

**Council, 14 July 2009**

**Administration Policy Item:** Councillor Matthew Offord

Council notes that the number of residents claiming unemployment benefit in Barnet has risen by 81% from May 2008 to May 2009. In the same period the number of claimants under 24 has risen 52%. This is the highest level of unemployment claimants the London Borough of Barnet has had since 1997.

Council believes that long-term and youth unemployment damages the social fabric of our Borough and that all public sector bodies have a duty to work towards eradicating it.

Accordingly, Council requests Cabinet:

- 1) Work closely with the Connexions service to ensure they are focused on getting young people back into work
- 2) Ensure that the Borough's population is aware of the Mayor of London's scheme which enables those in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) or the new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) half-price bus travel in London
- 3) Explore ways of seeking the assistance of voluntary and third sector in order to form a partnership tackling youth and long-term unemployment