

**CABINET RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2011**

**ITEM 4 – PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Questions asked of the Chairman of the Committee**

**ITEM 12 – ADULTS IN HOUSE BUSINESS CASE**

**From Tirza Waisel:**

1. At various points in the report you refer to the high standards of services delivered by LBB employees. You draw the conclusion that if these standards are to be maintained and not compromised, then the cost of services for the service users has to come down. At the same time you hope to secure LATC profits (i.e. generate income to the council) by providing services to self-funders and users from other boroughs in year 3-4 and on, for which, according to the report, you will maintain the same level of staffing or even increase it. How do you hope to achieve this and reduce costs? Where will the savings/financial benefit for the council come from if you are to maintain the currently high quality of service?
2. The Council will own the LATC, will appoint the Board of Directors, and will continue to approve the Personal Budgets. Assuming people are assessed as still needing services of the kind provided by the LATC and wish to have their services provided by the LATC, what guarantees are there that the personal budgets issued will always be sufficient for service users to purchase the range, quantity and level of services that will enable them to maintain high quality of life and well-being on all aspects of needs, and to continue using the service in the same way they do now?
3. It is very difficult to see the difference that transferring services from in-house provision to LATC will make or the benefit to the council or to service users. What guarantees do we have that the LBB will be able to maintain control of the LATC holding company? How will you ensure it will not be sold on in the future to a private profit making company? How will you reassure Barnet residents that payments made to private companies for management of the LATC or for consultation fees will not result in a waste of public or self-funding service users' money?
4. It is clear from your report that you haven't conducted yet a market research to support your claim that from year 3-4 Barnet LATC services will be sought by self-funders and service users of other boroughs. If this is indeed the case, what is the basis for this assumption that there will be a financial benefit to this exercise?
5. The proposal of creating a LATC under which different entities operate – Barnet Homes and Adults Social Care, involves some risk to Barnet

Homes as pointed out in the report. Tenants may have been informed about the change, but what is the extent of the consultation being proposed for tenants and when will tenants be balloted?

6. How many users of services involved in the LATC have expressed a wish to receive their personal budget as a direct Payment?

**From Julian Silverman:**

7. The business case for establishing a LATC is full of phrases taken from the language of business and commerce. It speaks, for example, of a “more strategic and commercial approach” and at another point, of a “pseudo-commercial setting”[?]. It also expresses some enthusiasm for “trading activities”, “increased income generation”, “a surplus”, “additional income streams” and “competing in the open market”, “the free market” etc. It also refers to the people who elect the council as “customers” and tells us that “the LATC will be able to trade and generate income from persons in receipt of personal budgets”. While the references to “reduced employee costs” and “adjustments in staffing” indicate all too clearly how the council would like to make savings - and at whose expense - it is not clear at whose expense their profits are to be generated: is it going to be the sick, elderly and disabled or is it simply other councils?