

## **Council, 14 September 2010 - Amendments**

### **Motion 3.1: Councillor Jack Cohen**

#### **Borough Wide 20 MPH Speed Limits**

1. Amendment in the name of Cllr. Brian Coleman

*Delete all after "Council" and insert:*

...welcomes the statement on 4 July by Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond MP that there will be no blanket reduction in speed limits to 20mph in residential areas.

Council believes that blanket 20mph zones are ineffectual, unenforceable and the limits largely ignored.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to broadly maintain its existing levels of speed limits across the Borough, which, Council believes, have struck the correct balance between minimising congestion and maximising road safety.

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.

2. Amendment in the name of Councillor Andrew McNeil

*Delete all and replace with:*

Council notes the Coalition Government's support for the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in residential areas.

Council agrees that the introduction of 20 mph speed restrictions in appropriate residential roads,

where residents support them, for example Church Lane N2 and Dollis Road N3, will make our streets safer.

Council therefore requests that Cabinet works with local residents groups to draw up and implement 20 mph

speed limits where appropriate and supported by residents.

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.

3. Amendment in the name of Councillor Susette Palmer

*Insert the following at the end of the Motion:*

'...and to remove unnecessary street clutter.'

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.

**Motion 3.2: Councillor Richard Cornelius**

**Garden Grabbing**

Amendment in the name of Cllr Jim Tierney

*Delete all and replace with:*

Council regrets the practice of “Garden Grabbing” that occurred because front and rear gardens were classified as Brownfield under the planning rules.

Council notes the reclassification of front and rear gardens away from Brownfield land. Council notes however, that recent planning decisions by inspectors subsequent to the June Planning Policy Statement 3 alteration have still concluded that development on gardens can proceed.

Council believes that PPS3 needs further amendment to properly protect gardens, and therefore requests that Cabinet lobby the Communities Minister Greg Clark MP to consider changing PPS3 to properly protect gardens.

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.

### **Motion 3.3: Councillor Lynne Hillan**

#### **Audit Commission**

Amendment in the name of Cllr Geof Cooke

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.

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes the Audit Commission, first set up by Michael Heseltine under a Conservative government in 1983, costs £200 million a year to run

Council believes that in the current climate of austerity where benefits to the poor and vulnerable are being slashed by this Con-Dem government, cutting bureaucracy must be prioritised over cutting services.

However, Council also notes that over the last 13 years the Audit Commission has helped improve the quality of public services to local residents delivered by local government, and that without the function of the Audit Commission there would be no-one to step in when councils are failing, or to provide continued, independent and non-partisan challenge to poor performing councils across the country.

Council further notes that without the Audit Commission or any other body performing its current functions it will be very difficult to ensure that council tax-payers have coherent information about the value for money of local services.

Council understands that the abolition of the Audit Commission will go ahead, and, therefore requests Audit Committee work to put in place a proper, independently scrutinised, framework to ensure the requisite auditing of Barnet's finances, as well as service improvement and value for money in light of this.

**Motion 3.4:** Councillor Andrew Harper

**GCSE and A Level Results**

Amendment in the name of Cllr Anne Hutton

Delete all and replace with:

Council is proud of its first class schools and colleges that give the children of the Borough the best possible start in life.

Council believes that decent education and training is extremely important in building the future of Britain's and Barnet's economy.

Therefore Council is proud to note the excellent GCSE and A-Level results across the Borough, with 80% of Barnet's students receiving 5 or more A\* to C grades at GCSE and 71% gaining A\* to B in A-Levels.

Council also congratulates students of vocational courses for their exam results.

Council warmly congratulates all the students, staff, teachers, parents and Governors responsible for these excellent results, and calls on Cabinet to ensure Barnet continues to enjoy excellence in education for years to come

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.

### **Motion 3.5: Councillor Daniel Seal**

#### **Henly's Corner**

Amendment in the name of Cllr Geof Cooke

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.

Delete all and replace with:

Council is pleased that Transport for London, under the former Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and Deputy Mayor of London, Nicky Gavron, agreed in 2008 to Make changes to improve the safety and traffic flow at Henlys Corner in the face of opposition from LB Barnet's Conservative administration, who had until then opposed various proposals to improve safety and pedestrian access at the junction despite many accidents having taken place there, including fatalities.

Council notes that the current coalition Con-Dem Government is looking to make savings through the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). This will include examining the funding towards transport bodies, such as Transport for London (TfL).

TfL has, Council notes, consequently put its major projects under review, including the planned work on the A406 at Henlys Corner.

Council believes that the work at Henlys Corner is of the utmost importance, not only for local safety, but also as part of the strategic road network across North London, as delays at the junction produce many knock-on effects on traffic flow on the North Circular and the A1.

Therefore, Council resolves to make strong representations for the improvement work at Henlys Corner to be safeguarded in TfL's review, and calls for the Chief Executive to write to the TfL Commissioner and Mayor of London pressing for the scheme to be protected and the reasons why.

Council also asks the Chief Executive to write to the Barnet & Camden Assembly Member and the 3 local MPs to make representations to the Mayor of London and the TfL Commisioner for the scheme to be protected.

**Motion 3.7:** Councillor Ross Houston

**Security of Tenure for Social Housing Tenants**

*“There is a recommendation in the DSM Supplemental Report that Council agree Councillor Ross Houston’s request that this Item be withdrawn and referred to Cabinet”*

**Motion 3.8:** Councillor Ross Houston

**Cost of housing benefit cuts to Barnet**

*“There is a recommendation in the DSM Supplemental Report that Council agree Councillor Ross Houston’s request that this Item be withdrawn and referred to Cabinet”*

### **Motion 3.9: Councillor Geof Cooke**

#### **Tube Station Ticket Office Closures**

1. Amendment in the name of Cllr. Brian Coleman

*Delete all after "Council" (line 1) and insert:*

...is pleased that the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has rolled Oyster out onto the National Rail Network, further increasing the popularity of electronic transactions.

Council notes that as a result of Oyster's popularity just 5% of tube journeys start with a ticket office transaction and that the number of such transactions has plummeted 28% since 2006, with machine-based sales soaring 47% over the same period.

In addition, Council is delighted that the Mayor has boosted Police numbers on the Tube from 450 to 700, which will help improve passenger safety.

Council believes given the dwindling use of ticket offices, members of staff are better employed helping passengers on the platforms than enclosed behind a glass window, particularly considering limited public resources.

Council notes the plans involve no compulsory redundancies.

Council therefore supports the TfL proposals to this end.

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.

2. Amendment in the name of Cllr. Geoff Johnson

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes Transport for London's proposals to shed up to 800 ticket office and gateline jobs on London Underground, and believes this will adversely affect the opening times of 245 ticket offices across the Tube network, including in Barnet, with the number of stations staffed by only one person working alone increasing.

Stations in Barnet where ticket office opening hours could be shortened include Brent Cross, Burnt Oak, Colindale, Edgware, Golders Green, Hendon Central, East Finchley, Finchley Central, High Barnet, Mill Hill East, Totteridge & Whetstone, West Finchley and Woodside Park.

Council also believes the proposed staff cuts will damage the level of customer service to passengers, with longer queuing times to buy tickets; that over dependence on ticket machines will disproportionately impact on those passengers who have a disability that makes it difficult to use a ticket machine; and that passengers will feel less safe, particularly early in the morning and late in the evening.

Council further believes that these proposals to cut ticket office staff and close ticket offices flies in the face of Boris Johnson's election pledge to keep ticket offices open, and shows that Boris simply cannot be trusted.



Council acknowledges the impact of increased Oyster card usage on the number of ticket office transactions and the possibility of rebalancing staffing between ticket office and other station duties to maximise safety for passengers but considers that staff reductions are not justified.

Council asks the Cabinet Member to lobby Transport for London and its Chair, Mayor Boris Johnson to review this decision and re-affirm reasonable and safe staffing levels in Barnet and across the London Underground network to ensure passengers continue to receive excellent service from London Underground, so that confidence in and use of public transport is not eroded.

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.

## **Policy Item 4.1**

**Administration Policy Item:** Councillor Helena Hart

### **Coalition Proposals for Health**

Amendment in the name of Councillor Barry Rawlings

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes the Coalition Government's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" proposes some of the most radical and far reaching changes to the way that Health Services are planned and delivered in the UK.

Council has deep concerns that the proposals open the door to the privatisation and break up of the NHS, and that the £3bn cost of implementing the proposals far outweighs any possible benefits.

Council believes the proposal to scrap the Strategic Health Authorities and PCTs, and put in place Regional Commissioning Boards with the local authorities left to deal with health, will fragment the focus on strategic public health and dealing with health inequalities.

Council also believes the proposals will result in less control and accountability, and, ultimately, will result in a postcode lottery health service where private patients will be able to jump the queue because key waiting time targets have been scrapped.

Council believes in protecting the core principles of the NHS of being free at the point of use and available to everyone based on need, not ability to pay, but feels that the Con-Dem government's proposals will create a two-tier health service where the rich see more of the benefits.

Council notes that no public consultation on the proposals will be undertaken, and that UNISON have started a legal challenge to the Secretary of State for this reason.

Council therefore requests Cabinet to:-

Consult local people on the impact the proposals will have on Barnet residents, ensuring the views of local people are taken into account in LB Barnet's submission to the Secretary of State

Work with Scrutiny to pull together a robust response to the Secretary of State.

Amendment in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen

Delete the whole of third bullet point "continue etc"

Replace with

"continue much closer cooperation between LBB and NHS Barnet"

## **Policy Item 4.2**

### **Opposition Policy Item: Councillor Barry Rawlings**

#### **Cuts to Pensioners' Benefits**

##### **1. Amendment in the name of Cllr Tom Davey**

*Delete all after "Council" (line 1) and insert:*

...is dismayed that the last Labour Government made little difference to the Basic State Pension and also helped wreck Private Pensions thanks to its fiscal attack on the funds.

However, Council welcomes the Coalition Government's restoring of the link to earnings in the State Pension which will give Pensioners better support.

Council deplores the reckless spending undertaken by the last Labour Government that has bankrupted the public purse, and that this has meant changes may have to be made to a range of benefits.

Council calls on Cabinet to help ensure that any change that may need to be made thanks to Labour's past profligacy are as smooth and as painless for local people as possible.

##### **2. Amendment in the name of Cllr Alan Schneiderman**

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes that, according to the Institute of Fiscal Studies, pensioners are one of the two groups that will be hit hardest by the Con-Dem government's regressive emergency budget, with cuts to housing benefit, council tax benefit, changes to pensions, the earlier implementation of the increase to state pension age, withdrawal of government funding for free swimming lessons for the over 60s and the increase in VAT to 20%.

Council also notes that since the emergency budget was announced the Con-Dem government have made it clear that other pensioner benefits, such as the winter fuel allowance, free TV licences and free bus travel, are now under review – despite David Cameron's promise that these would be protected.

Council believes that the Con-Dem government should honour its pledge to pensioners and protect their benefits.

Council also believes that with a large and growing elderly population in Barnet there will be a growing call from pensioners on council services and resources as a result of any loss of benefits, and that with up to £5bn of benefits currently not claimed by pensioners across the country, more could be done to ensure older people in Barnet are getting what they are entitled to.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to:

- write to the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State, setting out Barnet's opposition to any cuts to pensioners benefits, and

- work with local pensioners' and voluntary sector groups, including Barnet 55+, to minimise the impact of any cuts to Barnet's pensioners, and to promote the take-up of pension credit, council tax benefit, housing benefit and attendance allowance to those pensioners who are entitled to receive these, and to protect free swimming lessons for over the 60s beyond April 2011

### **Item 5.3.1 – Scheme of Members Allowances**

Amendment in the name of the Councillor Brian Schama

Amendment recommendations to:

1. Council resolves to rescind the resolutions made under Agenda Item 5.3.1 at the Council meeting of 13th July with regard to the Members Allowance scheme and instructs officers to pay allowances in accordance with the scheme agreed by the Council in March 2010, subject to any individual requests from members not wishing to claim the full amounts to which they might be entitled.
2. Council recognises that whilst there are justifications for some of the changes made in July, like the removal of the right of members to claim more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, and the removal of allowances for vice chairmen, the overall package failed to set an example to our staff about the need to constrain public expenditure at this time. Council calls on members to exercise restraint in what they claim and instructs the Chief Executive to publish in a report to the last Council meeting in the municipal year, a full breakdown of allowances and amounts paid to each councillor to help members of the public and voluntary groups to hold elected members to account and to ensure that council taxpayers get value for money"

Amendment in the name of Councillor Alison Moore

Recommendation 1: Add the following bullet point

- That all further members receiving an increase under the July proposed Members' Allowance Scheme agree to freeze their allowances back to the level of the Members' Allowance Scheme agreed on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010

Recommendation 3: Delete