

Minutes of the meeting of the Council

Date: Tuesday, 27 April 2021

Time: 19:00

Venue: Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Councillor Munir Ahmed, Councillor Shahbaz Ahmed, Councillor Jasbir Anand, Councillor Praveen Anand, Councillor Sitarah Anjum, Councillor Mohammad Aslam, Councillor Jon Ball, Councillor Julian Bell, Councillor Josh Blacker, Councillor Fay Block, Councillor Linda Burke, Councillor Gary Busuttil, Councillor Theresa Byrne, Councillor Joanna Camadoo-Rothwell, Councillor Jaskiran Chohan, Councillor Paul Conlan, Councillor Deirdre Costigan, Councillor Lewis Cox, Councillor Daniel Crawford, Councillor Kate Crawford, Councillor Joanna Dabrowska, Councillor Karanvir Dhadwal, Councillor Tejinder Dhami, Councillor Ranjit Dheer, Councillor Kamaljit Dhindsa, Councillor Stephen Donnelly, Councillor Paul Driscoll, Councillor Yoel Gordon, Councillor Amarjit Jammu, Councillor Yvonne Johnson, Councillor Harbhajan Kaur-Dheer, Councillor Anthony Kelly, Councillor Mrs Seema Kumar, Councillor Carlo Lusuardi, Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, Councillor Tariq Mahmood, Councillor Gary Malcolm, Councillor Gurmit Mann, Councillor Rajinder Mann, Councillor Shital Manro, Councillor Dee Martin, Councillor Peter Mason, Councillor Mohinder Midha, Councillor David Millican, Councillor Karam Mohan, Councillor Timothy Murtagh, Councillor Kamaljit Nagpal, Councillor Swaran Padda, Councillor Binda Rai, Councillor Aysha Raza, Councillor Miriam Rice, Councillor Sarah Rooney, Councillor Mik Sabiers, Councillor Kamaldeep Sahota, Councillor Charan Sharma, Councillor Gareth Shaw, Councillor Gregory Stafford, Councillor Andrew Steed, Councillor Chris Summers, Councillor Nigel Sumner, Councillor Hitesh Tailor, Councillor Lauren Wall, Councillor Ray Wall, Councillor Simon Woodroffe, Councillor Anthony Young

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor.
The Deputy Mayor therefore chaired the meeting.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Bell declared he was a board member for Transport for London, but that he recused himself from any decisions that affected funding for local authorities in order to prevent a conflict of interest.

3 Matters to be Considered in Private

There were no matters to be considered in private.

4 **Minutes of meeting held on 2 March 2021**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021 are agreed as a correct record of proceedings.

5 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Deputy Mayor expressed his condolences to the Royal Family on the death of Prince Philip and led the council in observing a minute's silence in remembrance of the Prince's life and achievements.

The sad death of a serving Council Officer, Arshad Yunis, was highlighted to Council and speeches were made by each of the political groups on the Council to pay tribute to Arshad. Arshad was the Council's Business Rates Manager.

In closing his announcements, the Deputy Mayor highlighted the huge human cost the COVID-19 pandemic was having in India. Many of the borough's residents, and serving Councillors, had ties to the country and the Mayor conveyed his thoughts, prayers and best wishes for all who had family and friends living there.

6 **Public Petition for Debate**

Councillor Ball presented a public petition, which had gained 2309 signatures, for debate on the subject of:

We call on Ealing Council to keep the Acton Reuse and Recycling Centre open permanently.

Councillor J Anand responded to the petition as the portfolio holder.

Councillors Mahfouz, Stafford and Steed spoke on the petition.

7 **Petitions from Members of the Public**

There were no petitions from members of the public.

8 **Petitions from Members of the Council**

There were no petitions from Members of the Council.

9

Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public.

10

Questions from Members of the Council

Councillor Young asked Councillor J Anand:

How much has the Council issued in fines for drivers passing through LTN barriers?

Councillor J Anand responded:

The total number of Penalty Charge Notices issued was 37049 and the income received from fines was £1.469 million.

I would remind Cllr Young that the council rightly issued warnings without fines for several weeks to allow people to adjust to new routes.

Over 60% are being issued to people who do not live in the borough.

The general level of PCNs issued across all LTNs are plateauing and are expected to further reduce.

Councillor Dhadwal asked Councillor Camadoo-Rothwell

Can the portfolio holder give us an update on the work of the Ealing Race Equality Commission?

Councillor Camadoo-Rothwell responded:

I'm pleased to say that Lord Woolley and the Commissioners have agreed to extend the lifetime of the Commission from May to the autumn to allow the Commission to cover the subjects they have identified in sufficient depth and to increase the time they have to engage with as many people as possible on these important subjects.

The Commission has now held three (formal) meetings in public:

1. Covering the remit and objectives for its work;
2. Covering health and housing, including a presentation from, and questions to, the Director of Public Health for London, Professor Kevin Fenton;

3. Last weeks meeting focussed on Crime and Justice with a discussion on the impact of stop and search on young people, followed by questions and discussion with the Borough Commander, and with founder of Southall Black Sisters, Pragna Patel, and a slot on police recruitment with a representative from the Met Police.

The formal meetings have been punctuated by a series of other engagement exercises including online and meetings with stakeholders. The three very well-attended focus groups with councillors were very helpful to the Commission so I'd like to thank all councillors who took part, and the issues raised in these are being considered by commissioners as part of their evidence and their lines of inquiry.

Future sessions will cover income and employment, education, and participation and democracy, and we will revisit issues that we haven't had time to cover properly in the sessions so far.

We continue to run an open survey through which anyone can submit their experiences and views, and we are asking questions specific to each theme via social media, and we are planning to carry out engagement in person at events over the summer once that becomes possible.

As a Labour Council we will never be complacent about inequality. That's why we've invited independent commissioners to look at what we as a council, and other institutions in our borough, can do to tackle it.

Unlike the Tories, we're not looking for a report to deny inequalities and racism, we want one that will give us the tools and recommendations we need to stamp it out.

Councillor Malcolm asked Councillor Bell:

Given the controversy of the MIPIM real estate conference does the Leader agree with the alleged comments of former portfolio holder Cllr Peter Mason as reported in My London, that "I know I've made mistakes, one of those mistakes was by accepting sponsorship from the Ealing and London branch to go to MIPIM in 2019?"

Councillor Bell responded:

I don't agree. The reality is that MIPIM is the world's largest property exhibition and a chance for the Council to meet thousands of developers, investors, designers and contractors

under one roof and to highlight the opportunities and growth potential within the borough.

We can be proud that Ealing is the most ambitious council house building borough in London, but the Council cannot deliver 2,500 genuinely affordable homes alone and needs to work with the private sector to achieve our targets.

Being at MIPIM puts us in direct contact with businesses who can deliver development and allows us to showcase the reasons why they should invest in the borough - and make clear the expectations the Council has of developers and partners.

This is part of the Council's work to ensure the future success of the borough and secure thousands of new homes and jobs via the growth of more construction, business, retail and cultural facilities. This will be even more vital post Covid.

Like many councils, Ealing Council has attended MIPIM for the last 11 years under both Labour and Tory administrations and receives sponsorship from a range of organisations, so we are able to attend at no cost to local taxpayers. Costs cover the MIPIM exhibition stand and promotional material and all related travel and accommodation.

Ealing In London sponsorship in no way influences the council's decision-making processes or planning committee's decisions. The planning committee is a quasi-judicial body made up of elected councillors, none of whom attend the conference or work with developers on the council's behalf.

As a teetotaler with a busy diary I'd much prefer MIPIM took place within a half hour cycle ride, but that's not up to me.

There have been a number of beneficial outcomes for the borough from the attendance of officers and councillors at MIPIM. These include:

West London Alliance and West London boroughs – The WLA have also attended MIPIM and Ealing has been able to showcase joint working with other west London boroughs and the opportunities across West London that are of benefit to Ealing.

Direct access to key decisions makers and senior Government players MIPIM provides an opportunity to promote Ealing to key decision makers in the public sector and also to debate, lobby and explain about key issues for development in Ealing to senior policy and decision makers in the GLA and Government.

MIPIM also enables the council to raise money for charity (in 2018 Coram) through the sponsored cycle charity ride which the leader of the council and officers from the team have participated in from London to Cannes.

The council attends MIPIM as Ealing In London which is a partnership model comprising the local authority, developers, housing associations and higher educational establishments.

Ealing In London's objective is to encourage inward investment into the borough to help ensure our residents and businesses have the best possible opportunities to thrive and grow.

Ealing In London allows the council and the private sector to share good practice; discuss and develop new approaches to delivering development. It also allows us to share and discuss policies such as the Greenprint agenda and our zero carbon targets with the private sector helping ensure they collaborate with us to achieve our objectives.

Councillor Stafford asked Councillor Bell:

Given the admission by the former Labour Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Peter Mason, that he made a mistake in accepting sponsorship from developers to attend the MIPIM conference in Cannes, does the Leader of the Council regret likewise taking money from developers to fund this lavish trip; and will he return the money?

Councillor Bell responded:

Mr Mayor, I think I've covered this in answer to Cllr Malcolm. But I'd like to point out to Cllr Stafford that as a teetotaler with a busy Ealing based diary, I'd much rather MIPIM took place within a half an hour cycle ride.

Councillor Driscoll asked Councillor J Anand:

I was pleased to see the council promoting Earth Day in our communications last week. In that spirit, can the portfolio holder give us an update on work being done within our Climate Strategy?

Councillor J Anand responded:

Mr Mayor, I'm very happy to answer this important question, and there is a lot of work going on!

As you know, the Ealing Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy was adopted in January 2021 by Ealing Council. There are currently four key themes in the plan that set out how the borough will become carbon neutral by 2030. A fifth theme, food systems, is being developed collaboratively with community partners, and will be consulted on in June 2021.

Teams across the council are collaborating to deliver £6.7m to retrofit homes and council buildings and build local skills. This funding will provide the retrofit of up to 40 council buildings, schools, 40 council homes and up to 100 private homes.

We have also just completed another successful season of tree and hedgerow planting. During winter 2020/21, 956 standard trees (which are large trees) were planted as street trees and in parks and 5000 whips (which are small trees) were planted in a Rectory Park hedgerow.

The Biodiversity Action Plan will be ready for publication in late May 2021. In support of the targets, wildflower seeding will commence soon across the borough's parks and open spaces and housing estates.

The transport team has delivered 12 school streets serving 14 schools and providing safe streets with improved air quality to encourage children to walk and cycle to school.

Consultation will be launched next week to determine support for making the schemes permanent. At the end of May, they will be going out for consultation to add eight additional schools.

We're also trialling LTNs across the borough. While we know there are strong opinions about them, we're committed to trying bold new ideas to help tackle the climate crisis.

The waste minimisation team is preparing to extend the communal food waste service to flats; the programme is set to start in June 2021 and will help achieve the aim of 95% of homes having access to food waste services. They are also working hard to ensure that food waste is being collected in the eleven areas of the borough where we are trying to improve performance.

#ACTFOREALING - a collaborative climate action hub made up of community partners and the council was soft launched in

February. Content and partnerships are now being created, and a full launch is expected in summer 2021.

There is some really exciting work behind our climate strategy, and I will make sure councillors are kept up to date with progress.

11 **Opposition Motion for Debate**

The Deputy Mayor confirmed that the party whips had agreed to combine the debate on the opposition and other motion for debate. However separate votes would be taken on both motions.

Councillor Stafford moved, and Councillor Millican seconded the Opposition Motion for Debate. Councillor Ball moved and Councillor Steed seconded and amendment. Councillors Bell, Burke, Kumar, Driscoll, Young, Kaur Dheer, Sumner, Mason, Dabrowska, Costigan, Rai and Blacker responded to the motions. Councillor Ball summed up the amendment and Councillor Stafford summed up the motion.

A vote was taken and the amendment FELL.

A vote was taken and the motion FELL.

12 **Other Motions for Debate**

RESOLVED:

This council commends the record of London Mayor Sadiq Khan

This Council notes the achievements of Sadiq Khan as our Labour Mayor of London:

- Made commuting more affordable for millions of Londoners
- Introduced the hopper bus fare and frozen TfL fares for 4 years
- Opened the night tube and overground
- Tackled polluted air through the world's first ultra low emissions zone
- Planted over 250,000 trees, more than the previous administration in 8 years
- Cleaned up our taxis and buses
- Tripled the amount of protected cycle lanes
- Started building more council homes than in any year since 1984
- Ditched the useless Tory definition of affordable homes
- Gave tenants the right to vote on estate regeneration
- Invested £70m to create more opportunities for young Londoners
- Funded the met police violent crime taskforce
- Funded 1,300 extra police officers for London in the face of Tory cuts

- Provided legal advice for our EU citizens in the face of Tory Brexit
- Stood up for London's values – against both Trump and Boris Johnson

This council believes that Sadiq Khan has been a Mayor for all Londoners and notes that the upcoming Mayoral election on 6th May will be a two-horse race between Sadiq Khan and the Tory candidate.

13

Motions not for Debate

Opening up local democracy

RESOLVED: That

This council notes:

- Regulations allowing virtual meetings expire on 7th May, before vaccination against Covid 19 is complete
- Virtual arrangements have opened up decision making in Ealing and other authorities to new levels of transparency
- Virtual arrangements have benefited councillors' ability to provide care for families while still fulfilling their responsibilities as elected representatives
- Until vaccination is complete, any in person meetings will pose a risk of transmission
- Government advice to reduce meetings and rely on increased use of delegated authority and individual decision making reduces accountability and scrutiny of decision making

This council believes:

- It is irresponsible of the government not to extend regulations allowing virtual meetings for local authorities while Parliament can still sit under hybrid arrangements
- Permanent virtual or hybrid arrangements for some meetings will open up opportunities for more Ealing citizens to consider putting themselves forward to be councillors, removing barriers around caring responsibilities
- It is undemocratic to encourage authorities to bypass public, transparent decision making and rely on delegated authority and individual cabinet member decisions to avoid meetings

This council resolves:

- To respond to the MHCLG call for evidence positively regarding the ability to hold virtual and hybrid arrangements to be made permanent
- To voice its support for Lawyers in Local Government, Association of Democratic Services Officers and Hertfordshire County Council court action to declare virtual and hybrid arrangements to be legal under existing legislation
- To write to the Secretary of State demanding they reconsider extending regulations

This Council stands against male violence and harassment of women and girls

RESOLVED: That

This Council notes:

- The pain and grief felt by so many after the murder of Sarah Everard last month, and the importance of remembering the many women who have lost their lives to male violence, including Wenjing Lin, Nicole Smallman and Bibaa Henry.
- More than two women are killed every week by male violence.
- Only 1.5% of reported rape cases result in charges.
- Black, Asian and other ethnic minority women, transgender women, lesbian and bisexual women, migrant women, women with disabilities and women living in poverty are all particularly vulnerable to experiencing violence.
- Misogyny and the exploitation and violence against women are endemic in our society.
- The inclusion of misogyny as a hate crime to be recorded by police only this year, thanks to a campaign by Labour MP Stella Creasy.

This Council believes that all women have the right to feel safe and to live their lives without fear of violence or harassment. The government has not done enough to tackle male violence against women and action is long overdue.

This Council calls for:

- Long term, stable funding from government for specialist support for domestic abuse survivors including funding providers led by and for Black, Asian and other ethnic minority survivors, LGBT+ survivors and survivors who are disabled, deaf or blind – Women’s Aid estimate that “by and for”

services would cost £393m per year compared to the cumulative financial impact of domestic and gender-based violence on society of £66bn annually

- Immediate action taken to bring rapists to justice with the number of people prosecuted and convicted for rape at the lowest level since records began. This must include fast-tracking rape and serious sexual assault cases through the courts and improved support for survivors
- Following the recommendations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Domestic Violence and Abuse, ensure there is a firewall to separate immigration enforcement from services supporting survivors of gender-based violence and abuse and ensure all women including migrant women and women with no recourse to public funds can safely and confidently access domestic violence support services
- Following recommendations by Our Streets Now and Plan International UK, move forward with legal change and make public sexual harassment a crime. Relentless harassment is restricting the freedom of women and girls and making them feel unsafe. The law isn't fit for purpose and public sexual harassment is going unreported and unpunished. From parks, university campuses and bus stops to our local high streets, women and girls are harassed everyday. It is time to make it a crime
- Sufficient funding for specialist trauma-informed mental health services for survivors and victims
- Reflecting on the findings of the Victims Commissioner Dame Vera Baird in her report on Rape Survivors and the Criminal Justice System which highlighted that just 14% of survivors of rape believed they would receive justice by reporting the crime to the Police. The Government end-to-end rape review must tackle head-on the systemic issues preventing women reporting violence and abuse
- Noting that only one in five victims of domestic abuse calls the police; we support the public health approach to violence reduction as espoused by London's VRU and the World Health Organisation as well as calls for ring-fenced long-term funding for the NHS to ensure all survivors of domestic abuse have access to health-based specialist domestic abuse advocates in all health settings endorsed by domestic abuse charity SafeLives
- Ensuring that the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill does not increase the discretionary powers of the Police to prevent protest and significantly restrict civil liberties and the power of citizens and communities to have a voice in how they are governed

- The national personal, social, health and economic, and relationships and sex education curricula in schools must include actively tackling harmful gender stereotypes (for men and women) and all young people must learn about domestic and gender-based violence, hate crime and their right to report and access justice

This Council commits to bring forward proposals to tackle misogyny and violence against women and girls in Ealing.

14 **Standards Committee Annual Review 2020/21**

RESOLVED: That Full Council

1. Noted the work and achievements of the committee and its independent people during the past year.
2. Noted and approved the updated Standards Procedure, set out at appendix 2.

15 **Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies**

RESOLVED: That Ms Jessica Mathews is appointed as an independent member of the Victoria Hall Trust.

16 **Urgent key decisions exempted from call-in**

RESOLVED: That the urgent key decisions exempted from call-in are noted.

17 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled to take place on 18 May 2021.

18 **Duration of Meeting**

7.04 pm to 9.48 pm.