

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Motion (3.1): Cllr Lynne Hillan

Amendment: Cllr Alan Schneiderman

General Power of Competence

Delete all and replace with:

Council welcomes the inclusion of a general power of competence in the new Localism Bill,
and asks Cabinet to use that new power to the advantage of Barnet, and all its residents and partners, once it becomes law.

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.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Motion (3.2): Cllr Brian Salinger

Amendment: Cllr Barry Rawlings

Safeguarding Children

Delete all and replace with:

This Council recognises the importance to all residents of Barnet of the need to safeguard our children.

This Council welcomes and supports the decision of the government to confirm the roll-out across the country the measures that have become known as 'Sarah's Law' which will enable parents to request information on any adult with access to their children. They are required not to pass on this information to anyone else. Police will decide whether to pass on any information.

The pilot schemes have been a success with fewer requests than expected and these 315 formal applications from parents and carers resulted in the disclosure of the background of 21 convicted child sex offenders. The Home Office says more than 60 children were protected from abuse in that period.

Council calls on the Cabinet to ensure that they work in partnership with other relevant agencies to ensure full and appropriate publicity is given to the measure when it is rolled out in London.

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.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Motion (3.3): Cllr Richard Cornelius

Amendment: Cllr. Ross Houston

Social Housing Tenancies

Delete all and replace with:

Council believes in the right of every person to a decent, affordable home.

Council notes that this administration has completely failed to build enough affordable homes to meet the need of Barnet residents, resulting in around 17,000 families on Barnet's housing register facing a wait of up to 33 years for a decent, affordable home.

Council also notes that by not building enough affordable homes for rent and shared-ownership, LB Barnet is forcing more and more people into private rented accommodation where rents are higher - a policy that is creating a ticking time-bomb of increased personal debt, rent arrears, eviction and homelessness - all made worse by the recent decision to cap housing benefit and local housing allowance.

Council notes the letter from the Leader of the Council to Eric Pickles asking him to reconsider the capping of housing benefit for this very reason.

In addition, Council believes that the new Con-Dem government proposal to end security

of tenure for new social housing tenants will :

- destroy mixed, sustainable communities,
- deter people from going out and seeking work due to the threat that, if they do, their increase in income will result in the loss of their home
- increase litigation as tenants fight to stay in their homes and landlords (at the government's bidding) seek to evict them
- probably result in challenges under the Human Rights Act
- create additional bureaucracy as tenants are means-tested to ascertain if they are wealthy enough to be able to afford to buy or rent in the private sector
- make no material impact on waiting lists and housing need as the actual numbers of homes made available under this proposal will be tiny, thereby defeating the whole point of the exercise.

Council also notes the new policy of increasing social housing rents to 80% of local market rents which will be unaffordable for many working families in London.

Council notes the halving of the Homes and Communities Agency budget for building new homes.

Council believes that whether you are a private housing tenant or a social housing tenant the Conservatives simply do not represent your interests.

Council asks Cabinet to:

- oppose each of these new housing policies for the reasons given above,
- write to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Communities and the Housing Minister asking them to reconsider these proposals, and
- lobby the 3 local Barnet MPs, asking them to vote against these measures in parliament.

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.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Motion (3.4): Cllr Lynne Hillan

Amendment: Cllr Alison Moore

Community Place Based Budgets

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes that the administration's relentless drive for efficiency under One "Future Shape, Ryan-Air, easyCouncil" Barnet has failed to make any savings.

Council hopes the administration makes a much better fist of using the Community Place Based Budgets (by building on the valuable work done in the Total Place pilots) to direct care for families with complex needs, particularly given that the Con-Dem government has:

- cut local government funding by over 7.1% for the next four years
- cut funding for affordable housing by 60%
- announced the scrapping of security of tenure for new social housing tenants
- increased social housing rents to 80% of local market rents
- cut housing benefit, child tax credit, child trust funds, child benefit, Disability Living Allowance and other benefits
- probably wiped out the 0.1% real terms increases in health funding by embarking on a re-organisation of the NHS that will cost up to £3bn
- cut funding to the voluntary sector
- cut funding to the police

Council believes these cuts will create a much bigger problem for those families with complex needs, whilst at the same time reducing dramatically the size of public sector budgets that can be pooled to deal with the problem.

Council calls on Cabinet to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Communities setting out the challenges Barnet will face as a result of these decisions.

Council also calls on Cabinet to lobby the 3 local Barnet MPs to try and secure a much better deal for Barnet residents from the government.

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.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Motion (3.5): Cllr Kath McGuirk

Amendment: Cllr Ansuya Sodha

Child Benefit Cuts

Council notes the decision of the Con-Dem coalition government to end universal child benefit.

Council also notes that the policy, as currently proposed, will mean a two-parent family with a joint income of £80,000 per annum will get child benefit, but a single Barnet parent earning only £45,000 per annum will have their child benefit taken away.

Council believes that this is not a fair policy and will mean many hard-working parents in Barnet whose income is at the lower end of that tax band will suffer as a result.

Council notes that during the General Election the Conservative Prime Minister gave a commitment not to cut child benefit, and that many lower middle income families will be financially squeezed as a result of his u-turn on this issue.

Council also notes that over £6 billion is being cut in direct financial support for children in the CSR and Budget – three times as much as is being taken from the banks.

Council believes that the proposed cuts to child benefit will be unenforceable with the cost and bureaucracy of maintaining records of people's changes in circumstances likely to be prohibitive.

Council asks Cabinet to write to the Prime Minister setting out their opposition to this policy on child benefit for the reasons given above, and ask him to reconsider his proposal.

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.

Council: 2 November 2010

Motion (3.5): Cllr. Kath McGuirk

Amendment: Cllr. Stephen Sowerby

Child Benefit Cuts

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

...is appalled that the outgoing Labour Government left this Country £900 billion in debt, the legacy of reckless spending and economic mismanagement.

Council believes that drastic measures are needed to fix our Country and applauds the Coalition Government's efforts.

Council further believes that Child Benefit should be re-calibrated as the Government is proposing, so that the very poorest and neediest are helped while the more affluent are encouraged to stand on their own feet.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to work with the Government so that this and other much-needed benefits changes are introduced as smoothly as possible.

Substantive Motion to read:

Council is appalled that the outgoing Labour Government left this Country £900 billion in debt, the legacy of reckless spending and economic mismanagement.

Council believes that drastic measures are needed to fix our Country and applauds the Coalition Government's efforts.

Council further believes that Child Benefit should be re-calibrated as the Government is proposing, so that the very poorest and neediest are helped while the more affluent are encouraged to stand on their own feet.

Council therefore calls on Cabinet to work with the Government so that this and other much-needed benefits changes are introduced as smoothly as possible.

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.

Council: 2 November 2010

Motion (3.6): Cllr. Kath McGuirk

Amendment: Cllr. Joanna Tambourides

Police Cuts in Barnet

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

...is appalled at the financial mess left by Labour that has meant tough choices need to be made in public spending.

Council notes that the Police Budget in London has not yet been fixed, and understands proposals will be formulated in close consultation with the Boroughs.

Council calls on Cabinet to work to ensure the best possible Police service to Barnet residents in the face of the financial mess inherited from the outgoing Labour Government.

Substantive Motion to read:

Council is appalled at the financial mess left by Labour that has meant tough choices need to be made in public spending.

Council notes that the Police Budget in London has not yet been fixed, and understands proposals will be formulated in close consultation with the Boroughs.

Council calls on Cabinet to work to ensure the best possible Police service to Barnet residents in the face of the financial mess inherited from the outgoing Labour Government.

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.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Administration Policy Item 4.1: Cllr Robert Rams

Amendment: Cllr Alex Brodkin

Library Service

Delete All and replace with:

Council believes that Barnet and its residents deserve a library service that is fit for the 21st Century.

Council also believes that no libraries should be closed.

Council therefore requests that Cabinet consults on a strategy to achieve these aims.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Opposition Policy Item 4.2: Cllr Claire Farrier

Amendment: Cllr Geof Cooke

Impact of Con-Dem Cuts on Women

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes that, according to the Fawcett Society, women face a 'triple jeopardy' from the Con-Dem coalition cuts of slashed benefits, job cuts, and a reduction in core public services.

Council also notes that:

- Women make up 65% of the public sector workforce where mass job losses are expected, and that 40% of women in work are employed in the public sector
- Cuts to family benefits, like child benefit, tax credits, and housing benefit will impact on women disproportionately, with cuts from the CSR hitting women twice as hard as men, and cuts from the emergency budget hitting women three times more than men
- Women access public services such as the NHS more frequently and intensively than men, because of pregnancy, longer life expectancy and lower earnings (women are still paid on average 16.4% less per hour than men) – and that cuts to public services, social care and child care provision will also impact on women disproportionately.
- Older women are being more heavily hit by cuts to pension credit, public sector pensions, attendance allowance and carers' allowance. Women in their late fifties will lose thousands of pounds from the changes to the state retirement age and have to work longer too.

Council agrees with the Fawcett Society that the impact of the emergency budget cuts threatens a huge step back in women's equality, as women will increasingly be pushed back into the home to fill the looming care gap. Council also believes that with £11.5bn out of the £16.6bn cuts coming from women this will have a knock-on detrimental effect on children, young people and the family.

Council notes that the day of this Full Council meeting is Equal Pay Day, and asks Cabinet to assess the specific impact on women in Barnet of any proposed cuts in the council's budget, alongside any other equality impact assessments it will be undertaking, and where an assessment reveals a risk of discrimination, asks Cabinet to report the action it will be taking to address those risks.

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Opposition Policy Item 4.2: Cllr Claire Farrier

Amendment: Cllr Jack Cohen

Impact of Con-Dem Cuts on Women

Delete All (including title)

And replace with

“Equal Pay Day

Council notes that according to the Fawcett Society women working full time in the UK are still paid on average 16.4 percent less an hour than men. Council notes that despite thirteen years of a Labour Government women in full time work still lag well behind men in equal pay.

Council notes that the Coalition is determined to take difficult decisions to deal with the deficit. However Council notes that the Coalition Government is committed to fairness in these difficult economic circumstances..

Council welcomes the Coalition Governments decision to protect health service (more women than men use the Health Service) Council also notes other measures designed to promote equality, for example, not freezing civil service pay on those earning less than £21,000.00, linking earnings to pensions, giving workers more right to request flexible working and committing £billions to improving social care. Council also notes the proposals from Government to provide a state pension of £140 per week to all which will benefit women most.

Council notes that the day of this full council meeting is equal pay day, and asks the Cabinet to assess the specific impact on women in Barnet of any proposed cuts in the Council’s budget, alongside any other equality impact assessment it will be undertaking and where an assessment reveals a risk of discrimination, asks Cabinet to report the action it will be taking to address those risks.”

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Opposition Policy Item 4.2: Cllr Claire Farrier

Amendment: Cllr. Bridget Perry

Impact of Con-Dem Cuts on Women

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

...believes everyone has been hard-hit by Labour's Recession.

Council notes that Labour's Recession devastated the Private Sector and their uncontrolled spending has led to a spiralling debt that now has to be paid off.

The damage wrecked by Labour on the Private Sector has badly hit areas such as construction, wrecking the lives of everyone who work in the trades.

Damage borne by financial services and engineering, key productive sectors of our economy, also hit everyone.

Council regrets that cuts have to be made to the Public Sector, but believes they are the result of Labour recklessness with the public purse. The Public Sector also cannot be immune from the challenges the Private Sector has needed to face in the downturn.

Council calls on Cabinet to ensure that any Budget reductions are enacted with the highest possible consideration for the Borough and its people, and have due regard to all equalities considerations and legislation.

Substantive Policy Item to read:

Council believes everyone has been hard-hit by Labour's Recession.

Council notes that Labour's Recession devastated the Private Sector and their uncontrolled spending has led to a spiralling debt that now has to be paid off.

The damage wrecked by Labour on the Private Sector has badly hit areas such as construction, wrecking the lives of everyone who work in the trades.

Damage borne by financial services and engineering, key productive sectors of our economy, also hit everyone.

Council regrets that cuts have to be made to the Public Sector, but believes they are the result of Labour recklessness with the public purse. The Public Sector also cannot be immune from the challenges the Private Sector has needed to face in the downturn.

Council calls on Cabinet to ensure that any Budget reductions are enacted with the highest possible consideration for the Borough and its people, and have due regard to all equalities considerations and legislation.