

Council, Tuesday 8 September 2009

Motion 3.2 – Growth Area Funding: Councillor Mike Freer

(i) Amendment:: Councillor Ross Houston

Growth Area Funding

Delete all and replace with:

“Council notes the government’s decision to cut the level of Growth Area Funding for Barnet in 2010/11 by £2,592,244 in order to reallocate funds to local authorities with a record of delivering affordable housing.

Council also notes that £3,000,000 of Growth Area Funding from that same allocation would have been available to help kick start the stalled regeneration projects in Barnet had it not been used by the administration to plug the financial black-hole created by the massive £12m overspend of the council’s Aerodrome Road bridge project.

Council further notes that in the year before the collapse of the global financial system and the consequent economic downturn, Barnet council managed to deliver just 10% affordable housing – the lowest percentage in London that year – and that the West Hendon regeneration project has been subject to delay for the last 7 years through no fault of the government.

Barnet has already been awarded the following investment to support housing and infrastructure delivery from this Labour government:

- £7 million in 2005/6 from Round 2 of Growth Area Funding
- £11 million in 2008/9 over 3 years from Round 3 of Growth Area Funding (net of the recently announced cut) – one of the highest allocations in the country and the top for the London Opportunity Boroughs
- £15.8 million from the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) Round 1 “Kick-start” fund (announced in July this year)

Further funding is available for Barnet to bid for from HCA Round 2 “Kick-start” funding as well as other funding streams.

In the meantime, Council calls upon the Chief Executive to write to the Housing Minister requesting that the level of Growth Area Funding be reinstated in order that much needed new affordable housing is not subject to further delay.”

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.