanding example of an organisation of GPs. It works for the people of Islington providing high standards of service, caring for and protecting Islington patients. Do you think all GP practices in Islington should be encouraged to become members of the federation?

Response:

Thank you for your question, Tricia.

I completely agree.

Islington GP Federation has brought together practices to deliver high quality services to patients at a time of exceptional pressures on GPs and across the NHS. Since the Federation was established in 2017, its track record has been built around innovation to improve services, working collaboratively with others to provide more integrated care and treatment, action to improve quality and through its Training Hub, supporting learning and development across the primary care workforce. There is a real focus on inequalities, for example on services to improve the physical health of people with Serious Mental Illness and people with Learning Difficulties.

The benefits that patients have seen from the work of the Islington GP Federation with GP practices and other partners include improved access to a wider range of services, such as extended opening hours, urgent care, and more specialist clinics provided through general practice in the community.

Islington GP Federation has also worked with local practices to help recruit and retain key groups of staff, such as offering training, support, and opportunities for career progression for pharmacists working in GP surgeries.

Another example is the Apprenticeship scheme for administrators working in general practice which Islington GP Federation developed working in collaboration with Islington Council which is opening up career opportunities for local people.

The GP Federation has also stepped in at times of exceptional need:

- offering on-site GP surgeries when asylum seekers were first being placed in local hotels, ensuring new arrivals received the help they needed and supporting access to ongoing care.
- stepping in to support practices and improve the organisation of services at short notice when there has been a risk of closure
- and playing a vital role in setting up and co-ordinating **covid vaccination centres** across the borough during the pandemic, working with the council and voluntary sector.

Islington GP Federation is a great example of GPs and others working together to make a real difference for the people of Islington and exemplify the best in public service ethos.

Supplementary Question:

How can patients be assured that their data is secure under the £480 million contract awarded to the US spy technology firm Palantir and its partner, Essential, for the construction of the NHS Federated Data Platform (FDP)? Considering concerns about patient privacy and potential misuse, how will the Council ensure that patients' data won't be sold to private companies or used for surveillance purposes?

Response:

I share your concerns about the security of patients' information under the current government's approach to the NHS. It's disheartening to witness the consistent underfunding of the NHS and the potential shift towards a system resembling the United States. The government's willingness to hand over a crucial role in managing patients' data to a US spy technology firm is alarming.

The information patients provide should not be sold to other companies or misused, but the current trajectory raises significant concerns. I believe it's disgraceful that the government is allowing such practices, putting profits before patient confidentiality.

In response to this, I encourage supporting organisations public interest groups. Collaborative efforts are essential to slow down detrimental processes and challenge decisions that jeopardise patient data security. Victories, such as St Ian losing the contract for one of the GP practices, demonstrate the impact of collective advocacy. As we continue the fight, there's a meeting next week where St Ian is transferring ownership to another healthcare group, showcasing that persistence can lead to positive outcomes. While the challenges are significant, I am hopeful that through continued advocacy, we can achieve more victories in the future. Thank you.

(g) Cllr Croft to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture and Inclusion:

Last year, Islington Council launched the Young Black Men and Mental Health Programme. Can you provide an update on how the programme is promoting wellbeing and tackling structural and institutional racism?

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, Joseph.

Strong progress has been achieved across all four pillars of the Young Black men and mental health programme since its launch last November.

Pillar 1, the Becoming a Man programme has been successfully implemented and delivered across three Islington secondary schools. Strong engagement has been achieved through schools continued support of the delivery of the programme, onboarding and integration of the programme into practice through consistent referrals into the programme. The three BAM psychologists/ counsellors are fully

recruited to, operational and are assigned to each school. Feedback from schools is this continues to make a difference, have an impact and has been integrated into the school inclusion and pastoral strategy for supporting students. There are currently 17 BAM groups across three secondary schools with 178 pupils engaging with the BAM programme across three schools in years 8,9 and10.

Pillar 2, The Elevate Team launched and was fully operational in July. The Elevate service is aimed at young Black men aged between 13-25 who are affected by mental health and serious youth violence. The service provides holistic therapy and youth work interventions, based on a flexible therapeutic relational and assertive outreach model which meets young people at whatever stage they are at in their lives.

The team are currently working with up to 45 young black men intensively and the team report that due to flexible relational therapeutic model – the engagement from young black men in interventions has been very strong. Plans are in place to develop a parent champion model to support parents of young black men referred to the scheme delivering a whole family approach. This will go live in January 2024.

Pillar 3, The Barbers Round Chair Project has engaged 5 Islington Barbershops in training barbers to become mental health ambassadors. This innovative engagement model has been highly effective in supporting conversations around mental health and wellbeing at an early stage.

We've utilised existing lead barbers to operate as recruitment agents to recruit further Barber Mental Health Ambassadors into the scheme. We are planning to recruit up to 25 new barbers to join the scheme and training commences in February 2024. The training has been refreshed and expanded to cover: Mental Health First Aid, Safeguarding, Trauma informed and Making Every Contact Count (MECC) as well as sexual health screening.

The next phase is to develop the barbers' shops into multifaceted wellbeing sites to provide mental health and sexual health support as well as a refreshed website for the barbers round chair project.

Pillar 4, Catalysing whole system change is imperative for the programme in shifting the dial in embedding anti racist and cultural competency practice. Designed in partnership with the Staff College, the system change and innovation programme is a pioneering and multi professional programme intended to embed equity, diversity, and inclusion, by facilitating a greater knowledge and understanding of cultural competence and anti-racist practice.

The training programme launched in September 2023 and so far, we have trained up to over 800 professionals – we are targeted to train up to another 300 professionals through remaining training events. As part of this we have a commitment to train up to 500 metropolitan police officers through a series of just fair police summits.

Thanks again for your question, Joseph.

(h) Cllr Ozdemir to Cllr Khondoker, Executive Member for Equalities, Culture and Inclusion:

The Halabja genocide was a tragic chemical massacre where thousands of innocent civilians died, and others were severely wounded. This moment in history is seared in the hearts and minds of the Kurdish community, of which there is a substantial population here in Islington. How will the Council commemorate this dreadful moment in history so we can learn lessons of the past and build a better future now?

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, Gulcin.

Islington has a strong and thriving Kurdish community, and many of our Kurdish residents will have direct connections to the Halabja genocide that continue to impact their families today.

I know the council's Equalities team have contacted you to discuss how we could commemorate the massacre as part of our ongoing work and look forward to working with you on that.

I'm proud to say that we are looking into the possibility of hosting a speaker at our Holocaust Memorial Day event to speak about the Halabja genocide and mark it on that day.

We know that this is a difficult and upsetting time for many communities in Islington, and that they will have family and friends who are suffering right now. That's why we're reaching out directly to our communities and faith leaders and providing extra support to help people feel safe and welcome.

It is important for us to stand united in the face of adversity and where we can, celebrate what makes Islington special and create opportunities for our community to come together.

Thanks again for your question.

(i) Cllr Williamson to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

Tollington is now the second highest ward in the borough for reporting of drug issues and has had a 95% increase in the last 5 years of drug reports. However there has been little increase in on the ground resource. How will the council work with the police to ensure better resourcing so we can improve safety within the community?

Written Response:

We recently held a drugs round table to address concerns about drug use across the borough with attendance from a range of services including Public Health, Community Safety, and Housing, recognising this as a public health issue.

Our first combatting drugs partnership (CDP) meeting took place on Monday 4th December. The meeting brought together a range of partners including the police, council, and voluntary sector. There is a draft Strategic Needs Assessment that forms the basis of the CDP and in identifying the areas for development in commissioning and responding to the issues around drug use and treatment.

Over the last few months, walk and talks have been undertaken with myself, council officers and the local police with approximately 50 people in attendance. Since then, physical improvements have been made for instance, by relocating a problematic bench in Evershot Gardens to Whittington Park.

There are also longer-term improvements awaiting funding including creating wildlife space at Evershot which would be in consultation with local residents, councillors and stakeholders.

We have significantly increased outreach work in the area and are supporting those presenting with the case study at St Mellitus Church being one example. We are seeing significant decreases in ASB since intervention but clearly there is still more work to be done.

The Love Finsbury Park campaign has a clear link to Tollington ward and more broadly, police resources are being uplifted significantly as part of the new Met for London plan. Islington will see double the number of Neighbourhood Inspectors to four from the current two in post with a similar uplift in ward Sergeants from 6 to 13.

There will also be a significant uplift in PCSO numbers recognising the need for more officers on the ground, rooted in the community. Final details are being developed but there is an aspiration for there to be 41 PCSOs in Islington in year one. This would mean an increase in the higher harm locations of six additional officers and an increase of four officers in medium harm wards (including Tollington) in the coming year. By the end of the process in year three, the aspiration is to have 69 PCSO's for the borough.

As well as the uplift in neighbourhood policing officers, there has been a commitment to align the locality of police teams to that of the Community Safety team in a North, Central and South Cluster arrangement.

(j) Cllr Shaikh to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

In February 2020, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) published a database of business enterprises involved in certain specified activities related to the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Database identifies 112 business enterprises involved in one or more activities that raised particular human rights concerns in a UN-led investigation. These companies are involved in serious human rights abuses.

Can you provide the full list of Islington Council's LGPF holdings, and can you confirm that Islington's LGPF, or any other investment activities, have no investments with the 112 OHCHR's listed business enterprises?

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Shaikh

The LGPS Divest campaign has identified 63 local authorities with investments that are considered financially complicit in the illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Islington Council is not on that list of such local authority pension funds.

The list can be checked on <https://lgpsdivest.org/lgps-investments/>

We continue to monitor this and are currently conducting due diligence against the latest UNHRC list of companies identified as having commercial interests in the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories (ratified in July 2023) to ensure that we have no indirect holdings in any such companies.

Thanks again for your question.

(k) Cllr Ogunro to Cllr Turan, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

In 2017, we passed the motion to make Islington dementia friendly, and since then, we have been recognised by the Alzheimer's Society for our work in becoming a dementia-friendly borough. However, many of our residents are still unaware of the range of support available. Can you please give an update on what services the Council offers and what plans you have to increase awareness?

Written Response:

Residents living with dementia can access a range of Adult social care support to help them maintain independence at home such as aids and adaptations, Assistive Technology, Telecare and Homecare.

Residential and nursing care services are also available to those who are no longer able to live at home.

Residents are supported by an advocate if they lack capacity, to ensure decisions are made in the person's best interests. Adult Social Care also commissions the Islington Carers Hub which can support all Islington adult carers, including carers of people living with dementia. The carers hub provides access to advice and support to maintain their wellbeing and sustain the caring relationship.

The council invests in a Dementia Coordinator to drive efforts across the partnership to make Islington a more inclusive borough for people living with dementia. The Dementia Coordinator is working to grow the dementia friendly communities network, connecting people with resources to raise awareness and enhance the community offer.

Islington also has several initiatives, resources and activities that go towards making Islington a dementia inclusive borough which helps people with dementia live well in the community:

- **Dementia friendly environments** for example dementia friendly planning guidance and design standards and Disabled Facilities Grants which provides adaptations in people's homes to enable independence

- **Dementia Inclusive communities work** to raise awareness and reduce stigma, including work with the Alzheimer's Society Ambassador to deliver Dementia Friendly sessions to council employees and residents.
- **Work to drive more Inclusive communities** encouraging businesses to support people to live their everyday lives, e.g., Safe Haven scheme promoted to people living with dementia and Toilets in town centre promotion

However, we know there is still more to do. We are developing a dementia strategy in partnership with health trusts and voluntary and community sector organisations.

Around 150 residents and 80 professionals from partner organisations have helped shape the strategy, drawing on the experience of people living with dementia, mapping out the existing offer in Islington and identifying the gaps we need to close to improve outcomes for residents. This engagement has shaped the key themes the strategy will address which are:

- **Preventing avoidable dementia** – Residents would like to know more about what dementia is, what the risk factors are and how to lower risk.
- **Timely identification and diagnosis** – Diagnosis rates in Islington compare well to national benchmark. However, residents and the community groups that support them want to know how to recognise dementia in those they care for or support and they want to know what to do if they suspect someone has dementia.
- **Post Diagnostic Care and Support** – Residents and stakeholders describe a rich service offer delivered by dedicated and passionate professionals. But carers and professionals have told us that there needs to be better access to information and advice.
- **Living Well with Dementia** – The Dementia Friendly Islington network has 50 members from across the community. The network, facilitated by our Dementia Coordinator, will continue to drive our dementia friendly communities ambitions where attendees share news, information, resources and best practice.

There will be several priorities under each of these themes but with regards to raising awareness, there are a few commitments to highlight:

- A dedicated dementia resource will be developed within the Islington Directory (Find Your Islington) so that residents and professionals will find what they need in one place.
- Dementia will be embedded in the Make Every Conversation Count framework to help improve identification of dementia and access to support.
- We have joined the recently formed North Central London Dementia network which shares good practice and provides opportunities for partnership. Since the loss of the Alzheimer's Society Dementia Friends scheme, we are exploring options for a North Central London scheme.
- We will grow the dementia friendly communities network, connecting people with resources to raise awareness and enhance the community offer.

The strategy is due to be published in the spring of 2024 and will be implemented over the course of the next five years with support and oversight of the health and care partners in the Islington Borough Partnership.

I hope this response finds you well.

(I) Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance, Planning and Performance:

Can you provide an update on the campaign for residence based voting rights?

Written Response:

Thank you for your question, Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong

Currently, to register to vote you must be living at the address where you are registering, aged 16 or over and you must also be either a British citizen, an Irish or EU citizen living in the UK, a Commonwealth citizen who has permission or whom does not need permission to enter or stay in the UK.

Following the implementation of the Elections Act 2022, from 7 May 2024 EU citizens' voting and candidacy rights will depend on when they moved to the UK and which country they are from. EU citizens who were resident in the UK before 1 January 2021 will retain their voting and candidacy rights for local elections in England if they retain a lawful immigration status.

EU citizens resident in the UK from 1 January 2021 will only get local election voting rights if there is a bilateral agreement between the UK and their home country. In due course, Electoral registration officers will be required to check whether an EU citizen currently registered can remain registered to vote. The Government has yet to finalise the arrangements that EROs will have to follow.

Thanks again for your question.

268 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT POLICY 2024-25

Councillor Ward moved the recommendations in the report. Councillor Ozdemir Seconded. Councillor Hamdache contributed to the debate. Councillor Ward exercised their right of reply.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

(i) To agree to adopt the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2024/25 as contained in appendix C. For working age households this is model three from the consultation (see appendix A). Model three provides the most overall total financial support to households of the three models that were part of the consultation. Model three was the preferred model with respondents to the consultation.

(ii) To retain the amendments to council tax agreed at full Council on 8 December 2022. With number four below updated to properties that have remained empty for over 1 year rather than 2 years. Number five updated to reflect that the bill has now

been enacted. The council will charge the premium on second homes from the earliest date possible.

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. 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 1 year 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. With effect from 1 April 2025, a premium will be charged at the maximum percentage allowed of 100% on the council tax for Second Homes (also known as "dwellings occupied periodically"). A Second Home is substantially furnished but is not the main or principal home of any resident.

(iii) To note that the savings of £250k attached to the implementation of a banded CTSS for 2024/25 will be delivered upon full implementation of the new CTSS policy.

269 TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2022-23

Councillor Ward moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

To note the Treasury outturn for the year.

270 ADJUSTMENT TO THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME - PURCHASING 410 EX RIGHT TO BUY PROPERTIES

Councillor O'Halloran moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

(i) To approve the addition to the capital programme funded by borrowing of £111,663,000 within the Housing Revenue Account to supplement the funding provided by the DLUHC and the GLA to enable the council to purchase 410 Ex Right to Buy properties.

(ii) To approve the addition to the capital programme funded by £102,316,260 allocated to Islington Council by the DLUHC and the GLA for the purchase of 410 Ex Right to Buy properties in Islington to accommodate homeless households with a local connection to Islington.

(iii) To note the two Executive reports attached to the report.

271 CONSTITUTION REPORT

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

RESOLVED:

To approve the amendments to the Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report.

272 COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS REPORT

Councillor Hyde moved the recommendations in the report.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Williamson be re-appointed to the Board of the Cloudesley Charity from February 2024 for a period of 4 years, or until a successor is appointed.

273 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: A call for peace

This motion was withdrawn.

Councillor Russell moved the withdrawal. Councillor Hamdache seconded.

RESOLVED:

That the motion be withdrawn.

Motion 2: Standing in solidarity with Islington's diverse community in times of conflict by supporting the cessation of hostilities on all sides.

A cross-party amendment to this motion was circulated in a second despatch of papers.

Councillors Khondoker and Russell moved the joint amendment. Councillors Cinko-Oner, Hamdache, Woolf and Pandor seconded the amendment.

Councillors Chowdhury, Shaikh, Graham, Gilgunn, Williamson and Nathan contributed to the debate.

Councillor Khondoker and Russell exercised their right of reply on the amendment.

Councillor Nathan requested a recorded vote. This was supported by several members of the council.

The Amendment was put to a vote and **CARRIED**.

FOR:

Councillors Bell-Bradford, Burgess, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Cinko-Oner, Clarke, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Craig, Croft, Gilgunn, Gill, Graham, Hamdache, Hayes, Heather, Hyde, Ibrahim, Jackson, Jeapes, Jegorovas-Armstrong, Kay, Khondoker, Khurana, Klute, Mackmurdie, McHugh, Nathan, Ngongo, North, Ogunro, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Ozdemir, Pandor, Russell, Shaikh, Staff, Turan, Ward, Wayne, Williamson, Woolf, Zammit.

AGAINST:

None.

ABSTENTIONS:

None.

The Amended Motion was put to a vote and **CARRIED**.

FOR:

Councillors Bell-Bradford, Burgess, Champion, Chapman, Chowdhury, Cinko-Oner, Clarke, Comer-Schwartz, Convery, Craig, Croft, Gilgunn, Gill, Graham, Hamdache, Hayes, Heather, Hyde, Ibrahim, Jackson, Jeapes, Jegorovas-Armstrong, Kay, Khondoker, Khurana, Klute, Mackmurdie, McHugh, Nathan, Ngongo, North, Ogunro, O'Halloran, O'Sullivan, Ozdemir, Pandor, Russell, Shaikh, Staff, Turan, Ward, Wayne, Williamson, Woolf, Zammit.

AGAINST:

None.

ABSTENTIONS:

None.

RESOLVED:

This Council resolves to:

- i. Support those in Islington with loved ones in the affected region by writing to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to support calls - made by the Mayor of London, a number of trade unions including Unite and UNISON, the UN General Assembly, over 200 countries and many global humanitarian aid agencies - for an immediate cessation to hostilities in Israel and Palestine, including an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the release of hostages

- and political prisoners. Also to support calls for an embargo on the sale of offensive weapons for this conflict, an investigation by the International Criminal Court into alleged breaches of international law during this conflict and to begin a political process for permanent peace.
- ii. Write to our local MPs and ask they use every avenue to pursue peace and to call for ceasefire.
 - iii. Continue to work with faith and community leaders from across Islington to preserve and celebrate our borough's diversity and cohesion, this will include working with the Islington Faiths Forum to organise an inter-faith event in early 2024, allowing people from all parts of Islington to come together and celebrate our community's shared values.
 - iv. Further promote the work of the Council's Hate Crime Prevention Champions, encouraging more local people to take ownership and support our drive to tackle hate crime in Islington.
 - v. Continue to promote the work of Islington-based charities working to support those affected by the humanitarian crisis in Israel and Palestine.

Motion 3: Protecting Islington's families through the Childcare Crisis.

Councillor Ngongo moved the motion. Councillor North Seconded.

Councillor Jegorovas-Armstrong contributed to the debate. Councillor Ngongo exercised their right of reply.

The motion was put to a vote and **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

This Council resolves to:

- i. Write to the Secretary of State for Education to call on the Government to:
 - o work with childcare providers to ensure funding rates are increased in real terms and childcare workers are paid a decent living wage.
 - o Provide universal free childcare for children over nine months old and support the Labour Party's policy of free breakfast clubs for all primary school children.
- ii. Support the Labour Party's call to an immediate review into childcare if they are elected to government, including a review into SEND provisions.
- iii. Continue to support parents and families with our family hubs, children's centres and other early years settings.
- iv. Protect Islington Council's investment in the Childcare Bursary and continue to help Islington's disadvantaged families through our free school meals and school uniform grant.

The meeting closed at 10.25 pm

MAYOR