

Council, Tuesday 26 June 2007

**Amendment from Cllr Kath McGuirk
to motion from Cllr Alison Moore on London's Living Wage**

To be moved orally at the meeting under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 32.1.2

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.

Amend the motion to read:

Council notes the statements from Barnet's administration about people's ability to afford to live in London, including their stated aim to keep council services affordable.

Council also notes that London's Living Wage represents the Greater London Authority's estimation of the minimum a person must earn to avoid falling below the poverty line and is calculated to reflect the higher costs of living in the capital compared to the rest of the UK.

Council regrets, therefore, the statements by the Leader of the Council at previous council meetings that he is not willing to sign-up to London's Living Wage as proposed by the Mayor of London, or ensure that all council contractors pay their staff the Living Wage as a minimum, or encourage our partner organisations to do the same.

Council also regrets the recent action by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety to vote against the principle of paying fire service cleaning staff in London and Barnet a living wage, as well as his action on the London Assembly to vote against free bus travel for over 18,000 Barnet children.

Council condemns the untrue and scaremongering comments made by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety that paying low-paid workers in the fire service the Living Wage could result in the closure of four fire stations.

Council notes that the London Fire, Emergency and Planning Authority budget is currently in surplus, and that the Chair of LFEPA has confirmed that paying fire service cleaners the Living Wage would cost less than running one fire engine for a year.

Council believes that the statements and actions by the Leader and Cllr Coleman are a shameful attempt to deny a decent standard of living to low-paid workers in Barnet and across London.

Council asks Cabinet to:

- Bring forward a policy statement supporting London's Living Wage as the minimum wage for all Council staff as a matter of principle, whether directly employed by the Council or employed by a contractor providing services on behalf of the Council
- Renew it's efforts in securing it's target of 50% affordable housing in all housing developments over 10 units