

Council: 31 January 2006

Administration Policy Item: Cllr. Brian Salinger

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Council notes the Safer Neighbourhood Teams that currently patrol eight Barnet wards on a pilot basis.

Council further notes that, given our wards are so much larger than in other Boroughs, Barnet should be given more Officers per ward to cover the extra population.

Council is dismayed that this is currently not the case, and that our Safer Neighbourhoods wards are under-Policed compared to pilot areas in other Boroughs.

Council notes the announcement that Safer Neighbourhood Teams will be rolled out Borough-, and London- wide by the end of April 2006.

Council was initially disappointed that no pledge was made by the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) to increase the number of Officers provided in each Barnet ward team relative to other boroughs with smaller wards, to ensure our large wards are properly Policed.

Council however notes the statement on 10 January 2006 by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Sir Ian Blair, that larger wards in London may receive an "Enhanced" Safer Neighbourhood Team by 2007, meaning that there would, indeed, be more Police staff patrolling streets in these areas.

Council further notes that every ward in Barnet would be large enough to qualify for the "Enhanced" Model.

Council believes this tremendous result is testament to the considerable lobbying undertaken on the issue by Barnet Council and the *Barnet Press*.

Council understands that questions do remain as to how these larger teams will be financed.

Council calls on Cabinet to write to the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), applauding the statement by the Commissioner. Cabinet is also asked to work closely with the MPA to ensure the goal of larger Safer Neighbourhood Teams (and more Police on Barnet's streets), is finally realised.