

Meeting of the Council of the London Borough of Barnet

TO BE HELD ON

Tuesday, 6 November, 2007 at 7.00pm

A G E N D A

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE

Council Meeting

6 November, 2007
Agenda and Timetable

Item	Subject	Time for Debate	Page Nos.
	<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 11 September 2007		1 – 42
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	Councillor Mike Freer		
	That the Council of the London Borough of Barnet requests that The Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of all the citizens of Barnet, sends Loyal Greetings to Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of the Diamond Anniversary of Her Majesty’s wedding to His Royal Highness The Prince Philip , Duke of Edinburgh, and congratulates Her Majesty and His Royal Highness on this milestone and expresses gratitude for their joint contribution to the life of our Borough and our Nation.		

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8.2	Councillor Ansuya Sodha		
	<p><u>Uganda</u></p> <p>Council extends our sympathies, thoughts and prayers to all those in affected by the recent floods that have had a devastating impact on communities across 19 African countries, including Uganda.</p> <p>Council notes that further flooding has been forecast for the region, and that worse flooding is still yet to come to the east of Uganda, including Jinja – a town that Barnet is twinned with.</p> <p>Council understands the catastrophic impact such natural events have in normal circumstances, and recognises that this will further compound problems arising from the 20 year conflict in the north of the country – including the displacement of children, and the collapse of sustainable agriculture in some areas.</p> <p>Council supports the local Ugandan population in Barnet many of whom have friends, relatives and links in Uganda.</p> <p>Council therefore requests support from all parties to set up a steering committee involving members from all parties and officers under the auspices of our Mayoralty, and also involving the local Ugandan community, in order to raise funds to assist those areas in Uganda that are currently affected, and those that will be affected in the coming weeks and months – including Jinja.</p> <p>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.</p>		

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8.3	Councillor Alison Moore		
	<p><u>Democracy protests in Burma</u></p> <p>Council condemns the forcible suppression of the pro-democracy protest by the ruling military junta in Burma, as well as the crackdown on internet and mobile phone links in order to prevent news of the suppression reaching the international media.</p> <p>Council notes that several people have been killed and thousands arrested for exercising their right to demonstrate, and that the Burmese government are reported to be continuing their search for those who took part in the anti-government demonstrations.</p> <p>Council welcomes the tightening of sanctions by the US government and the European Union, the recent decision by the Japanese to apply economic pressure on the Burmese government by halting a grant of £2.3m, and the diplomatic efforts of the UN Special Envoy, Ibrahim Gambari.</p> <p>Council also welcomes the statement by the Prime Minister that the UK strategy is to offer support for a new regime in Burma, and that investment sanctions should also be looked at.</p> <p>Council adds its voice to the calls for the Burmese military government to cease its use of violence and begin transition talks with pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi.</p> <p>Council asks the Chief Executive to convey this message of support to the Sasana Ramsi Vihara in Barnet, whose Head Monk has participated in pro-democracy demonstrations in London, and events in Barnet.</p> <p>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.</p>		

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8.4	Councillor Robert Rams		
	<p><u>Plastic Bags</u></p> <p>Council notes that 1.6 billion plastic carrier bags are issued every year in London, with each person receiving around 200 such bags a year.</p> <p>Council further notes that only one in every 200 plastic bags is recycled, and plastic bags can take up to 400 years to break down when disposed in landfill.</p> <p>Council therefore believes drastic action is required to cut the number of such bags issued, and/or to encourage the re-use of existing plastic carrier bags.</p> <p>Plastic bags now attract a levy in Ireland to discourage their use, Council understands, while in Modbury, Devon, all 43 retail traders have introduced a voluntary plastic bag ban.</p> <p>Council further welcomes the campaign led by London Councils that seeks new powers through a 10th London Local Authorities Bill to curtail the issuing and disposal of plastic bags and reduce their environmental impact.</p> <p>Accordingly, Council calls on Cabinet to investigate initiatives to cut plastic bag usage in the Borough. Council also requests that the Chief Executive writes to London Councils supporting their campaign to reduce the use of throwaway plastic shopping bags in London.</p> <p>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.</p>		

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8.5	Councillor John Marshall		
	<p><u>Libraries</u></p> <p>Council is proud that the foundation stone of the new South Friern Library is soon to be laid.</p> <p>In addition, Council welcomes the refurbishment of Edgware Library, plus the major works at Chipping Barnet Library, due to start in January. Council notes these will mean massive improvements in facilities, IT and disabled access.</p> <p>Council also applauds the upgrade due at Burnt Oak Library in line with the Customer Access Strategy which will turn it into a major hub for the West of the Borough.</p> <p>Council notes these improvements have been facilitated by the administration's Library Strategy, which is creating a network of Leading and Local Libraries across the Borough, and re-invigorating them as centres for community life.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to ensure that this excellent programme of upgrades continues so that residents of this Borough can enjoy 21st Century Library, Community and IT facilities.</p> <p>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.</p>		
8.6	Councillor Agnes Slocombe		
	<p><u>Reducing crime in Barnet</u></p> <p>Council congratulates Barnet's 21 Safer Neighbourhood Teams for their crucial role in reducing crime in the Borough.</p> <p>Council notes that crime has plummeted a further 13% in the last year with 4,253 fewer crimes committed since August 2006.</p>		

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	<p>Council also congratulates Barnet's new Safer Transport Team of 20 officers introduced this May, for their work in reducing crime levels at major transport hubs and on the buses in Barnet.</p> <p>Council notes that offences at Golders Green Bus Station have fallen by a massive 64%, by 38% around Tally Ho Corner in North Finchley and by 28% at Edgware Bus Station in Station Road.</p> <p>Council asks Cabinet to further develop the Borough's capacity to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by negotiating a formal agreement with the Metropolitan Police for Police Community Support Officers to be able to use their training to issue Fixed Penalty Notices to people committing enviro-crime in Barnet.</p> <p>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.</p>		
8.7	Councillor Kath McGuirk		
	<p><u>Barnet's parks</u></p> <p>Council is increasingly concerned about the state of some of the borough's so-called premier parks.</p> <p>Council notes recent and growing campaigns and complaints from local residents and "Friends of" groups about poor park maintenance, reduced facilities and staffing, anti-social behaviour, enviro-crime and other problems in many premier parks including Sunny Hill Park, Friary Park, Cherry Tree Wood, Tudor Park and Victoria Park to name a few.</p> <p>Council recognises the need to target and prioritise resources, but with just under £1m cut from parks and green spaces this year alone, Council now believes the two-tier premier parks experiment is not delivering for all premier parks, let alone non-premier parks.</p>		

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	<p>Council notes the forthcoming scrutiny review of Barnet's parks by the Cleaner, Greener, Transport & Development Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which clearly recognises the need for a radical re-think of how the Borough's parks are maintained given the reduction in resources.</p> <p>Council calls on Cabinet to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -listen to the concerns of the "Friends of" groups and devise a strategy for dealing with their issues. -properly resource and co-operate with the scrutiny review, including attendance by the Cabinet Member when requested to give evidence at any scrutiny sessions. -review funding levels of the parks service as part of the annual budget process. 		
8.8	Councillor Lynne Hillan		
	<p>Council is dismayed that the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) is judge by the LGA as being the "Worst in a decade" and will leave a black hole in funding for the care of Barnet's elderly and vulnerable.</p> <p>Council notes that Barnet has been awarded the lowest possible settlement in four out of the last five years, despite being given extra responsibilities and suffering from "cost-Shunting" in the region of £2.2 million as a result of cuts to the local NHS. Council believes that even a 1% "real" Formula Grant increase will be inadequate to meet Barnet's rising commitment to Social Care.</p> <p>Council is especially concerned that social services damping is to be removed and specific grants look set to be further reduced, with the CSR calling for these to be "mainstreamed" into the Formula Grant.</p>		

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	<p>Council objects to the regional unfairness resulting from the Younger Adult Social Services funding formula in that the new funding approach significantly favours Yorkshire and Humberside and the North East at the expense of London and, particularly, Barnet. Moreover, Council notes other problems with the new formula raised by London Councils, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The formula does not contain a sufficient number of indicators to reflect the wide range of need associated with this very complex client group and is therefore poor at identifying differences in need between authorities; - The formula places too much reliance on Disability Living Allowance (DLA) as a predicator of need. - Council is proud that it has been able to deliver below-inflation tax rises to residents over several years, and has massively improved services. However, Council believes potential progress in service improvement is being massively impeded by the Government's imposed financial squeeze. - Accordingly, Council requests that the Chief Executive write to John Healey MP, Minister for Local Government at the CLG setting out our concerns and objections to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The removal of the Social Services damping 2) The technical weaknesses in the Younger Adults formula 3) The failure to reflect diverse and complex client needs 4) The reduction of the Specific Grants for Social Services into the main Formula Grant <p>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.</p>		

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	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 Missing Population	43 – 44	
9.2	Opposition Policy Item (30 minutes) Housing need in Barnet	45	
	<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		
13.	Reports of Officers		
13.1	Democratic Services Manager	46 – 50	
1.	Changes to Committee Membership		
2.	Revised constitution for Corporate Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee (Health, Safety and Welfare)		
3.	Reports exempted from the call-in process because they are urgent		
4.	London Local Authorities Bill.		
5.	Designation of Chief Officer Post: Communication and Consultation Director		
6.	Ammendments to Items on the Agenda		
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) –		
15.	Questions to representatives on outside bodies (10 minutes)		

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