

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, 13 September , 2005, at 7.00pm

A G E N D A

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Council Meeting

13 September 2005

Agenda and Timetable

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<u>Part 1 - Statutory formalities/ Announcements (15 minutes)</u>	7.00pm – 7.15pm	
1.	Prayer		
2.	Apologies for absence		
3.	Minutes of last meeting held on 28 June, 2005		1 - 41
4.	Official announcements		
5.	Declarations of interest		
6.	Any business remaining from last meeting		
	<u>Part 2 – Question Time (30 minutes or until 7.45pm, whichever is the longer)</u>	7.15pm – 7.45pm	
7.	Questions to the Leader and Cabinet		To be circulated separately
	<u>Part 3 — Members' Motions (60 minutes)</u>	7.45pm – 8.45pm	
8.	Motions in the order in which notice has been given		
8.1	From Councillor Phil Yeoman Council is delighted that London will host the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012. Council congratulates the London 2012 team led by Lord Coe, supported by the Mayor of London, Greater London Authority, the Government and all three main political parties, on bringing the 2012 Olympics to London.		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<p>Council believes the Olympics will bring huge benefits to Barnet and the whole of London, encouraging a legacy of regeneration and jobs, improvements to public transport, and world-class sports facilities for our children's future.</p> <p>Council asks the Cabinet to write to the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and the Olympic Delivery Authority to pledge the London Borough of Barnet's support to work in partnership for a successful Olympics.</p> <p>Councillor Yeoman has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		
8.2	<p>From Councillor Brian Salinger</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>London Bombings</u></p> <p>Council notes with deep sadness the London Bombings of 7 July, attacks on our City that killed more than 50 and injured at least 700 innocent people.</p> <p>Council further notes that at least 8 residents of the Borough were among those killed by the atrocities.</p> <p>Council condemns utterly the individuals and organisations responsible for this outrage. We believe their wicked act was aimed to drive a wedge between the communities that exist in harmony in our great and diverse city.</p>		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<p>Council by contrast pays enormous tribute to the very brave and effective response of all the emergency services, transport staff, hospital personnel, as well as members of the public that lent a hand to their fellow citizens in their hour of need.</p> <p>Council believes that without their sterling work, more people would have been killed in the terrorist attacks.</p> <p>Council welcomes the multicultural harmony of the London Borough of Barnet. This is a Borough where residents, of all faiths and creeds, live and work in peace together, united in condemnation of the bombings.</p> <p>Council resolves to stand steadfast against the hate and oppression these extremist individuals and their cohorts stand for, and to work with all the communities and organisations in the Borough to ensure that there is no place for such evil criminals in our society.</p>		
8.3	<p>From Councillor Kath McGuirk</p> <p>Council notes the petition signed by over 3,300 residents calling upon the Council to reinstate the pest control 'ratcatchers' service.</p> <p>Council notes that residents who were previously charged £6 for the council's pest control service could now face private contractors' bills of over £200. Council believes that pest control should be affordable for all residents because inaction against pests by residents deterred by higher costs has a detrimental impact on the whole neighbourhood.</p>		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<p>Council notes the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) report published in May 2005 which showed that since the pest control service was closed the Council has had to more than double the number of notices issued to residents to deal with rats on their property.</p> <p>Council notes the DEFRA report concluded “there was no evidence that the Council proactively carried out inspections in order to meet the requirements” of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949. Council therefore asks the Cabinet to implement the recommendations of the DEFRA report by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conducting a detailed audit of the Council's operations to fulfil its statutory duties under the 1949 Act, • fulfilling the Council's duty to deal with rats coming from sewers, and • ensuring staff charged with ridding council land of rats receive additional training. <p>Council welcomes the commitment in-principle to the re-introduction of the pest control service. Council therefore asks the Cabinet to bring forward a report to the next Cabinet meeting on 11 October containing proposals for a pest control service offering subsidised provision to residents on lower incomes, and proposals to implement the DEFRA recommendations.</p> <p>Councillor McGuirk has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
8.4	<p data-bbox="311 241 746 275">From Councillor Melvin Cohen</p> <p data-bbox="311 315 724 349">Happy Birthday Green Belt</p> <p data-bbox="311 394 783 499">Council welcomes the news that the Green Belt celebrated its 50th birthday on 3 August.</p> <p data-bbox="311 539 772 757">Council believes that the Green Belt is instrumental in protecting the attractive environment of the Borough, and protecting our suburbs from excessive development.</p> <p data-bbox="311 797 820 1014">Council notes that Hendon Council was the first authority in the country to designate land as Green Belt, and further notes that the Green Belt extends through the middle of the Borough of Barnet.</p> <p data-bbox="311 1055 820 1227">Council is however dismayed by moves by the government to force Councils to release Green Belt land for development, trying to turn the Green Belt into an “Elastic Belt”.</p> <p data-bbox="311 1267 820 1440">Council believes, in contrast, that the values of the Green Belt are as valid now as they were in 1955: the Green Belt must be site specific, permanent, and sacrosanct.</p> <p data-bbox="311 1480 820 1742">Council resolves to celebrate the anniversary of the Green Belt, and calls on Cabinet to take what action it can to ensure that Barnet’s beautiful environment, that owes so much to that policy is protected for generations to come.</p>		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
8.5	<p>From Councillor Monroe Palmer</p> <p>Council notes with alarm proposals to review the opening times of the Edgware Hospital walk in centre. Council expresses its view that any reduction in opening hours from the current 24 hour service would represent an unacceptable cut in the level of health provision in the Borough. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the PCT to give them early warning that this authority will oppose the outcome of any such review if it recommends a reduction in opening hours.</p> <p>Council notes that the facilities at Edgware Hospital were used extensively as part of the election campaign of the Labour Party and their candidate, Andrew Dismore. Council notes that in none of the Labour Party's election material was any mention made of a potential reduction in services at Edgware. Council trusts that there will not be a repeat of 1997, when the Labour Party promised a review of the decision to close the A&E at Edgware - and reneged upon that promise 19 days after the General Election. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to all three Barnet M.P.s informing them of the contents of this motion.</p>		
	Break	8.45pm – 9.00pm	
9	Part 4 – Policy Development (60 minutes)	9.00pm – 10.00pm	
9.1	Administration Item: No Cash Cameras		42
9.2	Opposition Item: Barnet Register Office		43

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	Part 5 – Accountability (20minutes)	10.00 pm- 10.20pm	
10	Comments on the work of the Cabinet (10 minutes) –		
10.1	From Councillor Steve Blomer To comment on the work of the Cabinet concerning the continuing problems of anti-social behaviour and the future of the derelict community building at Stoneyfields Park, Edgware.		
10.2	From Councillor Alan Schneiderman To comment on the work of the Cabinet concerning the provision of youth services and the implementation of the former Culture Scrutiny Committee majority and minority reports on youth services in the borough.		
11.	Questions to council representatives on outside bodies (10 minutes)		
11.1	From Councillor Matthew Offord Can the member(s) please advise how much revenue surplus there was from the NLWA's budget at 31 March 2005		
11.2	From Councillor Maureen Braun Will Cllr Evans please tell the Council what role the Barnet link member of the Metropolitan Police Authority (Mr Peter Herbert) played at the June 29 Annual Meeting of the Barnet Police Consultative Group? How often, to her knowledge, has Mr Herbert attended meetings during the last 5 years?		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
11.3	From Councillor Brian Coleman Will Councillor David list the Community organisations (other than Barnet Council) that have hired either of the two theatres at the Arts Depot since it opened?		
11.4	From Councillor Brian Coleman Will Councillor Hope tell the Council what discussion about advertising and publicity by the Arts Depot has taken place at Board meetings ?		
11.5	From Councillor Brian Coleman Does Councillor Davis consider that the Arts Depot is operating at a profit ?		
	Part 6 – Statutory Council Business (40 minutes)	10.20pm – 11.00pm	
12.	Reports from Cabinet 4 July : Youth Justice Plan		44 - 112
13.	Reports from overview and scrutiny committees		
14.	Reports from Other Committees		
15.	Reports of Officers		
15.1	Democratic Services Manager		113 - 172
1.	Changes in Committee Memberships		
2.	Executive decisions exempted from call - in		
3.	Changes to Constitution		
4.	Vacancies on School Governing Bodies		

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
5.	Vacancies arising from Reconstitution of School Governing Bodies		
6.	Representation of the Council on Outside Bodies		
7.	Representation of the Council on Stonegrove and Spur Road Partnership		
8.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme		
15.2	Monitoring Officer		

John Marr, Democratic Services Manager

Town Hall,
The Burroughs,
Hendon, NW4 4BG

Report of Cabinet

4 July 2005

Cabinet Members:

*Cllr Brian Salinger (Chairman)

Councillors:

* Fiona Bulmer	* Anthony Finn BSc	* John Marshall
* Melvin Cohen, LL B	Econ FCA	* Matthew Offord
* Katia David BSc	* Mike Freer	* Kanti Patel M BEng
MBA JP	* Christopher Harris	MCIQB FFB MCMI
	BA BSc MPhil	

* denotes Member present

\$ denotes Member absent on Council business

1. **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN (Report of the Cabinet Member for Children – Agenda Item 9):**

Cabinet considered the attached report of the Cabinet Member enclosing the draft Youth Justice Plan 2005/06.

Because the Youth Justice Plan was a statutory plan reserved for approval by full Council, Cabinet, for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's report

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND – That the attached annual Youth Justice Plan 2005/06 be approved for submission to the Youth Justice Board

AGENDA ITEM: 9 Page nos. 31 – 35 (& separate enclosure)

Meeting Cabinet
Date 4 July 2005
Subject Youth Justice Plan 2005-2006
Report of Cabinet Member for Children
Summary The attached plan is submitted for approval by Cabinet and full Council prior to submission to the Youth Justice Board.

Officer Contributors Kate Malleson, Youth Offending Service Manager
Status (public or exempt) Public
Wards affected All
Enclosures Youth Justice Plan 2005-2006 (separately circulated)
For decision by }
Function of } Council
Reason for urgency/exemption from call-in (if appropriate) N/A

Contact for further information: Kate Malleson, 020 8359 5535

- 1. RECOMMENDATIONS (FOR REFERENCE TO FULL COUNCIL)**
 - 1.1 That the attached annual Youth Justice Plan be approved for submission to the Youth Justice Board**
- 2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**
 - 2.1 The Youth Justice Plan 2002-2005 (2004-2005 update) was approved on 22nd March 2004 and referred to full Council for submission to the Youth Justice Board.
- 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**
 - 3.1 Tackling Crime is of one the Council's five key priorities.
 - 3.2 The Council's Local Public Service Agreement with the Government includes a target to reduce re-offending by 10-17 year olds by 8% by January 2006.
 - 3.3 There is also a key target for the reduction of youth re-offending within the Safer Communities Strategy 2005-2008 which is a reduction of 5%.
 - 3.4 A further significant target concerns the reduction of first time entrants to the criminal justice system which contributes to the wider prevention agenda.
- 4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**
 - 4.1 Youth Justice Board grants will continue to be paid on receipt of an acceptable plan and performance information. Criteria for the plan being judged acceptable include that it is submitted to the Youth Justice Board by 30th June 2005, having been approved by full Council and containing the appropriate Chief Officer signatures. The Youth Offending Service (YOS) Manager has negotiated with the Youth Justice Board an agreement to submit a cleared draft plan after the Cabinet Meeting on 7th July with its signing-off after full Council on 13th September 2005. This target date must be achieved in order to secure grant funding.
- 5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**
 - 5.1 Staffing implications, workforce development and training plans are detailed in the Plan.
 - 5.2 The YOS is operating at full capacity in terms of accommodation.
 - 5.3 Possible changes to the ICT infrastructure are being considered at present.
 - 5.4 The YOS budget has been increased by £36,000 to fulfil its statutory obligation to provide appropriate adult services.

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 The Youth Offending Service is a statutory service under the terms of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
- 6.2 The Youth Justice Plan is required by section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 The Constitution reserves the approval of this Plan to full Council.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 8.1 The attached plan is this year's Youth Justice Plan 2005-2006. The planning requirements for the new financial year build on previous guidance and requirements and explicitly bring together the different aspects of the Youth Justice Board's performance management framework for Youth Offending Teams. This is a statutory plan requiring approval of full Council. It is drafted in prescribed form, and requires the YOS to plan its activities around 15 delivery themes. In addressing these individual themes the plan draws together work in hand to deliver against the YJB's key performance indicators and key elements of effective practice. The Plan is designed to act as a business plan and to consolidate performance data submitted quarterly to the Youth Justice Board.
- 8.3 The planning guidance makes reference to the Comprehensive Performance Assessment process and the contribution youth justice Performance will be making to this process through the Joint Area Review arrangements.
- 8.4 The information provided within the plans will be used by the Youth Justice Board in a number of ways including:
 - Comparative analysis between YOTs – e.g in relation to resourcing levels
 - An overview of the delivery challenges facing YOTs across England and Wales
 - As a basis for the YJB's Regional Managers and Performance Monitors to engage with YOTs on a performance improvement agenda, including support for the delivery of actions within plans and reviews of progress against actions
- 8.5 The report includes an update against government targets and the governance and planning arrangements. Key points are:

- A sustained improvement in performance moving from 122nd place in the YJB's performance league table to 77th place at the end of 2004
- A reduction in recidivism between re-offending cohorts tracked over 24 months
- The integration of the Youth Offending Service into the Children and Families Division
- The reconfiguration of the YOS steering group into a Management Board reflecting a change of role to that of performance managing the prevention of youth crime agenda and ensuring the local delivery of the statutory principal aim to prevent offending by children and young people
- The Chair of the YOS Management Board "Youth Justice Matters" is the Head of Children's Services and is a member of both the Safer Communities Board and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board, thus ensuring consistency between the criminal justice and children's services agendas
- The Effective Practice Quality Assurance Process has identified evidence-based improvements in practice particularly in relation to parenting interventions, assessment, planning, interventions and supervision, education, training and employment and the delivery of final warnings

8.6 The coming year will see an increased focus on:

- Improving performance in relation to increasing the numbers of young offenders into education, training and employment. Nationally, as well as locally, this has been a considerably challenging target for Youth Offending Services
- A reduction in the number of remands into custody and custodial sentences.
- The quality of parenting interventions
- An overarching theme of "life on the streets" which considers young people as both victim and perpetrator. This latter theme encompasses anti-social behaviour as it applies to children and young people. In terms of preventative measures, with funding from the Children's Fund, the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel in the YOS will aim to reduce the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system by identifying young people aged 8-13 years at risk of offending, assessing their needs, and developing an individual support plan to address those needs and, with partners, delivering a diversionary service.

8.7 Another significant focus in the coming year concerns actions arising out of the race audit.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

BT: HG

DRAFT



Youth Justice Plan

2005 – 2006

DRAFT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	Summary	4
B.	Local Planning Environment	6
C.	Drivers of Performance	7
	C.1 Governance and Leadership	7
	C.2 Performance and Quality Systems	121
	C.3 Resources	132
	C.4 People and Organisation	18
	C.5 Partnership Working	20
D.	Preventing Offending and Minimising the Use of Custody	
E.	Achieving Improved Outcomes for Children and Young people who Offend	
F.	Review and Approval	
G.	Appendices	
	Appendices	
Appendix A:	Organisational Chart	53
Appendix B:	Performance Measures	54
Appendix C:	Race Audit Action Plan	59

A. SUMMARY

Key objectives for the forthcoming year:

Barnet Youth Offending Service has consolidated improved performance over the last year and successfully established a platform for youth justice that embraces national and corporate priorities for community safety and high quality services to individual children and their families.

Key achievements in 2004-05 include:

- Improved performance: the service moved up from 122 to 77 in the Youth Justice Board's Performance League Table at the end of 2004. Performance as compared to Boroughs with similar demographic characteristics shows a sustained upward trend.
- Reduction in re-offending: performance, although unconfirmed at the time of writing, indicates a reduction in the recidivism of the 2002 cohort tracked over 24 months (28.8%), compared with the 2001 cohort tracked over the same number of months (32.5%).
- The LPSA target of reducing re-offending by 10-17 year olds by 8% in January 2006 is on track.
- Full integration into the Children & Families Service has been achieved providing a clear platform from which to develop, articulate and implement a clear strategic vision for children and criminal justice in Barnet
- Improved governance: terms of reference for the management of the Youth Offending Service have been strengthened. A new Board, Youth Justice Matters, is chaired by a chief officer reporting to both the Safer Communities Board and the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board. This has ensured that both the criminal justice and children's services agendas are joined. New terms of reference include a robust focus on performance management. A senior level of membership, together with regular and committed attendance by all partners is delivering improved outcomes for children and young people who offend or who are at risk of offending in Barnet. The programme of work has included detailed analysis of performance information, the mapping of the Youth Offending Service and partner agencies' KPIs, a review of critical success factors for effective partnership working and partner engagement in delivering improvement.
- A positive Effective Practice Quality Assurance inspection highlighted significant improvement in the delivery of interventions in Final Warnings. Assessment, planning, interventions and supervision have also improved as has parenting work. In relation to education, training and employment, performance has remained stable and a comprehensive action plan is in place to drive this up over the next year.
- Completion of a Race Audit and action plan which will be monitored by the Youth Justice Matters board

Key objectives for 2005-06:

- Improve Education, Training and Employment (ETE) opportunities
- Reduce the number of remands into custody and custodial sentences
- Improve the number and quality of parenting interventions.
- Contribute and positively influence the “life on the streets” agenda, which considers young people both as victim and perpetrator. This theme encompasses anti-social behaviour as it applies to children and young people and close partnership work across both criminal justice and children’s services is in place to address this problem.
- Prevent offending: in response to the Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy, a small number of young people will be the focus of attention by police under the Catch and Convict strand. A second group of young people, regarded as potentially the next generation of prolific and priority offenders, are being targeted for a premium service under the Prevent and Deter strand.
- Enhance early intervention and prevention: the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel is targeting an even younger group of children and young people who have been identified as being at risk of offending together with those who are not yet in contact with the criminal justice system.

B. LOCAL PLANNING ENVIRONMENT

Local planning environment particularly looking at how the right balance is being achieved between children's services and crime and disorder / community safety:

- The Youth Offending Service is located within the Children and Families Service of the local authority.
- The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB) brings together representatives of all services with responsibility for children and young people in Barnet. Barnet is aiming to have a common approach to children's services planning from April 2005.
- The vision of Barnet's Safer Communities Board (SCB) is to make people in Barnet feel safe through tackling crime and communicating the facts about crime and what is being done to improve people's safety. Young people in the community are one of the strategic priorities of the Safer Communities Strategy 2005-2008.
- Youth Justice Matters is the Youth Offending Service Management Board, Chaired by the Head of Children's Services, who is a member of both the CYPSPB and the SCB. A presentation is made bi-annually to both Boards which ensures effective linkages between the children's and criminal justice agendas.
- The Youth Offending Service Manager is a member of the Local Criminal Justice Board.

How the objectives and priorities of other agencies complement or conflict with the YOS's goals:

- The mapping of YOS and partner agencies' key performance indicators and where these either constrain or conflict with one another has formed part of the work programme of Youth Justice Matters and will continue to do so during the coming year. This work complements work being undertaken by the Youth Justice Board and the exercise has been conducted in partnership with one another.
- Close partnership work will be key to successful outcomes where priorities and targets appear to compete.

Actions that will take place in the next year to enhance engagement at a strategic level with these other partners

- Ongoing work to increase understanding of partner agencies' regulatory environment – targets, priorities and sources of funding – will help identify the benefits of partnership and secure partner engagement.
- Detailed analysis of performance information and the provision of hard evidence will be a feature of the strategic planning environment e.g. of cases where statutory services have not been provided or examples of how effective partnership work can overcome obstacles
- Continuing to review the partnership against the critical success factors for effective partnership-working as provided in the Youth Justice Board Guidance "Sustaining the Success"

The drawing-up and signing of formal agreements/protocols between partner agencies covering aims and objectives, funding issues, monitoring and review, and dispute resolution together with an explicit focus on implementation arrangements and with periodic reviews. This will ensure the partnership has a formal foundation and can withstand changes of personnel in key positions and partner engagement in delivering improvement

C. DRIVERS OF PERFORMANCE

C.1 GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

Overview particularly looking at strategic management and leadership arrangements:

Role and Composition of Management Board “Youth Justice Matters” and frequency of meetings

- To corporately performance manage the prevention of youth crime agenda and to ensure the local delivery of the statutory principal aim to prevent offending by children and young people
- To report performance bi-annually to both the Safer Communities Board and the Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership Board to inform strategic planning decisions aimed at preventing youth crime
- The Chair of the Management Board is the Head of Children’s Services and is a member of both Boards ensuring consistency between the criminal justice and children’s services agendas
- To ensure the existence of an appropriate support infrastructure provided by all partner agencies
- To ensure delivery of the Youth Justice Plan locally
- To ensure provision of appropriate training and development opportunities for Youth Offending Service staff
- To ensure adequate resourcing of the Youth Offending Service with appropriate contributions by all partner agencies
- To ensure that young offenders or those at risk of offending are able to access mainstream services
- To provide management oversight to a discrete Youth Offending Service which is positioned appropriately in relation to the criminal justice system and children and young people’s services
- To ensure that aggregated ASSET data is used to improve the joint planning and commissioning of local services
- To ensure members have the seniority to make decisions, exercise strategic oversight and have the ability to influence the commitment of resources to the Youth Offending Service or the wider youth crime prevention agenda.
- The group meets bi-monthly.

Strategic Vision:

Achievement of improved outcomes for children and young people who offend, prioritising the following three areas:

- Education, Training and Employment
- Parenting Interventions
- Minimising the Use of Custodial Remands and Sentences.

An over-arching theme is that of life on the streets for young people as both victim and perpetrator, including anti-social behaviour.

Table A: Composition of Management Board

Name	Agency representing	Post in agency	Ethnicity	Gender
Chair: Paul Fallon	Children and Families	Head of Children's Services and Director of Social Services	White	Male
Flo Armstrong	Connexions and Youth Service	Head of Youth Service and Connexions	White	Female
Emma Baatz	Children and Families	Divisional Manager Family Support Division	White	Female
Alison Corcoran	London Borough of Barnet	Principal Education Social Worker	White	Female
Peter Fernandez	Safer Communities Team	DAAT Co-ordinator		Male
Philip Halsey	Police	Chief Inspector		Male
Nigel Hamilton	London Borough of Barnet	Head of Housing Services	White	Male
Judy Mace	Barnet Primary Care Trust	Assistant Director – Children and Young People's Services		Female
Tom Morrissey	Street Enforcement Service	Street Enforcement Service Manager		Male
Dr. Christine Pincott	Barnet Youth Court	Chair of Youth Panel	White	Female
Dr. Lynette Rentoul	CAMHS	Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Head of Child and Adolescent Clinical Psychology		Female
Abdul Sabban	Children, Young People & Families Network	Co-ordinator	Samali	Male
Peggy Sharpe	Inclusive Play Opportunities Project	Co-ordinator		Female
Raina Sheridan	Children's Fund	Programme Manager		Female
Kate Smith	Probation Service	Senior Probation Officer		Female
Kate Malleson	Youth Offending Service – Children & Families	Service Manager	White	Female
Linda James	Youth Offending Service – Children & Families	Deputy Service Manager	White	Female

Table B: Composition of Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board

Name	Agency representing	Post in agency	Ethnicity	Gender
Sheila Abbott	Brookland Infant School	Head Teacher		Female
Dr. John Bentley	Barnet Primary Care Trust	Clinical Director		Male
Dr. Mark Berelowitz	Royal Free Hospital	Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist		Male
Dadia Conti	Inclusive Play Opportunities Project	i-pop Co-ordinator	Mixed race	Female
Paul Fallon	London Borough of Barnet	Head of Children's Services and Director of Social Services	White	Male
Bernie Flynn	Barnet & Chase Farm Hospitals – NHS Trust	Service Manager – Women & Children's Division		Female
Helen Gardiner	London Borough of Barnet	Principal Accountant	White	Female
Julie Hawkins	Barnet Voluntary Service Council	Chief Executive		Female
Judith Mace	Barnet Primary Care Trust	Assistant Director – Children & Young People's Services		Female
Jane Lithgow	BEH Mental Health – NHS Trust	Director of Child & Adolescent Mental Health		Female
Ifeoma Ojingwa	Barnet African Health Organisation			Female
Gillian Palmer	London Borough of Barnet	Head of Education & Chief Education Officer		Female
Chief Sup. Mark Ricketts	Metropolitan Police Service	Borough Commander	White	Male
Elaine Runswick	Barnet College/Connexions	Director of Student Support & Partnerships		Female
Hope Yoloye	Livingway Ministries			Female
Jill Stansfield	London Borough of Barnet	Director of Children's Services	White	Female
Julie Williams	Barnet Primary Care Trust	Senior Finance Officer	White	Female

Table C: Composition of Safer Communities Board

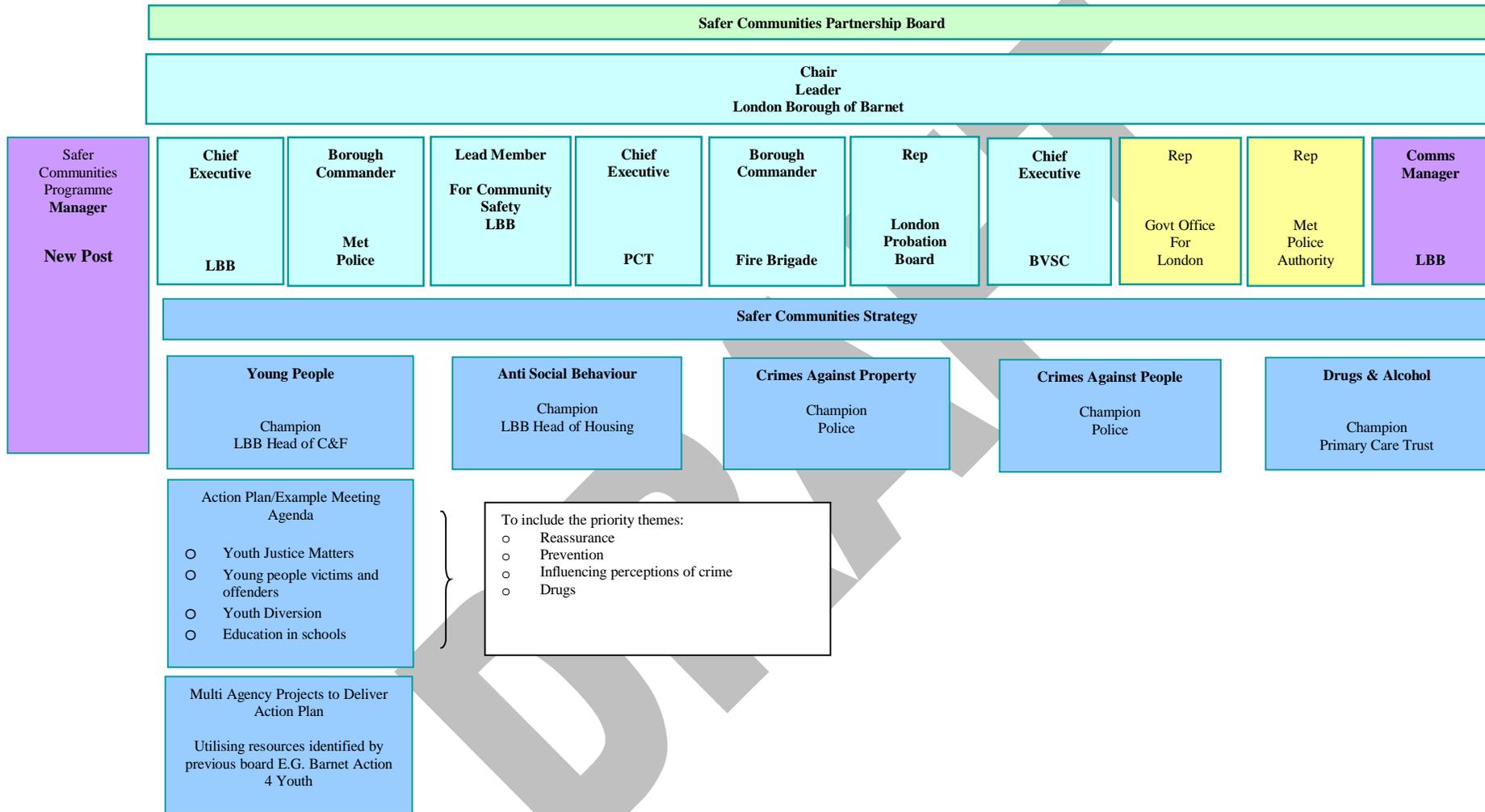
Name	Agency representing	Post in agency	Ethnicity	Gender
Chief Sup. Mark Ricketts	Metropolitan Police Service	Borough Commander	White	Male
Paul Fallon	London Borough of Barnet	Head of Children's Services and Director of Social Services	White	Male
Leo Boland	London Borough of Barnet	Chief Executive	White	Male
Nigel Hamilton	London Borough of Barnet	Head of Housing Services	White	Male
Dominic Wright	Barnet Primary Care Trust	Director of Commissioning/Drugs Champion		
Chas Hollwey	Barnet Primary Care Trust	Chief Executive	White	Male
Julie Hawkins	Barnet Voluntary Service Council	Chief Executive		Female
Sheila Abbott	Brookland Infant School	Head Teacher		Female
Alison Kira	Barnet Action 4 Youth	Project Manager	White	Female
Elaine Runswick	Barnet College/Connexions	Director of Student Support & Partnerships		Female
Nick O'Reilly		Fire Commander		Male
Peter Herbert	MPA member			Male
Robin Parker	London Probation Area	Divisional Manager for Barnet & Enfield	White	Male
Michael Steere	Barnet Magistrates' Court	Bench Legal Manager	White	Male
Jon Shahmah	Community and Police Consultative Group			Male
Alison Dale	Government Office for London		White	Female
CLlr Salinger	London Borough of Barnet	Lead Member		Male

NB

Membership may change in 2005/06 as a result of any restructuring of the partnership arising from the Community Safety Best Value Review.

Safer Communities Partnership Board Structure

This new structure will take effect during the coming year.



C.2 PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY SYSTEMS

Overview particularly looking at performance management and data quality:

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

- Needs analysis and self assessment / certification of CareWorks database to ensure data entered according to national standards.
- Application of counting rules and national standards to procedures within the Youth Offending Service.
- Data management for measuring Youth Justice Board targets and to improve performance within the Youth Offending Service.

ENSURING QUALITY OF PRACTICE

- Asset and pre-sentence report quality assurance monitoring forms (quality assurance by principal practitioners)
- Case discussion in weekly team meeting
- Internal training eg Risk Assessment, Asset completion, Effective Practice Quality Assurance
- Professional Certificate of Effective Practice
- Client and parent/carer feedback
- EPQA assessment
- National Standards Audit
- Race Audit
- Consultation exercise with young people

ENSURING DATA ACCURACY

- Progress monitoring of Asset and completion of education, training and employment information
 - Identifying non-completion of Asset and ETE status (data reconciliation by performance manager)
 - Feedback to staff through supervision and appraisal (follow-up by Principal Practitioners)
- External and internal CareWorks training and individual coaching

C.3 RESOURCES

C.3.1 Financial resources

Overview of financial resources including any particularly significant changes in resources:

- The local authority has increased its contribution to the Youth Offending Service base budget by £36,000 in order to maintain the provision of a professionally managed Appropriate Adult Service for the borough, following the termination of Youth Justice Board funding.
- A successful application to the Building Safer and Stronger Communities Fund has enabled the extension to the end of this financial year, of three posts within the Youth Offending Service – the Information and Performance Manager, the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel diversionary worker, and the YOS officer post responsible for putting a “safety net” around the reoffending cohort.
- Funding of £8,000 arising out of the Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy has enabled the YOS to commission a specifically targeted programme of education, training and employment at those on the Prevent and Deter list.
- Barnet YOS is currently without a Probation Officer secondee although it is provided with a cash contribution which is the equivalent to a Probation Officer salary. This allows the employment of a locum with the YOS, but for a reduced number of hours per week.
- Barnet YOS has a dedicated Connexions PA based within the team.
- Two Positive Activities for Young People key workers are also based within the team. One is attached to the Youth Inclusion and Support Panel, targeting the second group of those young people falling within Prevent and Deter. The other is attached to the YOS and targets those in the first group of young people within Prevent and Deter.
- The Primary Care Trust have agreed to increase the hours of the health practitioner at the YOS by 10 hours per week representing an increased financial contribution of £11,974
- The Primary Care Trust have also agreed to increase the psychologist provision within the YOS by an additional two sessions per week

Table 26: Services planned for the financial year 2005 – 2006

Core activity	Budget expenditure (£)
Preventive services	£272,444
PACE Services	£22,000
Pre-court services	£112,948
Court-based services	£83,513
Remand services	£32,858
Community-based services	£431,255
Through care / after care	£56,816
Other orders	£105,418
Total:	£1,117,251

Table 27: Youth Offending Team Budget Financial Year 2005 – 2006 – Sources

Agency	Staffing costs (£)	Payments in kind – revenue (£)	Other delegated funds (£)	Total (£)
Police	£74,000	£5,000		£79,000
Probation		£39,203	£10,100	£49,303
Children's Services	£291,830			£291,830
Connexions	£72,263			£72,263
Health (from Table 27d)	£55,548		£20,000	£75,548
Local Authority Chief Executive				
Additional Funding (from Table 27a)			£549,307	£549,307
Total	£493,641	£44,203	£579,407	£1,117,251

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Table 27a: Additional sources of income

Additional source	Amount (£)
Single Regeneration Budget	
European Funding	
Youth Justice Board	£182,854
LB Haringey	£16,000
Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant	£37,255
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	£36,275
LPSA pump priming	£86,000 remaining
Children's Fund	£177,923
Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy	£8,000
Communities against Drugs	£5,000
Total (for inclusion in Table 27)	£549,307

Table 27d: Health service contributions to the Youth Offending Teams

Health contribution: Funding source	Amount (£)
Source 1: PCT	£75,548
Source 2:	
Source 3: (etc)	
Total (for inclusion in Table 27)	£75,548

C.3.2 PROGRAMME RESOURCES

Overview of programme resources including services to meet specialist needs:

PROGRAMME RESOURCES

- Targets for Change – behaviour modification programme
- Anger Management Programme
- Victim Awareness Programme
- “Go Girls” Self Esteem Programme
- Video Programme Resources – “Prison No Way”, “Fired Up”, “Breaking the Cycle”
- Parenting Programme

SERVICES

- Impact - Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Service
- Mental Health – YOS psychologist, CAMHS, Barnet Adolescent Service, 331 Young People’s Counselling Service
- Supported Accommodation – Safe Start Foyer, Adamson Court, Barbara Langston House, Step Forward, floating support – more planned
- Connexions/Prospects – provides advice and support in relation to education, Training and Employment
- Restorative Justice in Schools
- Positive Activities for Young People – provides one to one support for those identified on Prevent and Deter, ISSP and other high risk cases.
- Driving Standards Agency – delivering a one to one session to those committing motoring offences
- Break Free Mentoring and ETE Project – support into ETE
- Keep It Simple ETE Project – Pre-E2E basic skills for those on Prevent and Deter list
- Basic skills – Barnet College provision.
- Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme
- Youth Inclusion and Support Panel
- Appropriate Adult Service
- Referral Order Panel
- Sessional reparation supervisor

C.4 PEOPLE AND ORGANISATION

C.4.1 WORKFORCE PLANNING

Overview of workforce planning including volunteers and staff in agencies providing service under contract:

- The current staffing position is set out in Table 25a.

Diversity considerations:

- The recent race audit has identified some issues which are included in the action plans. (See Appendix C Action Plan 4 – Workforce)

Qualification levels:

- A skills and qualifications audit was undertaken in 2003 which revealed that Barnet YOS staff have qualifications in the following areas: teaching, counselling, management, social work, law and psychology.
- Five members of staff have GSCC registration, and another three are in the process of completing portfolios.
- Six people have, or are in the process of completing the Professional Certificate in Effective Practice (Youth Justice).

Recruitment and retention issues:

- The main difficulty is in recruiting staff to grant funded posts particularly when notification of funding is delayed and staff contracts cannot be renewed until the end of the financial year.
- Barnet Youth Offending Service has recently been successful in attracting 80 volunteer mentors after using the Year of the Volunteer as a catalyst for national advertising.

Table 25a: Staff in the Youth Offending Team (by headcount)

	Managers Strategic	Strategic Deputy Managers	Information & Performance Manager	Principal Practitioner (FT)	Principal practitioners (PT)	Practitioners (FT)	Practitioners (PT)	Administrative	Sessional	Students/trainees	Volunteer	Total
Permanent	1	1		2		3						7
Fixed Term			1	1		4	2	2				10
Seconded Social Services												
Seconded Probation						1						1
Seconded Police						1		1				2
Seconded Health							2		1	1		4
Seconded Education						1						1
Seconded Connexions						3						3
Seconded Other												
Temporary									12	1	35	48
Vacant								.5				.5
TOTAL	1	1	1	3	0	13	4	3.5	13	2	35	76.5
Gender/Ethnicity												
White Male			1			6			4		8	20
Black Male						1			3		1	6
Asian Male												
Mixed Race Male										1		
Chinese/Other Male												
White Female	1	1		2		4	2	2	4	1	17	34
Black Female				1							6	7
Asian Female						1	1		2		3	7
Mixed Race Female						1	1	1				3
Chinese/Other Female												
TOTAL	1	1	1	3	0	13	4	3	13	2	35	76
Welsh Speakers												

C.4.2 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Overview of workforce development including volunteers and staff in outsource agencies:

- A training budget is located within the Children and Families Division and the training needs of the Youth Offending Service are incorporated into divisional planning.
- The YOS participates in corporate and divisional training events.
- The team is considering the possibility of Brief Solution Therapy but so far, the cost is prohibitive.
- Training gaps for individual members are identified in supervision and defined in appraisals.
- Appraisals are clearly linked to the YOS key performance indicators. Training is linked to the Effective Practice Quality Assurance framework.
- A Team Practice Development Workshop is planned to improve the quality of ASSET and in particular, risk of harm assessment.
- There is a gap in the provision of specialist management and leadership training as applicable to those in multi-agency settings, as used to be provided by the Youth Justice Board.
- Training for specialist staff is accessed in a variety of ways, either through their own parent agencies, or paid for with grant funding.
- INSET training this year will focus on parenting skills and links to the Effective Practice Quality Assurance parenting theme.
- All volunteers and mentors are trained in restorative justice principles.
- Two members of the team are considering applying for the degree in Youth Justice.
- Four members of staff to do Professional Certificate in Effective Practice
- YISP staff to undertake CareWorks training
- YISP volunteer mentors to undertake training
- Process tracking exercise with staff to improve quality of data and associated training

C.5 PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Overview of partnership working including complementary and conflicting targets:

- Drawing on the Annex to Sustaining the Success on “Effective Partnership Working”, Youth Justice Matters, the YOS management board has undertaken a programme of work which includes the mapping of YOS and partner agencies’ key performance indicators, a review of critical success factors for effective partnership working, and partner engagement in delivering improvement. Some of this work has been carried out in partnership with the Youth Justice Board who are conducting a similar partner agencies’ KPI mapping exercise on a national level. The YJB will be presenting some of their findings at a management board meeting later this year.
- Hard evidence is being used within the partnership to lever resources and identify and remove obstacles where they exist. This is beginning to drive up performance in relation to custodial remands and sentences, and education, training and employment.
- Apparent contradictions between partner agencies’ targets are aired and resolution sought.
- This shared approach to problem-solving and the increased focus on partner agencies’ regulatory environment has improved member’s commitment to the YOS management board which has benefited from nearly full attendance since its reconfiguration in June 2004.
- The YOS is also closely tied into the work of the Children’s Fund through 25% of ring-fenced funding. The YOS Manager is a member of the Children’s Fund Steering Group.
- The YOS Manager is also a member of the Children and Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Network, and the Young People’s Substance Misuse Commissioning Group. These are planning forums for the delivery and commissioning of young people’s substance misuse services and for the performance management of young people’s drug services.
- The YOS Manager is a member of the Connexions Local Management Committee and involved in the commissioning and planning of education, training and employment for the YOS client group.
- Strategic planning with the police takes place through informal meetings with the Borough Commander and at their RAID meetings. This is a partnership forum for performance management and joint problem-solving.
- Community Safety issues are addressed with partners at the Council’s First Stat forum. Again, a forum for partners to engage in performance management and joint problem-solving.
- The Behaviour and Attendance Forum brings together education partners for the purpose of driving key education targets around exclusion and attendance.
- The YOS is fully engaged with partners in the Supporting People agenda and specialist accommodation and support for YOS clients has come to fruition during this past year.

D. OFFENDING AND MINIMISING THE USE OF CUSTODY

PREVENT OFFENDING

Overview: The Youth Inclusion and Support Panel (YISP) became fully operational in July 2004 as a result of successful partner engagement during the developmental stages of the project. 130 children and young people were referred to the YISP during its first six months of operation. All were assessed and offered early intervention to divert them from offending and anti-social behaviour. The impact of this targeted early intervention will be demonstrated during the next year with a reduction in the numbers of first time entrants to the criminal justice system. Referrals will be increased, all assessments will be recorded electronically using ONSET, and the quality of information significantly enhanced. A volunteer mentoring scheme is being developed to provide additional support to those young people identified as being at risk, mental health needs and parenting issues will be a particular focus with specially commissioned support from CAMHS.

Data: Youth Inclusion And Support Panel (YISP)

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target	130 out of a target of 200 for year. Actual % = 65%
KPI: 05/06 target – new target this year 2% reduction in numbers of first time entrants	367 new entrants

Action plan: Prevention

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and leadership	Identification/referral of suitable clients. Contribution to joint children's services planning and inspection processes	YISP Co-ordinator YOS Manager	Ongoing		Every Child Matters
Performance and quality systems	Provide quarterly returns for the Children's Fund. Provide annual reports for the Metropolitan Police funded post. To incorporate YISP information in CareWorks Staff to be trained in use of CareWorks	YISP Co-ordinator Information and Performance Manager	Quarterly Annually End May 2005		Children's Fund Plan Policing Plan Joint Area Review YJB Quarterly Returns
Resources	Volunteer mentoring project to be established	YISP Co-ordinator		During establishment of project staff resource is removed from service delivery	

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
People and organisation	Keyworker to undertake PCEP All to receive training in use of CareWorks Volunteer mentors to receive training	YISP Co-ordinator Information and Performance Manager YISP Co-ordinator	March 2006 May 2005 End June 2005	Waiting list for place	HR and Learning Plan
Partnership working	To develop protocols with partners in the delivery of services to this client group in order to increase the resource and provide longer term support	YISP Co-ordinator	March 2006	Resource constraints within partner agencies	Children's Services planning – Common Assessment Framework, Every Child Matters

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INTERVENE EARLY

Overview: This year has produced an enormous improvement in the delivery and quality of final warnings and is described as “remarkable” by the Youth Justice Board’s regional performance monitor in a recent inspection. The YOS has successfully raised the Effective Practice Quality Assurance score from 1 to 3 despite only having one police officer attached to the team. The close and effective links between local police and the YOS, at different levels provide a forum to discuss operational matters while also having a clear escalation route for more strategic issues through the Management Board “Youth Justice Matters” and through regular meetings between the Borough Commander and the YOS Manager. The police officer has been ring-fenced to the team since May 2005 which will increase performance throughout the next year. Nearly all young people eligible for a Final Warning receive a home visit before formal delivery of the warning. This ensures real engagement of the offender and their family in the change process. The quality of assessment has improved and inspection of Final Warnings indicates assessments are at right level. Final Warning Protocol between Youth Offending Service and police has been signed off. The excellent progress already achieved will be consolidated in the coming year.

Data: Final Warnings

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target	Actual: 41 out of 46 FW with interventions Target: 80% Actual: 89% Target met	EPQA: 03 rating	1
KPI: 05/06 target	80%	EPQA: 05 result	3

Action plan: Early Intervention

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	To review and implement Effective Practice Quality Assurance process	Deputy YOS Manager	Ongoing		EPQA
Performance and quality systems	Quality of Asset including risk.	Police officer	Ongoing	No cover for leave	Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Supervision EPQA

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
	Monitor numbers of Final Warnings to ensure no reduction in numbers	Police Officer	Quarterly return		Race action plan
	Deliver interventions proportionate to individual circumstances. Data inputting training for police officer	Police Officer Information and Performance Manager	Ongoing End May 2005	Out of Borough Final Warnings	Assessment, Planning, Intervention and Supervision
Resources	To increase use of in-house specialists and others as necessary.	Principal Practitioner	Ongoing		Drugs/alcohol; health Policing plan
People and organisation	To monitor ring-fencing of Police Officer to the YOS	Police Officer	Ongoing	Police Officer being used for operational duties	
	Training for police officer – Professional Certificate in Effective Practice and CareWorks	Principal Practitioner	March 2006		HR Learning and Development
Partnership working	To monitor effectiveness of protocol	Deputy YOS Manager	Sept 2005	Change of personnel and shortage of police officers	

PROVIDE INTENSIVE COMMUNITY SUPERVISION

Overview: This year has seen the borough's Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme at full capacity. This has meant that at any one time, six of the borough's most persistent young offenders have been receiving 25 hours supervision and surveillance per week for a period of up to six months. As a result, offending by this small but very challenging group of young people has been reduced in both seriousness and frequency. This robust community supervision has been further enhanced by borrowing additional places from neighbouring partner boroughs as needed. Spot funding has enabled the YOS to commission four extra places in the coming year. The service is commissioned jointly by Barnet, Enfield and Haringey from YAP UK. The quality and timeliness of reports relating to young people has improved, but will continue to be monitored owing to change in YAP UK personnel. Negotiations are currently taking place linking ISSP into Attendance Centre provision for Saturdays thus strengthening weekend supervision. Discussions are also taking place with the Youth and Connexions Service about provision of support at the end of the statutory period of supervision.

Action plan: Intensive supervision

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Identification/referral of suitable clients	Principal Practitioner	Ongoing	Shortage of places	Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy Catch and Convict/Prevent and Deter/Resettle and Rehabilitate
	To complete statistical returns	ISSP worker	Monthly		
Performance and quality systems	Quality assurance-paperwork/activities	ISSP worker/Principal Practitioner	Weekly		
	Data returns under Prolific and Priority Offender Strategy	Information and Performance Manager	Monthly		POPO Strategy
Resources	Use of PAYP worker as part of exit strategy	PAYP worker	Ongoing	One PAYP worker	

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
People and organisation	To set up pre E2E project for those on the Prevent and Deter list	Principal Practitioner	June 2005	Limited E2E Difficulty engaging/motivating young people	Education, Training and Employment
	Monitoring of service providers YAP UK and advocates	Deputy YOS Manager	Ongoing	Quality of YAP UK staff/advocates	
Partnership working	Discussions with Youth and Connexions Service to ensure more joined-up targeting of this client group when statutory supervision ends	YOS Manager	September 2005	Resource issues in partner agencies	
	Monitoring of partnership agreement with police for joint working under this theme	Deputy YOS Manager	September 2005		

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REDUCE THE USE OF CUSTODY

Overview: This Key Performance Indicator has been identified by the YOS Management Board as a priority for improved performance. A particularly challenging KPI for Barnet because of the small numbers involved and because it is largely out of the YOS's control and subject to many variables. Micro-level analysis has provided a clear picture of the issues affecting this indicator and a locally devised paper "Managing the Demand for Custody" proposes an action plan to drive forward improvements. This has the approval of the Management Board and will be policy for the coming year. Close partnership work between the Magistrates, Court and the YOS has highlighted those areas which are outside our influence and those which can be affected. There is an increased number of ISSP places now available and negotiations are taking place linking ISSP to Attendance Centre provision on Saturdays. The bail support scheme has been re-launched in the Youth Courts. Enforcement policy and quality control procedures within YOS have been revised. By enhancing the robustness of community penalties, the YOS will increase its influence over the target. A remand management strategy will be developed jointly within the Children and Families Service during the coming year.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (remand)	Actual: 42 court ordered remand episodes out of 100 remand episodes Target: <=30% Intermediate target: <=45% Actual: 42% Intermediate target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (custody)	Actual: 35 custodial sentences out of 402 court disposals Target: <=6% Intermediate target: <=12% Actual: 9% Intermediate target met
KPI: 05/06 target* (note: locally negotiated target)	40%	KPI: 05/06 target* (note: locally negotiated target)	6%

Action plan: Reduce the use of custody

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Monitoring at Youth Justice Matters	YOS Manager	Bi-monthly	KPI is largely out of the control of the YOS and involves small numbers	

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Performance and quality systems	PSR case discussion, focus on alternatives to custody where appropriate, quality assurance of PSRs by management	Management team	On going		Assessment Planning Interventions and Supervision (APIS)
	Enforcement procedures	Management team	On going		
	EPQA self-assessment remand management and draw-up remand strategy	YOS Manager	Starts Sept		
Resources	Bail Support packages	YOS Officers	On going	No dedicated BS officer	
	Develop remand fostering provision	YOS Manager	March 2006	Difficulties of dealing with small numbers	Remand Management EPQA process
People and organisation	ISSP	ISSP co-ordinator	On going	Small number of places	
	Quarterly team meetings with focus on reducing custody	Management Team	Ongoing		APIS
	Regular Liaison with local courts, Barnet Criminal Justice Group	YOS Manager	On going	This target conflicts with targets/priorities of partners e.g. police and is subject to influences beyond the control of the YOS	
Partnership working					

REDUCE RE-OFFENDING

Overview: The YOS has been successful in reducing re-offending by young people since its inception in 2000. The 2002 cohort tracked for 24 months (32.5%) shows a significant reduction of re-offending as measured against the 2001 cohort tracked over the same timescale (28.2%). LPSA funding has provided staff to put a safety net around the offending cohort in this coming year. This means that every young person in the offending cohort, not just those for whom the YOS has a statutory responsibility, is assessed for a possible intervention, either through the YOS or through the YISP. The addition of further ISSP places will benefit this KPI. The Connexions PA based in the Team alongside specialists from other disciplines, allows easy referrals. The focus for the next year will be on priorities identified by the YOS Management Board, particularly on increasing the percentage of young people into education, training and employment (ETE). Improvements in this latter target will have a direct positive impact on the re-offending rates of young people in the borough.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target	Actual for 2002 Cohort tracked for 24 months = 28.8%
KPI: 05/06 target locally negotiated target	Reduction = 8% by March 2006 (LPSA)

Action plan: Reducing re-offending

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and leadership	Performance reported to Youth Justice Management Board and Safer Communities Board and Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board	YOS Manager	Bi-monthly		Community Safety Plan
	Tracking of Local Public Service Agreement to reduce offending by young people by 8%	YOS Manager	March 2006	Measure not entirely within the control of the YOS ie. Policing activity or changes in legislation/counting rules, can influence this data	LPSA
Performance and quality systems	APIS/EPQA – Using risk assessment to target and prioritise interventions	YOS Manager	Ongoing		Swift administration of justice

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
	Tracking system to monitor progress of interventions with regular re- assessment of high risk clients	YOS management team	Monthly		Prolific and Other Priority Offender Strategy
Resources	Two designated cohort officers – to identify cases for additional intervention. (ASSET assessment and any subsequent intervention).	YOS cohort officers	Ongoing	Small part of officers' roles	
	Purchased an additional 2 ISSP places, now have 8 places available	YOS Worker/ Principal Practitioner	Ongoing	Availability of ISSP places	
People and organisation	2 PAYP workers	Connexions/YOS			ETE
	KIS Pre E2E course All YOS staff will use a motivational interview model to maximise individual work	KIS Training/YOS			
Partnership working	Protocols being drawn up with partners to ensure services for YOS client group	YOS Manager	March 2006		

ENSURE THE SWIFT ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Overview: This is a joint target with other criminal justice partner agencies. The YOS contribution is in the speedy preparation of pre-sentence reports within national standards timescales. Performance this year has been largely successful, the target having been fully met in quarter 2. The focus in the coming year is to sustain the performance reached in quarter 2. Most delays in preparing PSRs are due to cases being remitted from adult courts to Youth Courts; some are due to longer remand periods given at Crown Courts for more serious offences. Bail support scheme has been re-launched at Youth Court. In the coming year, liaison with the Crown Court will be improved. The increased use of stand down reports by the Youth Court will impact positively and this will be addressed in discussion with Magistrates.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target	Actual: 113 PSRs submitted, 99 of which within national standards timescale. Target: >=90% Intermediate target: >=70% Actual: 88% Intermediate target met
KPI: 05/06 target	90%

Action plan: Swift administration of justice

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Local Criminal Justice Group attended by Deputy YOS Manager	Deputy YOS Manager			
Performance and quality systems	Court Tracker Meeting	Court/YOS	Monthly	Unable to control CPS/court listing delays	
	Court User's Group/Liaison Panel	Court/YOS	Quarterly		
Resources	Principal Practitioners (PP) in youth court weekly	YOS	Weekly		
	PP's responsible for allocation and quality assurance of all court reports	YOS	Weekly	Court may request additional specialist reports	KPI 90% of PSRs completed within NS

People and
organisation
Partnership
working

Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Increase use of stand down reports at court to progress speed of sentencing	YOS	Weekly	Recommendation not based on full assessment	
young people given PSR appointments at court, including drug/alcohol and health assessments	YOS	Weekly	Failure to attend	
YOT facilitate that young people return to court for sentencing e.g. reminders, effective bail support etc	YOS	Ongoing	Failure to surrender to court for sentence	
CPS, Police, Court, Solicitors , YAP UK, Appropriate Adult Scheme	YOS			
Continue attendance at Criminal Justice Group and Court forums	YOS Management Team	Ongoing		

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E. ACHIEVING IMPROVED OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WHO OFFEND

ENSURE EFFECTIVE AND RIGOROUS ASSESSMENT

Overview A recent inspection by the Youth Justice Board regional performance monitor confirms that performance in this area has consistently improved during this year. In 2003 the Effective Practice Quality Assurance score was 2 and has now reached the maximum level of 3. There is clear evidence linking the assessment of young people's needs to intervention plans which address those needs. Quality assurance procedures are now a management rather than a practitioner responsibility thereby ensuring consistency. ASSETs are completed electronically in 100% of cases and this KPI has been fully met throughout the year. The focus in the coming year will be on the quality of ASSET information and the Risk of Harm ASSET.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (ASSET)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (DTO)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met	EPQA: 03 rating	2
KPI: 05/06 target	100%	KPI: 05/06 target	100%	EPQA: 05 result	3

Action plan: Assessment

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and leadership	Regular review of quality of information	YOS Management Team			
Performance and quality systems	Quality assurance of Asset documents by principal practitioners (including serious harm)	Principal Practitioners (PP)	Ongoing		Asset relates to all performance measures.
	Aggregated Asset feedback	Information and Performance manager	To start July		
	Simultaneous quality assurance of PSR and Asset	PP	Ongoing		
	Ensuring DTO training plan completed within NS	PP	Ongoing	Workloads and constraints in institutions	Shared target with secure estate
Resources	Training (in-house and external) on quality of Asset data	YOS/ external training providers	Ongoing		

People and
organisation

Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Monthly supervision of cases involved quality of recording of relevant data	PP	Ongoing		
APIS/EPQA – Using risk assessment to target and prioritise interventions	YOS Deputy manager	Ongoing		
Partnership working Secure Estate				

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SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGING IN EDUCATION TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

Overview: This target is widely recognised as being especially challenging to achieve and performance in this area has been targeted for priority action both nationally, by the Youth Justice Board, and locally, by the YOS Management Board. This positive action on both a national and a local level will deliver improvements in the coming year. Micro-analysis of YOS data undertaken in the past year has provided an accurate picture of the issues affecting performance against this target. The resulting information has been widely disseminated to partners and service providers with a view to securing partner engagement in overcoming identified blockages. Research has been undertaken with those YOTs who are managing to achieve this target and examples of transferable good practice presented to the YOS Management Board and other partners in a number of related forums. Two PAYP workers are now attached to the Team. The recent EPQA inspection demonstrated that although performance against this target has not improved, it has been sustained at a level 2 out of a possible 3. Three new projects (KIS, Breakfree and basic skills at Barnet College) will be coming on-stream this year as well as the Rainer Pilot for those being released from custody. It is believed that delivery of improvements in ETE provision for this particularly challenging yet small group of young people, will deliver bi-lateral improvements for other YOS clients.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target	Actual: 211 substantive outcomes, of which 126 in full time ETE Target: >=90% Intermediate target: <=70% Actual: 60% Target not met	EPQA: 03 rating	2
KPI: 05/06 target	90%	EPQA: 05 result	2

Action plan: ETE

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Monitoring by Youth Justice Matters	YOS Manager	Bi-monthly		
Performance and quality systems	Monthly ETE data tracking on CareWorks	YOS Education Officer (EO)	Monthly	System established needs to be maintained	Reduction in offending
	Part of NL Resettlement Pilot	EO and Connexions	Ongoing	Checklist difficult to use	
Resources	PAYP workers supporting Prevent and Deter clients	2 new PAYP key workers for YISP and YOT	End March 2006		

People and
organisation
Partnership
working

Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Pre E2E provision	Barnet YOS/ KIS Training	Ongoing	YOS clients may have difficulty engaging with ETE	
Building links between PRU and Connexions and Prospects	Connexions	Ongoing	Speed at which excluded pupils are dealt with	Connexions shared target
Liaising with local colleges to develop provision for NEET clients	Connexions	Ongoing	Challenging behaviour and attendance issues mean colleges may be resistant to YOS clients	Shared Connexions target
Attend fortnightly LEA Pupil Placement Panel (PPP)	EO	Ongoing	Limited provision in Barnet for year 11	
Establish contact with key people in local secondary schools to reduce no. of exclusions	EO	Ongoing	Needs to be built upon during this year	

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SUPPORT ACCESS TO SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES

Overview: Performance against this target has always been highly satisfactory and will be consolidated and sustained in the coming year. All YOS clients subject to orders or on whom pre-sentence reports are requested are screened and assessed using ASSET as an initial intervention. A more intensive screening using the SASSI tool is also delivered. Additional data is being provided to both the Youth Justice Board and the DAT. This will provide an even clearer picture of substance misuse as it relates to young offenders in the coming year. Funding for the YOS drugworker post is centrally pooled although currently ring-fenced to the YOS. Additional services are provided by IMPACT, the young people's drug and alcohol service.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (Assessment)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (specialist assessment)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (early access to intervention)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met
KPI: 05/06 target	95%	KPI: 05/06 target	95%	KPI: 05/06 target	<u>95%</u>

Action plan: Substance misuse

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Children & Young Peoples' Drug & Alcohol Network Bi-monthly	YOS Manager	Ongoing		
Performance and quality systems	Quarterly YJB returns (D&A)	Information and Performance Manager	Ongoing		
	Monthly DAAT returns	Information and Performance Manager	Ongoing		
Resources	1 F/T YOT drug worker DAAT funded	YOS Officer - Drugs	Ongoing	Caseload / waiting list at Barnet Impact	10 day access for early intervention and treatment
	Funding for drugs/diversionary work – drug education programme delivered by sessional worker and including performing arts activities	Principal Practitioner	Begins May 05		
People and	Funding application to be made for	YOS Manager	Ongoing	Screenings take priority over	

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
organisation	specialist assessment (SASSI) to train all team members			early intervention / treatment	
Partnership working	Barnet Impact, 331, Connexions, Youth Service, CAMHS, PRU, Arts Depot	YOS Manager	Ongoing	Resource considerations for partner agencies	GOL outputs

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SUPPORT ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Overview: The development of a specialist mental health screening tool has improved the recognition and identification of mental health problems and led to a significant rise in the numbers of non-acute cases. This is a challenging target which is not wholly within the control of the YOS. Nevertheless, the target was met in quarter 1 and the intermediate target met in quarter 2. The effect of a central point of referral for CAMHS services will be closely monitored in the coming year. The PCT have also increased the YOS psychologist input from two days to 3 days per week and are discussing the provision of sector side forensic psychiatric support. Both will deliver improvements.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (Acute)	Actual = 0 Target not applicable	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (non-acute)	Actual: 57 out of 72 non acute cases referred to within national standards Target: >=95% Intermediate target: >=75% Actual: 79% Target not met
KPI: 05/06 target	95%	KPI: 05/06 target	

Action plan: Mental health

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Youth Justice Matters	YOS Manager	Bi-monthly meetings		CAMHS
	To reinstate meetings with CAMHS	YOS Manager	Quarterly		
Performance and quality systems	Quarterly YJB returns (MHS)	Information and Performance Manager	On-going	Resources impact upon ability to meet NS (see below)	
	Monthly review of case management and recording	Principal Practitioner	On-going		
Resources	0.4 clinical psychologist, 0.6 trainee psychologist, 0.6 health worker	Psychologist	On-going	Limited access in Barnet to outreach forensic psychiatric services for young people	
	Establish training protocols for team members from MHT / PCT	CAMHS Consultant Psychologist	On-going		

People and
organisation
Partnership
working

Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Funding being sought to increase number of sessions for clinical psychologists	YOS Manager	On-going		
Improving links with CAHMS , Barnet Adolescent Services and Adult Services	Psychologist	On-going		
CAHMS. Barnet Adolescent Services and Adult Services	CAMHS/Psychologist/YOS Manager			

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SUPPORT ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE ACCOMMODATION

Overview: Serious improvement has been sustained throughout this year. The Adamson Court Project has provided a particularly valuable resource for young homeless clients who are some of the most vulnerable and persistent offenders in the borough. Close partnership working between the YOS manager, the Supporting People agenda lead and housing and floating support providers has facilitated planning of further improvements in the coming year. The YOS accommodation officer has developed excellent links with a number of providers and a proactive working relationship with colleagues in the Housing Department.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (named officer)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (suitable accommodation)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met
KPI: 05/06 target	95%	KPI: 05/06 target	

Action plan: Accommodation

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Youth Justice Matters regularly reviews this KPI	YOS Manager	Bi-monthly		
	Regular meetings with Supporting People lead	YOS Manager	Quarterly	Challenges about the development of hostel accommodation within residential areas.	
Performance and quality systems	Statistical returns to YJB	Performance Manager	Quarterly		
	Case Management recording/reviews	Housing Officer	Quarterly	Officer can only allocate small percentage of time	
Resources	Named housing officer to be maintained	YOS Manager	Ongoing		
	Developing more consistent links with Assessment and Temporary Housing Departments	Housing Officer/Principal Practitioner	Ongoing	Nature of client group can pose problems as not just bricks and mortar needed	

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
People and organisation	Establishing a system whereby those young people being released from custody are provided with accommodation	Housing Dept/YOS housing officer	Ongoing	Difficult for housing to obtain assessment May not get address prior to release.	
	Maintaining links with the Supporting People's Team	Housing Officer	Ongoing	Lack of suitable housing provision	
Partnership working	Barnet Housing, Adamson Court Metropolitan Housing, Step Forward, Safe Start, Social Services	Housing officer	Ongoing		

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SUPPORT RESETTLEMENT INTO THE COMMUNITY

Overview: including review of the past year, performance against KPIs and highlights of plans for the coming year:
Awaiting YJB National Resettlement Action Plan before identifying plans for coming year.

		Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership				
Performance and quality systems				
Resources				
People and organisation				
Partnership working	North London ETE pilot, Rainer			

SUPPORT PARENTING INTERVENTIONS

Overview: Performance in the past year has been excellent. A recent Youth Justice Board inspection highlights the parenting policy document devised by the YOS as an example of good practice. The Effective Practice Quality Assurance score of 1 has been raised to a very strong rating of 2 which places the YOS in good stead to continue to make sustained and serious improvements in the coming year. An increase in contribution from the PCT will increase the number of regular parenting groups to be run in the coming year. The parenting reference group meets quarterly and has resulted in the proposal for a Parenting Development Worker to be recruited for the Borough.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (Interventions)	Total respondents during year = 2 Target=10% of cases contacted Actual = 100% Target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (Satisfaction)	Target=95% Actual = 100% Target met	EPQA: 04 rating	
KPI: 05/06 target	10%	KPI: 05/06 target		EPQA: 05 result	

Action plan: Parenting

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	Deputy YOS Manager co-ordinates parenting reference group	Deputy YOS Manager	Quarterly		
	Performance monitored by Youth Justice Matters	YOS Manager	Bi-monthly		
Performance and quality systems	Recording and reporting of interaction between YOS and caseworkers	Practitioners	For returns, by end of June.		
	Parenting contacts reflected in CareWorks	Practitioners	Ongoing		
Resources	Assessments and Parenting Group	Health Officer	Ongoing		
	Additional hours allocated for the delivery of parenting programme	Health Officer	Ongoing		
	Health Officer, Assistant Psychologist				

People and
organisation
Partnership
working

Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Health Officer, Assistant Psychologist				
CAMHS, Social Services are both using YOS provision. Liaison with Court to inform about YOS practice regarding parenting interventions	Deputy YOS Manager	Ongoing		

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PROVIDE EFFECTIVE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SERVICES

Overview: The Restorative Justice in Schools project, a hugely successful and innovative programme highly commended and welcomed by primary school headteachers, has been extended to six more primary schools within the Borough and has resulted in the production of a film about restorative approaches entitled “Time to Talk – Time to Listen”. This will be entered for the Youth Justice Board’s Press and PR Awards later this year. During the coming year, further funding will be sought in order to continue roll-out of the programme across Barnet. The opportunity for young people to make amends for their offending and anti-social behaviour continues to form an integral part of all YOS interventions with young people.

Data:

KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (intervention)	Total involved in restorative Justice = 7 Target = 75% Actual = 100% Target met	KPI: 04/05 actual and % against target (satisfaction)	Total satisfied with in restorative justice process = 7 Target = 75% Actual = 100% Target met
KPI: 05/06 target	75%	KPI: 05/06 target	75%

Action plan: Restorative Justice

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Governance and Leadership	RJiS is performance managed by the Children’s Fund Steering Group	Principal Practitioners	Bi-monthly	Lack of funding, change of staff within schools, failure to embed properly	

	Action	Lead	Deadline	Risks	Links to Plans / Performance Measures
Performance and quality systems	Increasing the number of reparative projects and the quality of them	Principal Practitioners	September 2005	No dedicated member of staff means this area of work is not always sufficiently prioritised	
	Gatekeep referral order reports and Asset	Principal practitioners	On-going		
	All victims contacted at PSR stage	YOS police officer	On-going	No cover for police officer if sick, on leave or being used for operational police duties	
	Home visit will be offered to referral order victims if resources allow	YOS police officer	On-going	As above	
	Victim feedback questionnaires post contact	YOS police officer	On-going	As above	75% victim satisfied
Resources	RjiS being evaluated	Children's Fund Co-ordinator	September 2005		
	Referral order co-ordinator				KPI RO panel 20 days post court
	YOS police officer role				
	Restorative justice worker with YISP				
	3 reparation supervisors	YOS PP			
	Trained referral order panel members (26)	Referral order co-ordinator			
	Victim engagement training has taken place for all YOS staff and all referral order panel members				
Partnership working	Referral order panel members, Police, local council and other reparation providers	Principal Practitioners			

ENSURE EQUAL TREATMENT REGARDLESS OF RACE

Overview: Including highlights of action plan attached as annex to this plan.

Note: As per guidance on action planning for the Race Audit, Yots should attach a concise version as an Appendix C to the Plan. The full audit should be available for regional managers, if required.

5 Action Plans have been drawn up, based on the race audit information provided by the YJB. These Action Plans are attached in Appendix C and are awaiting sign off by the YOS Management Board, Youth Justice Matters

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F. REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Table B: Signature of approval

	Name Of Chief Officer	Signature	Date
Chief Executive Of The Local Authority	Leo Boland		
Education Department	Jill Stansfield		
Health Service	Chas Hollwey		
Police Service	Ch. Supt. Mark Ricketts		
Probation Service	Diane Campbell		
Social Services	Paul Fallon		
Other Partner(s)			

Table C: Schedule for review of plan:

Review date	Reviewer	Next steps
12 September 2005	Kate Malleson – YOS Manager	Report to Youth Justice Matters Meeting
19 September 2005	Paul Fallon – Head of Children’s Services, Director of Social Services and Chair of Youth Justice Matters	Report to Safer Communities Board and Children and Young People’s Partnership Board
13 March 2006	Kate Malleson – YOS Manager	Report to Youth Justice Matters Meeting
19 March 2006	Paul Fallon – Head of Children’s Services, Director of Social Services and Chair of Youth Justice Matters	Report to Safer Communities Board and Children and Young People’s Partnership Board

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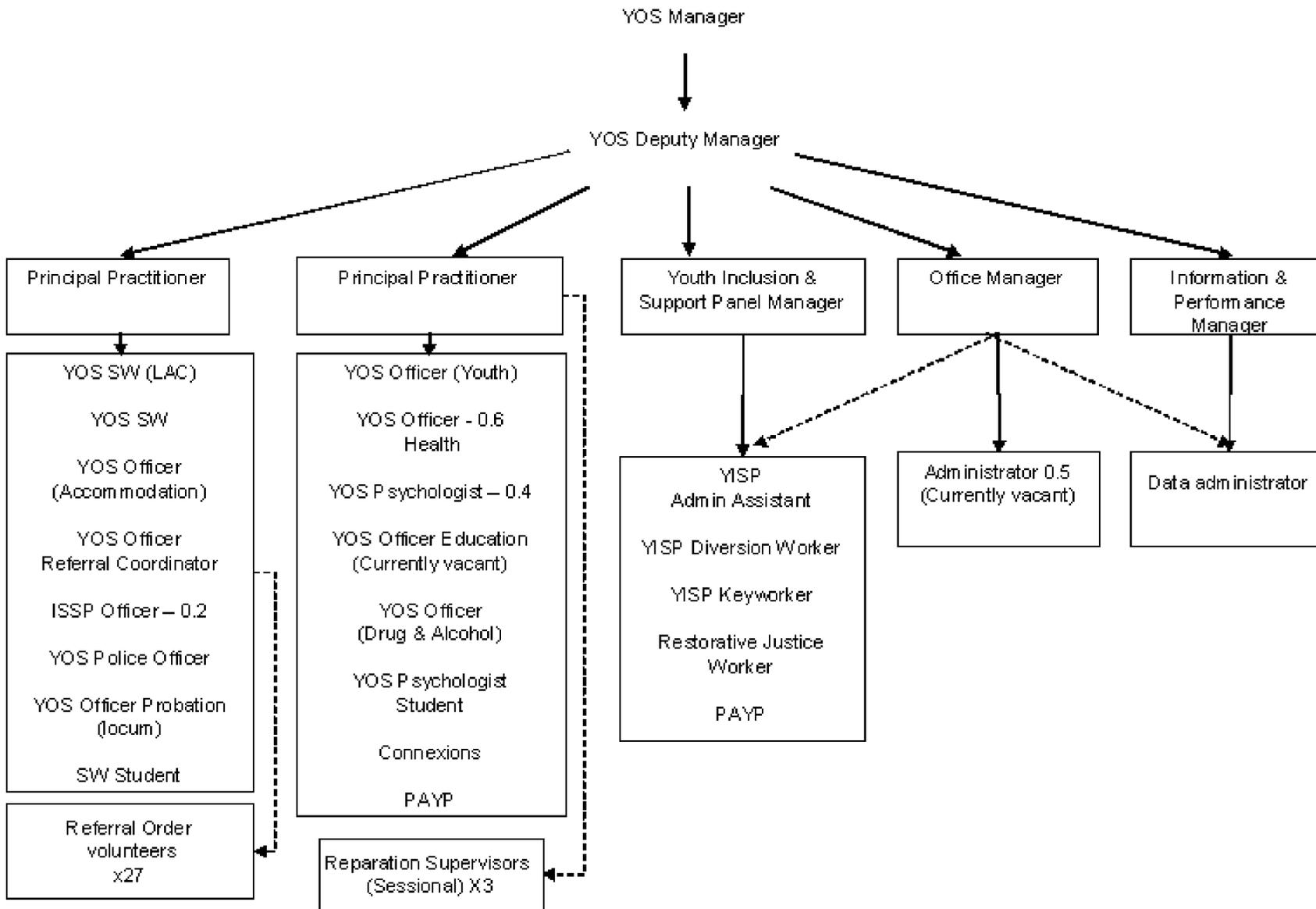
G. APPENDICES

Please provide the following information as appendixes:

- Organisational chart
- Performance measures
- Race Audit Action Plan

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APPENDIX A: ORGANISATIONAL CHART



Performance Measures

KPIs

Below please provide historical data against the KPIs associated with the themes. Those areas with an * are subject to local negotiation with regional managers.

Theme and measure	2001 baseline	2002 outturn	2003 outturn	2004/05 outturn	2005/06 target
Preventing offending and minimising the use of custody					
Prevent offending* At least 200 young people are identified and targeted for support each year New Target for 05/06: Reduce year on year the number of first time entrants to the youth justice system by identifying children and young people at risk of offending or involvement in anti-social behaviour through a YISP or other evidence-based targeted means of intervention designed to reduce those risks and strengthen protective factors as demonstrated by using ONSET or other effective means of assessment and monitoring				130	NEW TARGET
Intervene early: Ensure that proportion of final warnings supported by interventions remains constant at 80%	N/A	N/A	N/A	108	80
Provide intensive supervision in the community					
Reduce the use of custody* Reduce the number of remands to the secure estate (as a proportion of all remand episodes excluding conditional / unconditional bail) to 30%:	11	61	54	42	30
Reduce the number of custodial sentences as proportion of all court disposals to 6%	6.8	4.3	2.5	9	6

Theme and measure	2001 baseline	2002 outturn	2003 outturn	2004/05 outturn	2005/06 target
Reduce re-offending* By Dec 2004 achieve a 5% reduction based on 2000 cohort compared with 2001 after 24 months In Dec 2005 achieve a reduction of 5% based on 2001 cohort compared with 2002 after 24 months	2000 cohort % reoffending after 24 months	2001 cohort % reoffending after 24 months	2002 cohort % reoffending after 24 months	2003 cohort % reoffending after 24 months	2004/5 cohort (number Oct / Dec)
Pre-court	9.4	34	22.1	N/A	Reduction of 5%
First tier penalties	34	22	28.8	N/A	Reduction of 5%
Community penalties	56	40	44.4	N/A	Reduction of 5%
Custody	67	33	0	N/A	Reduction of 5%
Theme and measure	2001 baseline	2002 outturn	2003 outturn	2004/05 outturn	2005/06 target
Ensure the swift administration of justice: Ensure that 90% of Pre-sentence reports are submitted within 10 days for PYOs	59	80	80	88	90
Ensure that 90% of pre-sentence reports are submitted within 15 days for general offenders	59	80	80	88	90
Achieving improved outcomes for children and young people who offend					
Ensure effective and rigorous assessment, planning and supervision Ensure that 100% of assessments for community disposals are completed at assessment stage	100	100	100	100	100
Ensure that 100% of assessments community disposals are completed at closure stage	100	100	100	100	100
Ensure that 100% of assessments for custodial sentences are completed at assessment stage	100	100	100	100	100
Ensure that 100% of assessments for custodial sentences are completed at transfer stage	100	100	100	100	100
Ensure that 100% of assessments for custodial sentences are completed at closure stage	100	100	100	100	100

Theme and measure	2001 baseline	2002 outturn	2003 outturn	2004/05 outturn	2005/06 target
Ensure that all initial training plans are drawn up within 10 working days of sentences being passed	33	50	18	86	100
Support young people engaging in education, training and employment: Ensure that 90% of young offenders who are supervised by the YOS are either in full-time education, training or employment	84	65	68	60	90
Support access to substance misuse services: Ensure that all young people are screened for substance misuse				100	100
Ensure that all young people with identified needs receive appropriate specialist assessment within 5 working days				100	100
Ensure that all young people access the early intervention and treatment services they require within 10 working days				100	100
Support access to mental health services: Ensure that all young people who are assessed by ASSET as manifesting acute mental health difficulties to be referred by YOS to CAMHS for a formal assessment commencing within five working days of the receipt of the referral with a view to their accessing a tier 3 service based on this assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100
Ensure that all young people who are assessed by ASSET as manifesting non-acute mental health concerns to be referred by YOS for an assessment and engagement by the appropriate CAMHS tier (1-3) commenced within 15 working days	N/A	16	78	79	100
Support access to appropriate accommodation Ensure that all YOS have a named accommodation officer and that 100% of young people subject to final warnings with intervention, relevant community based penalties or on release from the secure estate have suitable accommodation to go to			100	100	100
Support resettlement into the community					

Theme and measure	2001 baseline	2002 outturn	2003 outturn	2004/05 outturn	2005/06 target
Support parenting interventions Ensure that 10% of young people with final warnings supported by intervention and community based penalties receive a parenting intervention				Q4 – 25%	10
Ensure that 75 % of parents participating in a parenting intervention are satisfied				Q4 – 100%	75
Provide effective restorative justice services: Ensure that 75% of victims of youth crime referred to YOS are offered the opportunity to participate in a restorative process				Q4 – 100%	75
Ensure that 75% of victims are satisfied				Q4 – 100%	75
Ensure equal treatment regardless of race All YOS to have an action plan in place to ensure that any difference between the ethnic composition of offenders on all pre-court and post-court disposals and the ethnic composition of the local community is reduced year-on-year					Race action plan due for submission June 2005

EPQA

Theme and measure	Initial score	Predicted score	Actual score
Preventing offending and minimising the use of custody			
Prevention: post 07			
Early intervention: Final warning interventions	1	3	
Intensive supervision: ISSP post 07			
Managing demand for custody: Remand management 05 – 07 or 06 – 08			
Swift administration of justice: post 07			
Achieving improved outcomes for children and young people who offend			
Restorative justice and victims			

Theme and measure	Initial score	Predicted score	Actual score
Race			
Recidivism (n/a)			
Assessment, planning interventions and supervision	2	3	
Education, training and employment	2	2	
Substance misuse: 05 – 07 or 06 – 08			
Mental health: 05 – 07 or 06 – 08			
Accommodation (n/a)			
Resettlement: 05 – 07			
Parenting	1	2	

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Action-planning	
Issue number	Detail of prioritised and single/linked issues
1 1a	Comparison of general and youth offending population – Black population over represented in youth justice system (15% compared to 8.3%) Black population over represented breach of statutory orders
2	“Not known” ethnicity includes all court appearances, regardless of contact with YOS
R1	White population over represented remand into custody
R2	Black population over represented remand into local authority and secure remand – small number
R3	Bail ISSP – little used but very limited numbers
D1	White population over represented section 90-91 (small number) and ACOs
D2	Black population under represented DTO 4 months and over represented DTO over 4 months (small numbers, 0 and 4)
D3	Asian population over represented police reprimands and final warnings (12 and 6)
D4	Mixed ethnicity population under represented police reprimands and final warnings (nil)
Q 3.5	Positive action in recruitment
Q 4.2, 4.3	Access to support and mentoring BME staff
Q 8.7	Access to expert advice
Q 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8	Monitoring use of services, national standards, and secure placements. victims

Action plan One : Black and Black British		
Issue 1, 1a, R2, D2, 2	<p>Black and Black British 10 – 17 years olds over represented in Youth Justice system compared to general 10-17 year old population ((15% compared to 8.3%)</p> <p>Black and Black British over represented in terms of breach of statutory orders. 36.4 % - 14 cases</p> <p>Black and Black British over represented remand into local authority accommodation and secure remands – small numbers of 3 and 5 – 33% and 50%</p> <p>Black and Black British under represented DTOs of 4 months and over represented DTOs over 4 months</p> <p>Rate of “Not known” ethnicity.</p>	
Risk factors	Institutional racism; Sentencing guidelines; limited influence of YOS on other partners in Criminal Justice System.	
Analysis/ Diagnosis	Possible factors - discrimination throughout CJS; YOS not providing ethnically sensitive service to young black people; differences in gravity of offences; Bail ISSP not being used as alternative to RILA and secure remands – limited number of places available	
Further research and analysis	Further analysis of cases necessary but relates to all sections of CJS from arrest to sentence and through supervision. DTO sentence may be due to higher incidence of robbery convictions, but requires further investigation.	
Target	Current data	Breach – 12 cases = 36.4%
	Target for March 2006	Reduce to 9 cases
	Target for March 2007	Reduce to 6 cases
Action plan	<p>Discussion with Police – RAID meetings</p> <p>Discussion with CPS and Police – Borough Criminal Justice Group</p> <p>Discussion with Bench legal manager and Youth Court Liaison panel as to how to address with court.</p> <p>Retrospective audit of RILA and secure remand cases</p> <p>Retrospective audit of breach cases; monitor breach cases and continue with recently introduced procedures of manager attending complex reviews, discussion with supervisor before breach action taken, analysis of supervision content and what works with black offenders; continue PSR quality assurance system; review recently revised breach/enforcement procedures. To raise at Team meetings and Team Practice Development days.</p>	

	<p>Establish whether able to record ethnicity differently for those not known to YOS whose ethnicity is unknown. Monitor ethnicity to ensure 100% completion on known clients on database.</p> <p>Review and revise Action Plan in light of further research and analysis in November 2005</p>
Responsibility	Management Team
Action plan Two: White Population	
Issue R1, D1, 2	<p>White population over represented remands into custody – 45 cases 81.8%</p> <p>White population over represented section 90-91 sentences – 4 cases, 80%</p> <p>White population over represented Attendance Centre Orders – 21 cases 95.5%</p>
Risk factors	Prolific nature of offenders; small number of ISSP places; young people being dealt with in adults courts where Magistrates may have limited experience of young offenders.
Analysis/ Diagnosis	Possible factors - gravity of offences; offending history; use of bail ISSP not being used as alternative – small number of places available.
Further research and analysis	<p>Further analysis required on remands into custody – age, gravity of offences, offending history,</p> <p>Section 90-91 – small numbers so not statistically significant, but analysis of seriousness of offences required.</p> <p>ACOs – invariably made without reference to YOS. No further action</p>
Action plan	<p>Managing Demand for custody already identified by Steering Group as priority area, agree recommendations included in briefing paper; include ethnicity in future performance monitoring report in this section; discuss recently issued Bail Support and Supervision paper with Courts; retrospective analysis of remands into custody.</p> <p>Retrospective analysis of section 90-91 sentences with particular reference to offence gravity.</p> <p>Missing ethnicity as before.</p> <p>Establish whether able to record ethnicity differently for those not known to YOS whose ethnicity is unknown. Monitor ethnicity to ensure 100% completion on known clients on database.</p> <p>Review and revise Action Plan in light of further research and analysis in November 2005</p>
Responsibility	Management Team.
Action plan Three: Reprimands and Final Warnings	
Issue D3, D4	<p>Police reprimands and Final Warnings</p> <p>Asian population over represented 12 cases 10.1% and 6 cases 11.5% respectively</p>

	Mixed ethnicity population under represented - nil return
Risk factors	Initial decisions with regard to reprimands and final warnings not taken by YOS; views held by police with regard to young people of different ethnicities.
Analysis/ Diagnosis	Possible factors -discrimination by police; lack of knowledge by police with regard to procedures for children and young people; nature of offences; no clear diagnosis at this stage
Further research and analysis	Over representation of Asian population – no further action Mixed ethnicity – further monitoring required as current research nationally (University of Oxford 2004) indicates higher rate of prosecution and conviction of mixed parentage males.
Action plan	Continue with system introduced in January 2005 whereby Referral Order Co-ordinator monitors all ROs as to whether reprimand and/or final warnings received beforehand. This include monitoring ethnicity. (8/4 - 29 referral orders made, 22 no reprimands or final warnings). YOS police officer to analyse findings further. Feedback to Barnet Criminal Justice Group Discuss at police Review and Improve Department (RAID) meetings.
Responsibility	YOS Manager and Deputy Manager.
Action plan Four - Workforce	
Issue Q 3.5, Q 4.2, Q 4.3	Positive action strategies in recruiting and selecting from BME communities BME staff access to support networks Mentoring or other forms of support for BME staff
Risk factors	Possible sidelining of issues ; cost implications
Analysis/ Diagnosis	Assumption additional support/mentoring not needed as never requested needs checking; all staff receive confidential case consultation from expert psychologist in Team; Managers aware of make up of Team and take into consideration when recruiting and interviewing.
Further research and analysis	Further discussion with HR as to legality etc. of positive strategies. Lack of male staff more of an issue as current staff make up closely mirrors local population in terms of ethnicity.
Action plan	Discuss with HR possible positive strategies for recruitment – “tag” line in adverts?

	Introduce issue of additional support for BME staff in supervision routinely to identify whether there is a need.
Responsibility	Management Team
Action plan Five: Monitoring – service delivery	
Issue Q10.4, Q10.5, Q10.6, Q10.7, Q10.8	Monitor comparative use of other services in respect of race Monitor national standards compliance with regard to race **** Monitor secure placements by ethnic classifications Monitor victims by ethnic classification
Risk factors	Information and Performance Manager post is not a permanent one and funding is only secure until the end of this financial year under LPSA and SSCB funding. Victims are mainly contacted by telephone and, given their vulnerable status, it is not appropriate to obtain information with regard to ethnicity at this stage.
Analysis/ Diagnosis	Change of personnel since an Information & Performance Manager manager post introduced in September 2003, carrying vacancy and continuous demands for data have resulted in other actions taking precedence.
Further research and analysis	Data on ethnicity is obtained through data collection, but further analysis of the data is required to monitor services.
Action plan	Monitor comparative use of other services routinely and feedback as appropriate. National standards audit now takes place annually, but ethnicity not included. Analyse completion rates by ethnicity quarterly. Analyse secure accommodation places quarterly by ethnicity, age and gender, although shortage/demand for placements overrides “fairness”. Now YOS Police Officer ring fenced, investigate possibility of his visiting victims at home to increase involvement in restorative justice processes as well as gathering ethnicity data.
Responsibility	Information and Performance Manager; Police Officer.

REPORT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER

Agenda item 15.1

1. Changes in Committee Memberships

The Conservative Group has indicated that they wish to make the following change.

RECOMMEND – That the following changes be made to the membership of the Committees indicated:-

- **Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee (Health, Safety and Welfare) - remove Councillor Brian Salinger**
- **Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Healthy Start Healthy Futures – replace Councillor Kevin Edson with Councillor Maureen Braun, and replace Councillor Maureen Braun as substitute with Councillor Andrew Harper.**

2. Executive decisions exempted from the call – in process

The Overview and Scrutiny Rules in the Council's constitution provide that executive decision-makers may exempt decisions from call-in and consideration by the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency, subject to the consent of the Chairman of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and to such decisions being reported to the next available meeting of Council together with the reason for urgency. The following decision has been exempted from the call- in process:

(i) Decision of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport: Consultation Draft Local Implementation Plan – Approval of Final Version

The consultation draft Local Implementation Plan had previously been agreed by Cabinet who delegated authority to agree any final changes, prior to the commencement of statutory consultation, to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport. Urgent agreement of these final changes was required to enable the consultation on the Plan to start before the end of July 2005 as agreed with Transport for London and to avoid a late start to the consultation which might prevent the final Plan being submitted to the London Mayor by the agreed deadline. For these reasons, and as the next meeting of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not until 1 August 2005, the approval of the final version of the Plan was exempted from the call-in process.

3. Changes to the Constitution

(i) Under Executive Procedure Rule 1.4 (b), The Leader has advised me of the following amendments to his scheme of delegation of executive functions:

- Powers delegated to the former Director of Economic and Community Development to transfer to the Director of Resources.
- The address of Councillor Christopher Harris to be updated.

The Constitution will be amended accordingly.

Any further changes made by the Leader as a consequence of Councillor Kanti Patel's resignation from the Cabinet will be notified to Council as soon as possible.

- (ii) To reflect staffing changes, Council is asked to agree that the Constitution be amended so that any reference to the Head of Committee and Administration is replaced by Democratic Services Manager.
- (iii) I am aware that there are still some required updates in the Constitution relating to the changes to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The opportunity will also be taken to rectify the situation and ensure that the Constitution fully reflects the Council's decisions.

RECOMMEND – That the Democratic Services Manager be instructed to make the necessary change to the Constitution arising from changes to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation, the need to substitute the words "Democratic Services Manager" for "Head of Committee Administration" and circulate any required amendments to ensure that the Constitution properly reflects the Council's decisions.

4. Vacancies on School Governing Bodies

Appendix A lists (in bold) all current vacancies now needing to be filled in the Council's representation on school governing bodies. There are a number of other vacancies on governing bodies which are due to reconstitute over the course of the next year. However, as this may lead to a reduction in the number of LEA governors on those bodies, it is not proposed to fill those vacancies until the position at each school is clarified. The table below gives numbers for all LEA governors, including those vacancies which are not presently being filled.

The governing bodies of East Barnet School and Summerside Primary School will shortly be reconstituted with the effect that the number of LEA governors will be reduced. Therefore, although there are two vacancies on each governing body, only one needs to be filled in each case.

In order to reflect the political balance of the Council, the political balance on school governing bodies (as at 18 August 2005) should be: -

Conservative	152
Labour	110
Liberal Democrat	28
Total	290

The current balance on school governing bodies is: -

Conservative	142
Labour	91
Liberal Democrat	21
Vacancies	36
Total	290

All persons appointed will hold office for four years from the date of appointment or until the governing body has been reconstituted under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003 if this has not already occurred.

The Group Secretaries have been advised of the vacancies.

RECOMMEND: That the Council make appointments to fill the vacancies reported.

5. Vacancies Arising from Reconstitution of School Governing Bodies

Under the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2003 the governing bodies of all schools in England must re-constitute themselves by 31 August 2006. The term of appointment of any governor appointed after 1 September 2003 finishes when the governing body reconstitutes and those governors may be reappointed. Appendix B lists (in bold) vacancies due to arise in the near future in the Council's representation on school governing bodies as a result of the Regulations.

All persons appointed will hold office for four years from the date of reconstitution.

The Group Secretaries have been advised of the vacancies.

RECOMMEND: That the Council make appointments to fill the vacancies reported.

6. Representation of the Council on Outside Bodies

Appendix C lists in bold the vacancies in the Council's representation on Outside Bodies.

The Group Secretaries have been advised of the vacancies.

RECOMMEND: That the Council make appointments to fill the vacancies reported.

7. Representation of the Council on Stonegrove and Spur Road Partnership Board

The Administration wishes to change its representation on the Stonegrove and Spur Road Partnership Board by replacing Councillor Brian Salinger with Councillor Anthony Finn.

Details of the conditions relating to appointments to this body and current representatives are shown below:

Organisation: Stonegrove and Spur Road Partnership Board

Special Conditions:

The representatives should be the Lead Member for Housing and one officer, with one Member and one officer as deputies. Appointments are for 2 years.

No. of Representatives: 2 + 2 deputies

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Brian Salinger	(Appointed 18/05/2004)	SSRPB1 Member
Period of Appointment:	19/05/2004 to 16/05/2006	
2 - Ms Jill Stansfield	(Appointed 18/05/2004)	SSRPB2 Member
Period of Appointment:	19/05/2004 to 16/05/2006	
3 - Councillor Brian Gordon	(Appointed 18/05/2004)	SSRPB3 Deputy
Period of Appointment:	19/05/2004 to 16/05/2006	
4 - Mr Jonathan Lloyd-Owen	(Appointed 18/05/2004)	SSRPB4 Deputy
Period of Appointment:	19/05/2004 to 16/05/2006	

RECOMMEND: That Council approve the replacement of Councillor Brian Salinger with Councillor Anthony Finn as the Council's representative on the Stonegrove and Spur Road Partnership Board.

8. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2005/2006

Attached, at Appendix D is the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Manager.

RECOMMEND - That the proposed forward work programmes for 2005/06 identified by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees, with the exception of the Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

John Marr
Democratic Services Manager

Register of Appointments and Nominations on School Governors

1. Organisation: Beis Yaacov Primary School

No. of Representatives: 1

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - **Mr Jason Moleman** (Resigned 18/10/2004) VP33.1
 Period of Appointment: 11/06/2003 to 10/06/2007 Liberal Democrat

2. Organisation: Brookland Infant and Brookland Junior Schools

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - **Mr Simon Berger** (Deceased 20/09/2004) P.23.1
 Period of Appointment: 02/04/2004 to 01/04/2008 Labour
- 2 - Mr Jeffrey Leifer (Appointed 01/04/2004) P.23.2
 Period of Appointment: 02/04/2004 to 01/04/2008 Labour
- 3 - Councillor Leslie Sussman (Appointed 01/04/2004) P.23.3
 Period of Appointment: 02/04/2004 to 01/04/2008 Conservative
- 4 - Councillor John Marshall (Appointed 01/04/2004) P.23.4
 Period of Appointment: 02/04/2004 to 01/04/2008 Conservative

3. Organisation: Brunswick Park Primary School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - Ms Elizabeth Lawrence (Appointed 09/07/2002) P.10.1
 Period of Appointment: 09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006 Conservative
- 2 - Mr Robert Pavitt (Appointed 14/05/2003) P.10.2
 Period of Appointment: 14/05/2003 to 13/05/2007 Conservative
- 3 - **Councillor Daniel Hope** (Resigned 24/06/2004) P.10.3
 Period of Appointment: 26/07/2001 to 26/07/2005 Conservative

4. Organisation: Chalgrove Primary School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - Councillor Leslie Sussman (Appointed 06/07/2004) P.25.1
 Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 2 - Mr Sheetal Nehra (Appointed 01/03/2005) P.25.2
 Period of Appointment: 02/03/2005 to 01/03/2009 Labour
- 3 - **Councillor Helena Hart** (Expires 03/11/2005) P.25.3

Period of Appointment: 04/11/2001 to 03/11/2005 Conservative

5. Organisation: Church Hill School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 - Ms Kelly Liza Tebb | (Resigned 02/03/2005) | P.11.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 19/03/2002 to 18/03/2006 | Labour |
| 2 - Councillor Daniel Hope | (Appointed 28/06/2005) | P.11.2 |
| Period of Appointment: | 29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009 | Conservative |
| 3 - Mrs Joanna Tambourides | (Appointed 14/05/2003) | P.11.3 |
| Period of Appointment: | 14/05/2003 to 13/05/2007 | Conservative |

6. Organisation: Courtland JMI School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Mrs J Burton | (Resigned 13/07/2003) | P.39.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 09/07/2000 to 08/07/2004 | Liberal Democrat |
| 2 - Mr K Dyll | (Appointed 06/07/2004) | P.39.2 |
| Period of Appointment: | 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 | Conservative |
| 3 - Mrs A Pottinger | (Appointed 06/07/2004) | P.39.3 |
| Period of Appointment: | 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 | Labour |

7. Organisation: Danegrove Primary School

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Mrs Pamela Diffey | (Appointed 28/06/2005) | P.07.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 01/09/2005 to 31/08/2009 | Liberal Democrat |
| 2 - Councillor Terry Burton | (Resigned 18/05/2005) | P.07.2 |
| Period of Appointment: | 10/09/2003 to 09/09/2007 | Conservative |
| 3 - Mrs Pauline Coakley-Webb | (Appointed 10/09/2002) | P.07.3 |
| Period of Appointment: | 10/09/2002 to 09/09/2006 | Labour |
| 4 - Mr Andrew Summers | (Appointed 10/09/2002) | P.07.4 |
| Period of Appointment: | 10/09/2002 to 09/09/2006 | Labour |

8. Organisation: East Barnet School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 4

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Olwen Evans	(Resigned 22/06/2005)	S.04.1
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008	Conservative
2 - Mrs M Murrill	(Appointed 10/09/2002)	S.04.2
Period of Appointment:	10/09/2002 to 09/09/2006	Labour
3 - Councillor Terry Burton	(Resigned 18/05/2005)	S.04.3
Period of Appointment:	15/12/2004 to 14/12/2008	Conservative
4 - Councillor Fiona Bulmer	(Appointed 28/11/2001)	S.04.4
Period of Appointment:	28/11/2001 to 27/11/2005	Conservative
5 - Ms Cathy Glasman	(Appointed 02/03/2004)	S.04.5
Period of Appointment:	30/03/2004 to 29/03/2008	Labour

NB – ONLY ONE POST TO BE FILLED.

9. Organisation: Grasvenor Avenue Infant School

No. of Representatives: 2

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Mrs Pat Dunton	(Appointed 18/01/2005)	P.45.1
Period of Appointment:	19/01/2005 to 18/01/2009	Conservative
2 - Mr J Tyler	(Disqualified 30/05/2003)	P.45.2
Period of Appointment:	27/07/2001 to 26/07/2005	Conservative

10. Organisation: Hampden Way Nursery School

No. of Representatives: 2

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Mrs J G Lodhi	(Appointed 28/06/2005)	P.48.1
Period of Appointment:	29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009	Conservative
2 - Mrs Sandra Hope	(Resigned 15/09/2004)	P.48.2
Period of Appointment:	19/05/2004 to 18/05/2008	Conservative

11. Organisation: Holy Trinity CE School

No. of Representatives: 1

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Mr Roderick Tella	(Expires 23/10/2005)	VP.06.2
Period of Appointment:	24/10/2001 to 23/10/2005	Labour

12. Organisation: Manorside JMI School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Ms I Westbrook	(Expires 03/11/2005)	P.21.1
Period of Appointment:	04/11/2001 to 03/11/2005	Conservative
2 - Ms Jane Moore	(Appointed 28/06/2005)	P.21.2
Period of Appointment:	29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009	Labour
3 - Mr K Turner	(Expires 23/10/2005)	P.21.3
Period of Appointment:	24/10/2001 to 23/10/2005	Labour

13. Organisation: Northside Primary School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Anne Hutton	(Appointed 09/07/2002)	P.17.1
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006	Labour
2 - Ms M Lawson	(Expires 23/10/2005)	P.17.2
Period of Appointment:	24/10/2001 to 23/10/2005	Labour
3 - Ms Margaret Pond	(Appointed 28/06/2005)	P.17.4
Period of Appointment:	29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009	Conservative

14. Organisation: Northway School

No. of Representatives: 3

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Mrs M Stannard	(Appointed 16/12/2003)	SP.02.1
Period of Appointment:	06/01/2004 to 05/01/2008	Conservative
2 - Mr Hugh Rayner	(Resigned 25/11/2003)	SP.02.2
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006	Conservative
3 - Ms Dadia Conti	(Appointed 08/07/2003)	SP.02.3
Period of Appointment:	01/09/2003 to 31/08/2007	Labour

15. Organisation: Oakleigh School

No. of Representatives: 2

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Mr John Tiplady	(Appointed 06/07/2004)	SP.03.1
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008	Conservative
2 - Mrs Anne Jarvis	(Resigned 25/07/2004)	SP.03.2
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006	Labour

16. Organisation: Queen Elizabeths Girls School

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Councillor Katia David | (Expires 23/10/2005) | S11.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 24/10/2001 to 23/10/2005 | Conservative |
| 2 - Mr Fred Jarvis | (Appointed 10/09/2002) | S11.3 |
| Period of Appointment: | 10/09/2002 to 09/09/2006 | Labour |
| 3 - Mrs D Wilkinson | (Appointed 28/06/2005) | S11.4 |
| Period of Appointment: | 29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009 | Conservative |
| 4 - Mrs A Rowland | (Appointed 08/07/2003) | S11.5 |
| Period of Appointment: | 01/09/2003 to 31/08/2007 | Labour |

17. Organisation: Sacred Heart RC School

No. of Representatives: 1

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Councillor Gerard Silverstone | (Disqualified 04/04/2005) | VP12.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 14/05/2003 - 15/05/2007 | Conservative |

18. Organisation: St Johns CE Primary N11

No. of Representatives: 2

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Mrs Eileen Botham | (Appointed 10/02/2004) | VP.32.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 17/02/2004 to 16/02/2008 | Conservative |
| 2 - Councillor Terry Burton | (Resigned 05/02/2003) | VP.32.2 |
| Period of Appointment: | 30/03/2000 to 29/03/2004 | Conservative |

19. Organisation: St Johns NW4

No. of Representatives: 1

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Mrs R Levy | (Expired 16/02/2004) | VP.21a.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 17/02/2000 to 16/02/2004 | Conservative |

20. Organisation: St Josephs RC Junior School

No. of Representatives: 1

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Mr P Theobald | (Deceased 31/08/2004) | VP.16.1 |
| Period of Appointment: | 07/11/2000 to 08/11/2004 | Conservative |

21. Organisation: Summerside Primary School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 2

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - **Mrs J Underhill** (Resigned 25/09/2004) P.16.1
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 2 - Mr T Renouf (Appointed 06/07/2004) P.16.2
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 3 - **Councillor Mark Langton** (Disqualified 05/05/2005) P.16.3
Period of Appointment: 08/01/2003 to 07/01/2007 Labour

NB – ONLY ONE POST TO BE FILLED.

22. Organisation: The Orion Primary and Goldbeaters Primary Schools

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - Ms Nargis Narenthira (Appointed 14/09/2004) P.50.1
Period of Appointment: 15/09/2004 to 14/09/2008 Labour
- 2 - Councillor Gill Sargeant (Appointed 14/09/2004) P.50.2
Period of Appointment: 15/09/2004 to 14/09/2008 Labour
- 3 - Mr Vinay Sharma (Appointed 14/09/2004) P.50.3
Period of Appointment: 15/09/2004 to 14/09/2008 Conservative
- 4 - **Mr J Hart** (Resigned 04/11/2004) P.50.4
Period of Appointment: 15/09/2004 to 14/09/2008 Conservative

23. Organisation: Wessex Gardens Primary School

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives Vac Ref

- 1 - Mr F Dannenburg (Appointed 18/05/2004) P.27.1
Period of Appointment: 19/05/2004 to 18/05/2008 Conservative
- 2 - Mr A Maund (Appointed 28/06/2005) P.27.2
Period of Appointment: 29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009 Conservative
- 3 - Mrs Vanessa Gearson (Appointed 28/06/2005) P.27.3
Period of Appointment: 29/06/2005 to 28/06/2009 Conservative
- 4 - **Councillor Monroe Palmer** (Expires 23/10/2005) P.27.4
Period of Appointment: 24/10/2001 to 23/10/2005 Liberal Democrat

Register of Appointments and Nominations on School Governors
Posts which will expire on reconstitution of the Governing Body

1. Organisation: Barnet Hill JMI and Nursery School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 2

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 - | Mr Gordon Massey | (Appointed 17/05/2005) | P2.1 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 28/06/2005 to 27/06/2009 | Labour |
| 2 - | Mr J Tyler | (Disqualified 13/06/2003) | P2.2 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 27/07/2001 to 26/07/2005 | Conservative |
| 3 - | Councillor Linda McFadyen | (Appointed 10/09/2002) | P2.3 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 10/09/2002 to 09/09/2006 | Labour |

2. Organisation: Childs Hill School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 2

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - | Ms Beverley Burchell | (Resigned 18/03/2005) | P.29.1 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 12/10/2004 to 11/10/2008 | Conservative |
| 2 - | Ms Margo Clegg | (Appointed 09/07/2002) | P.29.2 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006 | Labour |
| 3 - | Mr Simon Kovar | (Appointed 11/11/2003) | P.29.3 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 11/11/2003 to 10/11/2007 | Liberal Democrat |

3. Organisation: Colindale JMI School

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 - | Councillor Danish Chopra | (Appointed 26/10/2004) | P.32.1 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 29/10/2004 to 28/10/2008 | Labour |
| 2 - | Mr R Hubbard | (Appointed 19/11/2002) | P.32.2 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 19/11/2002 to 18/11/2006 | Conservative |
| 3 - | Mr Nitin Parekh | (Appointed 01/04/2004) | P.32.3 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 02/04/2004 to 01/04/2008 | Labour |
| 4 - | Mr Christopher Randall | (Appointed 16/12/2003) | P.32.4 |
| | Period of Appointment: | 06/01/2004 to 05/01/2008 | Labour |

4. Organisation: East Barnet School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 4

Current Representatives	Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Olwen Evans Period of Appointment:	(Resigned 22/06/2005) S.04.1 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
2 - Mrs M Murrill Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 10/09/2002) S.04.2 10/09/2002 to 09/09/2006 Labour
3 - Councillor Terry Burton Period of Appointment:	(Resigned 18/05/2005) S.04.3 15/12/2004 to 14/12/2008 Conservative
4 - Councillor Fiona Bulmer Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 28/11/2001) S.04.4 28/11/2001 to 27/11/2005 Conservative
5 - Ms Cathy Glasman Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 02/03/2004) S.04.5 30/03/2004 to 29/03/2008 Labour

NB – The vacancies S.04.1 and S.04.3 also appear on Appendix A, relating to routine vacancies. Any appointment made to fill the routine vacancy will run until 10 October 2005. This schedule invites nominations for appointments to commence on 11 October 2005, for which only 2 nominations are required..

5. Organisation: Livingstone Primary School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 3

Current Representatives	Vac Ref
1 - Mrs Usha Chopra Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 14/05/2003) P.06.1 14/05/2003 to 13/05/2007 Labour
2 - Ms Rosallind Maira Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 14/05/2003) P.06.2 14/05/2003 to 13/05/2007 Conservative
3 - Councillor Terry Burton Period of Appointment:	(Resigned 18/05/2005) P.06.3 14/05/2003 to 13/05/2007 Conservative
4 - Mrs Elizabeth Pearson Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 22/10/2003) P.06.4 22/10/2003 to 21/10/2007 Labour

6. Organisation: Oakleigh School

No. of Representatives: 2

Current Representatives	Vac Ref
1 - Mr John Tiplady Period of Appointment:	(Appointed 06/07/2004) SP.03.1 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
2 - Mrs Anne Jarvis Period of Appointment:	(Resigned 25/07/2004) SP.03.2 09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006 Labour

NB – Vacancy SP.03.2 also appears on Appendix A, relating to routine vacancies. Any appointment made to fill the routine vacancy will run until 19 October 2005. This

schedule invites nominations for an appointment to commence on 20 October 2005.

7. Organisation: Summerside Primary School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 2

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- 1 - **Mrs J Underhill** (Resigned 25/09/2004) P.16.1
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 2 - **Mr T Renouf** (Appointed 06/07/2004) P.16.2
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 3 - **Councillor Mark Langton** (Disqualified 05/05/2005)P.16.3
Period of Appointment: 08/01/2003 to 07/01/2007 Labour

NB – The vacancies P. 16.1 and P. 16.3 also appear on Appendix A, relating to routine vacancies. Any appointment made to fill the routine vacancy will run until 2 November 2005. This schedule invites nominations for appointments to commence on 3 November 2005 for which only 2 nominations are required.

8. Organisation: The Ravenscroft School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 4

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- 1 - **Mr A Hardy** (Appointed 26/08/2004) S.12.1
Period of Appointment: 10/09/2004 to 09/09/2008 Labour
- 2 - **Ms Helena Davis** (Appointed 14/05/2003) S.12.2
Period of Appointment: 14/05/2003 to 13/05/2007 Conservative
- 3 - **Mr S Lane** (Appointed 06/07/2004) S.12.3
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 4 - **Councillor Brian Coleman** (Appointed 06/07/2004) S.12.4
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2004 to 08/07/2008 Conservative
- 5 - **Councillor Fiona Bulmer** (Appointed 09/07/2002) S.12.5
Period of Appointment: 09/07/2002 to 08/07/2006 Conservative

NB – Only two of the posts are to be filled.

9. Organisation: Underhill Infant School

No. of Representatives: Reducing to 2

Current Representatives

Vac Ref

- 1 - **Councillor Anita Campbell** (Appointed 11/11/2003) P.1a.1
Period of Appointment: 11/11/2003 to 10/11/2007 Labour
- 2 - **Mr Duncan Macdonald** (Appointed 11/11/2003) P.1a.2
Period of Appointment: 11/11/2003 to 10/11/2007 Liberal Democrat
- 3 - **Ms R Burrage** (Expired 05/01/2004) P.1a.3
Period of Appointment: 06/01/2000 to 05/01/2004 Liberal Democrat

Register of Appointments and Nominations on Outside Bodies

1. Organisation: Almshouse Charities of Samuel Atkinson and Others

Special Conditions:

Persons appointed need not be Members of the Council but they must be nominated by the Councillors representing the Edgware Ward.

Appointment is four years, or for the remaining unexpired term if an appointee is replaced mid-term.

No. of Representatives: 3 (Representative Trustees)

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Joan Scannell	(Resigned 02/12/2003)	1002
		Member
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2003 to 06/12/2004	
2 - Mrs Jackie Page	(Appointed 20/03/2002)	1003
		Member
Period of Appointment:	20/03/2002 to 19/03/2006	
3 - Councillor Brian Gordon	(Appointed 26/11/2002)	1004
		Member
Period of Appointment:	26/11/2002 to 25/11/2006	

2. Organisation: Barnet Housing Associations Liaison Group

Special Conditions:

The representatives must include the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Director of Social Affairs (or his representative for Housing or his representative for Social Services).

No. of Representatives: 4

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Fiona Bulmer	(Appointed 17/05/2005)	0047
		Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	
2 - Councillor Brian Gordon	(Appointed 17/05/2005)	0048
		Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	
3 - Head of Housing	(Appointed 17/05/2005)	0049
		Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	
4 - Director of Community Services	(Resigned 05/07/2005)	0050
		Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	

3. Organisation: London Youth Games Limited

Special Conditions:

- (a) Annual appointment.
- (b) The representative must be a Member of the Council.
- (c) The substitute is to be an Officer.

No. of Representatives: 1 + 1 substitute

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Councillor Christopher Harris	(Appointed 17/05/2005)	0124 Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	
2 - Head of Education	(Resigned 07/07/2005)	0125 Substitute
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	

4. Organisation: National Society for Clean Air and Environmental Protection

Special Conditions:

The Council's representatives on this body must include the Head of Environmental Services or their representative (G.P. Cttee. Dec. 2/6/75-8(e)).

No. of Representatives: Up to 5

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Head of Environment and Neighbourhood	(Appointed 17/05/2005)	0132 Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	
2 - Mr Ray Phillips	(Appointed 17/05/2005)	0132a Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	
3 - Mr David Norton	(Resigned 16/08/2005)	0132b Member
Period of Appointment:	18/05/2005 to 16/05/2006	

5. Organisation: Poors Allotment Trust for Chipping Barnet and East Barnet

Special Conditions:

(a) Term of office is for four years.

(b) Representatives may, but need not, be Members of the Council. Meetings are held once a year in October/November.

No. of Representatives: 6 (Representative Trustees)

Current Representatives		Vac Ref
1 - Mr Don Goodman	(Expires 04/11/2005)	1109
		Member
Period of Appointment:	05/11/2001 to 04/11/2005	
2 - Councillor Wendy Prentice	(Appointed 14/05/2002)	1110
		Member
Period of Appointment:	14/05/2002 to 13/05/2006	
3 - Mrs M Leggett	(Appointed 09/07/2003)	1111
		Member
Period of Appointment:	09/07/2003 to 08/07/2007	
4 - Councillor Olwen Evans	(Appointed 26/08/2004)	1112
		Member
Period of Appointment:	27/08/2004 to 26/08/2008	
5 - Councillor Katia David	(Appointed 23/01/2002)	1113
		Member
Period of Appointment:	23/01/2002 to 22/01/2006	
6 - Mr John Tiplady	(Appointed 14/05/2002)	1114
		Member
Period of Appointment:	14/05/2002 to 13/05/2006	

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGER**Overview and Scrutiny Committees - Programme of Work for 2005/2006**

The Constitution of the council states that Overview and Scrutiny Committee's/Sub-Committee's will be responsible for setting their own forward work programme and in doing so should take into account wishes of Members on that committee who are not members of the political group or groups forming the administration. It is a requirement of the Constitution that these work programmes be submitted to the Council for approval.

Detailed in this report are the suggested work programmes for 2005/2006 for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This does not include the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee which deals with call-in procedures.

1. Summary

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees forward Work Programmes detail areas for investigation in 2005/06 as agreed by Members of the Council's five Overview & Scrutiny Committees (excluding Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee).

2. Relevant Previous Decisions

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee's met during June and July 2005 to discuss and agree forward work programmes for 2005/06.

3. Policy Considerations

Publication of a forward work programme for each Overview & Scrutiny Committee takes account of the requirement to programme reviews in respect of service delivery and service improvement, best value, policy issues and development, budget development and review of performance management throughout the Council.

The forward work programme must also allow capacity for scrutiny reviews and investigations which may arise at any point throughout the year. The work programmes must also pre-plan for the review of some external organisations and Council partners.

Each of the council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee's may also review and scrutinise the Council's Corporate Plan, Community Plan, relevant service Performance Management Plan (PMP) and wider performance information relevant to the committee's terms of reference and responsibilities.

4. Background Information / Officers Comments

The Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee's met at the following times to identify their forward work programmes for 2005/06.

- Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development (2nd June 2005)
- First Class Education & Children (30th June 2005)
- Resources, Performance and Partnerships (1st June 2005)
- Supporting the Vulnerable in Our Community (20th July 2005)
- Tackling Crime and Housing (27th June 2005)

5. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programmes 2005/06

The following work programmes have been identified by the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee's for 2005/06:

5.1 Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To scrutinise and review:

1. Utility Companies
2. Parking
3. Building Control Service
4. Section 106
5. Grounds Maintenance, Street-Scene and Cleansing
6. Recycling
7. Air Quality Monitoring
8. The Council's Corporate and Community Plan's

5.2 First Class Education & Children Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To scrutinise and review five key headings as detailed in the Annual Performance Assessment (APA) relative to education and children:

1. Physical and mental health and emotional well-being *
2. Protection from harm and neglect *
3. Education, training and recreation *
4. Contribution made by young people to society *
5. Social and economic well-being *

6. Local education Authority OFSTED reports
7. Underlying causes for non-use of the boroughs leisure centres
8. The Council's Corporate and Community Plan's

(NB: the reviews marked * will be considered within the context of the Annual Performance Assessment framework).

5.3 Resources, Performance and Partnerships Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To scrutinise and review:

1. Gershon and Efficiencies
2. Consultation and Community Representation
3. The Future Shape of Barnet's Workforce
4. Voluntary Services Best Value Review
5. The Council's Corporate and Community Plan's

5.4 Supporting the Vulnerable in Our Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To scrutinise and review:

1. NHS Service Delivery and Major NHS Developments and Reconfigurations
2. Public Health & Health Improvement
3. Performance Measures and OPMP
4. The NHS assessment for improvement 'annual health check' process
5. Local NHS capacity and infrastructure / population growth in the borough
6. The Council's Corporate and Community Plan's

5.5 Tackling Crime and Housing Overview & Scrutiny Committee

To scrutinise and review:

1. Housing Complaints
2. Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)
3. Support for Vulnerable Council Tenants
4. Performance Monitoring

5. The Regional and Sub-Regional Approach to Housing Investment
6. Licensing Act 2003 – Implementation of Licensing Policy
7. Housing Benefits Administration
8. Housing Regeneration
9. Responding to Diversity
10. The Council's Corporate and Community Plan's

RECOMMEND - That the proposed forward work programmes for 2005/06 identified by the council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees, with the exception of the Cabinet Overview & Scrutiny Committee, be approved.

1. Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2004/05: Annual Report

Introduction

- 1.1 The underlying purpose of the overview scrutiny function is to contribute to the improvement of services for Barnet's residents through the mechanisms of holding the executive to account, assisting with policy development, engaging with local communities and addressing performance management. This work is guided by the council's overall priorities and by the targets to which each service is working.
- 1.2 Each overview and scrutiny committee is responsible for setting its own work programme, taking account of the views of all its Members, key partners and community and voluntary groups subject to annual report to full Council. Committees may conduct research, question heads of service and Cabinet members, take evidence from whatever sources they may choose and make suggestions for the Executive to consider. These may take the form of discussions at the meeting, a written request to a Cabinet member or a formal report based on the findings from an inquiry, with recommendations for consideration by the Executive or the full Council (depending on which body is responsible for the function in question).

Themes for the Year

- 1.3 During 2004/05 overview and scrutiny committees used their 'challenge' role to contribute to service improvement and policy development in a diverse range of areas. Examples include:

'Healthy Start Healthy Futures' North Central London: Improving services for children and young people, pregnant women and newborn babies in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington. A Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) was established to scrutinise the HSHF proposals across the 5 boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington.

A preliminary programme of visits was also organised to the Acute Hospital sites in the North Central London area: (Barnet & Chase Farm, North Middx, UCLH, and the Royal Free & Whittington Hospitals). Further meetings of the

HSHF Joint Committee were also planned in order to consider evidence from PCTs, service providers and experts, to consider patient and public views, transport & other infrastructure issues, and also to consider feedback from JOSOC visits and consultation events.

NHS Continuing Care Consultation: The Health & Social Care Scrutiny Committee considered a on a consultation launched by Barnet PCT to consider the future provision of NHS Continuing Care in the Borough. The Committee asked the PCT to take into consideration the issues raised by the committee before any further commissioning of nursing home care was undertaken.

MCS Programme: The Audit & Resources Scrutiny committee was asked to give oversight to of the MCS Programme, the procurement/IT project to replace the council's finance, human resources and payroll computer systems with a single, integrated new computer system. The committee considered the MCS Programme at various meetings in 2004/05 and was briefed at three major project milestones - 'supplier selection', 'blue printing' and just before 'go live'. One such meeting was held jointly with the Performance, Policy and Partnerships OSC.

Oversight of the Council's External Auditor: RSM Robson Rhodes, was also conducted on a cyclical basis, commencing with its Annual Audit and Inspection Plan, then reviewed the Interim Management Report and then considered the final Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.

Housing Association Development Partners; The Housing, Neighbourhoods & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee monitored the performance of both the Housing Service and the Council's panel of housing association development partners, examining areas of under performance and seeking information on the action being taken to improve performance.

Barnet Homes' draft Five Year Draft Business Plan 2005-10: In March 2005 Members of the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Community Safety Scrutiny Committee reviewed Barnet Homes' draft Five Year Draft Business Plan 2005-10, questioning its key achievements since being established as an arm's length management organisation in April 2004 and its main plans and challenges for the future.

National e-Government Targets: The Performance Scrutiny committee investigated the progress the Council was making towards implementing the national e-government targets and meeting the government's December 2005 deadline. The committee reviewed Information Systems' latest Priority Outcomes and Change Management Self Assessments prepared for the Council's IEG4 return to the government.

Best Value Reviews: Between September 2004 and March 2005, the Performance Scrutiny committee scrutinised the focus, conduct and rigour of the Information Systems BVR, starting with the scoping paper, reviewing progress in January 2005 and ending with the final report.

OFSTED Reports: The Education & Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee considered school Ofsted reports, questioning schools and the LEA on school

improvement, pupil attainment and other educational matters highlighted in individual school reports.

- 1.4 All committees conducted their annual review of the draft performance management plans 2004/05 for the services within their scrutiny remit and passed their comments to Cabinet, to be considered before budgets and plans were finally recommended to full Council.

- 1.5 Highlights of the work undertaken by each of the nine portfolio-based overview and scrutiny committees during 2004/05 are attached at Appendix 1.

Paul Rogers
Overview and Scrutiny Manager

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
Audit and Resources O&SC	
<p>Internal Audit Unit</p> <p>The committee cyclically oversaw the work of the council's Internal Audit Unit. It considered some specific follow-ups from the unit's 2003/04 annual report, considered the 2004/05 interim report and approved the draft 2005/06 Annual Audit Plan.</p>	<p>The committee paid close attention to those audits performed by Internal Audit where a remaining risk to the council was found to exist and made specific suggestions for improving these council functions. It also focussed on audits that had been conducted where no client response from the relevant head of service or director had been forthcoming. High-profile functions that were revisited included payroll fraud and the council's debt collection arrangements (i.e. issues to do with arrears, debt recovery procedures and other matters within the Revenues & Benefits Service). Observations and recommendations were given to the relevant directors, the Head of Human Resources and the Borough Treasurer.</p> <p>At the committee's suggestion and following discussions with the Chief Internal Auditor, the Internal Audit Unit produced a 'vision statement' for the service.</p>
<p>MCS Programme</p> <p>The committee was asked to give oversight to of the MCS Programme, the procurement/IT project to replace the council's finance, human resources and payroll computer systems with a single, integrated new computer system.</p>	<p>The committee considered the MCS Programme at various meetings in 2004/05 and was briefed at three major project milestones - 'supplier selection', 'blue printing' and just before 'go live'. One such meeting was held jointly with the Performance, Policy and Partnerships OSC.</p>
<p>Human Resources Service</p> <p>The committee oversaw the recovery plan for the Human Resources Service following the qualification by the Audit Commission of all the council's official human resources performance indicators in 2003/04.</p>	<p>At its meeting in November 2004, the committee was told by the external auditor, RSM Robson Rhodes, that there was corporate risk attached to the council's HR Service. The committee oversaw the project to improve the HR Service and the payroll function.</p>
<p>Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT)</p> <p>Scrutiny of the Corporate Anti-Fraud Team (CAFT), set up in 2003/04, came within the terms of reference of the committee for the first full municipal year.</p>	<p>The committee established a cyclical approach to the CAFT and an annual report was to be prepared by the CAFT on its work during 2004/05.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>External Auditor</p> <p>Oversight of the council’s external auditor, RSM Robson Rhodes, was also conducted on a cyclical basis, so that this scrutiny in 2004/05 commenced with its Annual Audit and Inspection Plan, then reviewed the Interim Management Report and then considered the final Annual Audit and Inspection Letter.</p>	<p>The committee reviewed the various documents produced by the external auditor’ (in conjunction with the Audit Commission, since these documents were joint publications covering both audit issues and inspection matters). The committee passed its comments on various aspects of the external auditor’s findings to the cabinet, the external auditor and chief officers as required.</p>
<p>Annual Budget Consultation</p> <p>Discussion of the council’s annual budget consultation and questionnaire sent to all households in the borough.</p>	<p>At its autumn meetings, the committee had traditionally debated the council’s planned consultation mechanisms on budget setting, which were conducted in the winter and new year period. The committee did this again in 2004/05, offering observations to the council leader and the officers running the budget consultation project, and then receiving a report upon the results in early 2005.</p>
<p>Children O&SC</p>	
<p>Introducing the Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS)</p> <p>The Head of Children and Families Service briefed the committee on the spring Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS).</p>	<p>It was reported that the DIS was one way of monitoring the performance of the service against government objectives. The DIS was produced twice yearly, as a spring and autumn cycle. There were ten objectives set by the government for this area. For example, Objective 1 – Progress with Safe and Secure Care. It was reported that there were also target figures provided. For example, Objective 1: Targets and Performance Indicators show figures for 2003 Plan (what the service was aiming for), 2003-04 Forecast (what the service was predicting), 2003-04 Outturn (spring) the actual figure achieved.</p>
<p>The Hillingdon Ruling</p> <p>The Manger for Looked After Children (MLAC) briefed the Committee on the outcome of the High Court judicial review brought against Hillingdon Council concerning an asylum seeker, looked after under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and access to services under the Children (Leaving Care) Act 2000.</p>	<p>The Committee questioned whether the Council would fund the continuing support of asylum seeking young people and were advised that it would.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Spring Delivery and Improvement (DIS) Statement</p> <p>The Divisional Manager for Looked After Children (DMLAC) and the Divisional Manager for Information and Service Improvement (DMISI) attended the committee to answer questions concerning the Spring Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS).</p>	<p>The Committee reviewed performance against a number of the key performance measures detailed in the DIS, including young people leaving care aged 16 or over with at least 5 GCSE at grades A*-C, health of children looked after, protocols to support transition by children with disabilities from Children’s Services to Adult Services and recruitment and retention levels.</p>
<p>Annual Report of Statutory Social Services Complaints</p> <p>The committee was briefed by the Central Complaints Liaison Officer (CCLO). The CCLO noted that there had been changes in complaints procedures since April 2004. Children who had made a complaint were offered an ‘independent advocate’ to check if they were satisfied with the way the complaint had been handled. Some children chose to make their complaints via the Children’s Rights Service (Barnados in Barnet’s case). The complaints leaflets had been already redesigned, and a more ‘user friendly’ version was in the process of being prepared.</p>	<p>In terms of numbers, there were few complaints, but this was a national phenomenon – most Stage 1 complaints required a letter of apology or explanation only. From April 2005, the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate will take over the stage 3 of the complaints procedure. If a complainant is unhappy after the formal investigation is carried out it will be referred to the CSCI, they will then decided if a review takes place, it is not an automatic right as it is at present. A new national requirement will also to be introduced in April 2005, whereby there will be a 12-month time limit on making a complaint. The next annual report must contain an analysis of the age of complainant and the time that it took to resolve their complaint.</p>
<p>Children and Families Service – the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) Report</p> <p>The Head of Children and Families Service gave a presentation on the inspection of the Children and Families Service which took place between 6th-16th July 2004 by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). An inspection of the service takes place once every three years. It was reported that the performance of the service is monitored by Central government through the spring and autumn Delivery and Improvement Statement (DIS), which is then followed by the Annual Review Meeting (ARM) and in November, star ratings for the service announced. The committee were informed that the Children and Families Service had retained their two star rating. The committee were informed that only five out of 150 Local Authorities with Children’s services were judged to be ‘serving all well with excellent prospects and that a further two boroughs were judged as ‘serving all well with promising prospects’. Only seven out of 150 boroughs were doing better than Barnet’s Children service, which was</p>	<p>The Committee asked how decisions were reached involving keeping children with parents or placing them in care. The Committee were informed that the National Assessment Framework was used to assess the degree of risk involved. There was also some judgement involved after a thorough assessment of each situation and after working closely with council partners such as the police, health and education. The committee noted that the authority had had a problem with fostering in past years which no longer seemed to be the case. It was reported that all targets on adoptions were now being met. The number of in-house foster carers had also increased. Two very different types of need had to be met. Firstly, children who needed to be adopted and secondly, children who were placed with temporary foster carers with the intention of being returned to their natural parents at some stage.</p> <p>Members asked how deprivation helped shape the provision of the service. They were informed that service users were referrals (from the GP, school etc) and it did not matter whether the service was located in the East or West of the borough. People also visited health centres and schools first and it was these services that decided when to intervene. The HoSC&F was working closely with the Director for</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
currently in the top 17%.	Education and Children and the Chief Education Officer in this area. The Committee asked if the service was able to recruit a range of families for children from ethnic minorities and were informed that this is reasonably good. The service were working much more closely with the North London Consortium and it was also planned to pool resources with the London Borough of Enfield.
<p>Barnet Primary Care Trust and Delivery of the National Service Framework</p> <p>The Assistant Director for Children and Young People (Barnet Primary Care Trust) addressed the committee concerning implementation of the National Service Framework.</p>	It was reported that the intended timescale for delivery of the NSF was 10 years. Members were informed that the National Service Framework had 11 standards (within 3 parts – Part 1 for children, Part 2 for children in special circumstances and Part 3 for maternity services). It was also reported that it would require a cultural shift, working across the Children Act 2004 and the National Service Framework and bringing the two together.
<p>Health Arrangements for Looked After Children (LAC)</p> <p>The Divisional Manager for Looked After Children addressed the committee. It was reported that the LAC area required further development and that the health outcomes for LAC had always been significantly poorer than those of their peers living within their families. As a consequence, the implementation of new guidance on meeting the health needs of looked after children was a key element of the Quality Protects Programme initiated in 1998. It was reported that central to this was the requirement that all looked after children should have a health assessment on a 6 monthly basis or until they were 5 years old and yearly thereafter. In order to meet this requirement, the Primary Care Trust (PCT) had allocated one senior nurse and one junior nurse into the Children and Families Service. The committee were informed that the health assessment was of the child's health needs, with the nurses confirming whether immunisations were up to date and that there were no medical concerns. Eating habits, sleep patterns, family planning and other matters were also discussed with the children and young people. As a result of this assessment, a health plan is then drawn up by the child, the nurse and the carer and the social worker copied into the Plan to ensure that it's implementation and monitoring takes place.</p>	In response to the Committee's questions, it was reported that if a child comes from out of borough, then the child's medical records are still the responsibility of that borough's Children and Families service. Although the file will not be forwarded to Barnet, nurses do have access to the national health database. As part of the Children Act 2004, a new integrated Children's system was under development. It was often very difficult to ascertain asylum seeking children's medical history, although the children were often more receptive to receiving a medical assessment. The committee were also informed that the Health Guidance had been updated and there was a requirement that the initial health assessment be conducted by a medically qualified practitioner. Through the Quality Protects programme and various other funding streams a looked after children's service had been established as part of Barnet's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, comprising of psychiatry, psychology, art and family therapy and child psychotherapy.

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Draft Budget and Performance Management Plans for the Children and Families Service</p> <p>The Head of Children and Families Service provided an overview of the Children and Families Service draft Performance Management Plans (PMPs), reporting that :</p> <p>That the main difference in the 2005/6 Children and Families Service PMP concerned the Children Act 2004, concerning the five priorities of staying safe, being healthy, enjoying and achieving, economic wellbeing and making a contribution. The function of the Children's Service was to focus and assess children most in need. Members were also informed that the 18 recommendations made by the CSCI inspectors had been incorporated into the report.</p>	<p>Key risks had been identified which included the capacity of partners, the consequences of asylum and Immigration legislation/regulation and the importance of ensuring that Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) did reduce anti-social behaviour rather than increase the number of young people entering care and/or custody.</p>
<p>Culture, Community Engagement, Human Resources and Equalities O&SC</p>	
<p>How Greenspaces Aim to Meet the Community Leisure Needs in the 21st Century</p> <p>The Service Manager for Greenspaces briefed the Committee on the ways in which Greenspaces aimed to meet the community leisure needs in the 21st Century. The Committee considered the Greenspaces Improvement Plan.</p>	<p>The Committee expressed unanimous agreement that money should go directly into parks and not to a central fund. The Committee established that there would be a monitoring of Section106 income to ensure it is tracked and spent as intended. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to Cabinet that Barnet achieve at least one green flag park as soon as possible and well before 2008. The Cabinet member confirmed that he was happy for Barnet to achieve one Green Flag status in a park as soon as possible and that the council would submit a site for green flag assessment in 2005-6.</p> <p>The Committee also reviewed refreshment facilities in parks as an area that should be promoted further to encourage more people to use the borough' park's. The Greenspaces Manager informed the Committee that the renewal of café leases were taking place and that tenders were being considered. The Committee discussed the quality of pitches in the borough and subsequently undertook further work into the hire prices of Barnet pitches with a comparison to other boroughs.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Youth Services in Barnet – Developing Partnerships and Widening Participation</p> <p>The purpose of the review was to assess the current extent and nature of the voluntary youth sector in Barnet, how local voluntary and community groups operated, how they helped young people to develop as individuals, broaden their experiences and skills and realise their personal potential and What sort of help the Council could best give the Barnet voluntary and community youth sector to help them develop their activity programme, widen participation among young people and support them as organisations. The committee took evidence from a number of organisations to support the review. Research also included questionnaires and interviews and over 40 voluntary and community groups were contacted and site visits were made. Voluntary and community organisations attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to inform members of their organisation's work and interviews were carried out with the London Borough of Barnet's Youth Service which included the Grahame Park and Rainbow Youth Centre managers, the Detached Youth Work team leader, the Drugs and Alcohol manager, Oasis and Barnet Grants Unit.</p>	<p>The Committee drafted a report detailing a number of recommendations arising from the review, which were put forward for further consideration by the Cabinet. Some of the recommendations included the development of an effective and consistent method of registering voluntary youth organisations with a clear remit of what is expected from a voluntary organisation; advice on Council funding and the different avenues of funding available be given to voluntary organisations and that the Council looks at how additional youth facilities, both centre-based and otherwise could be provided, including active partnership with the voluntary sector.</p>
<p>Greenspaces, Pitches and Cafes</p> <p>The committee considered the councils management of green spaces, sports pitches and café facilities located in parks. The Greenspaces Manager presented a report regarding cafés in the parks of Barnet and the cost of pitches compared with adjacent Boroughs.</p> <p>It was reported that in the past, leasing had taken place on an ad hoc basis, but that this was no longer the case as a dedicated officer with the responsibility of overseeing the leasing of cafés in the parks had been employed. It was reported that there was concern regarding some of the café buildings and that where leases were available, these were being advertised and tendering was due to take place which would be a good indication of whether some buildings were really viable for use.</p>	<p>The committee noted the variance in usage of cafes across the borough's parks, and sought clarification as to why this was the case and whether there were any particular reasons for such inconsistency of usage across the parks. It was informed that a number of explanations could be put forward, ranging from ease of access to the park itself, other facilities available in the park to attract people to it and the management of the businesses themselves. With regard to those cafes out of lease, the committee asked what financial implications arose in relation to any such properties and were advised that the Council did not stand to lose money. Buildings that were not used were boarded up and after tendering, assessed whether they were viable to keep open. The committee also sought further clarification over the tendering process and associated timescales with the tendering process.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Barnet Parks – Green Flag Status</p> <p>The Cabinet member for Environment and Transport attended the committee in order to answer questions by the members of this committee on its recommendation that at least one Barnet park achieves Green Flag status as soon as possible and well before 2008. In reference to a Cultural Services Inspection report, the committee sought clarification as to whether one or two parks would attain green flag, as there seemed to be a discrepancy. The Committee were informed that submission of any applications for Green Park status were required by February 2005. An internal self-assessment had been undertaken and completed. The parks service were seeking an external body to review the findings and outcomes of the self-assessment. The Cabinet Member advised the committee that the intention was to put forward more than one park for Green Flag status.</p>	<p>The committee asked what the difference was between Premier Parks and Green Flag Status parks. The Cabinet Member stated that Premier Parks was the Council's strategy whereby sixteen of the borough's parks were identified for further improvement and the quality of the premier parks was measured against the 'Green Flag' standard, which was a national initiative. Each of the 16 parks were subject to a five year improvement plan. The Cabinet member stated that there was concern about non-premier parks and that this had been discussed in detail with the Head of Service. Measures had been taken to improve the standards of quality in these parks. The committee noted that the strategy focus of the plan appeared to be balanced, but also noted that there should be no risk of green flag status leading to a potential downgrading of those parks outside of the green flag category. The committee were advised that a five-year improvement plan was in place for Premier Parks, and that associated issues of grounds maintenance and the allocation of parks resources were also to be reviewed.</p>
<p>Partnership Working and Community Engagement in Barnet</p> <p>The Community Partnerships Manager gave a presentation on partnership working, community planning and community consultation and engagement. The presentation outlined how the Council had been meeting its statutory responsibility under the 2000 Local Government Act to prepare a community strategy; the role and work programme of Barnet's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and how the consultation and engagement strategy agreed by Cabinet aimed to enhance the authority's engagement with the wider community. The committee sought detail as to the range of work undertaken to engage with communities. It was informed that a range of networks outside of the council are also used for community engagement activities. For example, the council had arrangements in place with the Barnet Voluntary Service Council (BVSC), Barnet Arts Council as well as the Resident Participation Service. However, it was recognised that this may not reach every part of the Barnet community.</p>	<p>The committee asked whether there was another way in which these organisations could feed into the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) without attending the Civic Network. Barnet First, the council's community publication, was put forward as another vehicle for wider community communication. For example, the Council's revised Community Plan needs to be adopted by mid-2006 and consultation around this will take place through the publication. Officers also have contact with the Equalities team who have Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) contacts in a number of community groups.</p> <p>The Committee asked whether consultation was undertaken in languages other than English. Large scale consultation was not undertaken in other languages, although a paragraph at the end of the document for translation requests is made available. It was reported that demand for the service had been low. The document was placed in all of the council's libraries.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Leisure and Fitness: Access to Leisure and Community Facilities</p> <p>The Acting Leisure Service Manager (ALSM) and the Contracts Manager for Greenwich Leisure Limited (CMGLL) attended this meeting. The acting Leisure Service Manager informed the committee that in January 2003, Greenwich Leisure Limited had become an active partner of the Council with the remit to manage eight leisure facilities and that :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The eight facilities were open for at least 12 hours each weekday • Copthall Leisure Centre, Finchley Lido and Church Farm pool were open for 15 hours each day • Most centres can be reached using public transport although it was recognised that this was more difficult for Copthall Leisure Centre and Copthall Athletics Stadium • The Bonus Card was available to those users most in need • New computer systems were being installed which would allow for better data to be collected which would allow for different user groups to be identified • The Council recently commissioned a Disabled and Facilities Review of all the facilities under the management of GLL to determine the suitability of the accommodation in respect of Disabled Access • The committee were informed that in order to obtain further information about the non-users of these facilities a questionnaire would be placed before the Citizen's panel in January 2005. 	<p>The committee noted that although good developments had taken place, in other boroughs the initiative was to target certain groups that under-used leisure facilities. The committee sought to clarify whether there were any initiatives in Barnet supported by GLL addressing needs of minority groups. In response, CMGLL informed the committee that they worked closely with the Leisure Service to identify such groups. For example, at Copthall and Finchley there were swimming pool sessions for Muslim women only. The committee addressed funding streams and how their future level would shape the delivery and output of services via leisure centres in the borough. The committee were advised that there had been no reduction in funding from the council to support such services. GLL's objective was to provide a complete service and contractual obligations were in place to ensure that those services were provided. Reviewing the concessionary rates data, Members noted that there was a £20 single (monthly) membership fee which was at a concessionary rate. Members asked whether it was thought that this fee was reasonable. The ALSM was of the opinion that it was, particularly when compared to private health facilities.</p> <p>The committee noted that the Cultural services inspection findings gave the Leisure services a low rating and only 26% were satisfied with the services. The committee asked what actions had been taken to improve performance. The committee were advised that Audits had been undertaken and it became evident that the wording of the questionnaire used was misleading. The questionnaire was to be repeated through the Citizens Panel, with results by the end of January 2005. The committee asked for further detail as to the underlying causes for the council's poorer comparative performance with other London authorities. The fact that the methodology for conducting the survey had changed was conveyed as a possible explanation for the results, as well as the point that people's perceptions of what constituted 'leisure' needed further clarification and a clearer definition. The committee sought detail for levels of usage of Barnet's leisure facilities and were advised that there was room for further improvement. It was also reported, however, that the leisure centres were seeing an increasing number of people who had switched from private facilities and who now viewed the council's facilities as good as those in private facilities. GLL had also appointed a Community Development Officer whose role was to promote these facilities with groups in the community and schools to encourage young people to use the facilities as well. In terms of physical access to the facilities, the committee were advised that refurbishments which had taken place complied with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Review of the Draft Budget and Performance Management Plans 2005/06</p> <p>The Head of Leisure and Libraries and Acting Head of Human Resources attended the committee. The committee scrutinised a number of the areas detailed with the respective Performance Management Plans (PMP) for these services.</p>	<p>Leisure and Libraries</p> <p>With regard to performance management issues, the committee queried how the service changes would affect Performance Indicator performance relating to 'maximise usage of libraries through visits and take-up of service', and more specifically to the stock issues targets for books. The HoLL pointed out that due to the 6.50% reduction in opening hours and 9% budget for stock, following on from the reduced spend in 2003/04 on stock, there would be an inevitable reduction in loans, estimated at 9% on book issues, but higher on music audio due to market changes. Due to the success of Hendon Library the service may meet the Public Library Service standard for visits. The committee agreed to request that Cabinet reconsider the proposed reduction in resource to the libraries service and whether it would be possible to find a sponsor for the mobile library vehicle earmarked to be taken out of service and to reassess the proposals concerning reduced opening hours.</p> <p>The committee also sought clarification regarding the Council's responsibility to ensure that the leisure buildings comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) and whether the leisure services target of 5% increase in participation in sports development was a realistic target considering reduction in service resource. It was within GLL's contract to ensure that compliance with DDA legislation was in respect of building accessibility was complied with. All newly refurbished leisure buildings took DDA into account. The Sports Development officers were confident that they would meet the target of increase in participation in sports development by 5% target owing to the fact that the service worked in partnership with a number of groups to deliver sports development programmes and could also secure funding for such groups. The committee were of the opinion that there should be a specific amount of funding from the Council for sports programmes rather than external groups, depending on external funding and grants.</p> <p>Human Resources</p> <p>Gender Equalities Act:</p> <p>The committee asked how Barnet had implemented the Gender Equalities Act in terms of equality of pay. The committee were advised that equal pay and progression schemes had been identified for further review in some detail. The pay grading system was another area identified for further work to ensure that the authority met the Equal Pay Act.. During 2005, HR would be collecting the data for</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>this work to proceed with a major project scheduled for initiation in 2006/07.</p> <p>Absence and Sickness Data</p> <p>The committee noted that the target for absence and sickness in the authority was 7 days, which the committee thought to be quite high. It asked what would be done to reduce this and whether the underlying causes for sickness were known. The committee was advised that there were a significant number of staff who were absent on long-term sick leave. The HR Department had a dedicated member of staff assisting in helping people back to work.</p> <p>Risk Assessments:</p> <p>The committee sought confirmation as to whether the risk assessments framework detailed in the PMP could be resourced so as to meet its requirements. The committee were informed that HR were reviewing ways to ensure that the requirements were met. Apart from buildings and structure, organisational culture and improving information and communication had to be considered.</p> <p>Disabilities</p> <p>The committee asked what the figure was for disabled people employed by the Council. It was advised that the figure stood at 2%, but that employees may not disclose this information as they did not consider themselves to have a disability. The committee also asked how the authority was actively promoting the employment of disabled people. It was informed that focus was on internal and existing staff rather than through external recruitment, due to lack of existing vacancies. Provision of work experience had been identified for further development.</p>
<p>Leaflets and the Dissemination of Information to the Community and Effectiveness of the Borough Website</p> <p>The Head of Cultural Services and Library Service Manager reported to the committee that hard copy information sources found in the boroughs libraries were largely grouped by information type and priority order. This led to two significant information types; local information relevant specifically to within the borough of Barnet and secondly, information relating to neighbouring boroughs and cross-</p>	<p>The committee questioned the statement in the report that the council's publication 'Barnet First' was distributed to every household within the borough. The committee were of the opinion that this was detrimental to the promotion of some council activities and asked what action was being taken to address this. The LSM responded that the council's Communications team dealt with the distribution of Barnet First. Cultural Services had found from past experience that the level of distribution of the magazine across the borough improved when concerns with the performance of the distributors was brought to the direct attention of the Communications team, who then raised the matter directly. Every household within</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>borough activities. The information sources were also categorised and made available by relevance, for example, literature of interest to older people would be made available and presented together within the library. Use of the Council's website was being monitored to ascertain how it was used by user groups. Opportunities were sought to utilise the web site in order to reach a wider audience, specifically around promotion of special events and promotions facilitated and supported by Cultural Services. The report to the committee also detailed the range and type of information material made available to the public, where it can be found and, in some instances, provides data relating to actual take up and usage of the material.</p>	<p>the borough, including residents in council blocks and flats, should receive a copy of Barnet First. The Committee asked whether the Post Office's postal address database could be used as the basis for future distribution of the magazine. It was advised that the council presently used the Electoral Role as the main data source. However, the committee's concerns around the distribution of the magazine would be raised directly with the Communications Team.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report's details on the rise in the use of the web to access information generally. Members asked what provision was made specifically for older people, who may have a disability which ruled out using technology, or for those residents who simply did not have access to such technology. The LSM stated that all staff working in the borough's libraries were trained to help all citizens who may have specific information requests. Staff take the time to source the material, which is free of charge. The Social Services Department provided a guide specifically for pensioners detailing relevant and useful services, which was available in all of the council's libraries. The Committee asked whether a strategy existed to promote greater use of the council website. It was informed that such a strategy was in place. There were also national transactional e-gov performance indicators relating to the library service for example. National targets also existed around take up of on-line payment facilities.</p>
<p>Provision of Arts Services by the Arts Depot Trust Ltd in Partnership with Cultural Services</p> <p>The Head of Cultural Services reported to the committee. The report outlined the range of work currently undertaken by the Arts Depot Trust Ltd in partnership with Cultural Services and the existing Arts Depot work programmes for 2004/05 and new work programme for 2005/06.</p> <p>It was reported that the Arts Depot Trust had agreed £108,000 funding over the next three years. Rather than run the potential risk of duplicating council activity, the agreement allowed for the Arts Depot to be the central focus for community arts activity within the borough. Joint working between the Arts Council and Cultural Services would, however, be central to the future management of the arts programme within the borough, specifically with regard to a diverse and strategic approach to future cultural provision. It was envisaged that the</p>	<p>The Committee asked whether a strategy had been prepared for when the three years of secured Arts Depot funding came to an end. The HoCS advised that it had not at the time. However, funding had been secured to cover the important 12-18 month period for firmly establishing the Arts Depot within the borough. The HoCS stated that in arts development terms, secured funding over a three year period was viewed as a reasonable timescale. Cultural Services were however working with the council's Legal Services Department with regard to future funding arrangements.</p> <p>The Committee asked whether the 2005/06 work programme detailed in the report was the full programme. It was advised that it was not, but was a summary of key activities of work to be undertaken by the Arts Depot and council staff. Provision had been allowed for further activities to be included in the work programme over the course of the year. The Arts Depot was required to produce an Annual report providing data around take up of services over 2003/04, as well as providing other monitoring data on the activities taking place at the Depot.</p> <p>The Committee asked how the Arts Depot Annual Work Programme was agreed.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>agreement would also allow for greater scope of future arts provision and help facilitate in particular the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seasonal arts events • Educational achievement • Community partnerships • Delivery of the annual work programme • Engagement with young people <p>It was envisaged that the agreement would provide greater access to arts education, reduce the risk of exclusion and encourage young people to participate in arts and cultural events.</p> <p>The Committee received the Arts Depot work programme for 2004/05, and the future work programme for 2005/06. The activities and events which comprised the yearly work programmes were funded by groups such as Sure Start and the Milly Apthorp Trust and therefore the funding underpinning the work programmes was reported to be sound. The work programmes were designed to make provision for all community groups and people of all ages.</p>	<p>The HoCS informed the Committee that this was done by legal contract, which was signed by all parties. Regular contact was also maintained between parties and a reconciled statement provided to Cultural Services from the Arts Depot detailing how monies for the associated activities and events was actually spent.</p> <p>Regarding revenue funding for community festivals, the Committee asked if this was at the same level as before the Arts Depot agreement. The HoCS advised that it was at approximately £5,000. The Committee asked if any charges were levied to set up the community festivals. The HoCS replied that this was uncertain in terms of hire of marquees and tents, but that the £5,000 revenue fund was used to provide advice regarding health and safety and other areas. The funding was separate from Arts Depot funding and only provided to those constitutionally formed groups recognised by the council.</p> <p>Members asked why the Big Draw – Community Focus event was taking place at Brent Cross shopping centre rather than the Arts Depot. The HoCS advised the Committee that the council had established good partnership working with the Brent Cross centre, that the BCC was a partner in the Local Strategic Partnership, and had the advantage of a high throughput of people visiting the shopping centre. Consequently this allowed for major exposure of such initiatives which could not be readily replicated elsewhere.</p>
<p>Satisfaction with Leisure Services – Citizens Panel Survey 2005 and Annual Residents Survey 2005</p> <p>The Acting Leisure and Partnerships Manager and Corporate Performance Research Officer presented the findings of the Citizens Panel Survey (February) 2005 and Annual Residents Survey (January) 2005 in relation to the provision of Leisure Services in the borough.</p> <p>The Annual Residents Survey showed that user satisfaction levels within the borough were lower than in 2004, with a headline satisfaction figure of 19%, which accounted for users and non-users of leisure services in the borough. However, when the figures are broken down to look at satisfaction levels with users only, the satisfaction level reached 61%. Following the outcome of the respective surveys, council officers would be discussing the results with Greenwich</p>	<p>The Committee asked whether surveys had been distributed to all Barnet residents and were advised that the Citizens Panel survey was distributed to one thousand Citizen Panel members, across the borough. The survey was concerned specifically with leisure centres. The survey was undertaken on a one-to-one basis, which included non-users of the boroughs leisure facilities (the definition of leisure for the purpose of the survey did not include cinema, theatre, bowling etc). It was found that the majority of users of leisure centres in the borough were satisfied. The Committee sought clarification as to how the sample for the Citizens Panel was selected and was informed that the Citizens Panel comprised one thousand residents, which when taken as a whole reflected the demographics of the borough in terms of ethnicity, age profile etc.</p> <p>The committee asked whether the action plan would specifically address the shortfall in user satisfaction levels. They found that Greenwich Leisure had a community officer to raise the profile of the leisure centres in order to raise usage and, therefore, income arising which was then returned to the running of the centres. The</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Leisure. Greenwich Leisure were in the process of producing their own user survey, which would also include non-users.</p> <p>Contrary to the Annual Residents Survey, the Barnet Citizen's Panel survey reported that 61% of all users were satisfied with the provision of leisure services, which was similar to the outcomes arising from the Barnet Citizens Panel survey. Consequently, Barnet officers planned to contact other London boroughs who were currently in partnership arrangements with Greenwich Leisure in order to establish whether there were any significant discrepancies in satisfaction rates of users between the respective boroughs. An action plan would be put in place, detailing measures and initiatives to encourage an increase in the usage of the boroughs leisure centres.</p>	<p>outcomes from both the Annual Residents Survey and Citizens Panel Survey would be fed into the Greenwich Leisure Annual Survey. Members asked where the budget would be found for the follow up to the Greenwich Leisure user survey. It was reported that Greenwich Leisure would fund their own survey.</p> <p>In response to the committee asking whether the service had Greenwich Leisure customer satisfaction statistics for their leisure operations in other boroughs, it was reported that such data was available and that Barnet officers were scheduled to visit six London Boroughs who also had partnership agreements with Greenwich Leisure in order to review their user satisfaction levels for their leisure centres. If there appeared to be any disparity in the satisfaction levels between Barnet and other boroughs further action would be undertaken.</p> <p>The committee were advised that a total of four hundred Citizen Panel surveys were returned, which was considered to be a good rate of return for a postal survey. A total of One thousand Annual Resident Surveys were completed, via one to one street interviews. Members asked if a sample of one thousand was appropriate for a survey which was then used as an indicator of customer satisfaction levels in a borough with a population of over three hundred thousand people. It was confirmed that a sample size of one thousand would be considered satisfactory and fit for purpose. It was also noted that there were a total of thirty-two sampling points across the borough in respect of the Residents Survey.</p> <p>The committee asked whether in light of the level of usage of leisure centres being increased, should Leisure Services not target specific non-user groups and whether or not such groups specifically targeted in the survey. This was particularly applicable in the case of black and minority ethnic groups. Members were advised that the Resident's Survey used census information specific to Barnet in order to reflect the ethnic make up of the borough. Furthermore Leisure Services were endeavouring to raise the profile of leisure centres in the borough generally to increase usage of the centres. The service would be working closely with Greenwich Leisure to address these areas via a targeted action plan, which accounts for specific groups within the community.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
Education and Lifelong Learning O&SC	
<p>The Council as a Corporate Parent</p> <p>The report was presented to the Committee by the Divisional Manager for Looked After Children and the Divisional Manager for Information and Service Improvement. The document "If this were my child...A councillor's guide to being a good corporate parent" was discussed by the Committee. The Committee agreed that this document was vital in the scrutiny of this service area and that the concept of corporate parenting was the responsibility of all the councillors in the borough.</p>	<p>The health, education and well-being of looked after children was addressed, with reference to the document. The Committee discussed areas which included the health of looked after children and young people, the number of incidents with the police and the outcomes and the education of looked after children. The Divisional Managers outlined the work that had already taken place regarding the areas highlighted by the Committee. The Committee referred the document on corporate parenting responsibilities to full Council.</p>
<p>Barnet Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB)</p> <p>The Project Manager for the Barnet Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB) and the Head of Children and Families Service informed the Committee of the work undertaken by the Board. Areas addressed included responsibilities of the Board, the Boards potential to develop joint delivery and resourcing mechanisms for education, social care, youth services and health and mechanism's for addressing the requirements of the Children Bill in relation to the establishment of statutory Local Safeguarding Children's Boards (SCB). Members of the committee asked a number of questions relating to statutory timescales for setting up the Strategic Partnership Board, multi-agency and partnership work taking place in Barnet and how it would be developed further through the Children's Centres and the Extended Schools initiative, how the work of the CYPSPB linked in to the work of Connexions, what mechanisms were in place to measure the Board's commitment and priorities and how children's health issues were incorporated into this.</p>	<p>The committee found that the statutory requirement is for Local Government to be moving towards Children's Trusts by 2006 and should have established Children's Trusts by 2008. For Barnet, the CYPSPB is a virtual trust as the voluntary and the statutory services come together to improve the services for young people.</p> <p>Priorities are identified and agreed by the board and this information is disseminated to services. Developments in multi-agency and partnership work has taken place in Barnet and will be developed further through the children's centres and extended schools. The Project Manager and the Head of Children's Service explained that: the Children's Centres build on existing provision to provide a one stop source of early education, child care and family support. They are key to the development of preventative strategies in their area, and their range of services may or may not be located under the same roof. The Extended Schools initiative is based on bringing schools to the centre of the community and using the school as a provider of multi-agency services therefore not only providing education, but also healthcare, social care, child care, after school clubs, holiday clubs, study support, youth services and adult education. This aims to support schools in providing family and community services on the school site for the benefit of pupils, their families and the wider community. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) has indicated that all LEAs will eventually have at least one 'full service' Extended School. From April 1st 2005, Whitefield Secondary School will pilot this.</p>

<p align="center"><u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Findings and Recommendations</u></p>
<p>An update on the Victoria Climbié Inquiry – Area Child Protection Committee</p> <p>The Head of Children and Families Service updated the Committee on the Victoria Climbié Inquiry and the Area Child Protection Committee. The committee learned that as a result of the Laming Report, all authorities were required to carry out a self audit which was moderated by the Social Services Inspectorate (SSI). The report outlined the action points of Barnet Social Services and it was stated that all the recommendations were overseen by the Safeguarding Board. Members were reminded that the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) would take place in Barnet and that the focus of the inspection would be the Safeguarding agenda.</p>	<p>Issues raised by the committee included what development had taken place in relation to the Out of Hours Service and how the translation and interpreting service was used by the Children and Families Service, as this was highlighted by the VCI as a vital component of a service meeting the needs of all children. The Out of Hours service had been delivered through a service level agreement at Harrow. A completed internal audit had just been completed and there were a wide range of issues that have arisen which the Children and Families Service were looking into. The committee found that the translation and interpretation service was delivered through a whole Council approach. The committee were advised that the service was out to tender and a new contract would be in place by September 2004.</p> <p>The committee sought to establish what happened to children once they had moved out of the borough. It found that there was a set of pan-London procedures to follow for this section of the recommendations. There was one set of Child Protection Procedures covering all London boroughs. However, if a child moved out of the borough, that borough must be informed that that child is on the Child Protection Register. An effective system is not in place- it can be argued that the Information, Referral and Tracking (IRT) would have been a way forward, but there have been considerable problems regarding civil rights issues linked to the rights of parents. Each local authority was required to develop their own information sharing system, but this did not deal with the issue of children regularly relocating to different boroughs. The committee also reviewed further the findings of the internal audit carried out on the Emergency (out of hours) Service.</p>
<p>OFSTED INSPECTIONS</p> <p>The Committee held a number of meetings dedicated to school OFSTED Inspection reports for both primary and secondary schools, questioning schools and the LEA on school improvement, pupil attainment and other educational matters highlighted in individual school reports.</p>	<p>The Committee noted the Ofsted recommendations and the progress the schools were making and the role of the LEA.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Early Years Provision</p> <p>The Assistant Chief Education Officer (Early Years, Families and Play) presented to the Committee. The report was a summary of Barnet's progress against the National DfES Strategic Goals and Targets for early years and childcare provision. The majority of the targets set had been achieved, and in some cases exceeded. The Assistant Chief Education Officer provided detail on the eight goals and targets.</p>	<p>It was emphasised that multi-agency work was taking place and that a global view had been adopted, particularly through the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB). It was reported that the issues of housing had to be taken into account. Although dealt with efficiently on an individual basis, there was scope to develop this further at a strategic level.</p>
<p>Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB)</p> <p>The Project Manager for the Barnet Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Board (CYPSPB) and the Chief Education Officer addressed the Committee on the work of the Board.</p>	<p>The committee learned that the CYPSPB brings together all services with responsibility for children and young people in Barnet, with the possibility of involving parents, carers and young people. The CYPSPB is driven by Every Child Matters (September 2003) and Every Child Matters: Next Steps (March 2004) and the Children Bill. Development of Children's Centres was taking place and money had been received from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to pilot two Children Centres and one Extended School in Barnet.</p>
<p>Behaviour Support Plan</p> <p>The Chief Education Officer reported that the purpose of the Behaviour Support Plan was to capture and present to schools what was happening in Barnet, to provide guidance and outline key activities taking place.</p>	<p>The Committee sought detail concerning how many exclusions schools made that were not supported by the LEA and what monitoring took place if a child had been permanently excluded. It was reported that two exclusions were overturned through an independent appeal panel, not the LEA. Headteachers were not using permanent exclusions as there was more support available through the Learning Mentors. Learning support centres were also found to be very effective. Early intervention work was viewed a priority. If a child was permanently excluded the LEA provided full time provision for that child. There was also the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) with capacity for up to 50 secondary pupils. For primary school children, there was one permanent exclusion for the year, with the child concerned being placed in one of the two schools the LEA has an agreement with (to provide provision for excluded primary pupils). The Committee were further advised that it was the responsibility of the LEA (for out of borough placements) to inform Barnet LEA that the child had been permanently excluded. It was reported that there was increased support provided to schools due to Learning Mentors and due to partnership working with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). It was reported that CAMHS had assessed 200 pupils in Barnet during the course of the year, highlighting the move towards a preventative culture.</p>

<p align="center"><u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u></p>	<p align="center"><u>Findings and Recommendations</u></p>
<p>Meeting the needs of English as an Additional Language (EAL) pupils in the London Borough of Barnet</p> <p>The manager of the Minorities Achievement Project presented to the committee.</p>	<p>The committee established that the performance of EAL pupils in Barnet was significantly above national levels in tests at each key stage in 2003. Fewer EAL pupils achieved Level 4 or more in English (4% gap) and maths (2% gap) at Key Stage 2 compared with the average for all Barnet pupils. However by GCSE, 2% more EAL learners achieved 5+A*-C grades than the LEA average for all pupils.</p> <p>The LEA had responsibility for supporting schools in improving outcomes for EAL and minority ethnic learners. The LEA's support for schools emphasised the development of whole school and classroom strategies that promote positive attitudes to cultural and linguistic diversity. MAP Consultants advise and in some instances work alongside staff in planning and modelling classroom practice that reflects the experiences, languages and cultural heritage of all children, differentiates approaches to teaching and learning to engage all pupils and monitors individual children's progress to inform planning. From September 2004, the MAP and Primary Strategy Teams would be working with five primary schools as an associate of a national primary bilingual project intended to narrow inequalities in achievements of pupils learning English as an Additional Language by developing the expertise and confidence of mainstream teachers in meeting their needs. The MAP Refugee Consultant had worked intensively with a number of secondary schools during the past year to review and extend opportunities for welcoming and inducting new refugee arrivals. A Barnet school was highlighted as an example of excellence in a recent Ofsted publication "Managing the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant: Good practice in primary schools".</p>
<p>The Performance of the LEA</p> <p>The Chief Education Officer made a presentation to the committee on the performance of LEA. The LEA Profile (November 2004) and the Barnet Learning Networks document were provided for the committee.</p> <p>The Committee were informed that Barnet was divided into four Learning Networks which aimed to meet the needs of the children in those communities. Whilst there were schools in special measures, the committee were informed that two of these schools had recently come out of this category and that HMI judged the schools within this category as on track for the target date for removal. The CEO informed the committee that additional schools had been identified by the LEA as causing concern and that the LEA had directed support to</p>	<p>Foundation Stage</p> <p>The Chief Education Officer informed the committee that this was the phase of education for children aged 3 to 5 years old. The Foundation Stage Profile (2004) highlighted areas that required further development, particularly in writing.</p> <p>Key Stage 1</p> <p>The committee were informed that Key Stage 1 (Writing Level 2) was a concern and that an analysis of schools with a 10%+ fall in writing highlighted various reasons for this. It was reported that the LEA were working with these schools and were advocating the use of a variety of methods to develop this area which included the combination of writing and extended writing skills with reading, listening and other</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>those schools to prevent them from falling into the 'special measures' category. In addition to strong governance, rigorous self-review and swift intervention, the assessment of pupils and better tracking of pupils was also a priority. The CEO presented each section to the committee.</p>	<p>skills.</p> <p>The Committee asked the CEO whether extended writing was being used in other subjects. They were advised that it was at Key Stage 1 and particularly at Key Stage 2, which provided children with a reason to read and write and to be confident in this area. Since September 2004, the Education service had been working with children in their school to improve writing skills. The use of drama combined with writing skills was being encouraged, and additional support was received from the DfES. A conference for teachers, particularly Key Stage 1 teachers teaching English as an additional language was also planned. Science was not an indicator that the LEA was required to report on, but Science was included within the LEA Profile. The Committee asked if there were any extra resources for these pupils and were advised that there was a transfer of resources to pupils with special educational needs and to pupils with English as an additional language.</p> <p>With regard to a system of evaluation being in place in Barnet schools, in September 2003, the Education Service introduced an evaluation document to all schools in Barnet. The Chair of Governors was required to sign the evaluation document off, which is then verified by the LEA.</p> <p>Key Stage 2</p> <p>Results were very positive with some very good successes. The committee were also informed that an increasing number of schools were using the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) data, which predicted progress from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3. The value-added analysis was good and as the presentation indicated, children at Key Stage 2 were making more progress than predicted by the FFT. The committee were informed that there were some concerns linked to the achievement of ethnic minority groups and that the gap in achievement had widened since the previous year. It was reported that this was already evident in primary schools.</p> <p>Key Stage 4</p> <p>There were some very good GSCE results with Barnet outperforming its statistical neighbours and the national statistics. Although it was reported that the performance of Black African and Black Caribbean pupils was lower than other ethnic groups and the overall Barnet results, the gap between performance of Black African and Black Caribbean pupils and Barnet overall was less than in 2003. Post-16 results were</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>also reported to be extremely good compared to Barnet's statistical neighbours and the national figures. Previous targets for the education of Looked After Children had not been achieved although measures to meet the LPSA target for 2005 were in place. Fixed term exclusions, which also included half day exclusions, were considerably lower than other boroughs.</p> <p>The committee were informed that the priorities for the LEA included narrowing the achievement gap for black Afro-Caribbean pupils and looked after children, the 14-19 strategy to develop vocational pathways, consistency and quality in teaching, enhancing school review and the professional development of middle managers.</p> <p>SEN</p> <p>The three SEN key indicators were reported on: statements of SEN issues and prepared within 18 weeks, appeals upheld by SEN tribunal and pupils with SEN placed in and out of borough residential special needs. The Committee noted that the priorities identified did not include safeguarding children and were informed that this was a priority included in the service's priority plan. This was a requirement of the LEA and not the school.</p>
<p>Education Service Draft Budget and Performance Management Plans 2004-05</p> <p>The Chief Education Officer and the Assistant CEO attended the committee.</p>	<p>The committee found that progress on the Ofsted recommendations had been thoroughly reviewed and that recommendations had been withdrawn from the report if they had been fully and robustly completed. Where Ofsted recommendations had been withdrawn, it was reported that there was a robust audit trail. The First Stat process and Management Board were used to raise issues and it was reported that concerns about Key Stage 1 test results, the number of students at 16 without any qualifications, a review of traded services and collection of data on racist incidents in schools had been raised through these fora. The CEO advised committee that the Youth Service was now managed within the Education Service. Connexions and the Youth Service provided targeted support for young people at risk and at the same time, targeted resources for hotspots and areas in need of this support, so they were being brought together rather than keeping them as separate services. In respect of funding, funds had been received from Connexions and the Primary Care Trust to fund posts in these fields. Therefore, in addition to the internal service budget, resources from outside the Council were being secured.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Special Educational Needs Procedure and Strategy</p> <p>The Assistant Chief Education Officer gave a presentation to the committee on the Special Educational Needs Procedure and Strategy. The presentation highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THE DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 2002 • STATUTORY performance and the completion of statements • Delegation to schools and the involvement of parents • Tribunals and the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Strategy 2004-08 • The number of children attending out of borough provision • Key actions and Funding 	<p>In response to questions arising from the Committee, Members were informed that the reduction in out of borough placements equated to half a million pounds, which would be used to find schools to take pupils with autism. With the number of statutory assessments reduced, the service facilitated an annual conferences for parents, the first one held in 2003. Investment had taken place in speech and language therapists. At a second conference, parents wanted to learn more about their child's condition. Overall, parents had expressed confidence in the strategy.</p>
<p>The Role of Connexions and Information on Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) in Barnet</p>	<p>The Committee requested additional information from the Connexions Manager on the Connexions service and the role of Personal Assistants, young people Not in Education, Employment and Training including information on the number of schools in Barnet using Connexions. The Committee considered the accuracy of these figures and a further breakdown of NEET figures by postcode and/ gender.</p>
<p>Barnet Youth Service: Priorities for 2005-06</p> <p>The Youth Services Manager (YSM) presented 'Barnet Youth and Connexions Service: The Vision, The Future for Young People in Barnet' to the committee.</p> <p>The presentation gave detail for the integration of the Youth and Connexions service, detailed the future vision for the service and how it would support its principal client groups, detailed the principal service and corporate priorities, statutory requirements, partnership arrangements, performance planning and future targets and outcomes for the service.</p> <p>The Connexions Manager (CM) and Chief Education Officer (CEO) were also present to answer questions arising.</p>	<p>The Committee sought further detail as to how outcomes of success of the approach in supporting client groups were measured and what contingency plans were in place to support particularly hard to reach clients. It was reported that accreditation targets and outcomes were established. It was recognised that not all accreditation programmes would be met and therefore a wider range of accreditation outcomes were required to reflect the variety of young people engaging through the Connexions service. In respect of reaching the 'hard core' client groups, varied and creative programmes needed to be initiated and pursued. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) also worked with the 'top ten' clients in order to establish the programme with them. The Connexions Service had developed good working links with the Police, voluntary sector and Youth Offending Service (YOS). It was largely recognised that the council's resources were not infinite and therefore a targeted approach was required to reach the 'hard core' clients. This entailed making best use of those resources available and move towards better planning and co-ordination of activities with council partners and other external agencies.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
Environment and Transport Services O&SC	
<p>Recycling & Waste Minimisation Issues</p> <p>The scope of the review was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider the impact of the council's compulsory recycling pilot scheme • To consider a report detailing progress and cost implications of establishing bring sites in Barnet • To explore the feasibility of expanding the range of materials recycled and further waste minimisation measures • To look at innovative ways of encouraging more residents to recycle through publicity and advertising • To visit other local authorities to see how they approached recycling 	<p>The committee considered the Compulsory Recycling update report and a report on wider recycling and waste minimisation activities in December 2004.</p> <p>Further updates were considered in March 2005 covering consultant findings and results of questionnaire into the Compulsory Recycling Pilot scheme.</p> <p>Members of the committee visited other council's to learn from their recycling practices and experiences. Councils visited included Dacorum DC, Daventry BC and Camden BC.</p> <p>The committee took the decision that Recycling and Waste Minimisation would become an on-going review topic area.</p>
<p>Reviewing Highways Works and Sites (Footway & Highway Repairs/Maintenance)</p> <p>Members of the committee undertook a number of tours of the borough, in conjunction with the Head of Highways, to review progress of the council's highways and footways improvement programme.</p>	<p>Members of the committee considered a report on the Council's re-surfacing programme (including performance in repairing 'pot holes') at a meeting of the committee in February 2005.</p> <p>The committee noted the progress being made in respect of the council's highways and footways resurfacing programme and resolved to ask the service to continue to increase work on footways.</p>
<p>Graffiti</p> <p>The committee agreed to consider a report on Barnet Council's enforcement strategy and operations (to include the effectiveness of CCTV services on the street scene).</p>	<p>The committee received and considered the report in May 2005.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Traffic Management Policy in Barnet</p> <p>The committee reviewed traffic management policy in Barnet, paying particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how locations for traffic management works in Barnet are identified and pursued • the criteria used in accident remedial programmes • how accident trends and statistics compare with other boroughs 	<p>The committee received and considered the report in March 2005.</p>
<p>The Street Cleansing Service</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the performance of the Street Cleansing Service (including customer satisfaction feedback)</p>	<p>The committee received and considered the report in March 2005.</p>
<p>Abandoned Vehicles</p> <p>The committee considered the effectiveness of local strategy and operations with regard to abandoned vehicles</p>	<p>The committee received and considered the report in March 2005.</p>
<p>Ground Maintenance & Weed Control Services</p> <p>The committee reviewed the effectiveness of the Ground Maintenance Service and the Weed Control service.</p>	<p>The committee received reports from both services in respect of their operational roles. Two tours of grounds maintenance sites within the borough were organised for Members of the committee visit various parts of the borough in respect of grounds maintenance and wider maintenance operations.</p> <p>A Service action plan was subsequently developed to rectify issues and problems identified through the Member site visits.</p> <p>A further report on the effectiveness of the Weed Control service was considered by the committee in May 2005</p>
<p>Draft PMP and Budget 2005/6</p> <p>Consultation with the Environment & Transport Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the draft Performance Management Plans and draft service budgets for 2005/6</p>	<p>The committee received draft PMPs and budget details from those services within their remit in February 2005. The committee's comments concerning the draft PMPs and budget were relayed to the Cabinet for consideration.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Performance Indicators & Measures (including the Council's Corporate Plan)</p>	<p>The committee reviewed the performance of services against the Corporate Plan and other relevant performance targets.</p> <p>Performance tables for services scrutinised by the committee were considered in October 2004 and March 2005.</p>
<p>Further Work Considered by the Committee in 2004/5 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Handheld Technology Pilot in the Street Enforcement Service • Quantifiable results of the Council's Tree Service • PFI Street Lighting Improvement Project 	<p>Reviewed by the committee in December 2004.</p> <p>Reviewed by the committee in December 2004</p> <p>Reviewed by the committee in October 2004</p>
<h2>Health and Social Care O&SC</h2>	
<p>'Healthy Start Healthy Futures' North Central London</p> <p>Improving services for children and young people, pregnant women and newborn babies in Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington</p> <p>The first meeting of the HSHF JOSC took place in the summer of 2004 at Camden Town Hall when the parameters were set for future working. The second meeting appointed a Chairman and chose a Consultant to write the JOSC's final report and agreed procedural arrangements, terms of reference, a project plan and meeting dates.</p> <p>A preliminary programme of visits was also organised to the Acute Hospital sites in the North Central London area: (Barnet & Chase Farm, North Middx, UCLH, and the Royal Free & Whittington Hospitals). Six further meetings of the HSHF Joint Committee were also planned in order to consider evidence from PCTs, service providers and experts, to consider patient and public views, transport & other infrastructure issues, and also to consider feedback from JOSC visits and consultation events.</p> <p>The HSCOSC also looked at a pre-publication draft summary and</p>	<p>Following a number of articles in the local press in August/September 2004 regarding the pre-publication proposals the HSCOSC Chairman wrote to the press requesting input and information from interested Barnet residents which resulted in some informed comment.</p> <p>As a result of the JOSC's concerns, re: the reduction of the current 6 sites providing in-patient maternity facilities to 4 such sites and the future of the Royal Free Hospital's facility, the North Central London SHA (NCLSHA) considered withdrawing the consultation document and looked at alternative options, these were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not to proceed with consultation on a firm proposal, but issue another discussion document setting out further work that needed to be done • Proceed to consult on a proposal to retain specialist maternity and obstetric services at the Royal Free, but move the paediatrics to the Whittington (changes to include consolidation of maternity and services for children and young people in Barnet at the Barnet Hospital). <p>A NCLSHA stakeholder event and another JOSC meeting were held in November 2005. At these meetings David Hobbs (Director of Corporate Development at NCLSHA) reported that the SHA and PCT Board had reached broad agreement on the preferred model for consultation but had yet to produce a final draft of the</p>

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<p>noted how the proposals outlined could affect Barnet residents, notably the proposals to concentrate paediatric and obstetric inpatient services on 4 sites (from 6). The Committee felt that the proposed removal of inpatient services from the Royal Free could affect a significant number of Barnet residents living in the south of the borough.</p>	<p>proposals as further work was still in progress.</p> <p>The Cross Borough Joint Committee expressed concerned over how the consultation had been delayed and handled.</p> <p>JOSC members were informed that the Royal Free Hospital's in-patient consultant led maternity service would remain for the time being as further study on women requiring specialist care and the specialist services provided by RFH was planned</p> <p>In January 2005 the JOSC was informed that HSHF consultation exercise had been postponed and would be re-launched at a later date and after the general election</p> <p>Therefore the JOSC was temporarily suspended until such time as the Strategic Health Authority/joint board of PCTs had carried out additional work and were fully prepared to launch their consultations. The Committee noted that this could be as early as summer 2005.</p>
<p>Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals Trust - Clinical Services Review 'Healthy Hospitals'</p> <p>A number of meetings with officers from Enfield Council and Herts County Council took place to establish a JOSC to consider the clinical services review consultation.</p> <p>Council 6/7/04 appointed 3 non-Executive members to serve on this JOSC. Proposals were expected in n November 2004 for a 4 month consultation period.</p>	<p>Due to the lengthy delays in the publication of both of these consultation documents and the extra administrative work caused for the 5 boroughs with the HSHF proposals , officer representatives across Barnet, Enfield & Herts had decided to wait for clearer confirmation of publication dates before officially constituting the 'Healthy Hospitals' Joint Committee (HH JOSC).</p> <p>As Barnet Hospital would be an integral part of the HSHF proposals the B&CFHT consultation was also postponed in January 2005 and would be re-launched to run alongside the HSHF consultation.</p>
<p>Other Health Re-Configuration Proposals and Health Delivery Topics</p>	<p>The Committee considered a on a consultation launched by Barnet PCT to consider the future provision of NHS Continuing Care in the Borough. The Committee was asked to consider three options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refurbishment of existing accommodation, • Commissioning Services from another NHS Provider • Provision by the Independent Sector. <p>The Committee put forward a number of points I relation to the three areas above.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>NHS Continuing Care Consultation</p>	<p>The Committee was reassured that regardless of the population projections for the next 5 years, the PCT were envisaging an upward trend in demand for NHS Continuing Care and anticipated Continuing Care placements increasing.</p> <p>The PCTs preferred option proposed that there would be a range of facilities available in different locations that would meet modern care standards and provide a more homely setting. The Committee identified a number of concerns regarding the preferred option. These were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the long term sustainability of contracting out services to the independent sector (having regard to the long term viability of many nursing homes) • the dependency on the private sector to provide NHS services and the concern that services could become more fragmented in the future • the quality of medical backup currently provided and proposed under option 3 • the difference in inspection regimes in private homes and NHS facilities • that the proposals could possibly trigger a shift in the responsibilities for funding towards local authorities and thereby increase the probability of numbers of Barnet residents having to pay for services they currently receive free of charge • whether the necessary quality and frequency of medical and specialist care could be adequately provided in privately run homes • that more than one site for continuing care services would make things more difficult for GPs. <p>The Committee was also concerned that in a market where the demand for nursing home placements outweighs supply, a competitive element could arise with the Local Authority. This could adversely impact on Barnet Council's ability to place people, especially on discharge from hospital. The Committee asked the PCT to take into consideration the concerns outlined before any further commissioning of nursing home care was undertaken.</p>
<p>Health Scrutiny – Public Health & Health Improvement</p> <p>To Review Health Improvement Priorities for Barnet</p>	<p>The Committee received a presentation from the Improvement/Medical Director for Barnet PCT on the Public Health White Paper 'Choosing Health' and its relationship with local Health Improvement work.</p> <p>The committee noted that the core message in the White Paper was that real progress depended on effective partnerships across communities, including local government, the NHS and the business sector: The Committee noted that PCT local</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>targets would be developed with local partners from 2005-6 onwards and NHS bodies would be encouraged to work closely with Councils.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The root causes of ill health and how much ill health would continue to cost the NHS in future if there was no substantial improvement in public health. • That in the future PCTs and their partners would be measured on the health status of their residents as well as on service provision. • Smoking would continue to be the PCTs top priority as a significant amount of premature death in Barnet was directly attributable to smoking. <p>After some discussion the Committee decided it would be best to focus its efforts initially on smoking as this was the most important local priority and possibly focus on obesity and sexual health at a later stage. The Committee resolved to start a review of the effectiveness of local work commissioned and managed by the PCT and partners which was designed to reduce tobacco consumption in Barnet. The scope of review was identified as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine all work designed to reduce tobacco consumption in the Borough • Identify gaps and areas requiring greater attention in PCT commissioned and partner agency mainstream work and specific initiatives • Examine examples of good practice elsewhere • Make recommendations to the PCT, Local Authority and other health improvement partner agencies <p>In April 2005 the Committee considered the first report in a scrutiny review of the effectiveness of local work designed to reduce tobacco consumption in Barnet. The Committee noted the health impact of smoking nationally & locally, the Government guidance and good practice for PCTs and Barnet PCTs draft work plan for the Stop Smoking Service. The Committee was also asked to consider what further information or evidence it would like to receive in light of this initial report.</p> <p>The Committee noted that a wide range of initiatives in a variety of settings had been put into place which were outlined in the PCTs Draft Stop Smoking Services Work plan. Although initially the PCTs performance had been relatively poor, the Committee was reassured that the PCTs Stop Smoking Service was continually</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>reviewing its performance and was introducing changes and improvements such as revising the reimbursement scheme for primary care. As a result referral rates and the number of 'four week quitters' had now increased and the momentum had been maintained.</p> <p>The committee acknowledged that no one single approach would work on its own and that a combination of concerted action from PCTs and their local partners was required. Members also recognised the importance of working with other organisations to raise awareness of the problem and to help make smoking an unacceptable habit to follow in public places.</p> <p>The committee also acknowledged the potential influence that Local Authorities and wider LSP partners could have in the drive to reduce tobacco consumption. The Committee asked PCT officers to scope where the Council could and should have influence and provide examples of good practice which the Committee could then consider and make appropriate recommendations for Cabinet to consider.</p>
<p>Home Care Commissioning Arrangements (including those services transferred to Housing 21) and the Effectiveness of New Quality Assurance Procedures.</p>	<p>A report on the current services commissioned by the Borough was provided by the Head of Community Care and the Care Group Manager (Older Adults).</p> <p>The Committee noted that since the last report it received, a thorough review of the range and types of Home Care contracts had been undertaken in conjunction with the Council's Strategic Procurement Unit and Commissioning staff and an analysis of information gathered from Service Users and Performance Information had taken place. The review recommended a reduction in the range of contract types and with the employment of fewer providers in order to allow more efficient and focused commissioning and capacity planning.</p> <p>As part of the review of Homecare contracts, it was clear that not only were there too many types but also the range of unit costs and time slots was excessive and led to inefficient use of time. The new contract therefore required tenderer's to accept a unified price structure whereby all agencies would be paid the same unit rate for the job. The range and frequency of monitoring within these contracts had been rationalised to ensure that only verifiable information was submitted by agencies. This monitoring was in addition to the inspection and compliance monitoring which was undertaken by The Commission for Social Care Inspection. The Contract Monitoring information required by Community Care Monitoring Officers included:</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Qualitative data returns from agencies - verified by Monitoring Officers ➤ Quarterly inspections of Provider records by Contracts Monitoring Staff ➤ Issue and follow up of Quality Alerts (a formal document issued by monitoring staff to identify service or compliance failures) ➤ Monitoring of informal and formal complaints <p>The Committee was informed that the most common complaint received from service users' had been that their care workers did not turn up on time or left early. Until recently all care workers were required to have time sheets signed by service users to verify their attendance but in reality this did not ensure that full service was given. The solution was therefore to introduce an electronic Data Capture System, which recorded the arrival and departure times of care workers. This system had now been installed in all the newly contracted agencies and had so far proved beneficial in improving and monitoring care worker attendance.</p> <p>The PCT noted that as part of the continuing commitment to consult with service users and carers, a consultation forum recently took place which provided an opportunity to discuss the quality and standard of service delivery with service users and explored ways in which the service could be improved or more focussed.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the new home care contract awarded in June 2004 had fully addressed the Audit requirements. Additionally a commissioning strategy report had been completed and the results published for consideration by the Community Care Management Team.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that studying the complaints data in order to confirm the main areas of concern was a good starting point. Members also agreed to attending a users event facilitated by the service scheduled for September 2005. An analysis of the complaints data revealed that most complaints received came under 3 main categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quality of Service ➤ Timescales ➤ Behaviour or attitude of staff <p>Summary of the complaints received:</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
	<p>Quality of Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dissatisfied with quality of service ○ Care not delivered according to care plan ○ Care worker not attending a per care plan. ○ Different care worker attending ○ Care worker did not turn up ○ Received no care when care worker was off sick ○ Relief carers not turning upon time with no undertaking of case history ○ Lack of information/consultation ○ Incorrect information given/not notified about changes in service delivery ○ Carer did not turn up on 3 occasions ○ Complaints about standard of care ○ Complaint that care worker disposed of incontinence pads in the normal refuse ○ Attitude of care workers ○ Carrying out assessments without daughter/ other relatives present. ○ Relatives not being informed that client had been taken to hospital <p>Timescales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carer arrived late ○ Carer left too early ○ Carer does not turn up when expected ○ Car worker does not stay the correct amount of time ○ Delays in invoicing <p>Behaviour or attitude of staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Poor staff attitude/rudeness
<p>Performance Indicators</p> <p>To review the performance of the Community Care Service against Corporate Plan and Performance Management Plan targets.</p>	<p>Regular reports were received by the committee detailing progress in achieving Corporate plan priorities.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Draft Community Care PMP and Budget 2005/06</p>	<p>The Committee resolved to note the PMP for the Community Care Service and to relay the following comments to the Cabinet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee was pleased to note that there was no current overspend and requested that a watchful eye continued to be kept on any additional expenditure whether due to social services inflation or any other factors, in order to ensure that no overspend occurred in the coming year • The Committee voiced its continued concern with the slow progress in clearing the backlog of invoices and highlighted that there was still a significant risk of the service not meeting the performance target. • The Committee noted the on-going problems with the SWIFT system and was concerned that many of the services aims and objectives were dependent on the successful implementation of SWIFT.
<h2>Housing, Neighbourhoods and Community Safety O&SC</h2>	
<p>Anti-Social Behaviour</p> <p>The committee began the year by completing its review of how the Council, police and partners seek to combat anti-social behaviour on the Council's housing estates, making 24 recommendations which were approved by Cabinet in July 2004. These recommendations were subsequently incorporated into an action plan adopted not only by the Housing Service but also by the wider Safer Communities Partnership. In December 2004 the committee discussed the progress made against the action plan with Chief Superintendent Mark Ricketts, the Borough Commander of the Metropolitan Police and the Head of Housing. The committee explored the impact of the more community-based approach now being adopted in Barnet to policing in general and to anti-social behaviour in particular, through an expanding number of Safer Neighbourhoods Teams. Members noted that the Housing Service was working with Barnet Homes to ensure early and appropriate intervention took place in cases of anti-social behaviour and harassment.</p>	<p>The committee's June 2004 review had revealed that, while there was already much work in progress to tackle anti-social behaviour, residents and victims remained dissatisfied with the responses of both the Council and the police and the time taken to reach any outcome when incidents were reported. The 24 recommendations were based around improving processes, speedier case resolution, publicising successes, supporting victims at every stage and ensuring excellent multi-agency co-ordination. The committee also recommended establishing a 24-hour dedicated hotline for residents to report incidents without delay.</p> <p>The action plan showed progress against all these recommendations, including arrangements for closer liaison with victims and a wider range of support to them; training for housing officers in witness support along with a new witness peer support system; new targets for Acceptable Behaviour Contracts and Anti-Social behaviour Orders; improved liaison with police, street enforcement officers, youth services, mental health services and the courts on prevention, detection and enforcement; and annual victim satisfaction surveys.</p> <p>Barnet Homes were examining the feasibility of a 24-hour hotline.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Homeless Strategy Action Plan</p> <p>In November 2004 the committee examined an update of the Homeless Strategy Action Plan and questioned officers on the success of current homelessness policies. Discussions covered the needs assessment process, the pattern of temporary accommodation usage, the developing role of housing advice services, the involvement of private landlords and a rough sleeping preventative strategy.</p>	<p>The committee endorsed the updated Action Plan including a restructuring programme that would result in the creation of a new housing advice service and a Rough Sleeping Prevention Strategy.</p>
<p>Previous Reviews</p> <p>The committee revisited a number of the former Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee's reviews and recommendations to assess what progress had been made in implementing them. The topics covered included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • action taken since the committee's January 2003 review of the Council's response to the 2001/02 Private Sector Stock Condition Survey, including progress in implementing the Empty Homes Strategy and the pilot houses in multiple occupation (HMO) registration scheme; • improvements in leasehold debt recovery procedures, following the scrutiny review of this topic which was endorsed by Cabinet in September 2003; • progress made since the committee's October 2003 review with the regeneration of the Council's four major housing estates at Grahame Park, Stonegrove/ Spur Road, Dollis Valley and West Hendon, including consultation with residents undertaken over the previous year and proposed for the following six months; and • housing complaints, where the committee had earlier queried whether there was under-recording of complaints to the Housing Needs and Resources Service. 	<p>In September 2004 the committee noted the actions taken following its recommendations with regard to the private sector housing stock, with publicity given to the Empty Homes Strategy; over 400 empty properties returned to use; several vacant flats identified for future development; and some progress made in locating and registering houses in multiple occupation in the Childs Hill pilot ward. The committee asked for further information on enforcement action where landlords of HMOs were not meeting the required standards.</p> <p>In February 2005 the committee noted that the recommended review of leasehold debt recovery procedures had been completed, following the establishment of the Home Ownership Service within Barnet Homes; that (according to the Audit Commission) "slow but steady improvements" were being made in collection rates; but that the new information management system needed to significantly improve the efficiency and transparency of income collection had been delayed.</p> <p>The committee noted the progress made with each of the four estate regeneration schemes by April 2005, how residents were being involved and the next phases of the programme.</p> <p>In September 2004 the committee considered both the statistics and examples of complaints made to the Housing Needs and Resources Service and noted the lack of a central system for recording these complaints. Members discussed problems about the definition of 'complaints' in the context of the mismatch between housing demand and supply and asked for regular updates.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Housing Association Performance Monitoring</p> <p>The committee continued to monitor the performance of both the Housing Service and the Council's panel of housing association development partners, examining areas of under performance and seeking information on the action being taken to improve performance. The committee also received an update on the work of the Council's Housing Benefits Service.</p>	<p>The committee noted these reports after questioning the Head of Housing on performance and key issues arising.</p> <p>In December 2004 Members held detailed discussions with Notting Hill Housing Trust about its management and development performance.</p>
<p>Choice Based Lettings Scheme</p> <p>In November 2004 the committee also reviewed the implementation of the Choice Based Lettings Scheme, introduced in October 2003, including how openly, fairly and efficiently it was operating, its impact on the pattern of housing allocations and how more vulnerable people were helped in the bidding process.</p>	<p>The committee noted the report and asked for further information about how the shortage of bids for sheltered bedsit units was being addressed.</p>
<p>Barnet Homes</p> <p>In February 2005 the committee received a report on the outcome of the Audit Commission's November 2004 inspection of Barnet Homes, resulting in a two star rating describing it as a "good" service with "excellent prospects for improvement". This was first major test of the new organisation and a vital condition for the release of major government investment in improving the housing stock to meet Decent Homes Standards by 2010.</p> <p>In March 2005 Members reviewed Barnet Homes' draft Five Year Draft Business Plan 2005-10, questioning its key achievements since being established as an arm's length management organisation in April 2004 and its main plans and challenges for the future.</p>	<p>Members congratulated Barnet Homes on the inspection outcome. The committee also discussed the three areas of re-let times for empty properties, satisfaction with quality of repairs and compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act which had prevented Barnet Homes from achieving a three star rating.</p> <p>In reviewing the Business Plan, Members discussed the issues of support for vulnerable tenants and the impact on estate neighbourhoods. Members also complimented Barnet Homes on the success of its anti-social behaviour work at the Dollis Valley Estate.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Supporting Vulnerable Tenants</p> <p>A major piece of work began in November 2004, looking in depth at how vulnerable tenants are supported in the community, with particular reference to the scope for developing the range of services in Barnet funded through the Supporting People programme. Following briefing on the national and local background, the committee examined how these services are commissioned, the results of a borough wide needs survey, the routes through which people gain access to support, the services provided on the ground and their success from the perspective of service providers. Members have sought evidence from the Supporting People Manager, specialist housing associations, Barnet Homes and the local mental health services and have noted improvements being made to the process of individual needs assessment and referral to appropriate support providers.</p>	<p>The findings of this review are due to be considered by the committee in June 2005 so that constructive, evidence-based conclusions and recommendations can be formulated for Cabinet and/or partner organisations..</p>
<p>Crime and Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005-08 and Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy</p> <p>Continuing previous practice, the committee in March 2005 reviewed and endorsed two key housing policy documents during their resident consultation stage, before final approval by the Executive.</p> <p>To help them scrutinise the draft Crime and Disorder and Drugs Strategy 2005-08 the committee held further discussions with Chief Superintendent Ricketts, Borough Commander, about the progress made towards making Barnet a safer place and restoring direct contact between the public and police on the streets.</p> <p>Members also reviewed a Black and Minority Ethnic Housing Strategy which represented an important strand of the Council's overall housing strategy and its corporate equalities policies.</p>	<p>After discussion and questioning of a number of issues, the committee endorsed both draft strategies</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
Performance, Partnerships and Best Value O&SC	
<p>Best Value Review (BVR) of Children's and Young People's Services</p> <p>The committee completed work on the Best Value Review (BVR) of Children's and Young People's Services, carried forward from the 2003/04 work programme. In reviewing the initial findings in July 2004, the committee felt that a clearer response was needed in the final report to some of the issues raised by the children and young people who had been consulted, the reasons why other issues had been dismissed from the review's recommendations and where issues outside the review's scope had been passed to the relevant services. In September 2004 the committee examined a detailed response to the consultation exercise and questioned officers on how the final recommendations would be implemented.</p>	<p>After questioning, the committee endorsed the final BVR report, asking Cabinet to ensure that the resulting action plan set clear timescales and outcome measures for each of its recommendations and clearly attributed responsibility for their implementation, whether by the council or external partners. The committee asked for a progress report in 12 months' time.</p>
<p>Information Systems BVR</p> <p>Between September 2004 and March 2005 the committee scrutinised the focus, conduct and rigour of the Information Systems BVR, starting with the scoping paper, reviewing progress in January 2005 and ending with the final report. The committee initially questioned the Assistant Chief Executive and Head of Information Systems and senior officers in his management team, then proceeded to hold discussions with external challengers in the private sector comprising Logica CMG, SCC and Cisco Systems. Throughout the review, Members stressed the importance of having high quality, well designed ICT and endorsed the need for a robust review into how new ICT systems could act as a catalyst for delivering significant organisational and cultural change across the authority.</p>	<p>The committee concluded (a) that the review had been conducted in a thorough and efficient manner and had involved a suitably rigorous process of external challenge; (b) that the development of Information Services and ICT solutions to service improvement were moving in the right direction; (c) that a robust business case needed to be developed, based on the findings of staff and Member surveys and setting out benefits in the delivery and efficiency of services to the public; and (d) that ICT procurement costs and value for money needed to be kept under close and regular scrutiny, ensuring downward pressure as the market develops.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>National e-government targets</p> <p>In parallel with the IS BVR, the committee investigated the progress the Council was making towards implementing the national e-government targets and meeting the government's December 2005 deadline. The committee reviewed Information Systems' latest Priority Outcomes and Change Management Self Assessments prepared for the Council's IEG4 return to the government and explored progress across the board in areas including core infrastructure, remote and home working, security of systems, connectivity with partner organisations and linkage with service objectives in 2005/06 performance management plans.</p>	<p>After detailed examination the committee noted the progress made in each aspect of the e-government agenda and asked for further progress reports throughout 2005. In particular Members asked to be kept informed of how the service was meeting IEG priority outcomes and BVPI targets, the public take-up of Barnet's web-enabled services and how each service area of the Council was progressing with change management and transformation, with identified benefits to the Council and Barnet residents.</p>
<p>Safer Communities BVR</p> <p>Between October 2004 and March 2005 the committee discussed the Safer Communities BVR, noting that it dealt mainly with improving the effectiveness of the Safer Communities Partnership at both strategic and operational level, how it was resourced and how young people were interacting with it as both potential victims and offenders. The committee examined the review's scope, consultation results, outline findings and final conclusions, on which they questioned the Cabinet Member and lead officers.</p>	<p>The committee, having expressed some concerns about what impact if any the review would have on community safety in the borough, decided to note the final best Value report and endorsed its recommendation that the Leader of the Council should in future chair the Safer Communities Partnership Board. The committee urged Cabinet (a) rigorously to evaluate the report and its recommendations; (b) to monitor the new Board's effectiveness, in particular its impact on reducing crime in Barnet and changing residents' perceptions of crime; (c) to work towards the co-ordination of community safety and planning policy with a view to designing out crime and anti-social behaviour; and (d) to liaise with the courts to ensure sufficient capacity to support the Partnership's community safety objectives.</p>
<p>Modernising Core Systems (MCS) project</p> <p>The committee met jointly with the Audit and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review progress with the Modernising Core Systems (MCS) project, following completion of the blueprinting stage, and what had been done to implement the recommendations of the 2003/04 Best Value Review of Financial Management. Members questioned the external auditor about the governance, risk analysis and delivery progress of the MCS project and the associated need for cultural change across the authority. Members then questioned officers about the Best Value Improvement Plan, what had been done and what remained.</p>	<p>This special combined committee thanked the external auditor and members of the MCS programme team who appeared before the committee. It also asked the Borough Treasurer to submit a more specific action plan update on the BVR outcomes, showing deadlines, milestones and responsibilities for implementing recommendations.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Transport Policy BVR</p> <p>The committee questioned officers on the conduct of the Transport Policy BVR including progress in obtaining key data from Transport for London, the capacity constraints on rail networks serving the borough and surrounding areas and the realistic prospects for achieving a 'modal shift' in peak period transport usage towards public rather than private means.</p>	<p>The committee expressed its concern at (a) difficulties encountered in obtaining good quality data from Transport for London which was delaying completion of the review; and (b) the problems which flawed population data could cause for transport planning if it took insufficient account of future population growth. The committee's work on this review is scheduled to continue in 2005/06.</p>
<p>Performance Management</p> <p>The committee received detailed quarterly monitoring reports on how the Corporate Performance Office and Information Systems were implementing the targets set out for them in the Corporate Plan and their 2005/06 Performance Management Plans. The committee also examined new strategic procurement indicators to be used in Barnet in 2005/06.</p>	<p>Members questioned senior officers on key performance issues and asked for further reports on specific topics.</p>
<p>Regeneration and Development O&SC</p>	
<p>Unitary Development Plan (UDP) to the Local Development Framework (LDF)</p> <p>The transition from the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) to the Local Development Framework was another area in which the committee built upon its work from 2003/04. The committee had scrutinised the borough's existing UDP at several meetings in 2003/04, and had hosted a workshop in April 2004 on the imminent new system, the Local Development Framework (LDF).</p>	<p>The LDF is to be prepared over the three years up to 2008, and when early stages of LDF preparation commenced in Autumn 2004, the committee received a report from the Planning Service, and offered comment upon, the draft Local Development Scheme (the technical document that is effectively a project plan for preparing the wider LDF). The Local Development Scheme was subsequently submitted and approved by central government in Spring 2005.</p>

<u>Topics Scrutinised and Evidence Taken</u>	<u>Findings and Recommendations</u>
<p>Planning Service's Customer Care Improvement Strategy</p> <p>The committee made considerable efforts to maintain continuity in its work in 2004/05 from the previous municipal year. Having reviewed the Planning Service's customer service and the mandatory best value survey of planning department users (November 2003), it monitored the Planning Service's customer care improvement strategy that was rolled out in mid-2004.</p>	<p>The committee monitored the roll-out and impact of the new customer care improvement strategy during 2004/05, including receiving regular six-monthly analysis of statistics from feedback questionnaires which began to be distributed as standard practice in mid-2004.</p>
<p>Dollis Valley Estate Regeneration</p> <p>A case study approach to the Dollis Valley estate regeneration scheme was used, with a stress upon involving the general public.</p>	<p>The committee looked at the regeneration of the Dollis Valley council estate as a case study of the council's four major redevelopment proposals for its council estates, and devoted three meetings to the subject. After receiving briefings from officers and the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development, the committee interviewed local stakeholders – including members of the Dollis Valley Residents' Association (DVRA) and other members of the local community.</p>
<p>Enforcement of Planning Regulations and Planning Breaches</p>	<p>The committee worked informally using a sub-group of its members to investigate in detail strategic issues around the planning enforcement function in Barnet. A detailed report containing over thirty recommendations was prepared for cabinet, after extensive consultation including with councillors, officers and with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development.</p>

Minutes

OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET
held at The Town Hall, Hendon, NW4, on Tuesday, 28 June, 2005

PRESENT:

*The Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Andreas Tambourides)

*The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Victor Lyon, BA (Hons))

Councillors:

*Steve Blomer	Arun Ghosh BSc BVSc&AH	*Matthew Offord
Maureen Braun	MPhil CBIOL MIBIOL,	*Monroe Palmer OBE FCA
*Fiona Bulmer	MSFAM, MAPHV, MRSM	*Susette Palmer MA
*Terry Burton	*Brian Gordon, LL.B	*Kanti Patel MEng, MCIOB
*Anita Campbell	*Eva Greenspan BA, LL.B	FFB, MCMI
*Wayne Casey BA (Hons)	(Hons)	*Wendy Prentice
MIIA	*Andrew Harper	*Barry Rawlings
*Danish Chopra	*Christopher Harris BA BSc	*Colin Rogers
*Jack Cohen	MPhil	*Paul Rogers
*Melvin Cohen LLB	*Helena Hart	*Brian Salinger
*Brian Coleman, AM, FRSA	*Lynne Hillan	*Gill Sargeant
*Katia David BSc, MBA, JP	*Sean Hooker, BA (Hons)	*Joan Scannell
*Jeremy Davies BA (Hons),	*Daniel Hope	*Alan Schneiderman
CPFA	*Anne Hutton	*Gerard Silverstone
*Peter Davis Ctext, FTI,	*Mark Langton	*Agnes Slocombe SRN RM
FCFI	*Malcolm Lester FCCA	*Ansuya Sodha MBA (Middx)
*Aba Dunner MCIJ	*Kitty Lyons	Cert Ed, DipM (CIM), AMBA
*Kevin Edson	*John Marshall	*Susan Steinberg
*Olwen Evans ACIS	*Linda McFadyen	*Leslie Sussman, MBE
*Claire Farrier	*Kath McGuirk	*Soon-Hoe Teh
*Anthony Finn BSc (Econ)	*David Mencer	*Jim Tierney
FCA	*Alison Moore	Allan Turner
*Mike Freer	*Jazmin Naghar	*Phil Yeoman
	*Robert Newton	*Zakia Zubairi

*denotes Member present

19. PRAYER (Agenda Item 1):

The Mayor's Chaplain offered prayer.

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 2):

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Allan Turner, Arun Ghosh and Maureen Braun, and from Councillor David Mencer for lateness.

21. MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2005 (Agenda Item 3):

RESOLVED – That, subject to the addition of the letters AM FRSA after Councillor Brian Coleman’s name on the first page, the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2005 be approved.

22. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item 4):

A minute’s silence was held to remember Mrs Iris Hirschfield, former Mayoress of the London Borough of Barnet, who had passed away.

The Worshipful the Mayor announced that Joanna Ankier, a former pupil of Henrietta Barnett School, had received a Special Athletics Award from Sport Aid London.

The Worshipful the Mayor presented certificates and prizes to four children from London Borough of Barnet schools, Nemanja Miletic, Joshua Bristow, Charlotte Nolan and Nadia Khomami, who were the winners and runners up in the local heat of the International Essays competition organised by the Ramat Gan Foundation.

23. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS (Agenda Item 5):

Councillor Phil Yeoman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8.4 as he worked for a government department dealing with the issue.

24. QUESTION TIME FOR MEMBERS (Agenda Item 7):

Questions were put to the Leader and the relevant Members of the Cabinet. Those questions, together with the original answers provided and the text of any supplementary questions and answers are set out in the Appendix to these minutes.

25. VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Joan Scannell, duly seconded, moved that the order of business relating to Agenda Item 8 be varied so that Motions 8.6, 8.7 and 8.4 be heard first.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That the order of business be varied to allow Motions 8.6, 8.7 and 8.4 to be heard first.

26. MEMBERS’ MOTIONS (Agenda Item 8):

The Mayor stated that, using his discretion under Rule 34.2, he would allow 20 minutes each for Motions 8.6, 8.7 and 8.4 and then put the remaining Motions and Amendments to the vote without debate.

27. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MATTHEW OFFORD (Agenda item 8.6)

Motion 8.6 in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord was moved.

Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes the bottleneck on the A406 North Circular Road between New Southgate and Green Lanes that causes misery to all road users.

Council believes that work is necessary on this section to increase capacity and improve traffic flow.

Council however condemns the half-hearted current Transport for London (TfL) plans for this section. Their proposals will result in fewer lanes available to motorists, which we believe will actually cause more congestion.

Council welcomes the initiative taken by the administration to work with Enfield Council to find a more sustainable and effective solution to the long-term traffic problems on the A406.

Council urges Cabinet to support this partnership with Enfield Council to produce a comprehensive, long-term scheme that will both increase capacity on this section of the North Circular and cut the queues that have long plagued the road.

28. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR GERARD SILVERSTONE (Agenda item 8.7)

Motion 8.7 in the name of Councillor Gerard Silverstone was moved.

Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council notes the campaign, led by celebrity chef, Jamie Oliver, to make School Meals more nutritious for children in order to help combat childhood health problems such as obesity.

Council welcomes the scheme piloted by Barnet Council at four of the Borough's schools that has seen kitchen staff trained in how to prepare healthy meals for children. This makes Barnet only the second local authority in the Country to act after the campaign to improve school dinners was launched.

Council further welcomes the news that 14 other Barnet schools will join the initiative over this year.

Council urges Cabinet to ensure this scheme is rolled out to all primary schools should the trial prove a success.

29. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR SUSETTE PALMER (Agenda item 8.4)

Motion 8.4 in the name of Councillor Susette Palmer was moved .

An amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment moved by Councillor Alison Moore was declared lost. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – This Council Notes –

- **That the Labour Government has returned to its aim of introducing compulsory ID cards for all adults in Britain.**
- **That the Treasury is insisting that this policy be self-financing – that the citizen must pay or face fines and imprisonment**

- That the Government has reported that this will cost £93 per person.
- That the London School of Economics (The Observer, Sunday May 29th 2005) has reported that the costs of the technology will be more likely to be £300 per person.
- That The Times has also reported a rise, to double that of the Government figures (Tuesday 31st May 2005)
- That the Independent reported that the US Government has approached the UK government in asking for compatible technologies in order for US government agencies to obtain access to the information held (Friday 27th May 2005).

This Council Believes –

- That this is an unacceptable infringement of civil liberties and a further domination of Government over the citizen.
- That it is unacceptable for the citizens of Barnet to have to fork out up to £300 per person, costing them an estimated £75 million, no matter their ability to pay.
- That this implies costs to the Council itself in terms of ensuring compatibility to operations.

This Council resolves:-

- To submit its objection to this policy and legislation to the Government, specifically Charles Clarke and Gordon Brown
- To ask Cabinet to investigate future costs and risks involved to council operations as result of ID cards coming into operation
- To ask the borough's Members of Parliament to state their position on ID cards.

30. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR STEVE BLOMER (Agenda Item 8.1, 15.1.1a and 15.1.9d)

Motion 8.1 in the name of Councillor Steve Blomer and amendments in the names of Councillor David Mencer and Councillor Brian Gordon were put to the vote without debate. The amendment in the name of Councillor David Mencer was declared lost. The amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Gordon and the substantive motion were declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council welcomes the investment made by Barnet Council in 2004 to refurbish Stoneyfields Park in Edgware. This included the rebuilding of the children's play area, revamping of the picnic site, safety improvements to the lake and stream and the installation of a 5-a side football pitch.

Council further welcomes the fact that these improvements were achieved by Barnet Council listening to the concerns of local residents and responding accordingly.

Council notes the petition from residents concerning anti-social behaviour in the park.

Council further notes the Motion from Cllr. Helena Hart in 2003 that established the locking of Stoneyfields Park, and other Borough parks, at night.

Council supports the ongoing work being undertaken with the Greenspaces department to ensure the gates are locked and backs their moves to build out anti-social behaviour (such as motorbike use) from the park.

Council calls on Cabinet to support these continuing efforts being made in conjunction with local residents, in order to ensure Stoneyfields Park continues as a first-class recreational facility that can be enjoyed by all local people.

31. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR LINDA MCFADYEN (Agenda Item 8.2 and 15.1.1b)

Motion 8.2 in the name of Councillor Linda McFadyen and an amendment in the name of Councillor Anita Campbell were put to the vote without debate. The amendment was declared lost. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes its support on 9 September 2003 for the Government's Civil Partnership registration scheme to support stable families, and to provide legal recognition to the relationships of registered same-sex couples, which will benefit many Barnet residents. Council welcomes and supports the Civil Partnership Act, which will come into effect from 5th December.

Council calls upon the Executive to ensure the Barnet Registration Service is ready and fully prepared to register civil partnerships, and that the partnerships registration service is advertised to the LGBT community.

32. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR ANSUYA SODHA (Agenda Item 8.3 and 15.1.9e)

Motion 8.3 in the name of Councillor Ansuya Sodha and an amendment in the name of Councillor Matthew Offord were put to the vote without debate. The amendment and the substantive motion were declared carried.

RESOLVED - Council notes the promotion by this Administration of national Poop Scoop Week 2005, from 27 June to 3 July, organised by the charity Dogs Trust to promote responsible dog ownership and that it is a dog owner's duty to clean up after their dog.

Council notes that uncollected dog waste is not just a nuisance, but a public health risk to young children because dog waste containing the roundworm Toxocara can affect sight if the eggs of the parasite are swallowed.

Council supports the promotion by the previous Conservative Government of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, which means an offence is committed if a person in charge of a dog fails to clean up its waste. Council believes that suitable numbers of

correctly placed waste bins are essential to encourage dog owners to be responsible.

Council urges the Cabinet to ensure there are appropriate waste bins across the borough and that these are emptied regularly in order to encourage dog owners to be responsible. Council notes the Authority's active participation in Poop Scoop Week 2005 and urges it to do the same again next year.

33. MOTION IN THE NAME OF COUNCILLOR MONROE PALMER (Agenda Item 8.5)

Motion 8.5 in the name of Councillor Monroe Palmer and an amendment in the name of Councillor Kath McGuirk were put to the vote without debate. The amendment was declared lost. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED - This Council notes –

- That the Transport Secretary, Alastair Darling is proposing the introduction of variable rate Pay As You Go road-charging.
- That this system will cost as much as £1.34 per mile in peak rate traffic
- That Londoners already face the extension of the GLA Congestion Charge
- That the system will be administered by a satellite GPS system compulsorily attached to personal vehicles.

This Council believes –

- That this is a radical but extremely flawed system
- That Barnet's residents will be double-whammed for using their cars
- That it eliminates any incentive to use pollution-efficient vehicles
- There is no indication of whether the money is going to the Treasury or straight to improving transport for public and private use as well as environmental improvements.
- There is no indication as to who will foot the bill for the equipment, though it is likely to be the taxpayer
- That once the technology is in place, it is open-ended for further price increases
- There is no local say involved in the amounts charged
- That drivers will find it difficult to judge their budget
- That the government has no need to track the location of all vehicles

This Council Resolves –

- To register its opposition with all three major party leaders on these grounds
- To ask Cabinet to promote the use of greener fuel efficiencies throughout Barnet and its own vehicle fleet

34. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

In accordance with the Agenda, the Mayor adjourned the meeting for 15 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 9.00pm.

35. SUSPENSION OF COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Councillor Daniel Hope, duly seconded, moved that Council Procedure Rule 3.2, relating to the matters to be dealt with at Ordinary Council Meetings, be suspended, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.1, to enable Councillor Matthew Offord to detail proposed changes to the operational policies of the Council's Parking Service, using five minutes of the time allocated for agenda item 9.1.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – That Council Procedure Rule 3.2 be suspended to enable Councillor Matthew Offord to detail proposed changes to the operational policies of the Council's Parking Service, using five minutes of the time allocated for agenda item 9.1.

36. PARKING SERVICE

Councillor Matthew Offord gave details of proposed changes to the operational policies of the Council's Parking Service.

37. ADMINISTRATION POLICY ITEM (Agenda Item 9.1, 15.1.9a and 15.1.9b)

Councillor Brian Salinger proposed the item and an amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman was declared carried. The amendment in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen was declared lost. Upon being put to the vote, the substantive motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED - Council notes that Barnet contributed £24,850,000 towards Policing in London last year, more than any other London Borough.

Council regrets that Barnet receives proportionately fewer Police Officers back for this investment. Barnet is only being allocated 2 more Police Officers this year, fewer than the average for London, and many fewer than neighbouring Haringey, which is being allocated 14 more Officers.

Council notes the implementation of the Government's new licensing regime permitting more late-night opening of pubs and potentially creating more disorder on our streets.

Council welcomes Barnet's bold expansion of the No Alcohol Zones into more town centres, but highlights the Cabinet report finding these must be properly Policed in order to prove effective.

Council further welcomes the statement by the Borough Commander that more police on the Borough's streets would shift the "balance of power" away from Criminals.

Council believes that given our residents contribute proportionately more to the Metropolitan Police Budget than other Boroughs, Barnet people deserve more Police on their streets.

Council supports the “Barnet Press Group” Campaign “More Bobbies for Barnet” and encourages all Councillors to contribute to the lobbying effort.

Council calls on Cabinet to seek an urgent meeting with the Metropolitan Police Authority to rectify the problems in their Resource Allocation Formulation and ensure that Barnet receives the extra frontline Officers it desperately needs.

38. OPPOSITION POLICY ITEM (Agenda Item 9.2, 15.1.9c and 15.1.15)

Councillor Barry Rawlings proposed the item and moved that it be adopted. An amendment in the name of Councillor John Marshall was moved. Debate ensued. Upon being put to the vote, the amendment moved by Councillor John Marshall was declared carried. The substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED – Council believes that Barnet LEA is amongst the best in the country as evidenced by:

- *excellent A Level results**
- *excellent GCSE results**
- *excellent Key Stage 2 results**
- *excellent OFSTED reports on many Barnet Schools**
- *the willingness of parents living outside Barnet to send their children to our schools**

Council welcomes the fact that several schools, most recently Underhill Junior School, have come out of special measures.

Council congratulates the heads, teachers, staff and governors of these schools.

Council condemns the actions of the Labour Group libelling the LEA and seeking to ignore the progress made since May 2002.

39. COMMENTS ON THE WORK OF THE CABINET (Agenda item 10 and 15.1.13)

Councillor Gill Sargeant commented

The regeneration of Grahame Park and, in particular, the Choices proposal did receive planning permission last year. As yet the Agreement is still not signed. This has caused great hardship to a number of residents in Grahame Park and they have requested me that I address you on this. I really am very concerned that there is still no date as to when that is going to be signed.

I do appreciate that the housing costs since this was first planned, in 2001, where the costs were around £211 million will have increased. I have noticed that in the intervening period the St Georges development has now come on stream. Residents will know in future it is going to be called Beaufort Park and has very pretty pictures of blue water. I do not know where the water is coming from, but I think the concern is that with this development coming on stream that this may well affect Choices.

There are two points I really want addressing: do we have a time as to when this will happen, and do we also have some revised figures of how this is going to be developed?

Councillor Anthony Finn responded

Your points are well made. Let me just say that Council is continuing to work with Choices for Grahame Park. As you know, Choices for Grahame Park is the joint vehicle of the Genesis Housing Group and the Notting Hill Housing Trust and we are working with them to review the business plan, discuss the sensitivities of future markets and to consider the risk share between the Council and the Housing Associations, for the overall regeneration proposals and to satisfy the requirements for the proposed funders of the project. The recent confirmation of selection of Countryside Properties plc will assist in this process, allowing them to bring their considerable expertise and regeneration experience to assist in finalising arrangements for the project.

I and the Leader have set up a meeting tomorrow with the two executives of the RSL's and we will be discussing key issues. We hope to be able to report a successful conclusion to our discussions at the Cabinet Meeting either in August or, if not then, in October. By then you will have some positive feedback.

40. STATUTORY COUNCIL BUSINESS (Agenda Items 12 and 15)

In accordance with Procedure Rule 43, the Worshipful the Mayor allocated 17 minutes for Agenda Item 12.1, 17 minutes for Agenda Item 12.2 and six minutes for Agenda Item 15.

41. REPORT OF CABINET 31 MAY 2005 (Agenda Item 12.1 and 15.1.11):

Councillor Brian Salinger moved reception and adoption of the Report of Cabinet dated 31 May 2005 with the following recommendations:

1. CORPORATE PLAN & BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE PLAN (Report of the Cabinet Member for Policy & Performance – Agenda Item 4):

(1) That Council approve the draft technical appendix (BVPIs) to the Corporate Plan.

Councillor Salinger also moved reception and adoption of the revised technical appendix (BVPIs) to the Corporate Plan attached as Appendix D to the Democratic Services Manager's Supplemental Report. Debate ensued.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED – That the Report of Cabinet dated 31 May 2005 be approved and adopted and that the technical appendix (BVPIs) to the Corporate Plan attached as Appendix D to the Democratic Services Manager's Supplemental Report be approved.

42. REPORT OF CABINET 9 JUNE 2005 (Agenda Item 12.2):

Councillor Brian Salinger moved reception and adoption of the Report of Cabinet dated 9 June 2005 with the following recommendations:

1. UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN – PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS (Cab. Dec. 22/11/2004 - 7) (Report of the Cabinet Member for Planning & Licensing Services – Agenda Item 4):

(1) That, with reference to the revised papers incorporating the above-mentioned amendments that have been separately circulated to all members of the Council, Council:

a) agree the schedule of proposed modifications set out in Appendix A to the Cabinet Member's report ;

b) agree the schedule of reasons for not making the Inspector's recommended modifications set out in Appendix B to the Cabinet Member's report; and

c) make the documents publicly available in accordance with the Regulations involving a 6 weeks statutory consultation deposit period.

Debate ensued. Councillor Melvin Cohen thanked all the staff who had worked on the Unitary Development Plan to this stage.

Upon being put to the vote, it was

RESOLVED – That the Report of Cabinet dated 9 June 2005 be approved and adopted.

(P) CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.1.2, 15.1.12 and 15.1.14):

RESOLVED – That the following changes be made to the memberships of the Committees indicated

- Councillor Brian Salinger be removed from the list of substitutes on the Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee (Health, Safety and Welfare)
- Councillor Malcolm Lester replace Councillor Joan Scannell on the Cleaner, Greener, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Councillor Jeremy Davies be appointed as a substitute on the Standards Committee
- Councillor Daniel Hope replace Councillor Andreas Tambourides on the Planning and Environment Committee
- Councillor Andreas Tambourides replace Councillor Daniel Hope as a substitute on the Planning and Environment Committee
- Councillor Mark Langton replace Councillor Alan Schneiderman on the Planning and Environment Committee
- Councillor Alan Schneiderman replace Councillor Anne Hutton as a substitute on the Planning and Environment Committee
- Councillor Paul Rogers replace Councillor Soon-Hoe Teh as a substitute on the Planning and Environment Committee.

(P) VACANCIES ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager – Agenda Item 15.1.3):

The Democratic Services Manager's report set out details of the appointments or nominations to be made.

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Alison Moore and Jeremy Davies were moved.

RESOLVED –

(P) That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may require to fill the vacancies referred to for the period indicated:

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
VP2.2	All Saints CE N20	Miss B Maltby
VP1.2	All Saints CE School, NW2	Mr Stephen Philips
P.23.1	Brookland Infant and Brookland Junior Schools	Defer
P.10.3	Brunswick Park Primary School	Defer
P.11.1	Church Hill School	Defer
P.11.2	Church Hill School	Councillor Daniel Hope
S.03.1	Copthall School	Mr J Howard
P.39.1	Courtland JMI School	Defer
P.07.1	Danegrove Primary School	Mrs Pamela Diffey
P.07.2	Danegrove Primary School	Defer
P.41.3	Dollis Infant School	Mr Vinod Sodha
P.45.2	Grasvenor Avenue Infant School	Defer
P.48.2	Hampden Way Nursery School	Defer
SP.01.1	Mapledown School	Mr Suraj Sehgal
SP.02.2	Northway School	Defer
SP.03.2	Oakleigh School	Defer
P.30.2	Parkfield JMI School	Councillor Matthew Offord
FS4.1	Queen Elizabeth's Foundation School	Councillor Brian Coleman
VP.17.1	St Josephs RC Infant School	Councillor Sean Hooker
VS7.1	St Mary's CE High, NW4	Mr Richard Martyn
P.16.1	Summerside Primary School	Defer
P.50.4	The Orion Primary and Goldbeaters Primary Schools	Defer
P.27.2	Wessex Gardens Primary School	Mr Alan Maund
P.27.3	Wessex Gardens Primary School	Mrs Vanessa Gearson
P.03.4	Whitings Hill Primary School	Mrs Judy Copping-Joyce

45. VACANCIES ARISING FROM RECONSTITUTION OF SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Item 15.1.4):

The Democratic Services Manager's report set out details of the appointments or nominations to be made.

Nominations in the names of Councillors Joan Scannell, Alison Moore and Jeremy Davies were moved.

RESOLVED –

(1) That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may require to fill the vacancies referred to for the period indicated:

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
P.26.1	Bell Lane Primary School	Mr Andrew Sherling
P.26.4	Bell Lane Primary School	Mr J Hickman
VP.05.1	Christ Church CE JMI School	Dr Rex Palmer
VP.05.2	Christ Church CE JMI School	Mr R Lawson
P.07.1	Danegrove Primary School	Mrs Pamela Diffey
P.07.2	Danegrove Primary School	Defer
S.07.4	Friern Barnet School	Mrs Margaret Johnson
S.07.5	Friern Barnet School	Councillor Anne Hutton
P.48.1	Hampden Way Nursery School	Mrs J G Lodhi
P.21.2	Manorside JMI School	Ms Jane Moore
P.09.1	Monkfrith JMI School	Councillor Andreas Tambourides
P.09.2	Monkfrith JMI School	Mrs J G Lodhi
P.18a.2	Moss Hall Infant School	Ms Kim Zeital
P.18a.3	Moss Hall Infant School	Ms Miriam Aquilina
P.17.4	Northside Primary School	Ms Margaret Pond
S11.4	Queen Elizabeth's Girls School	Mrs D Wilkinson
VP.15.2	St Johns CE School N20	Mr D Merritt
VP.20.1	St Marys CE School, N3	Mr Jeremy Moodey
P.22.1	Tudor JMI School	Councillor Alison Moore

46. REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda Item 15.1.5):

The Democratic Services Manager's report set out details of the appointments or nominations to be made.

Upon nominations in the name of Councillor Joan Scannell, it was **RESOLVED** – That the following persons be appointed or nominated as the case may be to fill the vacancies referred to for the period indicated:

VACANCY REFERENCE	PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION	PERSON APPOINTED OR NOMINATED
1002	Almshouse Charities of Samuel Atkinson and Others	Defer
1058	Finchley Charities	Mr Roland Carpenter
1066	Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London	Councillor Terry Burton

47. **REPRESENTATION OF THE COUNCIL ON AVENUE HOUSE ESTATE MANAGEMENT (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.6).**

RESOLVED – That Councillor Jeremy Davies replace Councillor Susette Palmer as the Council’s representative on Avenue House Estate Management and that Councillor Susette Palmer replace Councillor Jeremy Davies as substitute representative.

48. **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.7).**

RESOLVED – That the Calendar of Meetings be corrected to indicate that the Group Meetings for the November meeting of Council be held on Thursday 3 November instead of 2 November.

49. **DELEGATION OF POWERS TO OFFICERS (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.8).**

RESOLVED – That, in variation of the Council’s decision of 1 March, 2005, the powers relating to the certification and authentication of documents, notices, orders, byelaws, currently vested with the Democratic Services Manager, be re- allocated as follows:-

Power	Allocated to
Signing of traffic Orders	Head of Highways and Design
Requisitions for Information	Borough Solicitor
Notification of Public Inquiry	Head of Planning
Notices connected with tree preservation orders	Head of Planning
Notices relating to budget, council tax, accounts inspection and audit	Borough Treasurer
Housing sales and other landlord issues	Borough Solicitor
Certification of byelaws	Borough Solicitor

50. **APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENT PANEL – HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (Report of the Democratic Services Manager - Agenda item 15.1.10).**

The Democratic Services Manager’s report referred to the need to constitute a Chief Officer Appointment Panel to appoint a Head of Environmental Services.

RESOLVED – That the following appointments be made to the Chief Officer Appointment Panel for this purpose:

- Councillor Brian Salinger (Chairman);**
- Councillor Matthew Offord (Vice-Chairman);**
- Councillor Olwen Evans;**
- Councillor Robert Newton;**
- Councillor Kath McGuirk;**
- Councillor Jim Tierney;**
- Councillor Monroe Palmer.**

Substitutes:

Councillor Brian Coleman
Councillor Christopher Harris
Councillor Ansuya Sodha
Councillor Colin Rogers
Councillor Wayne Casey
Councillor Jack Cohen

The meeting finished at 10.37 pm

**Council Questions to Cabinet Members
28 June 2005
Questions and Responses**

Question No. 1

Councillor Brian Gordon

How do you think the proposed increase in the Mayor of London's congestion charge from £5.00 to £8.00 will affect Barnet's motorists?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The increase in the daily charge will clearly affect those residents in Barnet who enter the congestion charge zone in their cars during the operational hours of the scheme.

The change in charge rate by £3 equates to an increase of 60%, and occurs only 29 months after the scheme was introduced. This is likely to cost the average motorists an additional £15 a week – or £60 a month.

Supplementary Question No. 1

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Offord, thank you very much for explaining the economic consequences of the increasing congestion charge. In short, would you not agree with me that this charge is a barely disguised form of daylight robbery? It is a totally unwarranted assault against innocent hard-pressed motorists and it is crude, a very crude method of bullying people into using public transport which, under Mayor Livingstone, is more inefficient and more expensive than ever before?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Thank you Councillor Gordon, I do concur with some of your comments. I think it is a bit rich coming just 29 months after the original introduction of the charge and I do have some concerns about the increase as well.

Question No. 2

Councillor Jack Cohen

On the 1 November at the launch of the Community Support Network you said "Barnet is one of the safest Boroughs in London" Do you still believe this to be true?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Yes.

Supplementary Question No. 2

Councillor Jack Cohen

Yes, thank you Mr Mayor. Councillor Salinger, may I remind you of the front page of the Barnet Press, Thursday May 5th, 'Just what has happened to our borough', and it says, 'Barnet's quiet and leafy streets have been rocked by murders, rapes and burglaries, leaving many residents feeling under siege by criminals'. Councillor Salinger, inside The Press reminds us, 'Crime in Barnet has soared in the past year, reaching levels of many notorious inner-city boroughs. Barnet now has more crime than Haringey and Hackney'. Councillor Salinger, either you are complacent, either you do not believe what The Press has written is true. Which is it?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Mr Mayor, we are going to debate the role of the Police later on this evening and I am anything but complacent. But the question that I was asked was, "is Barnet one of the safest boroughs in London?" and the answer is still, yes, it is. That doesn't mean to say that there is not more that can be done to make this borough safer, but I have to say that when The Press compare our crime statistics on a straight basis with places like Hackney and Haringey and fail to take into consideration the fact that we are the second largest borough in London and the tenth largest unitary authority in the country, you would expect to find those raw figures looking that way. When you analyse those figures on the number of crimes per thousand population we are, of course, infinitely safer than boroughs like Hackney or Haringey. We have a lot more to do. I am not complacent. I hope he (Cllr Cohen) will play a positive role in the debate later this evening.

Question No. 3

Councillor Phil Yeoman

Members of Barnet's Muslim Community hire out Grahame Park and Watling Community Centres every Friday for prayers, but are unable to do so when bank holidays fall on a Friday and therefore have nowhere to meet and pray. What can the Council do, working in partnership with Barnet Homes and the Watling Community Association, to help overcome this problem to assist the borough's Muslim residents?

Answer by Councillor Katia David

The Council is prepared to work with the Muslim community; Barnet Homes and the Watling Community Association to seek a solution to this issue. I have asked Council officers to contact each group to agree an appropriate way forward.

Supplementary Question No. 3**Councillor Phil Yeoman**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I just welcome the support from the Cabinet Member on this issue. Could I just ask her to keep me posted of the developments and just write to let me know how the negotiations are going and which officers are involved, if possible.

Answer by Councillor Katia David

Thank you Mr Mayor. Of course I will Councillor Yeoman.

Question No. 4**Councillor Brian Gordon**

What is the up to date position regarding the continuation of the Barnet Register Office?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

The responses to the public consultation are being forwarded to the General Register Office.

Any change to the statutory scheme by which the registration district operates requires Ministerial approval and GRO signing off.

Supplementary Question No. 4**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Salinger. One recognises that the right decision has to be made in connection with the Barnet Register Office but could I urge that, in view of the amount of public uncertainty that seems to be about this, that we do everything we can to see that the decision is made on this particular issue as speedily as possible?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Yes I am sure it will, but the representations will go to the General Register Office and, in fact, at the end of the day it is their decision.

Question No. 5**Councillor Susette Palmer**

Despite debate as to the overall environmental cost of disposable nappies it remains the fact that they form 4% of landfill waste. Some councils like Mid- Devon and Waverley have a space on their website encouraging the use of reusables. Are we proposing to have such information on our website?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Barnet's recycling website already contains information on the alternatives to disposable nappies. This information can be viewed at

http://www.barnet.gov.uk/environment_transport/recycling/a-z/n-p_recycling.php3#nappies

Supplementary Question No. 5**Councillor Susette Palmer**

Actually, you know, www.barnet.gov.uk/environment_transport/recycling/a-z/n-p_recycling.php3#nappies isn't actually very friendly. I had actually got by going via the webpage as far as the environment and recycling. Can I ask please that you put the subject, which actually is of considerable concern to young mothers and fathers, on the left hand side list of the environment page? There is already a list of topics. Could we please add this one?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Mr Mayor, I was trying to be helpful by actually including the website address but thank you for the question. I would just like to point out that the Council is keen to promote the use of alternative nappies so that parents can make an informed choice about the nappies they use. Both mothers and also their fathers. Our options include using disposable nappies, local laundering service or home washing and we are also participating in the scheme where the North London Waste Authority are providing a £51 subsidy so that parents can take advantage of that as well.

Question No. 6**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

If the Cabinet Member would join me in congratulating the in-house Refuse Collection management and staff on their continuing excellent performance over the past decade, and provide to Council the resident satisfaction ratings that prove the hard-work and dedication of the refuse collection staff is highly valued by the residents of Barnet?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I am surprised that Cllr McGuirk thinks she needs to ask me this question.
Annual Residents Survey Results re Refuse Collection Satisfaction Ratings

Year	% Satisfaction	Year on Year Change
2002/03	68%	-4% (from 2001/02)
2003/04	84%	+16%
2004/05	81%	-3%

Supplementary Question No. 6**Councillor Kath McGuirk**

Thank you Mr Mayor. What is clear from the residents' survey from anyone who does regular surgeries, especially on this side of the Chamber, is that the in-house refuse collection team continues to be excellent by providing a first class service to the residents of the borough with the rating they have already mentioned. On behalf of all councillors, will the Cabinet Member undertake to write to each in-house refuse collection staff member to express our thanks to them for their hard work and dedication and will look forward to them continuing to supply such a good service for many years to come. I know you have probably written a great speech, Councillor Offord, but I just need an answer yes or no.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I am always happy to convey our thanks to members of our staff who work hard on behalf of the residents and on behalf of the Borough.

Question No. 7

Councillor Brian Gordon

What progress is being made regarding the Council's battle against graffiti in the Borough?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The Council's graffiti removal policies were approved by Cabinet July 2003. The focus of pro-active graffiti removal in Barnet is on:

- 1) The 13 Town Centres with a Town Keeper
- 2) The removal of racist and offensive graffiti
- 3) The removal of reported graffiti facing "A" roads

The 13 Town Centres are surveyed daily. Graffiti is removed by either the Town Keepers or the Graffiti Removal Teams, subject to quantity/complexity.

The last two years has seen progress with utility companies. In 2004, 350, NTL/BT graffiti covered green street cabinets were reported to the companies and the graffiti was subsequently removed by the utility companies. NTL/BT have since supplied green cabinet paint to the council and the town keeper service use this paint to paint over graffiti on cabinets within the town centre zones. The Graffiti Officer is continuing to work with NTL/BT to improve coordination of activities.

Current developments include the removal of graffiti and clean up of the defined Childs Hill Town Centre. This will involve the Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team as well as traders. The Probation Service may be involved with the supply of people serving community sentences.

The Council is also working with the probation service and has launched Payback in Barnet. Payback involves offenders who have community sentences working on graffiti removal/clearance of rubbish/ flytip. Youth offenders carry out graffiti removal reparation work. The Graffiti Officer co-ordinates with the youth offending team to identify sites where this work can be carried out safely. Between 2003-2004 twelve clean ups have taken place on park pavilions. In 2004 Princes Trust volunteers carried out the re-decoration of the graffiti damaged Oakhill Pavilion. The trust carried out this work free of charge with the support from the council of some paint and brushes.

A major graffiti clean up project took place in Burnt Oak in July/August 2004. 80 volunteers from Soul in the City worked with LBB and Burnt Oak safer neighbourhoods' police team to remove 3000 m2 of graffiti along Watling Avenue and Watling market. The council undertook to maintain Watling Avenue as a graffiti free zone backed up with funding from safer neighbourhoods.

Supplementary Question No. 7**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Offord, thank you very much for explaining how this Council's excellent anti-graffiti policy is operating. Graffiti is undoubtedly a scourge. One of the most moronic manifestations of urban vandalism, I am sure you will agree. Would you agree that under our Administration, Barnet is looking a good deal tidier and cleaner than it was under the Administration of our predecessors, of not very blessed memory?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Yes I would Councillor Gordon and I am glad that not only you have noticed it but also many residents within the Borough.

Question No. 8**Councillor Sean Hooker**

Would the Leader describe a three inch advert on page 91 of a local paper an adequate consultation on something as important as the future of the Wood Street Registry Office?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

There is no legal requirement to consult the public about a new scheme or changed scheme. However, the General Register Office "advice" is that "the local authority shall consult as widely as possible on the issues so that any representations or objections received are taken into account and resolved locally". As suggested by the GRO, a public notice advertisement was placed locally (Barnet Press) giving details of the proposed changes and when they are intended to come into effect (1 October 2005). The advertisement ran for 2 weeks with a closing date of 10 June 2005. Letters inviting representations were also sent to local hospitals, residential care homes, burial societies and other "stakeholders" as well as to the local MPs. The notice did make it clear that the consultation was for the purpose of amending the statutory scheme and representations would be forwarded to the GRO

Supplementary Question No. 8**Councillor Sean Hooker**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I just have to say, it's a good thing that the Liberal Democrats believe in consultation. On this issue we put over 2,000 flyers out to local households around there. I believe the Labour Party did a very similar thing. I do note that you had no legal obligation to do this but I want to ask Councillor Salinger that had he made a promise at a packed public meeting, in the face of a 1,000 signature petition that there would be a full consultation on this, would he be happy with what has actually happened on this consultation? Would you actually be happy? That is the question I would like to ask.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

The consultation is carried out on behalf of the General Register Office and it was done in accordance with their advice.

Question No. 9**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Residents, including the East Barnet Parish Residents' Association, have been drawing together plans for a skate park in Oakhill Park, to provide local young people with an activity to keep them occupied and divert them from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour. Will the Cabinet Member offer her support to these proposals in principle; what discussions has the Council had with the residents on these plans; what assistance is the Council offering; and what progress has been made?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Any proposals would need to be considered in the light of funding priorities and would require widespread consultation with local residents and the police who may not all consider that this would be the best use of the space.

Supplementary Question No. 9**Councillor Alan Schneiderman**

Does the Cabinet Member actually support the skate park proposals for Oakhill Park? Just yes or no. Thank you.

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I support the local residents.

Question No. 10**Councillor Brian Gordon**

What measures are being taken by the Council to try and eliminate election fraud, especially in the field of postal votes?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

We do not believe that we have the sort of problems discovered in Birmingham and elsewhere but we have put in place checking procedures to make sure. These include spot checks of a random selection of 5% of postal votes, comparing the signatures on the certificate of identity and the application form and, where available, the signature on the electoral registration form (not all electors have to sign the electoral registration form).

Checks were first carried out on the Colindale Ward By-election postal votes and nothing suspicious was found. The checks on the General Election postal votes revealed a very small number of signatures that do not appear to match and these are being followed up.

As part of a special project, the Head of the Council's Anti Fraud Team has been asked to oversee the arrangements for next year's municipal elections and the preceding compilation of the electoral register. Whilst this is being done primarily because it is felt that the organisational skills of the officer concerned will be well suited to this task and not because there are particular concerns of fraudulent activity in Barnet's elections, she will nevertheless bring her existing knowledge and experience to the project and this will further assist efforts to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to identify, deter and prevent electoral fraud.

The Electoral Commission has made recommendations for change to the process of registering to vote and applying for, receiving and casting a postal or proxy vote, together with recommendations relating to the process of voting in person at a polling station. Amongst other things they recommend that all electors should provide individual identification details that could be used to check a voter's identity at the polling station and all applications for postal or proxy voting. The Government is currently considering the recommendations and the Department of Constitutional Affairs is to carry out a consultation exercise over the summer period on proposals for change.

Supplementary Question No. 10

Councillor Brian Gordon

I am interested to note that there are recommendations by the Electoral Commission to require voters to provide personal identification details. Surely this can best be done by making it mandatory for all voters to bring their polling cards to the polling station, which is something which, it seems, the majority of voters do anyway. This would be far better than introducing more schemes which would be very difficult to implement and far too elaborate. Do you not agree with that particular idea and, if you do, is it possible for this Council to make representation to that effect?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

The question was actually about postal voting rather than voting at polling stations, but I think the Government have learnt its lesson from the abuse that we have seen and the conviction of Labour and indeed Conservative councillors elsewhere in the country. I think we will have to watch and see what the advice is from the Government as to how this should be handled in the future. But if you ask for my personal opinion, I think it is only a matter of time before residents turning up to vote will need to bring some form of identification with them to polling stations. No it does not have to be an I.D. card, it can be anything else and I think that we will also see a move towards personal registration rather than one person signing on behalf of a household.

Question No. 11

Councillor Sean Hooker

Does the Cabinet Member agree with Councillor Brian Coleman when he said in 2003 that pavements are for people? If so then why does this administration persist in allowing large commercial wheelie bins to obstruct the pavements?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I think you have taken Councillor Coleman's comment out of context, as the vast majority of the Council's Trade Waste customers do not place Trade Waste Containers on the adopted footways-pavement. However, there are a few locations where the lack of space at a business premise, both inside and to the rear, precludes storage and/or collection of Trade Waste Containers.

Supplementary Question No. 11

Councillor Sean Hooker

Thank you Mr Mayor. I think it's Councillor Offord that is getting things out of context. It's a clear statement. Pavements are for people. That's what Councillor Coleman said. It doesn't matter what context is there, it still is a statement that pavements are for people.

With this Council it is not just this issue of trade bins. This Council still forces most of the householders to put their own domestic bins onto the pavement as well as the obstructions that are for elderly and disabled people with the amount of street clutter that we have got.

The question that I would like to ask Councillor Offord is when are you going to sort out this problem before you start spending all this money on footpaths, when are you going to put pedestrians first?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Well I am glad that the Councillor has actually acknowledged that this Administration is listening to local residents and now providing a focus on footpaths, away from our successful and more than adequate policy on the resurfacing of roads which I know that his group on the Council oppose.

In terms of our residents, we already undertake the work that he asks us to do through our Street Enforcement Service and we actively monitor problems and obstructions on the pavement and will continue to do so.

Question No. 12

Councillor Danish Chopra

Will the Cabinet Member for Resources guarantee that there will be no cuts during this financial year, and, if not, in which services is he currently considering making cuts?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

If efficiencies can be achieved, we have a duty to deliver these as soon as possible and not wait until 1 April.

The Labour Group has a habit of suggesting to residents that the poor annual grant settlements we receive from Central Government allow us to deliver low council tax increases with no reductions in services. This Administration, however, believes in being more honest with residents about the choices that have to be made – a message that has been consistent in the budget consultation we have undertaken in previous years.

Supplementary Question No. 12

Councillor Danish Chopra

Thank you Mr Mayor. Judging by the quality of the answer, all I can say is bring back Tony Finn, all is forgiven.

Is it not the case Councillor Patel that you are planning cuts in every part of this service? You are planning cuts everywhere. As a start, perhaps you can tell us how many staff you are planning to sack in the Borough Treasurers Service this year as a result of the Modernising Core Systems project?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

Mr Mayor. I think the Member should be quite aware that I do not and I do not believe in playing a pantomime.

My record proves it. I will take a very pragmatic approach towards the services and they are clearly spelt out in our Corporate Plan. In jovial notes, I am not interested. I have come here to serve the public and if an action has to be taken, and if the service has to be streamlined, I will not be afraid to do so, in the interests of this Borough. Thank you.

Question No. 13

Councillor Olwen Evans

At the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny meeting on 28 February Cllr. Alison Moore claimed that she frequently saw parking meters that were not working. Can the Lead Member tell me from the Council's records how many such broken meters were reported as needing action by Cllr. Alison Moore?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I was not at the meeting so I did not hear what was said and I can only advise that from information supplied to me Cllr Moore is not recorded as having reported a defect to the parking team and there are no records of e-mails from Cllr Moore reporting machine defects - but this does not mean that she may not have done so.

Supplementary Question No. 13

Councillor Olwen Evans

Thank you Mr Mayor.

Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that Members who see something which needs attention or repair, should report it to the relevant officers?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Yes I do Councillor Evans. I believe that we are not only here to administer the Borough but also one of the duties of an active councillor within our local communities, and I would encourage anyone, whoever that may be, who has suggested that they've seen a parking machine or broken paving stone or even a rubbish bin left out on the footpath, that they actually report it so that action can be taken on behalf of local residents.

Question No. 14

Councillor Steve Blomer

Why did the Council not inform the Head teachers of Fairway, Parkfield and Underhill primary schools (and presumably other schools' head teachers) of the safe routes to school proposals, supported by investment by the Labour Mayor of London Ken Livingstone but to be implemented by the Council, before the plans were considered and agreed by the Hendon Area and Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committees on 24 May, and how will such a failure in communication between the Council and schools be avoided in future?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Reports are formally presented to the Area Environment Sub-Committees to allocate funding to individual schools. Schools selected are full partners and any measures to be progressed are taken from the work already identified within the school's own transport plan and a digest is presented to Members for information.

Therefore, all schools receiving financial support in this way are fully engaged with the Council in developing proposals specific to their location prior to any committee meeting.

Supplementary Question No. 14

Councillor Steve Blomer

I would like to thank the Member for his answer but unfortunately on this occasion, he is at odds with the facts.

I was phoned by the Head Teacher of the Fairways School on Friday the 10th of June at 4.40pm. That is, what 15/16 days after the Sub-Committee meeting on the 24th. She informed me that she knew nothing about the plans whatsoever until she had been told so the day before by one of the parents. She also informed me that, and I have to take her word on this, that she had spoken to the Chief Education Officer who also knew nothing about this whatsoever.

I therefore took it upon myself to apologise on behalf of the Council myself there and then for this lack of communication. Will the Member now take the opportunity to apologise to both the Head Teacher and the Chief Education Officer and promise that this will not happen again?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

I can say that I wasn't privy to any of the conversations that the Councillor does describe. I am very happy to apologise to the Head Teacher, officers are a different matter. But I can assure you as I have laid out in the answer, the mechanism that we use for that process, it is unfortunate if it has on that occasion broken down.

But I would just bring your attention to a matter that has been brought to my attention. I understand that a letter seems to have been sent to local residents from something called the Labour Action Group misleadingly informing that the school itself had been awarded this funding. This has caused confusion with some schools as to whether this was direct funding or not. Many of the local residents have received this letter, also parents and children attending the local schools and some took the view that this money could be used for schools for other improvements.

But on the final note, I am sure you will be pleased you mentioned Mayor Livingstone but you will be comforted to know that TfL have now released all the money they withheld last year for promoting safer travel to school and any subsequent delay and measures will now be implemented.

Question No. 15

Councillor Brian Gordon

What can this Council do to address the problem of the shortage of police officers within the Borough and the consequent increase in the crime rate?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

I ask Councillor Gordon to listen to the debate that will follow later this evening which will address this issue.

Supplementary Question No. 15

Councillor Brian Gordon

Councillor Salinger, I will, indeed, be listening very carefully to the debate later on and note that you will be proposing the motion. Would you join with me in expressing the hope that this motion is indeed passed to show that our Council genuinely is concerned about tackling crime and dealing with issues of law and order unlike the Members of the Opposition over there, who there just pay lip service to these issues.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Indeed, and I hope that when we reach the motion it will have the support of every Member of this Council.

Question No. 16

Councillor Ansuya Sodha

If the Cabinet Member responsible for equalities could please outline the consultation and liaison with the borough's ethnic minorities undertaken by the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership, and how this is being implemented by the Partnership?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

The major consultation on the Safer Communities Strategy was undertaken at the Barnet Civic Network in October 2004. Invitations were sent widely to voluntary and community groups in the Borough, and a large number of groups from BME communities attended (albeit that we did not specifically target them). The discussions at the Network fed directly into the new strategy.

A core part of the work of the Safer Communities team (at Colindale Police station) is working with vulnerable communities, particularly BME communities. Indeed a post of Hate Crime Officer (Sara Sutherland) is funded from the Government Office for London's Safer and Stronger Communities Fund, and part of her role is specifically to work with BME communities.

Recent Visits and Contact have included:

Barnet Hindu Cultural Society
Sangam
Barnet Asian Women's Association
Somali Family Support Group
Barnet Refugee Forum (which represents 30 different groups / organisations within Barnet).

The Safer Communities vehicle and trailer is also taken out to community events to convey key messages and involve the community. The Safer Communities Team this year has already attended:

Sangam Open Day
Passover Funfair, Copthall
Barnet Multi Cultural Day
Barnet Refugee Festival.

The Safer Communities Team also supports Forums that tackle particular issues of diversity in Barnet.

Multi Agency Racial Harassment Group (MARHG) membership includes Barnet Refugee Forum and the MARHG has established and effective links to The 'Community concerns' Gold Strategy Group, the Multi Faith Forum and the Community Security Trust.

There have been a number of joint projects and outreach work to tackle issues of racial harassment at a community level. These include:

- √ Burnt Oak Drop In Service
- √ Outreach work by the Peer Support Workers (tackling racism within the Burnt Oak Area, working particularly with young people)
- √ Joint police operation with the Menorah school to tackle incidents of anti-Semitism. Key consultation took place with the CST and Gold Group.

The Domestic Violence Forum's membership includes Barnet Asian Women's Association, Sangam, Somali Family Support Group and Jewish Women's Aid.

Outreach work with Jewish Women's Aid, involving the Partnership Trailer, has taken place in Golders Green. Further Outreach work is being planned with Barnet Asian Women's Association. Domestic Violence Training organised by the Safer Communities Team has also involved the above groups.

The Team also works with the Barnet Lesbian Gay Bisexual and Transgender Network whose membership includes Naz Project (A sexual health and HIV / AIDS charity working with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in London). Over the next year Barnet LGBT Network hopes to work with the Borough on Black History Month to promote the inclusion of BME LGBT communities.

The Safer Communities Team will continue to work together with the Metropolitan Police to promote community safety in the home and on the streets of Barnet. This entails working in partnership with BME groups, Neighbourhood watches, resident and community groups, to solve problems at a local level.

We endeavour to contact as many BME groups and organisations as possible and increase awareness of the Third Party Reporting scheme which enables people to report racist incidents and other Hate Crimes at locations other than police stations- including several Council establishments such as youth centres and Housing offices. The Safer Communities Partnership recognises the need to obtain feedback from all members of the community as to how they feel about living and working within Barnet and what changes they would like to see.

Consultation and liaison with Barnet's BME communities needs to be an ongoing issue and the Hate Crime Officer along with the new Diversity Officer at the Police will continue to effectively liaise with and visit BME communities within Barnet.

Supplementary Question No. 16**Councillor Ansuya Sodha**

I am not criticising the good work that is done by various groups but what is of concern is that there appears to be no structure to consult with ethnic minorities on what community safety problems there are and how services can address these.

One in four people who live in Barnet come from an ethnic minority, so when will there be at least one member of the Safer Communities Board who comes from an ethnic minority? Can you please give us the date?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Mr Mayor, the consultation on the community safety papers is open to every resident of this Borough and in some ways every resident has an individual responsibility, whatever their ethnic background, to take part in such consultation exercises. The same would apply to people of different sexual orientation, different backgrounds, and we have tried to reach out to every group, and frankly if people don't respond and don't use the opportunities that are open to them, and this is for each individual as well, then that is for them. I think that what you have got here, set out in this reply, details the extent to which such a consultation was taking place.

As far as the ethnic background of the members of the board are concerned, they are there by virtue of the positions that they hold, not their ethnicity, and if it so happens that people are appointed to those positions, and I hope that every one of them has been appointed on merit, then that is how they get there, and I would expect that that is something that she would endorse.

Question No. 17**Councillor Brian Gordon**

What is your assessment of the general election results, as far as it affects the citizens of this Borough?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

The Council at the annual meeting on 17th May congratulated the 3 successful candidates. If the result is looked at as a whole it is clear that overall more people voted for Conservative candidates than Labour candidates and that in itself is an endorsement of the policies adapted by this council since the local elections in 2002.

Supplementary Question No. 17**Councillor Brian Gordon**

Councillor Salinger, although none of us on this side of the Chamber would wish to be complacent, would you not agree that the obvious trend away from the Labour Party, as seen at the General Election, makes it look that the chances of a Labour return to control of this Council next year is about as likely Saddam Hussain returning to power in Iraq.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

I think Saddam Hussain probably holds out more hope than the Leader of the Labour Party.

Question No. 18

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

In light of the two murders and attempted rapes in West Hendon recently, when will the Council be installing CCTV cameras in West Hendon (operating during the hours when the bus lane cameras are focused on the road)?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

There are five CCTV cameras in West Hendon. When they are not being used to monitor bus lanes they are used for more general surveillance. The 2 murders were both within premises and neither would have been caught on any form of CCTV. In the light of the question from Cllr Slocombe, officers have visited Colindale police station and they were unable to find anyone who knew of any recent alleged attempted rapes in the area.

Supplementary Question No. 18

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

He has not answered the question. He has missed the point. Transport for London has five bus lane cameras on The Broadway, used to monitor the bus lanes during operation. The question is when is the Council going to install its own cameras to operate around the clock?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

As I understand it, when the cameras are not being used to monitor the bus lanes, they are available and used to monitor anything else that can be seen from them.

Question No. 19

Councillor Brian Coleman

Does the Cabinet Member consider that all Comprehensive Barnet Secondary Schools are taking their fair share of pupils previously excluded from other schools? Can he give figures for the numbers of previously excluded pupils admitted to Barnet's secondary schools?

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

All the comprehensive schools seek to help those children who have been previously excluded. This 'second chance' is very important. Without it there is a risk that the children concerned could become much more disruptive as they grow older. Mere statistics alone do not underline the commitment all these schools demonstrate. I believe that the phrase 'fair share' is not a good guide to this commitment. Various factors determine which school a pupil goes to.

	Permanent exclusions from the school	Excluded pupils placed at the school
Ashmole	1	
Bishop Douglass	11	
Christ Church CofE	1	1
Christ's College	3	
The Compton	2	
Copthall	2	
East Barnet	1	1
Finchley Catholic	1	
Friern Barnet	3	1
Hendon	4	
Mill Hill County	5	1
The Ravenscroft	7	
St James' Catholic	3	
St Mary's CofE	4	
Whitefield	2	1

Supplementary Question No. 19

Councillor Brian Coleman

Thank you Mr Mayor. I am grateful to the Cabinet Member.

Will the Cabinet Member investigate the rather dodgy practices of some of our secondary schools in this Borough in order to get rid of difficult pupils off their pupil roll? They dress up the character and reports on that pupil to persuade other Head Teachers to take those pupils in.

Answer by Councillor John Marshall

Mr Mayor, I am sure that Councillor Coleman really doesn't think that our Head Teachers engage in dodgy practices, but if he would like to have words with me afterwards I would be very happy to hear from him.

Question No. 20

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

Following the Council's decision to remove funding from the Royal Society for the Blind sheltered workshops in 2005/6, what consultation has been undertaken with service users as to the future of the service, and what progress has been made with re-assessing the Community Care needs of clients?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Following the cabinet decision to undertake a consultation regarding the removal of funding for the sheltered workshops, a letter was sent out to the three service users, followed by contact from the social workers to carry out the community care assessment. These assessments are still proceeding at present.

Alongside this, consultation has taken place (and is on-going) with the service users and their Trade Representatives (National League of the Blind and Disabled) to ensure appropriate representation of the service users who are employed by the workshops.

Supplementary Question No. 20

Councillor Zakia Zubairi

Thank you Mr Mayor. The letter that was sent to the blind residents in April was not a consultation. It just stated that the Council was going to cut the funding and their needs would be reassessed. The assessment is not due to be completed until six months since the Council first announced the cuts. How will the Council be compensating these registered blind people for six months of worry and distress?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

You seem to be wanting it both ways. You are saying there isn't a consultation but then you are saying that it's taking too long. There is a detailed consultation going on with these users and their trade union representatives and it's their choice that is taking a little bit longer.

So I really think that the process that we are following is as sensitive and appropriate as possible.

Question No. 21

Councillor Olwen Evans

Do you have any plans to change the operational policies of Barnet's Parking Service?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Yes.

Supplementary Question No. 21

Councillor Olwen Evans

Can the Cabinet Member enlighten us as to what his plans are?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

Thank you Mr Mayor. As this is a very important issue I intend to provide a very full and comprehensive answer.

Since the decriminalisation of parking in 1994, it has fallen to local authorities to issue penalty charge notices against road users who contravene parking restrictions. In the last few months there have been a number of criticisms made of our parking service and I have taken the opportunity to consider these and reflect on whether or not changes might be warranted.

On taking over parking enforcement, London authorities looked at the matter of observation times and I don't believe that we have reviewed this since. Currently, the only observation taking place is during the preparation of the penalty charge notice which will I will now refer to as the PCN, or in the case of pay and display, the time it takes to determine whether a ticket is being purchased from a machine. To my mind, a significant element of parking enforcement and the issues surrounding what is considered fair in the issue of PCN's occurs during these observation periods. With loading and unloading in Barnet, a motorist may load and unload in a restricted street for up to 20 minutes. There is no requirement for the action to be continuous or observed by a parking attendant. It is for each Council to decide whether such a vehicle should be observed for a period of time before the parking attendant issues a PCN.

Neighbouring boroughs describe this strategy in a telephone survey as no observation or two minutes. Following my answer about the fairness of observation times at a previous Council meeting, I believe that it is necessary to review our observation arrangements. I think the Council needs to consider what an appropriate observation period might be in areas where loading is permitted and how this might be best included in parking attendants' operational procedures.

The appeals process is a mechanism which motorists who claim to be loading or unloading and receive a PCN may challenge a ticket. If hard evidence is supplied that a vehicle is loading or unloading the PCN will be cancelled.

I believe that such a practice perpetuates a Kafkaesque view of councils, one where they are tied up in bureaucracy and promote a system in which residents feel it is easier to pay rather than taking the time, energy and effort to appeal, time which could be better spent promoting their business or simply living their lives. It is one of those problems that everyone loathes but accepts as a fact of life. Well it is not. I think the Council needs to accept that for some people for certain loading acts will simply not have detailed dockets providing the loading operation took place in the same way as a large delivery company might and if a PCN is issued in these circumstances the Authority needs to consider what other evidence it is prepared to accept. For example, simple statements of

witnesses or receipts for goods they are collecting. I am also aware of an innovative new paging system for those making commercial deliveries called 'Moovit'. The simple principle is that rather than waiting for a driver loading, a parking attendant can use a transponder on a vehicle to page a driver who can return to the vehicle to verify that loading is taking place.

Delivery companies can be potentially saved time and effort by not having to make a representation and the Council.

I will sum up. I will sum up in seven sentences and provide a copy of my speech to local press.

Question No. 22

Councillor David Mencer

On 6 July last year the Council unanimously agreed: "Council resolves to collate figures of anti-Semitic incidents" following the appalling arson attack on Aish HaTorah Synagogue in Hendon on 18 June 2004. Could the Member please set out the figures as collected by the Council for anti-Semitic incidents in the London Borough of Barnet from July 2004 to June 2005?

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Out of a total of 66 racial incidents recorded through the Council's systems between June 04 and May 05, 5 have been identified as being of an anti-Semitic nature.

I am aware that other figures are collated by the Police and the MAHRG has asked the data analysts to work on better integration of the Police and Council returns. In the short time available since the question was tabled it has not been possible for me to collate and reconcile the figures from other agencies.

Supplementary Question No. 22

Councillor David Mencer

Well, I am a bit concerned about this answer that there have only been, I think the answer is, five anti-Semitic incidents recorded by the Borough of Barnet in the last year. This Borough is home to the largest Jewish community in the country. This Council voted unanimously to collect the figures. This is quite a shameless attempt to, actually I don't think it is sinister in any way, I just think it is a pretty bad show actually, a pretty shameless, pretty pathetic attempt to collate figures. There is already an organisation called the Community Security Trust which the Police work with, which is based in this Borough, not five minutes walk away from here actually which does collect these figures. Can I ask the Council now to do what every single Member in this Chamber voted unanimously to do, and to collect in the correct way all the anti-Semitic figures which are occurring in this Borough, so that we can see the true size of this problem?

I can tell you from my own personal experience that I receive abuse on my way to Synagogue on a Saturday afternoon and there certainly have been more than five incidents in this Borough.

Answer by Councillor Brian Salinger, Leader of the Council

Mr Mayor, I was not aware that there was a time limit on answering questions but I will keep this one fairly brief.

The question asked about those that had been collated by the Borough and that is the answer I have been given by officers and it is principally those that are through the Housing Department, which is where the Head of Housing, who is also responsible for community safety, is based. I did say in my response that there are other figures collated by the Police and by the MARHG and those certainly do reflect a far greater incidence of anti-Semitic incidents and I will, as soon as I have had a chance to reconcile those figures with the officers who have prepared them for me, be prepared to circulate those to all Members of the Council.

Where there are detailed questions of this nature, if the Labour Group, as has become their habit, sit on all their questions until the very last minute before handing them in, there will be occasions like this where full replies are not possible in the time that is available. We do our best to get the figures and the stats and anything else ready but if others Members of this Council can manage to put their questions in a lot earlier and as the issues arise, then I can't see any reason why Labour Members cannot do the same.

Question No. 23

Councillor Mark Langton

What consultation was undertaken with, or information provided to, residents prior to Barnet Homes and the Council cutting down and pollarding trees in Coniston Close; what consideration was given to the wildlife; and when will replacement trees be planted?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The tree work in Coniston Close was part of the planned cyclical work for this estate and was prompted by requests from residents. During inspection of the trees prior to the work commencing the Arboriculture Officer consulted with residents. The response of residents to that work has been overwhelmingly positive.

It is the Council's intention to replant a tree on the green in Coniston Close during the winter months 2005/6.

Supplementary Question No. 23

Councillor Mark Langton

Can I ask, the written answer doesn't say, what form consultation took and whether all residents were consulted? The first thing that residents who have contacted me knew was when they got home from the work that the trees had been cut down. What consultation is there now going to be with residents to do with the replanting and replacement of trees? And I should say, it's pretty shabby when our Arboricultural Department cuts down trees because someone requires the parking not to drop leaves on their cars.

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

Well that's certainly not the information I have had. I understand that one of the trees was unsafe and the other tree was blocking light from the streetlamp which clearly caused concern. As far as I am aware, all the residents were consulted. Only one resident has objected to the work and the others have been overwhelmingly positive about it, and clearly when residents raise concerns it's important that the tree officers respond and take appropriate action, which in this case I believe they did.

Question No. 24

Councillor Colin Rogers

Why has Barnet Homes spent money erecting a fence at Brownsell Road N2 given that Barnet Homes cannot tell me of a single resident who made such a request and there was no consultation with residents before the fence was erected, and how much did putting the fence up cost?

Answer by Councillor Fiona Bulmer

The request for the fence came from two residents from separate addresses. The cost of the work was £2070. After the work was carried out residents' views were surveyed and, of those who replied, a majority were in favour. At the request of residents shrubs will be planted by the fence which will help reduce its impact.

Question No. 25

Councillor Kath McGuirk

What are the performance targets the Council has set for its parking attendants, and what is the target number of parking tickets each parking attendant is expected/required to issue during the financial year?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The Council does not set "performance targets" for penalty charge issues and has no target number of penalty charge notices that each parking attendant is expected or required to issue for a year.

Question No. 26

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

How many parking attendants are currently employed by the Council and how many were employed in May 2002, May 2003 and May 2004?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

May 2002	25 officers of which some were supervisors, covering 15 Controlled Parking Zones
May 2003	41 officers of which some were supervisors, covering 17 Controlled Parking Zones
May 2004	43 - 35 PA's and 8 supervisors, covering 26 Controlled Parking Zones

Question No. 27

Councillor Danish Chopra

Is the Cabinet Member for Resources to build up the financial reserves of the council this year whilst cutting services to the most vulnerable in our community?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

Had the Member read the budget report presented to Council in March he would have known that there are several areas of change in the funding that this council receives from Central Government in the coming years, e.g. ongoing reductions in specific grants, balance of funding review, dedicated schools grant, council tax revaluation, Formula Grant data and methodology changes.

He will also recall that his Administration left a gaping hole in the council's budget when it used £11m of balances to reduce the council tax in the 2002/3. Balances can only be used once, so this £11m had to be made good from council tax in 2003/04.

The External Auditor has advised all Members of Council very clearly through successive Annual Audit Letters the level of balances the Council should have, and my Administration is working hard to deliver this.

Question No. 28

Councillor Steve Blomer

What has been the cost to the Council of repairing, and making good, damage to Council property caused by the increased population of rats in the borough, and what is the Council doing to tackle this problem?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

An investigation in to whether the Council was fulfilling its statutory duties to ensure the control of rats was conducted by officers from DEFRA's Wildlife Management Branch in February of this year. They concluded that the council was complying with its statutory obligations.

I am not in possession of any information that indicates there is a cost to the Council in repairing, and making good, damage to council property caused by rats.

Question No. 29**Councillor Agnes Slocombe**

The No Waiting sign under the bridge on Brent Park Rd has been uprooted for the last 10 weeks with no warning to the public. When is this going to be resolved?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The sign-post that was knocked over in Brent Park Road was removed and the surface repaired sometime ago. The "At Any Time" waiting sign that was attached to this post does not need to be replaced because of the new regulations that came into force a while ago.

Question No. 30**Councillor Zakia Zubairi**

New legislation comes into effect from 1 June 2005 enabling the Council to take action - following a complaint from a resident - against the owners of high hedges which cause nuisance to the neighbours. How many complaints has the Council so far received; what support will the Council be offering to residents adversely affected by high hedges; and how will the Council be advertising its new powers to residents so that local people are aware of the right to complain and have action taken by the Council to address the problem?

Answer by Councillor Melvin Cohen

Part 8 of Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 took effect on 1 June 2005. This legislation places a requirement on the Council to determine complaints from owners and/or occupiers of domestic property regarding high hedges (defined as two or more evergreen trees or shrubs in excess of 2m in height) and their adverse impact on the reasonable enjoyment of property. The purposes of this new provision are explicit. Such action is intended as a last resort and a complainant is obliged and must demonstrate to have taken all reasonable steps to resolve the matter before referring the complaint formally to the Council.

Whilst there have been a number of enquiries from residents, to date there have been no formal complaints.

The legislation clearly stipulates that the Council's role is one of arbiter; it cannot therefore support action by one neighbour against another but instead must remain impartial and make a balanced decision based on the facts. The Council's final decision could come down on the side of the home owner or the complainant, depending on the facts and merits of the case in question. There are also formal rights of appeal for both parties to the Planning Inspectorate of which the Council and principle parties will be expected to defend their position.

However support is provided in other ways: there is a 50% reduction in the £450 fee (subject to Cabinet Resources approval) for complainants on state benefits and guidance is provided, free of charge, from the planning office and the planning website. Furthermore advice on the processes is available to telephone callers.

The new powers are 'advertised' on both the Planning Service and Government websites. There has been substantial press and media coverage both nationally and locally. In addition, the Government has published a useful guidance leaflet for customers and this is available on the ODPM website and hard copies will be provided at the Council's Planning Reception at Barnet House.

It appears that there is some confusion over the role of the Council for it is suggested that it is there to investigate complaints. This is not strictly the case and instead its role is to arbitrate on complaints once all else has failed.

Question No. 31

Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Following the report to Cabinet Resources Committee in April 2005 concerning the council's golf courses, what progress has been made with Oakhill Park golf course; and if the Oakhill Park golf course is not taken over by another operator or operated by the Council, what are the Council's plans for the golf course?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

Tenders have been received and are being evaluated. Should the bids be unacceptable then alternative proposals will be brought forward.

Question No. 32

Councillor Danish Chopra

If the Cabinet Member for Resources would make a statement on the performance of the Council's pension fund managers over the past year?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

The performance of the pension fund investment managers is not an executive responsibility - the Pension Fund Management Advisory Panel comes under the General Functions Committee. He is well aware that the contract with one of the fund managers is being terminated and that a replacement fund manager is soon to be appointed. However it is true to say that the pension fund managers have commented that performance may be affected by the slowing UK economy; drop in retail sales; and the depressed housing market/consumer confidence.

Question No. 33

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

Why was Franklin House not block cleansed last year or this year?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The Block Cleanse is provided on the West Hendon Estate three times a year (as per the published schedule on the Council's intranet) and the adopted highway/footway through the estate has been block cleansed

This was on 4 October 2004, 26 January 2005, 23 May 2005 and will reoccur on 13 September 2005 and 9th January 2006.

Question No. 34

Councillor Danish Chopra

If the Cabinet Member for Resources will explain what steps are currently being taken by him to improve the quality of financial information to all members, and when this will become apparent?

Answer by Councillor Mike Freer

This is a repeat question No:---!

Question No. 35

Councillor Agnes Slocombe

Why has it taken so long to replace the flagstones outside 100 West Hendon Broadway and why is the area not cordoned off to protect the public walking on the pavement?

Answer by Councillor Matthew Offord

The work to replace some damaged areas of block paving, caused by a wagon over-running onto the footway, was requested on 10 June and carried out on 14 June. Whilst on site it was noted that further areas of footway needed attention. This work was carried out over the past weekend. The areas were coned but there is an issue with people removing the cones which are being replaced as and when missing.

Question No. 36

Councillor Danish Chopra

Does the Cabinet Member for Resources agree that all residents in Barnet should be properly consulted on the level of council tax they will have to pay for 2006/07, and could he explain how this will be achieved?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

No decision has been taken yet about how residents will be consulted over Council Tax for 2006/7. We will look to consult residents in the most cost effective way. The leader has already made clear that he expects any rise in tax to be as low as possible dependent of course on the grant settlement that we receive from the Government.

Question No. 37**Councillor Danish Chopra**

If the Cabinet Member for Resources will make a statement on the discussions he has had with the Borough Treasurer on improving the quality and speed of financial information provided to Members and the public?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

Has the Member not heard of the Modernising Core Systems project that has been in progress for the past 18 months, and the SAP system which is scheduled to go live on 1 August?

Question No. 38**Councillor Danish Chopra**

If the Cabinet Member for Resources could inform Council of the level of Balances as at 31st May 2005?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

As my colleague Councillor Finn who held the Resources portfolio said on a number of occasions previously, balances are the product of a comprehensive year-end accounting process involving accruing in full for all creditors and debtors. The concept of balances at a point in time is, therefore, meaningless.

Question No. 39**Councillor Danish Chopra**

If the Cabinet Member for Resources could inform Council of the level of Reserves as at 31st May 2005, along with the provision of a detailed breakdown of those reserves giving the amount and the nature of the reserve?

Answer by Councillor Kanti Patel

The 2004/05 Statement of Accounts will be presented to General Functions Committee on 28 July, at which time balances and reserves as at 31 March 2005 will be set out in full detail. I can assure Members of Council, however, that the target £5m balances at the end of 2004/05 was achieved.

Council: 13 September 2005

Administration Policy Item: Cllr. Matthew Offord

No Cash Cameras

Council notes with dismay the ALG meeting that decided to push ahead with decriminalised traffic enforcement through CCTV only.

Council notes that this move meant the ALG abandoned pilots investigating manual traffic enforcement, which is regarded by many as a fairer and more effective method.

Council believes that this decision, pushed through by Labour and Liberal representatives, will lead to a rash of “Cash Cameras” across London, designed to squeeze money out of motorists at “easy” sites.

Council conversely believes that traffic enforcement must be designed to cut congestion and manage road use; it should not be used as a tool to make money.

Council welcomes the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport’s statement that he will be proposing that Barnet will not be part of this scheme to squeeze cash out of motorists using CCTV.

Council calls on Cabinet to continue to oppose these cash cameras. Council also asks Cabinet to work with the ALG to find a fairer and more effective means of traffic enforcement, including manual enforcement, one that would be acceptable to all residents of this Borough and of London.

Council, Tuesday 13 September 2005

Opposition Policy Item to be moved by Councillor Anita Campbell

Council notes the opposition of residents to the decision to close, Barnet Registry Office in Wood Street, High Barnet, scheduled for 30 September (to save £70,000 per annum).

Council welcomes the consultation period undertaken following receipt of a petition signed by over 1,100 residents opposed to the closure. Council believes the results of the public response should have been published as soon as possible after the consultation deadline.

Council believes it is proper to take into account both the expression of opposition of those who signed the petition and the subsequent representations made to the Council in response to its consultation before taking any decision on the future of Barnet Registry Office.

Council recognises that:

- the Barnet Registry Office registers more births and deaths than the Burnt Oak Registry Office because many NHS acute services are located at nearby Barnet Hospital,
- the London Borough of Barnet is an extremely large London Borough in terms of both population and physical area, with the Council projecting population growth to around 400,000 residents by 2016 thereby increasing the demand on the Registry Service,
- there is no main town centre within the Borough to locate a Registry Office, but many smaller town centres, and
- public transport is available running north to south, but less readily available east to west thereby making access to a single Registry Office difficult for many residents who live in the east of the borough.

Council therefore opposes the closure of Barnet Registry Office, and calls upon the Executive not to proceed with the closure, scheduled for 30 September.