

## Agenda Item 9.2

Opposition Policy Item to be moved by Councillor Susette Palmer (and second speaker Cllr Wayne Casey) at Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005

### **Our Duty to the young people of Barnet**

Council is ashamed to be listed as spending less on its youth services than all but one other local authority.

Council notes that a sum of about £300,000 has recently been obtained by staff from various grants for youth work, but this should be used to increase and improve existing and new activities and not to partly replace what has already been cut.

Council believes that the cuts in the youth service lead to an increase in criminal and anti-social activities.

Council notes the appointment of three new managers as part of the Youth and Connexions service but these are no substitute for youth facilities and youth workers on the street. One of these managers will manage what is left of Barnet's depleted detached youth team which has left vast areas of the borough without any detached youth workers.

Council notes the closure of almost all Barnet's youth clubs and funding for the Welsh Harp Youth Sailing Base.

Council urges the Cabinet to accept that more base funding and support needs to be provided across the whole borough to youth clubs, detached youth workers, together with a range of daily activities to interest and stretch our young people.

Council requests Cabinet to bring forward to the Cabinet meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December:

- Plans to reopen club-style facilities across Barnet, which would include art activities such as dance, drama, video, internet web design and music production; also sports activities including football, basket-ball, pool and martial arts.
- Plans to extend and make available to more young people schemes such as Whitefields Extended School after school provision which appears to lack promotion and which are unknown to the majority.
- Plans to extend the Youth Theatre programme.
- Plans to extend and replicate the Rhythmic project.
- Retention of 'The Bull' theatre for use by the community in tandem with the stage school currently using the premises.
- Plans to support and re-support schemes such as the Welsh Harp Sailing Club.
- Plans to work with the police in schemes which will direct the energy of our young people into enjoyable activities, which have been found to cut youth crime and anti-social activities.
- Plans to ensure that all wards that need them have detached youth workers working with our young people.
- Plans for a quarterly gathering of representatives from youth clubs and organisations in the Council Chamber, and grant the ability to introduce an annual motion via the Cabinet.

- Plans for open and active election of youth Representatives to the Youth Parliament, British Youth Council and other representative bodies.
- Plans to build up a youth advocacy and peer counselling training programme. to give young people confidence and the ability to raise matters of importance.
- Plans to boost publicity and web-based interaction for young people, youth groups youth projects and workers.