

**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.