

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, 11 September, 2007 at 7.00pm

A G E N D A

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE

Council Meeting

11 September, 2007 Agenda and Timetable

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| | <u>Part 1 - Statutory formalities/ Announcements (15 minutes)</u> | 7.00pm – 7.15pm | |
| 1. | Prayer | | |
| 2. | Apologies for absence | | |
| 3. | Minutes of last meeting held on 26 June 2007 | | 1 - 39 |
| 4. | Official announcements | | |
| 5. | Declarations of interest | | |
| 6. | Any business remaining from last meeting | | |
| | <u>Part 2 – Question Time (30 minutes or until 7.45pm, whichever is the longer)</u> | 7.15pm – 7.45pm | |
| 7. | Questions to the Leader and Cabinet | | To be circulated separately |
| | <u>Part 3 – Members' Motions (60 minutes)</u> | 7.45pm – 8.45pm | |
| 8. | Motions in the order in which notice has been given. | | |
| 8.1 | From Councillor Mike Freer | | |
| | <p>Council is dismayed that the island of Cyprus continues to be divided since the Turkish invasion and illegal occupation in 1974 and that Greek families remain unable to return to their homes in the north of the island.</p> <p>Council believes an equitable solution must be found that would re-unify the island and allow Greek Cypriot refugees to move back into the property seized from them in 1974.</p> | | |

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| | <p>However, Council deplores the inaction by the Labour Government in securing such a settlement, and the increasingly apparent anti-Greek bias demonstrated for example by former PM Tony Blair's intervention in the Annan 5 referendum</p> <p>Council believes this bias has sadly been compounded by the appointment of a Special Envoy to the island. While the long-overdue establishment of such a post is to be commended, the choice of appointee is not.</p> <p>Council notes that Joan Ryan MP has shown increasing partiality on Cypriot affairs, including calling for direct flights to occupied "northern" Cyprus.</p> <p>Council understands that the wisdom of this appointment has already been questioned by a Senior Foreign & Commonwealth Official.</p> <p>The holder of such a vital role must show impartiality and neutrality, Council believes, traits that Ms. Ryan has recently proved not to show.</p> <p>Council accordingly requests the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, asking him to urgently reconsider Ms Ryan's appointment to the post of Special Envoy to Cyprus in view of her recently publicised Turkish Cypriot connections.</p> <p>Councillor Freer has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, 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 | From Councillor Helena Hart | | |
| | <p>Council is appalled that Barnet and Chase Farm Hospital Trust has been given the first ever Improvement Notice on Hygiene to be issued by the</p> | | |

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| | <p>Healthcare Commission after serious breaches were found in its infection control procedures.</p> <p>This is a shocking indictment of a Trust that has experienced notable problems with diseases such as Chlostridium Difficile (C Difficile) and MRSA in the past.</p> <p>Further, Council believes the Trust has had ample time to put effective hygiene policies in place, but has evidently failed to do so. This patent lack of supervision and control cannot be allowed to continue.</p> <p>Council also re-iterates its grave concerns on the unacceptable conditions on Barnet Hospital's maternity wards found by the <i>Panorama</i> Report. These included, Council understands, pregnant women being left in corridors, inadequate staffing levels and unqualified volunteers forced into participating in procedures for which they had had no proper training.</p> <p>Council believes it is imperative that drastic action is taken immediately to improve both the hygiene and general standards of care at Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals and notes Cabinet's previous warnings on all of these and other local NHS failings.</p> <p>Council further believes that compliance with the terms of the Improvement Notice is the very minimum that patients should be able to expect.</p> <p>Council's continuing confidence in the Board of Management is dependant on the following areas of concern being properly addressed within the next 6 months:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The lack of trained midwives - which resulted at one point in one midwife having to look after 23 mothers (There should be at least 1-1.4 midwife to each mother in labour) | | |

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| | <p>2. The shortage of foetal monitors</p> <p>3. The insufficient number of beds available to cope with the numbers of expectant mothers wishing to be admitted (There should be enough beds for every patient admitted – on average around 70 mothers are admitted each week)</p> <p>4. Staff attitudes to expectant mothers - particularly when under pressure</p> <p>5. The rate and actual numbers of patients contracting MRSA and C Difficile (The overall NHS policy is for a year on year reduction in MRSA infections. A National Public Service agreement calls for a 60% reduction in the MRSA numbers against the 2003/4 baseline by 2007/8. The local target for C Difficile reduction is 20% from the 2006/7 baseline).</p> <p>Council therefore requests that LBB's Chief Executive writes to the Chairman of the Barnet and Chase Farm NHS Trust accordingly and requests that proper and adequate management controls are put into place immediately to rectify this most unacceptable state of affairs and further requests that the Council is informed of such remedial action and the effects of it.</p> <p>Councillor Hart has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, 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 | From Councillor Charlie O- Macauley | | |
| | <p>New youth facilities for every community.</p> <p>Council believes that it must play a leadership role in supporting and</p> | | |

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| | <p>helping all young people across Barnet, and particularly those in deprived areas, to take part in enjoyable and purposeful activities in their free time so that they can develop and gain new skills and raise their aspirations.</p> <p>Council notes that last year only 35.24% of participating young people aged 13-19 gained a recorded outcome from youth work in Barnet, compared with 59% in top performing local authorities.</p> <p>Council also notes that last year only 14.98% of participating young people aged 13-19 gained an accredited outcome from youth work in Barnet, compared with 25% in top performing local authorities.</p> <p>Council further notes that Barnet's youth service is funded poorly, that funding levels have fallen over the previous 3 years, and a commitment to increase funding has still not been given.</p> <p>Council therefore welcomes the government's plans to invest £184 million of new money in UK youth facilities, in addition to the £495 million of continuing funding and the planned re-investment sourced from unclaimed assets that lie in dormant bank accounts in order to provide young people with access to new and improved youth facilities in every community.</p> <p>Council urges Cabinet to take youth facilities more seriously and make a commitment to increase the level of funding to Barnet's youth service.</p> <p>Councillor O- Macauley has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">----- vi</p> | | |

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| 8.4 | From Councillor Anne Hutton | | |
| | <p>Childcare places in every community</p> <p>Council believes that the early years are crucial to a child's development and their future prospects and that it must put in place and support services that provide every child with the very best possible start in life.</p> <p>Council notes Cabinet's pledge to develop a flexible childcare offer with up to 15 hours free nursery entitlement a week.</p> <p>However, Council also notes that out of 32 London boroughs, Barnet is the only borough that has not taken up a single place offered by the London Development Agency's Childcare Affordability Programme (CAP) – which subsidises full day care and flexible childcare places.</p> <p>Council therefore welcomes the government's recently announced cash injection of more than £4bn in early years nationally, with £23m being invested in Barnet alone, part of which is designed to make sure there are sufficient childcare places in each Local Authority area, and to increase the take-up of childcare and early education especially among disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>Council notes that this is in addition to other government investment in children over the last ten years including free nursery education, Sure Start children's centres, Connexions, childcare and family tax credits and extended schools</p> <p>Council urges Cabinet to make full use of available affordability programmes like the London Development Agency's CAP and ensure we deliver quality early year provision to all Barnet families.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Councillor Hutton has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p> | | |
| 8.5 | <p>From Councillor Colin Rogers</p> | | |
| | <p>Cycling</p> <p>Council believes that it must encourage the use of more sustainable modes of travel such as cycling, and that increasing cycling rates can help combat obesity and protect the environment by reducing congestion.</p> <p>Council notes that the Mayor of London and Transport for London have increased the annual level of investment in cycling in London from just £5.5m in 2000 to £36m in 2007. Improvements include 900km of signed cycling routes by 2010, 10,000 more cycle parking spaces in the last two years, and increased education, training and cycle promotion.</p> <p>Council further notes that cycling in London has increased by 83% since 2000 with an estimated 480,000 cycle journeys each day across the Capital – 30,000 more than a year ago.</p> <p>Council also notes that while neighbouring boroughs Haringey, Camden and Brent have bid for and secured between them over £11m of investment in cycling from TFL since 2003, Barnet have only managed to bid for and secure about £200,000 for cycling from TFL during 2003/4-2006/7.</p> | | |

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| | <p>Council believes that more must be done by the administration to support and encourage cycling in Barnet.</p> <p>Council recalls a recent complaint at the Finchley and Golders Green Residents' Forum about the removal of and general lack of cycle stands in the borough.</p> <p>Council notes the cycling bids submitted in the Local Implementation Plan but urges the Executive to be more ambitious in their future bids for TFL money, so that further enhancements of cycling provision at transport interchanges can actually be realised.</p> <p>Councillor Rogers has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, that if the item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting.</p> | | |
| 8.6 | From Councillor Anne Hutton | | |
| | <p>Council congratulates all A-level and GCSE students in Barnet for their outstanding exam results this year, which are continuing to improve every year.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the hard work of all those involved in producing such excellent results, including pupils, teachers, governors, and parents, as well as council staff in Children's Service</p> <p>Council asks Cabinet to instruct the Chief Executive to write to all secondary schools in the Borough to convey Council's appreciation of their efforts.</p> <p>Councillor Hutton has requested, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule, Part 4, Section 1, 31.5, that if the</p> | | |

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| | item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting it be voted upon at the council meeting. | | |
| | Break | 8.45pm – 9.00pm | |
| | <u>Part 4 – Policy Development (60 minutes)</u> | 9.00pm – 10.00pm | |
| 9.1 | Administration Policy Item (30 minutes) Barnet's Carbon Foot Print | | 40 |
| 9.2 | Opposition Policy Item (30 minutes) Implementation of trial car club scheme | | 41 - 43 |
| | <u>Part 5 – Statutory Council Business (40 minutes)</u> | 10.00pm – 10:40pm | |
| 10. | Reports from Cabinet | | |
| 11. | Reports from Overview and Scrutiny committees | | |
| 12. | Reports from Other Committees | | |
| 12.1 | Report of the Special Committee (Constitution Review) 31 July 2007 - Review of the Governance Arrangements for the London Borough of Barnet Pension Fund | | 44 - 60 |
| 13. | Reports of Officers | | |
| 13.1 | Democratic Services Manager | | 61 - 69 |
| 1. | Amendment to the Leader's Scheme of Delegation | | |
| 2. | Reports exempted from the call-in process because they are urgent: | | |
| 3. | Executive Decisions and the Operation of the Call-In and Urgency Process – Review | | |
| 4. | Amendments to the Constitution | | |
| 5. | Chief Officer Appointments Panel – Chief Executive's Annual Appraisal | | |

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| 13.2 | Monitoring Officer | | |
| | <u>Part 6 Accountability (20 minutes)</u> | 10.40pm – 11.00pm | |
| 14. | Comments on the work of the Cabinet (10 minutes) – | | |
| 14.1 | From Councillor Monroe Palmer To comment on the practice of handing out parking penalty notices on what a local Church Minister described as 'the rather deserted Finchley Road early on Bank Holiday Monday'. Do we really need to treat bank holidays as a further example of Barnet's money grabbing culture? | | |
| 15. | Questions to representatives on outside bodies (10 minutes) | | None |

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