

**Council, Tuesday 26 June 2007**

**Opposition Policy Item to be moved by Councillor Kath McGuirk**

**Tackling congestion hotspots on Barnet roads**

The council has developed and put in place numerous plans and strategies aimed at dealing with the problem of congestion on Barnet's roads. All of them state the fact that the borough's population is growing fast and that car use, and therefore congestion, is also set to grow.

We all recognise the need for improved public transport, but also that the motor-car will continue to be a transport option for residents in Barnet.

Recent debates demonstrate that we are all concerned about the impact of congestion and the consequences it has for the health of the public, the environment, economic activity and our quality of life.

Many of the council's policies dealing with congestion have long-term objectives, with outcomes and benefits that will not be fully realized for some time. Careful monitoring of progress will be important to ensure success and that it really is making a difference.

Aside from the council's overarching and strategic measures that have been developed and are being developed to address congestion in general there are many more localized congestion hotspots that are currently causing problems, and that need to be looked at in a shorter timeframe. These are often not major junctions or trunk roads but at local sites like Nether Street, Courthouse Road and Courthouse Gardens in North Finchley, for example.

Council therefore asks that in addition to its own work drawing up measures to tackle broader congestion, Cabinet commissions a scrutiny review to look in a holistic and systematic manner at:

- Performance against stated targets and outcomes to date
- Progress on relevant key projects and plans, including those identified in the Local Implementation Plan
- Identifying any further local hotspots that are a cause for community concern
- Providing effective wider cross-party Member and public in-put into planned reviews of congestion bottlenecks
- Traffic management, including traffic light phasing, road works, use of road space by utilities, waiting / loading restrictions and parking