

COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JUNE 2016

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

- a Councillor O'Halloran to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development:

Housing is a hugely important issue for residents in my ward and for everyone across the borough. Can you tell me what your priorities will be in your new role?

- b Councillor Debono to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Families:

In recent years the council has had an excellent relationship with local schools, and this has helped to achieve brilliant results and progress for our young people. Given the government has made it clear that it still wants to see all schools become academies, what is the council doing to ensure that Islington's community of schools model is protected?

- c Councillor Nick Ward to Councillor Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Social Care:

According to government figures, the proportion of people living with HIV in London is three times higher than the average across England, and in 2014, London accounted for 45 per cent of all people diagnosed as HIV positive in England. In Islington, more than 1,200 people are living with HIV. Given that these figures show a rise in the prevalence of HIV in London, do you agree with me that NHS England's decision not to commission the highly effective HIV prevention treatment, PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), represents a serious risk to the work undertaken to tackle HIV, and do you share the concerns of the Terence Higgins Trust which has said that the delay in commissioning PrEP will see seven more people contract HIV every day?"

- d Councillor Poyser to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

There was recently a shooting incident in Elthorne Park involving a pellet gun. One victim was struck in the arm, but did not need hospital treatment. A second victim was taken to hospital as a fragment of pellet hit them in the eye. What attempts are being made by the council and partners to ensure that weapon ownership, of any kind, in the Borough is monitored and what efforts are being made to reduce weapon ownership?

- e Councillor Poyser to Councillor Hull, Executive Member for Finance, Performance and Community Safety:

There has recently been another attempted suicide on Archway Bridge. Luckily the victim was saved. It is obviously important that any changes to the bridge are well tested with world class experts to ensure that suicide becomes impossible, while there is minimal effect on the appearance of the Victorian Bridge, an Islington landmark. Both Islington and Haringey Planning Committees have agreed to Transport for London's plans last year. Is there an idea of when we can expect to see the anti-suicide changes to the bridge, and any other suicide prevention measures?

- f Councillor Ismail to Councillor Caluori, Executive Member for Children, Young People & Families -

Most of Islington's Secondary Schools are thriving since the Labour administration, that I am proud to be part of, came into office in 2010. However, my question concerns the comments of parents and young people that Year 10 and 11 students are being excluded more than students in other years, at a time that is a critical turning point in a young person's life.

Can I ask why that is the case, and how many Year 10 and 11 students have been excluded in the last few years, with a breakdown by gender and ethnicity. In addition, may I ask what information we have about what happens to these young people and, what power does the Council have to support schools or influence them not to exclude students, particularly those in Years 10 and 11 , so that young people do not face difficulties in future?

- g Councillor Ismail to Councillor Shaikh, Executive Member for Economic Development –

What has been achieved in the last 12 months since you have been lead member for economic development, what are the issues for economic growth development in the borough that you will be developing, and what two areas will you prioritise in the next 12 months for economic prosperity in our borough inclusive of gender, age and ethnicity?

h Councillor Russell to Councillor Watts, Leader of the Council:

In October 2015 this council passed a motion on Prevent resolving:

- To work with local schools, school governors and local faith groups to ensure that the implementation of Prevent is effective, sensitive and constructive.
- To work with local groups to ensure extremism is challenged collaboratively rather than driven underground or over exaggerated.
- To praise the many local community and faith groups who work across our borough to improve community cohesion and prevent violent extremism.
- To work with local Trade Unions, universities and faith groups to make representations to government and local MPs to request the Government to change the elements of the anti-terror programme that damage community cohesion and are therefore counter- productive.

What progress has been made on this work?

i Councillor Russell to Councillor Diarmaid Ward, Executive Member for Housing and Development

I would like to congratulate the Executive Member for Housing on his appointment and ask him if he will set out his plans for increasing council housing in the borough?