

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Date: Tuesday, 11 June 2019

Time: 19:00

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, New Broadway, Ealing, W5 2BY

Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Gulaid) and Deputy Mayor (Councillor M Ahmed); Councillors S Ahmed, J Anand, P Anand, Anjum, Aslam, Ball, Bell, Blacker, Block, Burke, Busuttil, Byrne, Chohan, Conlan, Costigan, Cox, K Crawford, Dabrowska, Dhadwal, Dhami, R Dheer, H Kaur Dheer, Dhindsa, Donnelly, Driscoll, Gordon, Jammu, Johnson, Kelly, Kumar, Lusuardi, Mahfouz, Mahmood, Malcolm, G Mann, R Mann, Manro, Martin, Mason, Midha, Millican, Mohan, Morrissey, Murtagh, Nagpal, Padda, Raza, Rice, Rooney, Sabiers, Sahota, Sharma, Shaw, A Stafford, G Stafford, Steed, Summers, Sumner, Taylor, Tomlinson, L Wall, R Wall, Woodroffe and Young

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Cox, Byrne, Dheer, Kaur Dheer, Rai, Raza and Summers

Urgent Matters

Motion moved by Cllr Gordon and seconded by Cllr Millican.

“to change the order of business on the agenda (rule 12(3) of the [Standing Orders](#)) to allow item 11.3 (Motion *not* for debate: Standing Against Racism and Discrimination in Ealing) to be taken immediately after item 7 (petitions from members of the public).”

After a vote, the motion was **agreed**.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 2 April 2019 and 7 May 2019 be agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Rajinder Mann for his long service of 25 years as Councillor for Norwood Green Ward.

The Mayor announced with sadness the passing in April 2019 of former Alderman Dr Ivor Williams, a member of the Council and Chair of the Planning Committee in the 1970s.

The Mayor invited members to attend the strawberry and champagne reception on Friday 5 July 2019 from 6pm to 9pm in the Mayor's Parlour. Tickets £20.

The Mayor informed members of Armed Forces Day on Saturday 29 June 2019; members attending should meet on the Town Hall steps at 11am.

Council expressed their sympathy and held a minute's silence for those affected by the tragic events in Sri Lanka in April 2019.

Petitions from Members of the Public

Wesam Khaled on behalf of the West London Revolutionary Communist Group, presented a petition signed by 572 signatories stating

“Solidarity with Palestine! No to IHRA!

We the undersigned declare the following:

- *We are opposed to any move by Ealing London Borough Council to adopt the IHRA definition of anti-Semitism. Such a motion should be voted down by all councillors.*

Anti-Zionism is not anti-Semitism. The adoption of the IHRA definition by any public body or political party harms solidarity with Palestine.”.

Cllr Bell responded

It is true to say that the part of this definition of antisemitism that has prompted the most debate has been the ‘examples’, and particularly those relating to Israel. However, two things must be understood about the examples:

- 1) Firstly, the definition explicitly states that “criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic.”
- 2) And secondly, the examples are illustrative, they are not hard and fast rules. The examples are introduced by stating “Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to.”

I do believe that this definition prevents anyone from expressing solidarity with Palestine or criticising the Israeli government.

There are those who could seek to misuse the definition, but that no more invalidates the definition than the misuse of health and safety rules invalidates the right of every worker to a safe working environment.

Any definition of antisemitism must capture the fact that rhetoric around Israel can be antisemitic, as one of the examples in this definition states, it is antisemitic to hold Jewish people as a collective responsible for the actions of the Israeli government.

This council is committed to standing against racism and discrimination in all its forms, including protecting the right of communities to define their oppression.

We have a duty to protect all of our communities in Ealing, and it is my firm belief that adopting the full IHRA definition, with all of its examples, is the right thing to do.

Questions from Members of the Public

Carolyn Brown from Hanwell Library Users Group, asked Council the following question

“ According to the Draft Library Strategy documentation, the seven libraries at risk of closure have been identified as expendable because the wards in which they operate are not designated as areas of high Multiple Deprivation. Specifically, for Hanwell Library, Hobbayne and Elthorne Electoral Wards are the designated Wards, and they not identified as Wards of Multiple Deprivation. Our question to you is why have Electoral Ward boundaries been chosen, rather than actual Library catchment areas, for making these critical calculations about areas of deprivation and the value of these libraries?”

Councillor J Anand responded

The council's budget gap means that we have to look at ways of providing library services differently in order to safeguard the future of the service. We value libraries and have sought to work with the community to ensure that the service remains sustainable.

The starting point for the draft strategy is to ensure a sustainable library service. This means continuing provision of the larger main town centre libraries (Acton; Central; Northolt and Southall) and provision of two branch libraries in areas of higher deprivation need in Northolt and Southall.

The remaining 7 we propose that these neighbourhood libraries are made available as community managed libraries through partnering with residents and local communities. We have said that if no partners came forward we would have no option but to look at closures.

We had an extensive consultation for 12 weeks, including on line survey, face to face surveys, public meetings, library drop in and a conference on community managed libraries which was very well attended. We also invited expressions of interest in working with us to safeguard the future of our libraries.

We are pleased that residents and local community groups are keen to work with us and have signalled their interest in community managed libraries by submitting expressions of interest.

We are currently analysing all the findings and will be presenting a report to cabinet on the outcome of the consultation and the interest we have received. But I am pleased to say that we have had interest in all 7 libraries.

- The draft library strategy used two data sets to determine need. These are the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

- These are the main sources of information widely used nationally to identify relative need in general/ overall

Electoral wards provide a more relevant picture of need across the borough as compared to library catchment areas.

Catchment areas for the library service uses a 2.0 mile radius. This is based on a reasonable travel time on foot and user data. This is an area much larger than a ward and would not provide a granular enough picture of deprivation.

Although the IMD data is produced at very small, Lower layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs), there will always be 'pockets' of deprivation within a given ward i.e. out of the 8-10 LSOAs comprising any ward, one or two LSOAs may fall within the most deprived 10% of the borough even though the ward overall is not identified as having high levels of deprivation.

Questions from Members of the Council

1. Councillor Kumar asked Councillor J Anand

“Several library petitions signed by over 10,000 residents of Ealing, have met the threshold to have a debate at Full Council. When will the petitioners be allowed to exercise their democratic right to have that debate?”

Answer:

Cllr Anand J responded

Firstly, the question of whether these petitions are heard at full council is not a political one.

The Council has acted on advice from the Director of Legal and Democratic Services.

All the libraries petitions relate to outcomes of the council’s formal consultation on the draft libraries strategy. The outcomes of that consultation will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 16th July and not at full council.

This means that debate on issues raised by these petitions will take place at the Cabinet meeting in July.

2. Councillor L Wall asked Councillor Mason

“Would the portfolio holder update us on progress toward the target of delivering 2,500 genuinely affordable homes?”

Answer:

Cllr Mason responded

Since April 2018, a total of 533 homes 21% have been delivered with the council providing 109 homes towards the genuinely affordable housing target and our housing association partners contributing 424 homes broken down into tenure types of 513 London Affordable Rents (social housing) and 20 London Living Rent.

This currently excludes the shared ownership and intermediate housing tenures at the lower price points which may also meet the definition of genuinely affordable.

The target of delivering 2500 genuinely affordable homes by March 2022 was a centrepiece of Ealing Labour’s bold and ambitious 2018 manifesto, which won the overwhelming support of local people in Ealing.

I’d also like to say a thank you to our London Labour Mayor Sadiq Khan, who demonstrated his trust in Ealing to deliver by giving us the second biggest housebuilding grant in London

I’m proud that Ealing council is making progress to deliver the biggest genuinely affordable homes target in London. While the Tory government is failing to deliver for Ealing and doing nothing to tackle our housing crisis, this Labour council is ambitious and working hard to provide the genuinely affordable homes that people desperately need.

3. Councillor Steed asked Councillor Bell

“Can the leader provide an update on the disposal of the Old Library on Acton High Street?”

Answer:

Cllr Bell responded

I’m happy to provide an update on the Old Library.

The council’s proposal for the site is to look for a tenant to take a lease and pay an annual rent rather than selling the building, with the rental income providing revenue for the Council.

There have been some organisations that have expressed an interest in the building, including local organisations, retailers and leisure operators. Officers have so far had some informal meetings with these organisations.

The plan is now to run a marketing campaign of about one month, starting later this week, to enable all interested parties to put in a bid. As part of the marketing campaign, the council will prepare details of the property for interested parties and a letting board will be placed on site.

The principal objectives for the Council will be a combination of maximising rental revenue and attracting a use suitable for the local community and promoting regeneration of Acton High street.

4. Councillor Dabrowska asked Cllr Camadoo-Rothwell

“Can the portfolio holder update us on the plans for proposed fencing around Ealing Common?”

Answer:

Cllr Camadoo Rothwell responded

Following a number of encampments on Warwick road, we have decided to revisit the fencing proposals to include the closure of Warwick Road.

To do this we will be applying to the Secretary of State for consent in the near future, as soon as we have determined the best option for securing boundaries at Ealing Common.

5. Councillor Padda asked Cllr Bell

“Last week we heard of Donald Trump’s plans to put our NHS on the table for a UK-US trade deal post-Brexit, threatening to bring in US style privatization and affecting the provision of services that local people in Ealing rely on. What message does the portfolio holder have for local people in Ealing who are concerned about the impact of a Tory-Trump trade deal on our NHS?”

Answer

Cllr Bell responded

It was frankly chilling to hear Trump talk about our NHS being a bargaining chip for a post-Brexit trade deal.

I am so proud of our NHS.

Like everyone in this room, I’ve relied on it to care for myself and my loved ones.

It’s difficult to imagine life without fair access to healthcare for all.

In stark contrast, the American health care system is grossly unfair. Many of us will have seen stories in the media of people bankrupted by a broken leg, unable to afford chemotherapy for a curable cancer, or even crowdfunding for basic medical procedures.

We will do all we can to resist Trump’s poisonous politics in Ealing.

While you cannot trust the Tories on the NHS, I am pleased to say that this Labour council is on the side of local people in standing against a Tory-Trump trade deal. and any threat to our wonderful NHS.

6. Councillor Ball asked Councillor J Anand

“The £800k forecast to be saved by making 7 of our libraries community managed does not meet the overall libraries cut target. Does this mean that you expect that some of the 7 will have no community bid and will therefore be closed entirely? If not how will the shortfall be met?”

Answer:

Cllr Anand J responded

Thanks to the austerity policies introduced by the Liberal Democrat and Tory coalition government in 2010, the overall saving we need to achieve for the library service through the proposed changes is £1.142m. The council is trying to safeguard services and provide services in a different way while delivering our savings target.

I can confirm that just over £800k can be achieved through changing our operation to a mixed model of council run and community managed libraries.

The rest of the saving comes from IT costs as we have moved to a new Library Management Information system, commissioning the Home Library Service through a third-party organisation and other operational efficiencies.

7. Councillor Costigan asked Councillor Johnson

“In light of the ongoing protests in Birmingham against inclusive Sex and Relationship Education, and this council’s commitment to tackling discrimination in all its forms, could the portfolio holder comment on whether this is an issue for Ealing, and what the council is doing to promote inclusive sex and relationship education?”

Answer:

Cllr Johnson responded

I am pleased to confirm that the council is fully committed to supporting all schools in implementing the new requirements for the teaching of Relationships Education in primary schools and Relationships and Sex Education in secondary schools.

Unfortunately, there have been isolated incidents where campaigners have targeted groups of parents outside schools and asked that they sign pre-written template letters requesting that their children be withdrawn from inclusive RSE lessons in primary school. However, there is evidence that the campaigners are not parents of children in Ealing schools.

The council has been working with the National Association of Headteachers to ensure that all headteachers are appropriately supported in preparing for the statutory changes in 2020.

A series of briefings for all headteachers were delivered in May by the council’s Health Improvement Team to support schools in adopting consistent approaches. We have also arranged an evening briefing for councillors on 26 June from 6-7 pm to promote a shared understanding of expectations and to support ongoing dialogue with parents and community groups. I hope to see members at that important meeting.

Petitions from Members of the Council

There were none

Motions with Notice

11.1 Opposition Motion

Councillor G Stafford moved the motion
Councillor Sumner seconded the motion
Councillor Malcolm moved an amendment to the motion
Councillor Busuttil seconded the amendment
Councillor Costigan responded
Councillor Rice responded
Councillor Manro responded
Councillor J Anand responded
Councillor Johnson responded
Councillor Mason responded
Councillor Sumner summed up
Councillor G Stafford summed up

Councillor G Stafford accepted the amendment.

After a vote, the motion as amended was **lost**

11. 2 Other Motions for Debate

Councillor Camadoo-Rothwell moved the motion
Councillor Burke seconded the motion
Councillor Steed moved an amendment to the motion
Councillor Busuttil seconded the amendment
Councillor Rooney responded
Councillor Block responded
Councillor Johnson responded
Councillor Millican responded
Councillor Young responded
Councillor Steed summed up
Councillor Camadoo-Rothwell summed up

After a vote the amendment was **lost**

After a vote the motion was **agreed**.

The motion read

Motion for a General Election

This Council notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has announced her intention to resign on 7th June after almost three years in office. During this period the government has continued to pursue the austerity agenda introduced by the Tory and Liberal Democrat coalition in 2010, and failed to deliver for the people of Ealing:

- Despite claims by Prime Minister Theresa May that “austerity is over”, many council budgets are at breaking point. Since 2010 Ealing council has lost £143 million from its government grant, a reduction of 64% – greater than the London and national averages.
- In February, the Resolution Foundation released a report forecasting that a combination of stagnating wages and government cuts to benefits could lead to 37% of children in the UK living in poverty by 2024 – a higher proportion than in the early 1990s.
- Young people are paying the price for austerity with reduced funding available for youth services and fewer police resources to tackle knife crime. Schools budgets have also

been slashed by £2.8bn since 2015, and Ealing schools will have lost £7.4 million in overall funding between 2015 – 2020, £173 per pupil.

- Ealing has lost 300 police officers due to short-sighted Tory austerity, making it more difficult to tackle crime in our borough and making local people feel less safe.
- The government has failed to address the huge black hole in council funding for social care. The Local Government Association has stated that adult social care services face a £3.6bn funding gap by 2025 in order to maintain existing levels of provision, placing additional pressure on the chronically underfunded NHS.
- Since 2012, Ealing Council has been campaigning against government plans to close blue-light A&Es at Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals through the 'Shaping a Healthier Future' programme. Thanks to this campaign, the Council has this year been successful in saving Ealing and Charing Cross hospitals.
- The government has failed to give councils the powers and funding needed to tackle the housing crisis. Despite dramatic funding cuts from Theresa May's government, Ealing Council has pledged to build 2,500 genuinely affordable homes, the highest target in London. This Council could go further without unprecedented cuts to the core government grant.
- London Mayor Sadiq Khan has stepped in to provide £1 billion in funding for Councils in London, including over £99 million to build 1,138 homes in Ealing, while the government has failed to act.
- The government's enforcement of a 'hostile environment' for immigrants, introduced by Theresa May as Home Secretary, has caused huge upset and had devastating consequences on people's lives. The use of so-called 'Go Home' vans in Southall caused huge offence and made people feel unwelcome in this borough.
- As Prime Minister, Theresa May repeatedly refused to guarantee the rights of EU citizens post-Brexit, causing upset and instability for EU citizens resident in Ealing and elsewhere in the UK.

The Council notes the announcement by Prime Minister Theresa May that her successor will be elected by internal Tory party processes by mid-July. This Council calls for:

An immediate General Election to give local people the opportunity to vote for a government which will deliver for Ealing.

An end to nine years of ideological austerity and the reversal of devastating cuts to Council funding, to allow this Council to deliver more for local people in Ealing. A pledge to inject desperately needed funding into public services including the NHS, with no more threats to cut or close local hospital services

11.3 Motion Not for Debate

Councillor Mason moved the motion.

Councillor J Morrissey seconded the motion

After a vote the amendment was **lost**

After a vote the motion was **agreed**.

The motion read:

Standing Against Racism and Discrimination in Ealing

This Council adopts the definition of antisemitism, including its examples, as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, and adopts the definition of Islamophobia, including its examples, as set out by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims.

This Council condemns all forms of racism, Islamophobia, antisemitism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, pregnancy and maternity discrimination, ableism and sexism and reaffirms our commitment to fighting against them.

[full text of definitions included as appendices on the agenda]

Reports from Officers

There were none.

Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

There were none.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 23 July 2019.

The meeting finished at 21.45.

The Meeting ended at: 22:00