

Council: 9 September 2008

Opposition Policy Item (9.2): Cllr. Jack Cohen

Amendment: Cllr. Lynne Hillan

Insert the following after "bite", (line 2):

Council regrets the Labour Government's mishandling of both the economy and public finances, meaning there is little money available nationally to help hard-pressed residents.

Amend Bullet Points to read:

- Support the LGA Campaign for the main energy companies to invest in Home Insulation Schemes
- Campaign for fair tariffs for prepayment customers
- Press the energy companies to roll out the installation of smart meters that display the cash cost of energy used.
- Investigate running a good neighbour scheme to look out for elderly and vulnerable and infirm this winter
- Continue work already underway to increase benefits take-up advice.
- Provide help and advice to those struggling with Mortgage repayments.

Substantive Policy Item to Read:

Strategy to ease the high cost of living

Council notes with concern the current economic pressures on Barnet residents. The rising cost of fuel bills, inflation and mortgages are beginning to bite. Council regrets the Labour Government's mishandling of both the economy and public finances, meaning there is little money available nationally to help hard-pressed residents.

Council believes it right to ensure it does everything within its powers to ease the burden on our residents.

There are many way in which this Council can use its unique position to assist our residents through these difficult economic times. Examples of ways this Council can help to tackle the high cost of living include;

- To support the LGA Campaign for the main energy companies to invest in Home Insulation Schemes
- To campaign for fair tariffs for prepayment customers
- To press the energy companies to roll out the installation of smart meters that display the cash cost of energy used.
- To investigate running a good neighbour scheme to look out for elderly and vulnerable and infirm this winter
- Continue work already underway to increase benefits take-up advice.
- To provide help and advice to those struggling with Mortgage repayments.

Council asks the Cabinet as a matter of urgency to work on its own and with our strategic partners draw up a comprehensive strategy to implement all or some of the above or any other ideas.