

Council: 25 January 2011

Item 4.2, Opposition Policy Item – Cllr. Kath McGuirk

Parking in Barnet

Council notes the Secretary of State for Communities statement that local councils will be given new freedoms to set local parking charges.

Council further notes that Eric Pickles has also said that this should not be used by local councils as an opportunity to push up parking charges to raise income.

Council is therefore very disappointed that Barnet's Tory council is seeking to increase parking charges in the borough for car parks, on-street pay and display and residents permits.

Council notes that residents parking permits may increase by as much as 138% from £42 to £100 next year.

Council believes that the proposed parking charge increases are nothing less than another local stealth tax on local residents.

Council asks Cabinet to re-think the level of parking charges proposed in the forthcoming budget so that the charges cover the costs of the parking service, and are not used to plug black holes in Barnet's budget as a result of the very poor funding settlement from government.