

LONDON BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

At the meeting of the Council held at Council Chamber, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1
2UD on 19 September 2024 at 7.15 pm.

Present:

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

The Mayor (Councillor Anjna Khurana) in the Chair

297 **MINUTES**
RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record and the Mayor was authorised to sign them.

298 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
No Declarations were made

299 **MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(i) Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Hayes, Khondoker and Chowdhury.

(ii) Order of business

The Mayor altered the Order of Business so that Motion 1: Care Leavers as a Protected Characteristic, was heard after Item 5.

(iii) Declaration of discussion items

No items were declared.

(iv) Mayor's announcements

Over the past summer, the Mayor had engaged with various communities across the borough by attending numerous events. The Mayor celebrated the successes of local young people on GCSE and A-Level Results Day and hosted an awards presentation for local cadets at the Town Hall. One of the highlights was attending the Brickworks Community Nursery Graduation Ceremony. Additionally, the Mayor acknowledged the achievements of refugees and migrants at the Islington Refugee Centre for their participation in Speak Street's English classes and honoured carers at the Dignity in Care Awards.

The Mayor had a commitment to diversity and inclusion during their term in office. As part of this effort, the Mayor hosted a panel discussion titled "Free to Be Me" to mark South Asian Heritage Month, which celebrated the diverse experiences of the South Asian community in Islington. The Mayor also participated in other events during South Asian Heritage Month, including a talk with author Chitra Soundar at Central Library and attended the play ENG-ER-LAND, which deeply resonated with the Mayor. Moreover, attending the launch of 'Black Arsenal' at the Emirates Stadium, exploring Arsenal's connection to Black culture.

The Mayor enjoyed various street festivals and celebrations. At the Toy Projects Street festival, the Mayor tried graffiti, indulged in vegan treats, and had a fun photoshoot. The Mayor also attended the St Mary's Festival to open a family fun day and later joined the Highbury View sheltered housing residents and Islington Pensioners Forum for a garden party. The Mayor's involvement in the Dignity in Care awards continued, where the Mayor presented a special recognition award.

The Mayor participated in the 21st Islington in Bloom awards, celebrating the contributions of individuals and groups enhancing local green spaces, with special pride in Mitford Road winning first place in the Best Street category. The Mayor also expressed gratitude to George of Islington Tour Guides for a tour of St Mary's Church and appreciated the members who joined and helped raise funds for the Brickworks Community Centre, the Mayor's chosen charity.

(v) Length of Speeches

The Mayor reminded all attendees to keep within the permitted length for speeches.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the Public Sector Equality Duty. This required the Council to consider the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between those with and without protected characteristics.

300 LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader welcomed the Youth Council and thanked them for all their work over the last year. The Leader expressed pride in the borough's young people, congratulating them on their outstanding A-level and GCSE results, which continued to show improvement. The Leader also proudly announced that the Youth Justice Service had been rated outstanding by HMIP, recognising the borough's commitment to its young people. Additionally, the Leader welcomed Councillor Nanda, after their recent election.

While celebrating these successes, the Leader also acknowledged the difficult summer, marked by the tragic murder of three young girls in Southport, which triggered a wave of racist and Islamophobic unrest. The Leader spoke at a rally organised by Finsbury Park Mosque and Muslim Welfare House and emphasised the borough's familiarity with the impact of far-right extremism. In response, the Council released a cross-party statement reaffirming its commitment to tackling racism and supporting affected communities. The Leader also expressed gratitude to the opposition for working together on the statement and upcoming motion, and to Finsbury Park Mosque and Muslim Welfare House for organising the rally that united the community.

Reflecting on the Grenfell Tower tragedy, the Leader noted the release of the final report's findings and the critical importance of stringent safety standards in housing. The Leader welcomed the Prime Minister's pledge to improve housing safety and prevent similar tragedies, along with the Labour government's recent ban on Section 21 no-fault evictions, which would protect renters across the UK, including the 27,000 private renter households in Islington. The extension of the Household Support Scheme, requested by the Council, was also welcomed as a means to help vulnerable residents amid the cost-of-living crisis.

Finally, the Leader highlighted the Council's ongoing efforts, including Purpose Into Action Week, which focused on implementing the Islington Together Delivery Plan and encouraging cross-collaboration. The Leader pointed out the borough's strong position, with a Labour-run Council, a Labour Mayor of London, and a Labour government, to influence change locally and nationally. The Leader referenced the Council's work with the Mayor of London to deliver the London Growth Plan and welcomed the announcement to make spiking a specific criminal offence, as part of efforts to ensure a safer night-time economy. The Leader reaffirmed the Council's determination to reverse the damage caused by previous governments and to create a better borough for all.

The Leader of the Majority Opposition Group responded, beginning by expressing pride in standing alongside colleagues as the opposition leader. The Leader of the Opposition acknowledged the achievements made under the manifesto on which they were elected but said that the current stance of the Labour government did not align with their values or those of the working class. The Leader of the Opposition highlighted concerns about government policies, such as cuts to winter fuel payments and the retention of the two-child benefit cap, which they said no longer reflected a government for the people.

The Leader of the Opposition expressed pride in standing with colleagues who shared a common pledge to represent the residents of Islington. This pledge included being the voice of the people, and defending their rights, both nationally and internationally. The Leader of the Opposition emphasised a continued commitment to fight for Gaza and call for an end to hostility and genocide.

The Leader of the Opposition also acknowledged the rise of the far-right and emphasised that it could not simply be blamed on social media. The Leader of the Opposition criticised politicians who made divisive remarks and reaffirmed their commitment to be the voice of the people.

The Leader of the Opposition expressed pride in being an independent councillor and reiterated their dedication to fighting for justice and equality.

301 PETITIONS

The Council received 1 petition from the Palestinian Solidarity Campaign. This petition was presented by Elsha Tesfaye.

302 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1: Care Leavers as a Protected Characteristic.

A deputation was received on this motion. Alan Torres, a care leaver, reflected on his journey to establishing his own photography business, attributing his success to the support of the Council. He had the opportunity to work with clients like Liam Gallagher and Tinie Tempah, which opened further doors for him. He believed many adult care leavers had untapped creative potential that could be unlocked with similar support.

Additionally, he collaborated with the Virtual School on a project called Resilient Souls, creating portraits of 10 care leavers to showcase their journeys. This initiative aimed to help care leavers recognise their talents beyond academics, with Alan emphasising the Council's role in providing valuable contacts and opportunities.

He expressed hope that other care leavers could also start their own businesses with the right support. Alan invited everyone to the upcoming Resilient Souls showcase, highlighting its impact on helping care leavers find their creative paths. In closing, he thanked the Council for helping him grow as a photographer and giving him a platform to share his talents.

Councillor Safi-Ngongo moved the motion. Councillor Zammit seconded.

Councillors Ozdemir and Jegorovas-Armstrong contributed to the debate. Councillor Safi-Ngongo exercised their right of reply.

The motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Agree that 'Care Experienced' should be considered as a local protected characteristic by the London Borough of Islington.
- (ii) Note that London Borough of Islington's senior leaders will continue to work with HR to provide opportunities for young people with care experience to obtain work experience, training and employment at Islington as part of the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities.
- (iii) Put the needs of care experienced people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- (iv) Review the Council's equality impact assessment approach and guidance alongside our social value policy to identify opportunities for the whole council to improve opportunities for people with care experience.
- (v) Formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- (vi) Continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies.
- (vii) Explore further how those who have ever been care experienced is included within care experienced as a protected characteristic.

303 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Cllr Areeb thanked the Council for their support with the Youth Council and for allowing the Youth Councillors to attend these meetings and ask questions throughout their year in office.

Question (a) Young Mayor Tyra to Cllr Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families:

Following the General Election which resulted in a change in National Government, how are Islington Council Leaders working with the new administration to improve the lives of young people in Islington? Are there any exciting plans Council leaders can share with the borough's young people?

Response:

Thank you for your important question.

There is much alignment with Islington Council's vision for young people and that of

the new government. The new governments' Young Futures initiative will focus on increasing the level of support that young people receive in their local area, ensuring that effective early intervention and prevention systems exist to support them whenever they need help and support. Ensuring that our local young have the best possible start in their lives is already one of the top priorities for council leaders.

Next year, we will be launching our new Youth Safety Strategy focussed on ensuring that we are successful in keeping our young people safe from harm, keeping them healthy and ensuring that they achieve good educational outcomes. We are already starting to work on this strategy with our partners such as schools, health providers and the police. As part of our approach, we will be launching Islington's biggest ever consultation with young people. We want to hear the voices of young people so that we can make sure that our services are right and are supporting them fully.

There will be surveys sent out to our schools and events at our youth hubs in order to facilitate this. We want to hear from as many of our young people as possible so that they can influence our approach.

Once again, thank you for your important question

Question (b) Deputy Young Mayor Ameera to Cllr Woolf, Executive Member for Community Safety:

During the summer, in which racist marches and riots took place across the country, how is the council supporting and reassuring young people from all faiths/ethnic backgrounds, to feel safe in Islington?

Response:

Thank you for your important question.

It is vital that young people feel safe and are safe in Islington and that is of paramount importance to this Council.

Here in Islington, our ambition is to reduce the long-term scale and impact of violence – making Islington a safer, fairer borough for all.

We will adopt a public health approach to tackling violence to deliver evidence-based interventions and engagement work with young people so not only are young people involved in telling us what the problems are but are also involved in some of the solutions.

For over 27 years Islington Council has been funding free activities and opportunities over the summer holidays.

'Summerversity' gives young people aged 13+ who live or go to school or college in Islington the chance to learn new skills, develop interests and talents, make new contacts and most of all have fun. This prevents serious violence, minimises the impact of serious violence on young people and supports young people, at-risk of or affected by serious violence by providing them with adequate support and interventions.

Once again, thank you so much for your important question and I will continue to work to make Islington as safe as can be and work hard to reassure young people with anxieties around safety in Islington.

Supplementary Question:

Besides organising youth activities over the summer to keep young people off the streets and make them feel safer, what other measures has the council implemented in collaboration with the police to address issues like anti-racism and prevent further incidents?

Response:

Over the past 12 months, we've taken a number of steps in collaboration with our police partners to ensure that racism has no place in our community. A key part of our efforts is tackling hate crime, which includes working with hate crime prevention champions and raising awareness, especially within our faith communities, about what constitutes hate crime and encouraging people to report it. We also conduct preventive educational and training sessions for frontline staff and the local police. Islington has been leading anti-racism training for police officers to align them with the values we uphold. These efforts extend to engaging with schools, the police, and community groups through initiatives like the hate crime prevention champions. We remain committed to fostering ongoing discussions and working with the Youth Council to explore further actions, as we are never complacent in our fight against racism.

Question (c) YCllr Maryam to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods:

With youth poverty and homelessness on the rise, what support systems are in place for young people suffering and what preventative measures are there?

Response:

Islington Council is proud to host the New Horizons Youth initiative, which offers pan-London short-stay accommodation for young people aged 18 to 24 with a history of rough sleeping. The Council also runs a dedicated Young Person Support Accommodation Pathway, providing both housing and on-site support for young people facing homelessness. Additionally, as part of our commitment to tackling homelessness, the Council has purchased 20 ex-Right to Buy one-bedroom properties for young people leaving care. Each young person receives support through a housing framework to ensure they never experience homelessness again. These initiatives are part of our Labour-run Council's broader commitment, as outlined in our 2022 manifesto, to making Islington a better place for young people.

Supplementary Question:

You mentioned that Islington Council has purchased 20 one-bedroom apartments. Are these homes intended for young people who are already homeless or those on the brink of homelessness? If it's for those on the brink, who may have been living near the poverty line for an extended period, what additional support is being planned to assist them beyond just housing?

Response:

Thank you for your question. As you mentioned, the 20 Right to Buy properties are intended for young people who have experienced homelessness. However, we're doing much more than just providing housing. We have a comprehensive support system in place, especially through our children's services, to ensure these young people have access to the help they need. We take pride in listening to the voices of young people with lived experiences in our care, and their input helps shape the services we provide. While we acknowledge there aren't enough homes currently, we're committed to building more and buying as many Right to Buy properties as we can. This is about putting young people first and preparing for the future, and we are working closely with the Labour government to make that happen. Your engagement and input are crucial, and it's young voices like yours that will lead the next generation of change.

Question (d) YCllr Billy to Cllr Bell-Bradford, Executive Member for Inclusive Economy, Culture & Jobs:

We are concerned about rising number of cultural organisations moving out of the borough and the adverse impact the reduced number of organisations there are to deliver cultural activities for local people. What is the council doing to ensure Islington continues to have a vibrant cultural offer for young people in the borough?

Response:

You're right to point out the challenges cultural organisations and institutions face today, especially after years of Tory austerity, rising costs, and the pressure of increasing rents. These hardships have led to the closure of grassroots cultural organisations and limited access for many working-class residents to cultural experiences that should belong to them.

Despite these difficulties, it's not all doom and gloom. Islington continues to thrive as a hub for cultural organisations, with institutions like Tall Stories, Arts Exchange, and the London Screen Academy establishing themselves here. As a council, we are committed to ensuring all our residents, particularly young people, have access to these cultural opportunities. Through initiatives like the '11 by 11' programme, which guarantees that young people have 11 high-quality cultural interactions as they grow up, and by working with institutions like the Guildhall Music School to showcase the talents of over 600 schoolchildren, we're making culture accessible for all.

We're also running targeted pilot schemes, such as the 'Islington Access to Culture' pilot, which provides £500 for care-experienced young people to access cultural events. Alongside this, we leverage our affordable workspace programme to provide low-cost artist studio spaces, ensuring that artists can create in the borough where they grew up rather than being pushed out to other areas.

Importantly, our work in the cultural sector goes beyond just providing access. It's about creating pathways into creative industries for working-class residents. With 85 cultural institutions in the borough, we're focused on opening doors for young people to become photographers, set designers, carpenters, or even accountants in the arts, ensuring they can find meaningful work within the industries that surround them. This approach is not just about giving access but about building careers and fostering long-term engagement with the cultural sector.

304 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question (a) Sheridan Kates to Cllr Ward, Executive Member for Finance & Performance:

What percentage of Islington pensioners that are eligible to receive Pension Credit are known to be claiming it?

Response:

Thank you, Sheridan, for your important question about pension credit. From the latest reports, there were 490 residents who would be entitled to pension credit but not receiving it. I am happy to confirm that the Council is contacting those residents to support them in making an application.

We are unable to say the total number of Islington pensioners who may be entitled to pension credit or our receiving it as we do not have the benefit and savings information for those not in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax support – this information would be held by The Department of Work and Pensions and HMRC. However, we do run public campaigns to encourage local people who might be eligible to contact us, and we will help them make an application.

Our older population is expected to grow by 30% in the next ten years. But there is an unacceptable level of older persons living in poverty – recent analysis shows that we are the 4th most deprived area for older people in London, with Finsbury Park having the highest rate of Income Deprivation Affecting Older People in London. Over the last 3 years, our Labour-run Council's Income Maximisation team has been working with residents and has helped claim over £2,000,000 in pension credit.

To illustrate the impact of the campaign, in a recent case, the team was in contact with a 70-year old man, living alone in LBI council accommodation. Following some investigation into his circumstances, the team supported him to claim Pension Credit and he was awarded £78.45 per week. In addition, this was back-dated for 3 months and he received over £1,000 in a lump sum.

Once again, thank you for your question on this important topic.

Supplementary Question:

Given the pressing issue of the Labour government removing the winter fuel payment for pensioners who are eligible but not claiming pension credit, and with many pensioners missing out on this support, would you consider working with Policy in Practice again? Their website estimates there are 13 million pounds in missed claims in Islington, affecting around 3,500 individuals. Would you consider repeating the successful work done in 2022 to help eligible pensioners access the support they're entitled to?

Response:

We would absolutely be willing to work with Policy in Practice again. However, to give you more context, since 2023, our IMAX team has already helped secure an additional £9 million in benefits for Islington residents, with a target of reaching over £12 million by 2025. This isn't just limited to pension credit; we've also helped secure nearly £1 million in backdated Attendance Allowance benefits, particularly for pensioners with care needs, allowing them to remain in their communities. This, in

turn, helps them access pension-related support as well. Our IMAX team has been doing incredible work, and we're proud to have continued funding for this through our last budget.

Question (b) Rona Topaz to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods:

Some Peabody Housing developments such as Thamesmead are tenure blind with respect to use of a residents' lounge, whereas Holloway Park have chosen to grant automatic access to private tenants, and an opt-in system for an additional fee to social housing tenants. Can you please tell us why a two-tier system such as this is acceptable in your estimation, and why?

Response:

Thank you, Rona, for your question about Holloway Prison site.

The s106 agreement relating to the Holloway Prison site requires that the proposed residents' lounge on the Holloway Prison site is operated on a not - for - profit basis. It will be accessible to all occupants of the development on payment of a charge. It is acknowledged that not all residents of the development can afford to pay a charge.

The agreement therefore ensures that all occupants of the development will be able to access part of the residents' lounge for the equivalent of one day a week free of charge. Peabody is required to produce a Management Plan setting out how it will make this space available to all the residents of the development. It is also required to produce a further plan indicating how it will foster community cohesion and integration across the entire development. The council must approve both plans. In negotiating the s106 agreement the council decided to prioritise the delivery of 60% affordable housing including over 400 homes for social rent, a new public park and the Women's Building rather than securing new general purpose community facilities. In contrast, the percentage of affordable housing delivered by Peabody at Thamesmead varies between 35 and 55% depending upon the phase of the development.

The council also secured a CIL payment of circa £13.3 million. 50% of this funding can be used to invest in community facilities in the wider local area.

As a matter of principle, the council is committed to tenure blind development. The Holloway scheme has therefore been designed to ensure that the private housing looks exactly the same as the genuinely affordable housing. The new park and play spaces will also be publicly accessible.

Supplementary Question:

So, does this mean that the Council is in favour of, or opposed to a tenure blind approach to the Holloway development?

Response:

The site is tenure blind.

Question (c) Pete Gillman to Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council:

Since the advent of Thatcher, the powers of local authorities have been systematically reduced. With the change of government, will Islington council combine with others to press for a restoration of these lost powers?

Response:

Thank you, Pete, for your important question.

We are clear that Islington is a campaigning council that will always stand up and fight for the policy change, powers and funding that we need to deliver for our residents, especially after 14 years of austerity and multiple Conservative Prime Ministers that have tried to scapegoat local authorities without giving us the necessary powers or money to deliver for our residents.

Since the General Election, we have lobbied successfully for the extension of the Household Support Fund, invited ministers to visit our outstanding youth justice service, and – together with over 100 other council landlords – launched a report in Westminster on how the new government can secure the future of council housing. We're pleased at the change in approach we've seen in the last two months since the historic Labour landslide on 4th July.

But we know we need a radical change in how government operates, devolving power to local areas to make decisions in their areas. We will continue to lobby for a multi-year financial settlement for local government that would help us bring stability to the services residents so badly need. Devolving employment support to us so we can put resources where we can make the most difference and help thousands of people into work. A proper settlement for families with SEND children and adult social care.

As the Leader of this wonderful borough, I welcomed the 28-page paper, Power and Partnership: Labour's plan to power up Britain, released by the Labour Party earlier this year which set out a new vision for a new partnership between Westminster, local government and the private sector.

We're clear that the answers to these challenges won't simply be more money – but also a fundamental change in the relationship between government and councils. And we'll continue to make that case in the coming months and years.

Thank you so much for your question.

Supplementary Question:

With concerns about Rachel Reeves' reported comments on removing bureaucratic barriers for developers, do you believe this could be another attempt to weaken local authorities' planning powers? And how does the council plan to join with other local authorities to campaign for the return of these powers, as it successfully did with the 2016 Housing and Planning Act?

Response:

We know that over the last 14 years, we in this Chamber have prioritised genuinely affordable housing because it's the top priority for our residents. I'm proud to say that

Islington has some of the best planning policies in the country, setting a high standard where many local governments don't even have a local plan. Working with a Labour government, particularly with Angela Rayner making housing a top priority, will help us further tackle poverty and improve housing access.

Islington has been actively working with other boroughs and engaging with the Department for Housing and Local Government. Just recently, Councillor O'Halloran was in discussions with the Minister about how we can go further in addressing the housing crisis. We are also collaborating with other councils to advocate for increased funding for new homes and tackling issues like the private rented sector and temporary accommodation.

Moreover, we are proud of our planning policies, such as holding developers to our 50% affordable housing target, regardless of their claims about viability. We've even successfully defended this in the High Court, with the help of Councillor Ward, proving that our approach works. This is not just about housing, but about creating a comprehensive ecosystem that includes affordable workspaces and community support. We've shown that we can deliver on these promises, and we'll continue to push for more.

Question (d) David Harrison to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Climate and Transport:

In the light of the impressive recent improvements to Clerkenwell Green and the opening of the New Green Link Walk from Peckham to Epping Forest, which passes through Clerkenwell, what plans does the council have to further promote walking in the area and elsewhere in the borough?

Response:

Thank you, David, for your ongoing efforts and the work done by Living Streets to promote walking and cycling in our borough and beyond. I share your enthusiasm for the new look of Clocktower Green and the dedication shown by our local ward councillors and officers in making it a vibrant community space that reflects the area's rich history and culture, particularly its roots in socialism and trade unionism. It's hard to believe that just five years ago, the space looked entirely different. Now, Clocktower Green and other historic areas in Islington are integral parts of our new 15-mile walking route agreement. However, as our public health team emphasises, sometimes the most critical journeys are short walks from home to local shops or green spaces, which is why the Liveable Neighbourhood Programme is so vital. This programme creates quiet streets and safe, connected routes for walking and cycling, featuring essential amenities like child-friendly spaces, shade, seating, and pavement improvements. We are also seizing opportunities to enhance accessibility through other initiatives, such as the cycling schemes on Southgate Road.

I recall a conversation during COVID with a woman living alone who shared how she only ventured out to walk around the block. She noted how many people stopped to talk to her because the streets were quieter. This truly highlighted for me the importance of secure local spaces and the connections they foster within our communities.

We have numerous fantastic walking routes in Islington, and we will continue to support local residents in exploring them. We're collaborating with organisations like Footways and local community groups to create enjoyable walking routes that engage residents with their neighbourhoods. And don't forget, this Sunday is Car-Free Day, with various local events, including the Southern Soul Festival. I encourage everyone to come out and participate! We will continue our efforts at all levels to promote walking and community connection.

Supplementary Question:

Thank you, Councillor Champion. I want to congratulate Islington Council on its fantastic achievements so far. Walking is indeed the healthiest, cheapest, and most sustainable form of transport, and it's impressive to see the progress made. As a follow-up, could you reassure us that the council will continue to push forward with the liveable neighbourhoods programme and other initiatives? Are there plans in place to ensure that we don't become complacent and keep striving for further improvements?

Response:

I can assure you that we are definitely not sitting on our laurels. There are numerous schemes in the pipeline, as you might have noticed from the ongoing consultations and engagements. What fascinates me is how each new scheme allows us to build on previous successes and continually improve.

I take immense pride in how we're integrating various departments within the Council, particularly collaborating with Homes and Communities to ensure that our developments are child friendly. It's essential that designing spaces for children is not merely an add-on but is embedded in the planning and design process. We recognise that creating comfortable and welcoming public spaces encourages children to engage with their local streets, making them feel safe and connected.

Moreover, we must consider the needs of young people. We know that when groups of three or four gather, they can sometimes be perceived with suspicion. Our aim is to transform public spaces to ensure these young people can gather without feeling uncomfortable.

In light of the climate emergency, we're also focused on making our streets more shaded and absorbent, creating environments that invite people out, even during extreme heat. I remember an elderly resident who could no longer enjoy her surroundings because there were no benches or shaded areas for her to rest. We want to ensure that everyone, regardless of their mobility, has access to community spaces.

So, as we move forward, rest assured that we are addressing these challenges and learning from each initiative. We are committed to tackling both the climate emergency and the health and wellbeing of our residents.

305 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Question (a) Cllr Clarke to Cllr Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Islington Council is very proud of its adventure playgrounds and values the creative and important work the staff employed by the Islington Play Association does. Can we be assured that our adventure playgrounds and the conditions of staff working in them will be protected?

Response:

Thank you, Tricia, for your important question about adventure playgrounds.

Islington's Labour-run Council are proud of its adventure playgrounds. We have 12 in our borough including one that supports children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Our adventure playgrounds help our children to develop their socialisation skills and to interact and play with other children and supports cognitive development.

I would like to put on record how grateful we are to the organisations that we commission to run the playgrounds for us - Islington Play Association (IPA), Awesome and KIDS. We are aware that IPA is unfortunately experiencing difficulties at the moment and are doing what we can to support them on these matters as an independent organisation and as the legal employer for its staff members. We are aware that IPA is in the middle of a formal consultation with its staff members, and we hope that this consultation leads to positive outcomes.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for your important question

Supplementary Question:

Given that Islington Play Association has been providing children with the space and freedom to explore and develop through play for decades, and considering that workers in these playgrounds are now facing a 20% pay cut or job loss as of the 27th of September, will the Council intervene and request an extension of the consultation period with the Islington Play Association to protect staff, who have been essential to our community for years, from these severe reductions?

Response:

The Islington Play Association is an independent organisation, which means they have their own legal responsibilities when it comes to decisions like staff contracts and pay cuts. While the Council is engaged and supporting the association as much as possible, they cannot directly intervene in the current consultation process. The council urges all staff to actively participate in the consultation, as their input and concerns are crucial in influencing the outcome. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Question (b) Cllr Heather to Cllr Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

I was concerned to hear about a case in my ward, where a school caretaker had been made redundant and given notice to vacate their home. I immediately raised my concerns on this issue with the council's executive member for children's services. In relation to school reorganisations, could I please be assured that the job security of

caretakers is not being compromised and that all the council's relevant employment procedures are being followed? Please could the Executive Member also confirm how the housing security and standards of school caretakers will be protected through school reorganisations, and if it is possible to use directly employed caretakers rather than agency staff?

Response:

Thank you Gary for your question.

As you will be aware the impact on falling school rolls in inner-London primary schools is having a profound impact on schools in Islington. In regards to school reorganisations, we can provide assurance that the Schools Organisational Change procedure is followed very carefully in all cases which include staffing consultations.

Where the rehousing policy applies, Islington's allocation scheme would be applied and there would be direct liaison between the HR team at the council and the Housing team to provide support and put arrangements in place.

The housing team have a procedure in place which is followed to protect housing security and standards of school caretakers affected by school reorganisations. These policies continue to be followed in all cases and set out the eligibility criteria.

The decision around directly employed caretakers is taken by individual schools. However, schools are keen to engage directly employed staff or long-standing contracts for caretakers rather than agency staff.

Once again, thank you Gary for your question.

Supplementary Question:

Thank you for your ongoing work on this matter under challenging circumstances. Could you outline what the major challenges have been in addressing these issues, and have there been any key lessons learned that could help in managing similar challenges in the future?

Response:

Yes, I believe we have an important opportunity here to reflect on the lessons learned. As a local authority, this is a relatively new challenge, and we're learning as we go. One key lesson is that this is a continuous process of improvement.

One of the main challenges we've faced is engaging with all stakeholders effectively. For instance, while we are engaging with current school communities—such as teachers and students—we realise there are many others who have a connection to the school but are no longer directly involved, like former students or community members. Their voices are often missed in the process, and we've found that many questions and concerns arise during public consultations due to a lack of detailed understanding.

To address this, we are planning to organise a large engagement event to bring together people from across the borough, ensuring that everyone, not just the

immediate school community, can participate and understand the decisions being made. It's been difficult to coordinate, but this approach will improve the inclusivity of our consultation and engagement efforts moving forward.

Question (c) Cllr Convery to Cllr Chapman, Executive Member for Equalities, Communities & Inclusion:

From the Returning Officer's records for the General Election held on 4th July 2024, what was the total number of electors at Islington polling stations who were turned away for not having a valid form of photo ID? Of these, how many returned to vote having initially been turned away; and how many did not return to vote?

Response:

Thank you, Paul, for your question. As you will be aware the London Borough of Islington has two parliamentary constituencies: Islington North and Islington South and Finsbury but, De Beauvoir ward in Islington South is in the London Borough of Hackney.

In Islington, the number of voters that didn't return to vote in both Islington North and Islington South and Finsbury were 67, and that includes De Beauvoir ward from Hackney. Excluding De Beauvoir, the total number that didn't return to vote was 56 across the whole borough.

As the Executive Member for Equalities, Communities and Inclusion I am concerned about the impacts of voter ID on already marginalised and disenfranchised communities and welcomed the news from Keir Starmer during the General Election campaign to review mandatory voter ID rules.

Senior Conservative politicians have publicly admitted that the rules were an attempt to boost the Conservative Party's support rather than reduce electoral fraud. Once again, thank you for your important question.

Supplementary Question:

Given that only 0.15% of voters were affected by voter ID rules, this reflects well on the work of our electoral returning officer and staff. However, considering that we still saw a decline in voter turnout—by about 11% nationwide and around 4% in Islington North—this reduced engagement is troubling, particularly after years of erosion of public confidence in the electoral process by the previous Tory government.

Do you agree that it's part of our role as a local institution to rebuild public trust in political systems and to actively engage citizens in the decision-making processes of our borough? Are there specific initiatives the Council is considering encouraging greater civic participation and involvement in Islington's political life moving forward?

Response:

It's true that, during the general election, many of us knocking on doors felt the frustration and disillusionment from the public. People are jaded and feel like politicians are all the same, and it's up to us to show them otherwise. As a Labour Council, we have a responsibility to demonstrate that we can make a real difference in their lives.

In my role as Executive Member for Equalities, Communities, and Inclusion, I can point to some immediate actions we've taken that show real change—like ending the use of barges for housing people and stopping the Rwanda deportation policy on day one of the new Labour government. Additionally, with Angela Rayner's pledge to end the Right to Buy, these are concrete steps that can rebuild faith in the political system.

I'm also excited about the involvement of youth councillors, which is a great way to get young people interested in politics. I strongly believe in lowering the voting age to 16 so young people can participate in elections. Lastly, I want to highlight our upcoming community cohesion event on October 1st, where we'll engage with refugees, migrants, and marginalised communities to show them that their voices matter and that local government can make a difference in their lives.

Question (d) Cllr Russell to Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods:

I am aware of a number of lift outages on estates in Highbury running over multiple days. Data for lift outages in Islington, provided by officers, shows that in the year July 2023 - July 2024, there were a total of 3,532 lift outages in Islington. The majority of these (3,496) were back in service within two hours, but 12 lifts were out of order for three days and 24 lifts were out of order for three weeks (21 days). How do you ensure that vulnerable households affected by multi day lift outages are able to get in and out of their homes to attend school, work, medical appointments or the shops?

Response:

Thank you, Councillor Russell, for your question.

We aim to restore lift services as quickly as possible. In the few cases it is clear the lifts will be out for several days we alert our team in Housing Tenancy who review the support we can provide to tenant.

Assistance is variable and differs depending on the block design, resident vulnerability, and outage period. It may range from welfare checks, assistance by the caretaker with going up stairs or getting shopping, in extreme cases temporary decants (these are rare). The team initially check on vulnerable residents but as the outage continues will begin to check on all tenants. If Ward Councillors are aware of anyone struggling alerting the out of hours team so they can provide assistance is really helpful as we don't always have people's vulnerabilities on file (ie it may be temporary or new). Our new tenancy audit will improve our knowledge of the support our tenants need.

Our housing team are constantly monitoring vulnerabilities reported by council staff, councillors and tenants.

We are also looking at a system to send alerts to all residents of a block in the case of a block outage. This would allow us to send a message updating tenants on the repair and offering a contact for anyone needing assistance.

Thank you once again for your question.

Supplementary Question:

It is concerning that so many of our lifts are in a state where workarounds are necessary, such as decamping residents or relying on tenancy teams to assist vulnerable people when lifts are out of order for extended periods. I understand that many lift parts are now obsolete, and the Council is having to rely on spares from decommissioned lifts. With many lifts beyond their serviceable life, could you explain how we ended up in this situation? Was it a deliberate decision not to replace lifts as they aged, or is this a result of poor planning? How did we reach this point where so many lifts are no longer serviceable?

Response:

It was not poor planning that led to the current situation with lifts. Over the years, the Council has faced significant cuts, and while we do have a lift register for all our blocks, and some parts are outdated, we've made substantial investments. For instance, we've recently allocated around £30 million to estates as part of our lift replacement programme.

The issue is not a deliberate decision to let the lifts fall into disrepair, but rather a lack of sufficient funding to replace them all at once. Lift replacements are expensive, and while we have a plan in place, it must be carried out in phases due to financial constraints. We've also had to address other critical areas, such as fire safety and the impact of rent caps alongside these cuts.

We take lift maintenance seriously—our lifts are insured, monitored, and repaired as needed. However, we are dealing with an aging stock, and replacements take time and resources. While lift breakdowns do happen, we respond quickly and prioritise ensuring residents are not left without support, particularly those on higher floors.

Question (e) Cllr Hamdache to Cllr Chapman, Executive Member for Equalities, Communities & Inclusion:

Can I ask for an update on where we are on finding space for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers sites in Islington?

Response:

In our Manifesto, Islington Labour Party made a firm commitment to finding sites for Gypsies and Roma people.

I am happy to say that work on this task is progressing well.

In line with the recommendations made in the Inspectors' binding Report into the Local Plan and the policy set out in the adopted Local Plan, an early review of the council's planning policy to address the housing needs of Gypsies and Travellers has commenced.

The initial formal step, called a 'Scope of the Review' paper, was consulted on in March of this year.

Planning officers are currently working with consultants to develop several pieces of technical evidence to support the initial draft of the policy.

The next steps are a “call for sites” and engagement on draft site search criteria/methodology, which will take place later this year.

Following this consultation, in the Spring of 2025 a consultation on the initial draft policy and potential site allocations will take place.

It is anticipated that consultation on a final draft policy and proposed site allocations will take place towards the end of 2025. Following this consultation, the draft policy and sites allocations will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for Independent Examination.

I would like to once again reaffirm my commitment and the Labour-led Council's commitment to finding sites for GRT people.

Thank you once again for your important question Councillor Hamdache.

Supplementary Question:

I regularly encounter a family in Highbury Ward who have been forced out of their housing association property due to violence from their neighbours, which is absolutely horrifying. As a local council, we've had an obligation for 20 years to find a site for families like theirs, and we've had a Labour administration for 14 of those years. Ahead of any outcomes from the Local Plan, do we owe families like this an apology for waiting so long for a solution?

Response:

We currently have 15,000 people on our housing list, many of whom are in desperate situations, and this is a direct result of 14 years of austerity and Tory cuts that have severely limited our ability to build the homes people need. For that, I am deeply sorry. However, I am also profoundly grateful that we are now a Labour Council with a Labour government, and we are committed to addressing this housing crisis.

I fully sympathise with the family you mentioned, who are currently living in traditional housing, which doesn't align with their cultural needs and way of life. We are absolutely committed to finding suitable sites for Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller families, so they can live in a way that honours their traditions and preferences.

As I've outlined, this is a complex challenge, especially in one of the most densely populated constituencies in the country. We don't want to place people in unsuitable or unsafe areas, such as next to railways. Our priority is to find the right solution and provide culturally appropriate housing for this family, as well as for the thousands of others in need of secure, decent homes. Thank you for raising this important issue.

Question (f) Cllr Pandor to Cllr Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Islington's Youth Justice Service is a vital service supporting children to reduce involvement with offending and to divert them away from the criminal justice system. What measurable impact has Islington's Youth Justice Service had on improving outcomes for children and their families?

Response (Cllr Comer-Schwartz, Leader of the Council answered on behalf of Cllr Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families):

Thank you Saiqa for your important question.

Our Youth Justice Service (YJS) supports some of the most vulnerable children in the borough. It supports children who have become involved with the youth justice system, but who have often also experienced a high level of trauma and adversity in their lives. Our Youth Justice Services was inspected in May of this year by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation and was rated as being 'Outstanding', which is the highest rating possible.

In terms of performance indicators, Islington has reduced the number of children who enter the youth justice system for the first time by over 50% between 2016 and 2023. The rate of children sent to custody reduced from being the highest in the country as recently as 2018/19 to being below the national average and the re-offending rate for children being supported by the service is in the lowest 10 local authorities in the two most recently published quarter.

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Question (g) Cllr Hayes to Cllr Champion, Executive Member for Environment, Air Quality and Transport:

The climate emergency is having a profound impact globally, but what impact is it having on residents in the borough and as a local authority, how are we preparing for the impact on all residents, but especially to those residents who will be most affected?

Written Response:

-

We are very conscious that climate change is already here and that our residents will be affected.

In Islington, higher temperatures are placing pressure on the built and natural environment, businesses, infrastructure, and residents. High temperatures can lead to a range of adverse health outcomes, either direct harm from overheating, causing dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke (which can be fatal), or through making existing health conditions worse by putting extra strain on the body.

Flooding in Islington is becoming an increasing problem. Local floods in August 2022 and more recently last month were primarily caused by burst water mains, however these events have shown how vulnerable our residents can be when faced with the threat of flooding, most worryingly for those who live in basement flats – of which Islington has a higher proportion compared to other boroughs.

To help make our borough more resilient to the effects of climate change and help protect our communities, the council has set up the Islington Climate Panel. The panel held eight sessions over the summer to discuss this and a number of proposals are now being developed to strengthen our emergency response and communications, develop greater community resilience through partnership work and community support and reaffirm our commitment to greening the borough.

We will continue to work with the panel to develop these proposals and we are starting work on a refreshed climate action plan that will reflect these priorities and embed this work going forwards.

Question (h) Cllr Nanda to Cllr Chapman, Executive Member for Equalities, Communities & Inclusion:

This summer we've seen a series of riots against ethnic minorities and asylum seekers. I'm proud of Islington's history of welcoming people from all corners of the world, I am testament of that proud history. London was resolute in saying no to 'hate'. Can we be assured that Islington will remain on the front foot in reassuring our diverse communities and boldly showcasing the inclusive culture embedded in our borough?

Written Response:

Thank you, Shreya, for your question and I would like to welcome you to your first full council meeting.

In light of the awful event that took place in Southport over the summer and the subsequent disorder and violence that has taken place in the Northwest and other parts of the country, including in London. Our priority has been to keep Islington's diverse communities safe but also to reassure people that Islington is no place for hate and that as a Local Authority we stand with local people.

As the Executive Member, I have been working closely with community organisations across Islington to improve community cohesion through meeting with Muslim Welfare House and Finsbury Park Mosque to name a few.

This is a substantial piece of work around encouraging Islington's diverse communities to all support each other and there will be a community event on 1st October in the Assembly Hall to begin the process of us listening as a Local Authority and working with the community to foster a sense of belonging and to help people help each other through times of crisis, like the violent disorder that took place on our streets over the summer.

Once again, thank you Shreya for your question.

Question (i) Cllr Ibrahim to Cllr O'Halloran Executive Member for Homes and Neighbourhoods:

The Grenfell Tower disaster and the events that have unfolded since are a stain on the public conscience. The tragic loss of 72 lives in 2017 - 18 of whom were children - was entirely avoidable and reflects 'decades of government failure' and 'systematic dishonesty' of companies' as stated in the recently published report. We have

committed to delivering high-quality, safe and affordable homes for Islington residents. Can we be assured that the Council nor the developers we work with are using any of the corporations responsible for making Grenfell Tower unsafe and that the Council's new homes and existing homes will meet the highest standards in building safety, so tragedies such as Grenfell can be avoided?

Written Response:

Thank you, Bashir, for your important question about Grenfell.

I am sure that everyone in this Chamber will absolutely agree with your comments about the tragic, shameful and completely avoidable nature of the Grenfell disaster. I am also sure that all of us here stand in solidarity with the survivors and those who tragically lost their loved ones in the fire.

Of course, the council is completely committed to ensuring that all our residents are safe and that our existing and new council homes meet the current fire safety legislation and standards.

Following the Phase Two Grenfell report, we are scrutinising our services across the Council.

Our new build homes must meet very high standards around:

- Clear egress routes
- The use of non-combustible materials in external walls
- Fire doors
- Robust life safety systems

We do not currently have any contracts with any of the named companies in the Grenfell Enquiry report. Unfortunately, under the current UK procurement legislation we cannot bar any company from applying for contracts tendered by the council. Earlier this month, the Labour Government announced that it will bar companies censured in the Grenfell Report from bidding for public contracts. As a Labour-run local authority we welcome this announcement and await the detail of how it will be implemented.

Once again, thank you for your question.

Question (j) Cllr Jegorovas-Armstrong to Cllr Safi-Ngongo, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

Will the council stop using Ofsted's single word judgements to summarise the overall performance of its schools

Written Response:

Following the recent notification of Ofsted's intention to discontinue the use of single word judgements to summarise the overall performance of schools during the inspection process, in order to ensure alignment with national policy and the requirements of the regulatory framework, local area Education system leaders, including colleagues in schools and settings, will align with and deploy any replacement wording, once the information is made available by the Inspectorate and DfE.

306 INTERVAL

The Council adjourned for approximately 15 minutes.

307 CONSTITUTION REPORT

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) This report proposes amendments to the Constitution to ensure that the document remains to date and fit for purpose.
- (ii) The report proposes amendments to the Scheme of Members' Allowances to reflect the formation of a new Opposition Group.

308 POLITICAL BALANCE AND PROPORTIONALITY

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Note that the political balance of the Council is:
 - 44 Members of the Labour Party Group
 - 4 Members of the Islington Independents Group
 - 3 Members of the Green Party Group

309 APPOINTMENTS REPORT

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

Committee Appointments:

- (i) That Councillor Hayes be appointed as a Vice Chair of the Environment, Climate and Transport Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (ii) That Councillor McHugh be appointed as Vice Chair of Homes and Communities Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until successors are appointed;
- (iii) That Councillor Nanda be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;
- (iv) That Councillor Turan be appointed to the Licensing Regulatory Committee, and be appointed as Vice Chair of the Licensing Regulatory Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed;

- (v) That Councillor Khondoker be appointed as a member of the Grievance Appeal Committee for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed.
- (vi) That Councillor Turan has stood down as a member of the Investigating and Disciplinary Committee, and that a successor will be appointed.

Other Appointments:

- (i) That Cllr Clarke be appointed as Reading Champion for the remainder of the municipal year, or until a successor is appointed.
- (ii) That Ian Ship be appointed to the Pensions Board as an Employer Representative for a period of three years, or until a successor is appointed.

Term of office of independent persons and co-optees:

- (i) That the terms of office of the Independent Persons appointed for Standards matters, and the Independent Co-Opted Members of the Audit and Risk Committee, be extended to 31 December 2024, or until a successor is appointed.

310 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2024/25 - QUARTER 1 BUDGET CHANGES

Cllr Ward moved the recommendations in the report.

Cllr Hamdache contributed to the debate. Cllr Ward exercised their right of reply.

The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To agree the addition to the Capital Programme of £1.790m for Future Work Phase 2 funded by borrowing to reflect a technical accounting adjustment to capitalise existing expenditure. Note that this is not new council spend.
- (ii) To agree the reduction of £1.292m from New River College SEND/Elthorne funded by borrowing.
- (iii) To agree the addition to the Capital Programme of £3.366m for the Disabled Facilities Grant funded by grant to reflect a technical accounting adjustment to capitalise existing expenditure. Note that this is not new council spend.
- (iv) To agree the reduction to the Capital Programme of £12.852m for the placeholder relating to Decarbonisation – Grant Match Funding funded by borrowing.
- (v) To agree the reduction to the Capital Programme of £2.267m from Elmore Street & Lindsey Mews Current New Build funded by capital receipts.

311 MONITORING REPORT

Cllr Craig moved the recommendations in the report. The recommendations were put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) To note the decision detailed in this report and the attached appendix.

312 NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 2 – Stop Fatalities from Catastrophic Bleeding

Councillor Woolf moved the motion. Councillor McHugh seconded.

Councillors Russell and Weekes contributed to the debate. Councillor Woolf exercised their right of reply.

The motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Publicly thank and congratulate Lynne Baird for her efforts in memory of her son Daniel to found The Daniel Baird Foundation which has had success in promoting the need for Bleed Control Kits across the UK.
- (ii) Work with key community stakeholders to find more locations for Bleed Control Kits across Islington, so that we can extend the provision of these lifesaving kits.

Motion 3 – A Safer Nighttime Economy

Councillor Weekes moved the motion. Councillor Staff seconded.

Councillor Russell contributed to the debate. Councillor Weekes exercised their right of reply.

The motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Write to the UK Government to seek clarification around changes to the law about making spiking a specific criminal offence.
- (ii) Continue to support initiatives that actively challenge cultural attitudes that have made sexual assault and harassment a normal part of a night out.
- (iii) Work with trade unions representing musicians, performers and entertainers to ensure that workers are best protected from spiking and the consequences of spiking.

Motion 4 – Standing together against racism and fascism.

Councillor Chapman moved the motion. Councillor Hamdache seconded.

Councillors Cinko-Oner, Ibrahim, Bossman-Quarshie, Hyde, Graham, McHugh and Gilgunn contributed to the debate. Councillor Chapman exercised their right of reply.

The motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Support the call from Government Ministers to review the role of tech companies amidst the UK riots, with the emphasis that social media must ensure that there is no safe place for hatred and illegality on their platforms.
- (ii) Urge the Government to clearly address not just social media but crack down on the press and any instigators of hate.
- (iii) Request that the Government address the rise in far right and consider that it cannot simply be attributed to social media and that 14 years of austerity has created a culture of hate and blame,
- (iv) Further promote the work of the Council's Hate Crime Prevention Champions, and engaging residents to lead on, take ownership and support our drive to tackle hate crime in Islington.
- (v) Continue to actively work with our faith and community members of all backgrounds in Islington to celebrate our borough's diversity and support community cohesion. Be purposeful and explicit in our council communications, and to always name the riots this August as racist.

As the meeting reached 10:30pm the following motions were put to a vote without discussion and deemed formally moved and seconded in accordance with procedure rule 18.2 of the Constitution

Motion 5 – Play in Islington

The motion was put to a vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Continue to change the way we approach place, by promoting play across our streets and open, green spaces, investing in physical activity which contributes to good mental health.
- (ii) Protect, grow and prioritise funding for adventure playgrounds.
- (iii) Recognise the achievements of the playworker workforce through award ceremonies and public promotion.
- (iv) To continue to celebrate Playday and start celebrating UN's International Day of Play next year.

Motion 6 – Two-Child Benefit Limit

An amendment to this motion had been circulated.

The amendment was put to a vote and CARRIED. The amended motion was put to the vote and CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- (i) Call on the government to scrap the two-child benefit limit and the benefit cap, and to express that as councillors we supported the removal of the two-child benefit limit at the earliest opportunity.

- (ii) To review the impact of this Council's council tax reduction scheme on larger families.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm

MAYOR