

Council, Tuesday, 14 September 2010

Motion 3.3: Councillor Lynne Hillan

Audit Commission

Council notes the Audit Commission cost £200 million a year and employed 2,000 people.

Council further notes that the role of the organisation shifted over many years, ending up as an arm of Whitehall, issuing local authorities with costly diktats.

The abolished CAA Inspection regime (and the CPA before it) costing LBB over £100,000 in staff time each year formed a major part of the Audit Commission's remit, Council remembers.

Further Council is dismayed that the Audit Commission spent taxpayers' money treating its staff to jollies such as trips to the races.

In addition, Council deplores the spending of £60,000 by that body on lobbyists in order to "combat the activities" of a senior Opposition MP in early 2010.

Council believes that local authorities should manage and audit their own spending, and that the bureaucracy of the Audit Commission has become both unwieldy and unnecessary.

Accordingly, Council welcomes the Coalition Government's abolition of the Audit Commission.

Council further requests Cabinet work to put in place a framework to ensure the requisite auditing of Barnet's finances in light of the abolition of the Audit Commission.

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.