

Council: Tuesday, 2 November 2010

Motion (3.1): Cllr Andrew Harper

Amendment: Cllr Anne Hutton

Outstanding Schools

Delete all and replace with:

Council is proud that Barnet has the highest proportion of schools currently rated good or outstanding by OFSTED in London.

Council further notes that Barnet is among the top 10 of Councils in the Country on this measure.

Council recognises the hard work of teachers, pupils, parents and governors, as well as council staff to achieve these results.

Council also recognises the year-on-year increases in funding for education over 13 years of the last Labour government, including an average 5% increase in per pupil funding every year, that helped support local teaching and learning.

Council is concerned that the new Con-Dem government has already cut the standards fund, cut £80 million in capital funding to rebuild local secondary schools, proposed the abolition of the Education Maintenance Allowance that helps the most disadvantaged 16, 17 and 18 year old students to stay in education and training, proposed a real terms cut to the Dedicated Schools' Grant and failed to provide funding to cover the projected increase in Barnet's pupil population which will inevitably mean a per pupil cut in funding in the future.

Council is also concerned that the Con-Dem government's proposals around free schools and academies will result in a two-tiered education system in Barnet where the most disadvantaged children lose out.

Council calls on Cabinet to oppose these cuts to the education of our young people, and to consider how they will mitigate any negative impact on Barnet schools and Barnet's young people, in particular how they will address the on-going attainment gap between pupils on free school meals and those with special education needs in comparison with other pupils to ensure excellence in Barnet's education is for all, and report back to Council.

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): Cllr Brian Coleman

Amendment: Cllr Kath McGuirk

Lane Rental Scheme

Delete all and replace with:

Council is dismayed that utility works frequently overrun, causing misery, congestion and pollution as traffic is diverted or funnelled around the area.

Further, Council regrets that at present there is little that the London Borough of Barnet can do to control these problems.

Council believes the solution lies in a "Lane Rental" system, whereby utility companies are charged on an incremental basis for digging up the roads.

Council requests that Cabinet implement these proposals once agreed by the government and TfL.

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): Cllr Anne Hutton

(1) Amendment: Cllr Andrew Harper

Education Maintenance Allowance

Delete all after “Council” (line 1) and insert:

...believes that tough choices have to be made nationally as “there is no money” (Liam Byrne MP).

This includes, Council notes, the reduction in funding available to schemes such as the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

However, Council further notes that students currently in receipt of EMA will continue to receive the allowance, and understands that targeted support (through learner support funds) will be brought in to support the neediest through further education and training.

Council calls on Cabinet to ensure the transition under these changes is as smooth as possible, and that the targeted support is made available to those most in need of it.

Substantive Motion to read:

Education Maintenance Allowance

Council believes that tough choices have to be made nationally as “there is no money” (Liam Byrne MP).

This includes, Council notes, the reduction in funding available to schemes such as the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

However, Council further notes that students currently in receipt of EMA will continue to receive the allowance, and understands that targeted support (through learner support funds) will be brought in to support the neediest through further education and training.

Council calls on Cabinet to ensure the transition under these changes is as smooth as possible, and that the targeted support is made available to those most in need of it.

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.

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(2) Amendment: Cllr Gil Sargeant

Education Maintenance Allowance

Council notes that the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) helps the most disadvantaged children aged 16-19 to stay in full-time education or training.

Council also notes that many children in Barnet currently benefit from receiving EMA, but are at risk of losing this allowance following proposals by the Con-Dem coalition government to cut the amount of money available under the scheme by around 90%.

Council notes that the Institute for Fiscal Studies has concluded that the EMA provides significant benefits in terms of supporting young people to stay on in education.

Council believes that scrapping the EMA will result in an increase in 16-19 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in Barnet, and asks Cabinet to lobby the government against any cuts to the EMA.

Council also requests that Cabinet write to the three local Barnet MPs asking them to vote against the proposal to cut the EMA 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.

Motion (3.4): Cllr Sachin Rajput

(1) Amendment: Cllr Andrew Harper

Endorsement for Adult and Children's Services

Add at end:

Council further congratulates Children's Services on last week's announcement their overall Excellent rating by OFSTED and pays tribute to the hard work and determination of all involved in achieving this.

Substantive Motion to read:

Endorsement for Adult and Children's Services

Council is proud of its excellent Adults and Children's Services that provide support to some of the most vulnerable in the community and provide direction to the next generation of youngsters.

Therefore Council is extremely pleased that Adult Social care has been judged Excellent in a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission, and Children's, in a surprise visit by OFSTED, was praised for its procedures in Safeguarding children.

Council welcomes this third party endorsement of solid sustainable improvement in these services, and warmly congratulates all staff involved in achieving this accolade.

Further, Council calls on Cabinet to work to ensure these services remain of high standard in the years to come.

Council further congratulates Children's Services on last week's announcement their overall Excellent rating by OFSTED and pays tribute to the hard work and determination of all involved in achieving this.

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: Cllr Barry Rawlings

Delete all and replace with:

Council is pleased that Adult Social Care has been judged Excellent in a recent inspection by the Care Quality Commission, and Children's, in a surprise visit by OFSTED, was praised for its procedures in safeguarding children.

Council congratulates all staff involved in achieving this accolade, but is concerned that the reward may well be redundancy for many staff as a result of the £30m budget cuts proposed by Barnet's Conservative administration in Adults & Children's services over the next three years.

Council notes that there will also be 45% cuts to local voluntary sector organisations that deliver adults social care services over the next two years, which will affect organisations like Barnet Age UK who get 50% of their funding from LB Barnet, Norwood and others.

Council also notes the proposals to increase charges for social care services as part of the fairer contributions policy that will hit elderly and vulnerable residents hard at a time when many will be struggling to make ends meet.

Council believes the proposed cuts will not help ensure these services remain of a high standard in years to come.

Council calls on Cabinet to work to ensure that budget cuts do not decimate what has been achieved so far.

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): Cllr Helena Hart

Amendment: Cllr Barry Rawlings

Public Health White Paper

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes the Con-Dem government's new White Paper on Public Health, "Healthy Lives, Healthy People"

Under proposals in the White Paper, which aims to transform public health and create a "wellness service", Council notes Local Authorities such as London Borough of Barnet will be given ring fenced funding to improve health and well-being in their local communities.

Council also notes the £3bn that the Con-Dem government will spend on re-organising the NHS which could be better spent on frontline services, and believes this, together with the 27% cut in funding to local councils, will not help improve the health and well-being of the local community.

Council further notes that the most successful advances in Public Health such as seatbelt use, and the bans on tobacco advertising and smoking in public places required primary legislation to be effective, and is concerned that the Group set up to propose policy on diet, drinking, tobacco, exercise and behaviour change has 6 representatives from health and consumer groups compared with 18 from commercial concerns including Mars, Unilever and Diageo.

Council asks Cabinet to write to the Health Minister to express these concerns, and to take account of the proposed White paper to work across all departments but especially adults, children, housing and planning to ensure the very best results from this transfer of powers.

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.

4.1 Administration Policy Item – Cllr Robert Rams

Amendment: Cllr Jim Tierney

Big Society Innovation Fund

Council notes the Big Society Innovation fund of £200k that the Barnet Tories are proposing to support the "Big Society" in Barnet, in comparison with the £500k that the Barnet Tories are proposing to cut from the local voluntary sector, including from organisations like Community Barnet, the artsdepot, community advice services, the Community Accountancy Project and many others.

Council believes that expecting the voluntary sector to deliver public services whilst cutting their funding will not result in good outcomes for public services and local people, and that any decisions on voluntary sector funding should be made on the basis of social return on investment rather than on plugging budget gaps left by the scorched earth financial settlement of the present Con-Dem government.

Council also notes the lack of clarity over whether the Barnet Tories will ring-fence all the money repatriated from the London Council's Grants Scheme for the local voluntary sector.

Therefore Council calls on Cabinet to reconsider their proposed cuts to local voluntary sector organisations like Community Barnet, the artsdepot and community advice services, and to give an assurance that any money repatriated to Barnet from the London Councils' grants scheme will be ring-fenced for the local voluntary sector.

In addition, Council also calls on Cabinet to lobby the Con-Dem government to ensure that the voluntary sector funding from national government is not cut.

4.2 Opposition Policy Item – Cllr Anne Hutton

Amendment: Cllr Andrew Harper

Delete all after “Council” (Line 1) and insert:

...regrets the economic malaise which Council believes was caused by the previous Labour Government’s mismanagement, and understands tough choices have to be made.

Council notes the Sure Start funding is being reduced by 30% and rolled into the Early Intervention Grant, with the ring-fence removed.

Accordingly, Council calls on Cabinet to ensure that money for services currently provided through Children’s Centres is spent in the most efficient and effective way in order to support those most in need and in line with our Early Intervention agenda.

Substantive Policy Item to read:

Children’s Centres

Council regrets the economic malaise which Council believes was caused by the previous Labour Government’s mismanagement, and understands tough choices have to be made.

Council notes the Sure Start funding is being reduced by 30% and rolled into the Early Intervention Grant, with the ring-fence removed.

Accordingly, Council calls on Cabinet to ensure that money for services currently provided through Children’s Centres is spent in the most efficient and effective way in order to support those most in need and in line with our Early Intervention agenda.

(2) Amendment: Cllr Agnes Slocombe

Children’s Centres

Delete all and replace with:

Council believes that Children's Centres are a vital frontline service that:

- help improve the life chances of children in Barnet,
- help support parents who work by providing day-time child care,
- provide families with valuable information and advice across a range of issues,
- help save the council money by contributing towards early intervention and prevention.

Council notes that the Con-Dem government have now announced that they will be removing the ring-fence from and including the sure start grant as part of a wider Early Intervention Grant for early years, and that this may mean a loss of funding for Children’s Centres.

Council also notes that the Barnet Tories propose to cut £2.5m - roughly half the budget - from Barnet's Children's Centres, and that this will inevitably result in the closure of some centres.

Council asks Cabinet to re-consider cutting funding to our Children's Centres and confirm that they will not be closing any centres.