



# ISLINGTON

## COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JUNE 2016

### NOTICES OF MOTION

#### 1. Motion No. 1 – Tenant Tax

Moved by Councillor O'Sullivan

Seconded by Councillor Jeapes

This council notes

- That the Housing and Planning Act received Royal Assent on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- That this legislation includes significant and damaging changes, such as, increasing rents for some working tenants living in council housing, forcing councils to sell the most valuable council homes, and ending secure lifetime tenancies for new council tenants.

This council believes that this legislation will have extremely negative consequences for social housing and working families in Islington, and represents a threat to the mixed communities that we in Islington are proud of.

This council further notes –

- That the legislation will see tenants in council housing forced to pay higher rents should their household income exceed £40,000 per year.
- That a household earning £45,000 would be £750 worse off per year as a result of this new charge.
- That this new charge is levied on taxable income of council tenants and will be paid to HM Treasury to contribute to 'deficit reduction', and therefore represents an additional tax on working people living in council housing.

This council resolves to –

- Refer to the increase in rent charges levied on council housing tenants with incomes over £40,000 per year as the 'Tenant Tax'.
- Offer advice and information to all Islington tenants that may be affected by the introduction of the Tenant Tax and other measures within the Housing and Planning Act.
- Continue to make representations to government to change elements of the Housing and Planning Act that will have such negative effects on Islington, such as, the Tenant Tax and the forced sale of council homes.

## **2. Motion No. 2 - Andargachew Tsege, British National Illegally Detained in Ethiopia**

Moved by Cllr Alice Donovan

Seconded by Cllr James Court

Islington Council acknowledges with great concern and dismay the continued detention of UK national, Andargachew Tsege in Ethiopia, following his kidnapping and illegal rendition to that country on 23 June 2014.

The Council wishes to remind the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs, of the series of unlawful acts perpetrated against Mr Tsege by a Foreign State. Namely, that on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014, Mr Tsege was kidnapped at Sana'a Airport, Yemen, and illegally rendered to Ethiopia by the Ethiopian authorities. He was held in *incommunicado* detention at an unknown location for over a year before being transferred to a Federal Prison in July 2015, where he continues to be held in arbitrary detention. Mr Tsege has been convicted *in absentia* three times by the Ethiopian Government, whilst he was living in London.

This Council further notes the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture's March 2016 conclusion that Mr Tsege was sentenced to death *in absentia* in 2009, "without due process", and deplores the complete absence of due process in Mr Tsege's case, despite recent assurances given to the Foreign Secretary that Mr Tsege will be allowed "legal access".

This Council is very concerned by the Ethiopian Government's continuing use of the country's legislative and judicial framework to stifle dissent and convict political opponents, including Mr Tsege, in politically motivated trials; concurs with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention's Opinion No. 2/2015 (on Ethiopia and Yemen) and Resolution of the European Parliament recommending Mr Tsege's immediate release; and regrets that the Government has not yet urged the Ethiopian Government to release Mr Tsege's.

This Council resolves that -

The Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Foreign & Commonwealth Affairs to make further representations to the Ethiopian Government calling for Mr Tsege's release and return home to the UK as a matter of urgency.

## **3. Motion No. 3 - Responding to the new Mayor of London's proposed Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) consultation**

Moved by Councillor Russell

Air pollution is a major public health problem in Islington. Community projects monitoring NO<sub>2</sub> across the borough continue to expose illegally high levels of nitrogen dioxide on busy roads where people live, work and study.

This Council therefore welcomes the proposals from new Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to expand the ULEZ consultation area from the existing congestion charging zone to include all boroughs, including Islington, in the area bounded by and including the North and South Circular roads.

With a consultation on the plans expected soon, this Council resolves to:

Ask the Executive to respond positively and to make recommendations for further measures that would achieve pollution levels within legal limits in as short a time as possible for Islington, as required by the law.

These measures include:

- the introduction of the ULEZ before 2020;
- bringing the North and South Circular roads into the new ULEZ zone and allowing boroughs with parts that lie beyond the North and South Circular to opt their whole areas into a wider zone;
- plans to help reduce traffic levels and the distances people and goods are driven;
- support for car-free housing in planning policies;
- practical support for workplace, school and hospital travel plans;
- investment in quietways, protected cycle routes, Copenhagen crossings and other measures to help people make daily journeys on foot, by bike and on public transport;
- the development of new and extensive networks for charging electric vehicles;
- allocating cleaner buses to routes that use Islington's main roads, which have been found to have the highest levels of pollution;
- developing a wider network of automatic pollution monitoring sites, with clear real-time information for residents about levels of pollution and support for community air pollution monitoring.