

# Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

**Tuesday, 8 November, 2005, at 7.00pm**

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## **A G E N D A**

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## Council Meeting

8 November 2005

### Agenda and Timetable

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<b><u>Part 1 - Statutory formalities/ Announcements (15 minutes)</u></b>	7.00pm – 7.15pm	
1.	Prayer		
2.	Apologies for absence		
3.	Minutes of last meeting held on 13 September, 2005		1-48
4.	Official announcements		
5.	Declarations of interest		
6.	Any business remaining from last meeting		
	<b><u>Part 2 – Question Time (30 minutes or until 7.45pm, whichever is the longer)</u></b>	7.15pm – 7.45pm	
7.	Questions to the Leader and Cabinet		To be circulated separately
	<b><u>Part 3 — Members' Motions (60 minutes)</u></b>	7.45pm – 8.45pm	
8.	Motions in the order in which notice has been given		
8.1	<b>From Councillor Schneiderman</b>  Council regrets that, since May 2002, the Administration has shut down youth centres and sacked youth workers. Council condemns the decision to cut a further £300,000 from the borough's youth services this financial year, which amounts to one third of the total budget. Council regrets the attempts of the Cabinet Member to pretend that central Government		

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	<p>investment in Connexions is in any way a replacement for the local cuts.</p> <p>Council is ashamed that the Administration invests just £50.17 per resident in youth services, which is the second lowest amount in England, compared to the London average of £105.51. Council agrees with the independent inspectors OFSTED who have branded Barnet's youth service 'unsatisfactory'.</p> <p>Council is extremely concerned about the increase in graffiti, vandalism &amp; anti-social behaviour since the cuts, and the high costs of dealing with these problems. Council believes that the Administration cuts in the youth service are a false economy.</p> <p>Council believes that if the Administration is serious about diverting young people from becoming involved in anti-social behaviour and becoming the victims of crime, then the Council must invest.</p> <p>Council regrets that the proposal to invest an extra £689,000 in youth facilities during the current financial was not agreed at the Council meeting in March 2005.</p> <p>Council welcomes the proposal from the Police and YMCA for the re-opening of the Church Farm Youth Club, and Council urges the Cabinet to stop delaying the re-opening of the Club. Council urges the Cabinet to ensure long-term funding for the Club, rather than the current one-year funding.</p>		

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	<p>Council urges the Cabinet to immediately restore the cuts made in youth services, and to further invest in youth services to tackle anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Councillor Schneiderman has requested, in accordance with Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: of the Council's Constitution 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><b>From Councillor Danish Chopra</b></p> <p>Council notes that the Barnet ALG survey 2004/5 showed 59% of residents believe the Administration doesn't involve them in decision making. Council believes the authority must drastically improve its consultation and involvement of local people, rather than cut back on community engagement.</p> <p>Council therefore condemns the Administration's decision to scrap the annual postal consultation with residents on the authority's £375million budget and on the level of next year's council tax, which the Administration has increased by 34% since 2002. Council believes local people have a right to have their say on the budget and council tax, and they have a right to expect that the Administration will take account and make changes to the financial plans as a result of those comments.</p>		

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	<p>Council notes with dismay the Administration's plans to replace the postal consultation (which has received 10,000 replies) with a budget 'open day' at the town hall (which has received 10 attendees).</p> <p>Council urges the Cabinet to consult residents by post on the council tax and budget 2006/7, and Council opposes any further worsening of the so-called 'consultation' with scrutiny committees on the service proposals for 2006/7.</p> <p>Councillor Chopra has requested, in accordance with Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: of the Council's Constitution that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		
8.3	<p><b>From Councillor Alison Moore</b></p> <p>Council notes the decision of the Cabinet to cut the grant to charities Action for Blind People, Greater Welfare for the Blind and the Royal Society for the Blind who employ three registered blind people in £12,000-a-year factory jobs. Council notes that the loss of the grant will mean the three blind people will be made redundant.</p> <p>Council appreciates that the blind people are not on benefits, but are instead at work making a contribution to the community, supporting their families, and working hard to maintain their independence and self-respect.</p>		

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	<p>Council notes the lack of a comprehensive re-assessment of needs prior to the decision being taken. Council notes the blind people and their representatives do not feel they have been properly consulted, and Council notes the failure of the Cabinet report to set out the views expressed by those affected in the consultation. Council welcomes the approach from the blind charities to look at alternative methods of maintaining the jobs.</p> <p>Council notes that Barnet's grant cut will have a detrimental impact, not just on the three blind people who are to be made redundant, but also upon the long-term viability of sheltered workshops across London.</p> <p>Council believes that if a blind resident moves out of the borough this should not mean they lose their job, and Council therefore supports the long-standing agreement of London councils to continue to fund blind people working in sheltered workshops if they move around London. Council notes other London Boroughs fund at least one Barnet resident to work in a sheltered workshop, and that their job could be at risk if that council follows Barnet's lead.</p> <p>Council welcomes the unanimous decision of the Cabinet Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 October to ask the Cabinet to re-consider the report, and in particular to enter into negotiations with the charities, and, if necessary, to look at the phased withdrawal of the funding.</p>		

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	<p>Council wishes to send a clear message to the Cabinet meeting on 5 December to enter into negotiations with the charities and, if necessary, to look at the phased withdrawal of the funding.</p> <p>Councillor Moore has requested, in accordance with Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: of the Council's Constitution that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p>		
8.4	<p><b>From Councillor Chris Harris</b></p> <p><b><u>Looked After Children</u></b></p> <p>Council notes that there are around 380 Looked After Children in Barnet.</p> <p>Council is aware that all too often, these young people suffer from poorer educational attainment than those not in care.</p> <p>Council believes this is a situation that must be tackled, in order that all children can reach the same goals in life whatever background they come from.</p> <p>Council therefore welcomes Barnet's pioneering "Education Champions for Children" pilot scheme, which gives looked after children a dedicated Council Official who looks out for their interests just as a parent would.</p> <p>Council <i>believes</i> that this is the only such scheme in the entire country, and notes it is proving so successful that other authorities now want to copy it.</p>		

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	<p>Council welcomes the news that, as a result of this scheme, twice as many children in care in Barnet have achieved 5 or more A* to C Grades at GCSE this year as in Britain as a whole, and 10 per cent more than last year in Barnet.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to welcome the achievements of all our children in care this year, and to ensure this excellent scheme is fully supported.</p>		
8.5	<p><b>From Councillor John Marshall</b> <b><u>First Class Education</u></b></p> <p>Council welcomes the excellent GCSE and A-Level results across the Borough, and praises our children's achievements.</p> <p>Council notes that, in the provisional tables for 2005, the Borough comes in at 14th place nationwide this year for GCSE results, out of nearly 150 authorities, with 62% of our students gaining 5 A*-C Grades.</p> <p>Council further notes this compares very well to England and Outer London at 56% and the Capital as a whole at 54%. Our place in the table contrasts favourably with neighbouring Harrow (25<sup>th</sup>), Brent (46<sup>th</sup>), Camden (93<sup>rd</sup>), and Haringey (123<sup>rd</sup>).</p> <p>Council welcomes the dramatic decline in the number of Barnet Schools in Special Measures in the past 18 months.</p>		



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	<p>Council believes these achievements are testament to the hard work of pupils and teachers across the Borough, working in partnership with the Council to drive up standards.</p> <p>Council resolves to call on Cabinet to support the ongoing hard work of schools, staff and students across this Borough, and to work to raise standards in Barnet still further.</p>		
8.6	<p><b>From Councillor Wayne Casey</b></p> <p>Prayer against the Licensing Act 2003</p> <p>Council Notes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15% national rise in “violent offences committed in connection with licensed premises” in the last year to almost 1,000 a week.</li> <li>• In England and Wales there was an increase by 18.4% in alcohol-related deaths in 2004 on 2003 figures.</li> <li>• The overall cost to society of alcohol related problems is up to £20bn.</li> <li>• Considerable local disquiet regarding increasing opening hours of licensed premises.</li> <li>• The difficulty for councillors to effectively represent their ward residents in regard to applications.</li> <li>• The Prayer mechanism currently being debated in Parliament.</li> </ul>		

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	<p>Council Believes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Licensing Act 2003 was poorly drafted, and enacted.</li> <li>• That this new regime will bring further problems to the health and safety of the residents of Barnet</li> <li>• That if the Licensing Act 2003 is scrapped it will not bring chaos to the system, as these licenses are not coming into effect until 24<sup>th</sup> November, and that existing licensing will cover it.</li> </ul> <p>Council Resolves –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To request the Chief Executive to write to all three Members of Parliament in Barnet to lobby their colleagues in the House of Lords to vote in favour of the Prayer, therefore preventing the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003</li> </ul>		
	<b>Break</b>	8.45pm – 9.00pm	
9	<b>Part 4 – Policy Development (60 minutes)</b>	9.00pm – 10.00pm	
9.1	Administration Item: <b>Barnet PCT</b>		49
9.2	Opposition Item: <b>Our duty to the young people of Barnet</b>		50-51
	<b>Part 5 – Accountability (20minutes)</b>	10.00 pm- 10.20pm	
10	Comments on the work of the Cabinet (10 minutes) –		

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10.1	<p><b>From Councillor Anita Campbell</b></p> <p>To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to the re-provision of Barnet Register Office.</p>		
10.2	<p><b>From Councillor Steve Blomer</b></p> <p>How does the Councils policy of removing Children's play equipment from the boroughs smaller parks, for what ever reasons including health and safety requirements, and then not replacing such equipment, measure up to the Council often quoted commitment to Barnet's Youth. "</p>		
10.3	<p><b>From Councillor Linda McFadyen</b></p> <p>To comment on the work of the Cabinet with regard to the lack of festive lights in Burnt Oak.</p>		
11.	<p>Questions to council representatives on outside bodies (10 minutes)</p>		None
	<p><b>Part 6 – Statutory Council Business (40 minutes)</b></p>	10.20pm – 11.00pm	
12.	<p>Reports from Cabinet</p> <p>11 October : Unitary Development Plan</p>		52-78
13.	<p>Reports from overview and scrutiny committees</p>		
14.	<p>Reports from Other Committees</p>		
15.	<p>Reports of Officers</p>		
15.1	<p>Director of Resources</p>		

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	Erection of Spike Milligan Statue, Avenue House, East End Road, N3 (Finchley Church End Ward)		79 – 81, with plan
15.2	Democratic Services Manager		82 - 122
1.	Executive Decisions and the call - in process - Review		
2.	Vacancies on School Governing Bodies		
3.	Establishment of a New Temporary Governing Body for the Akiva School		
4.	Vacancies arising from Reconstitution of School Governing Bodies		
5.	Representation of the Council on Outside Bodies		
6.	Report of Cabinet dated 11 October – corrected typographical errors		
7.	Leader of the Opposition		
15.3	Monitoring Officer		

John Marr, Democratic Services Manager

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