

Council: 9 September 2008

Opposition Policy Item: Councillor Jack Cohen

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 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;

- expansion of home insulation schemes
- campaign for fair tariffs for prepayment customers
- Introduction of smart meters that display the cash cost of energy used.
- Run a good neighbor scheme to look out for elderly and vulnerable and infirm this winter
- Increase benefits take-up advice
- Run a mortgage rescue scheme

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.