

Council: Tuesday, 25 January 2011

Motion 3.1: Cllr. Jack Cohen

Amendment: Cllr. Anne Hutton

Pupil Premium – Extra funding for pupils on Free School Meals

Delete all and replace with:

This council notes the importance of education for protecting the opportunities of Barnet's young people in these tough times and notes the announcement of a pupil premium, attaching specific funding for pupils on Free School Meals, looked after children and the children of service-men and women.

Council also notes that:

1. The money is re-cycled money, and not new money, and has resulted in cuts to the overall education budget that may actually result in money being taken away from more deprived areas - as the £2.5bn is about half the proportional size of the existing deprivation fund.
2. There is no guarantee that the money will be spent to provide extra tuition to disadvantaged pupils
3. Many disadvantaged pupils are not registered for free school meals, and so Barnet may experience a double whammy – a cut to overall education funding as well not fully benefiting from the pupil premium.

Council therefore asks Cabinet to:

- advise how many children have been registered for free school meals and how many are eligible for free school meals
- advise what money has been lost to the council as a result of the changes to funding in education, and how that shortfall will be made up

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. Jack Cohen

Amendment: Cllr. Charlie O'Macauley

Controlled Parking Zones

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes proposals to remove CPZ "free bays" have been the subject of public consultation. Council also notes that the relevant Cabinet Member intends to make a final decision in consultation with the three area environment sub committee Chairmen, at the beginning of February 2011. Council is aware of wide spread public concern about these proposals.

Council therefore believes that all decisions taken on these proposals should be transparent, inclusive and involve the public *in order to reflect local need*.

Council therefore resolves to request the Leader of the Council to delegate the determination of proposals to remove free parking bays to a joint meeting of the Three Area Environment Sub Committees rather than to the Cabinet Member in consultation with the three Chairmen.

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

Amendment: Cllr. Ross Houston

Exam Results

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 an excellent education and training is vital in building the future of Britain's and Barnet's economy.

Therefore Council is proud to note the excellent results achieved in schools and colleges last year across the Borough, and warmly congratulates all the students, staff, teachers, parents, Governors and officers responsible for these excellent results.

Council notes the swingeing cuts about to be imposed on children and young people in Barnet as a result of the Tory-led Con-Dem coalition government's devastating local government settlement, as well as other budget cuts to child benefit, child trust funds, housing benefit and educational maintenance allowance.

Council believes that these cuts in addition to the plans by Barnet's Conservative administration to scrap the youth service, close children's centres, cut resources to education psychologists, reduce funding to voluntary sector organisations like the artsdepot, and close museums like the Barnet Museum and the Church Farm House Museum that provide educational programmes and visits to Barnet's children and young people, will harm the prospects of Barnet's children and young people in future.

Council asks Cabinet to carefully reconsider each of these proposed cuts, and try to ensure Barnet continues to support all the institutions that contribute towards the education of our young people so that they enjoy excellence in education for years to come.

Council also asks Cabinet to ensure they have undertaken an Equalities Impact Assessment on all the cuts to identify if there will be any adverse effect on children and young people from the proposals, and to write to the relevant Secretaries of State to raise Council's concerns about the impact of the government's cuts on local 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.

Motion (3.3): Cllr. Anne Hutton

Amendment: Cllr. Brian Salinger

Exam Results

Insert the following after paragraph 3:

Council believes these achievements are the result of hard work by students, staff, teachers, parents, and Governors supported by LBB which is committed to maintaining high standards and working to help make every school a good school for every child.

Substantive Motion to read:

“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 an excellent education and training is vital in building the future of Britain’s and Barnet’s economy.

Therefore Council is proud to note the excellent results achieved in schools and colleges last year across the Borough.

Council believes these achievements are the result of hard work by students, staff, teachers, parents, and Governors supported by LBB which is committed to maintaining high standards and working to help make every school a good school for every child.

Council warmly congratulates all the students, staff, teachers, parents, Governors and officers responsible for these excellent results, and calls on Cabinet to ensure Barnet continues to support its institutions so that they 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 (3.4): Cllr. Ansuya Sodha

Amendment: Cllr. Robert Rams

Artsdepot, Barnet Museum & Church Farm House Museum

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

...regrets the financial crisis caused by the last Labour Government that means tough choices have to be made.

Council notes and welcomes LBB Conservative Administration's commitment to freeze Council Tax.

Council calls on Cabinet to examine the results of the consultation on the Budget headlines (including on these items) and to act as it deems appropriate given these tight financial constraints.

Substantive Motion to read:

Council regrets the financial crisis caused by the last Labour Government that means tough choices have to be made.

Council notes and welcomes LBB Conservative Administration's commitment to freeze Council Tax.

Council calls on Cabinet to examine the results of the consultation on the Budget headlines (including on these items) and to act as it deems appropriate given these tight financial constraints.

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. Ansuya Sodha

Amendment: Cllr. Pauline Coakley Webb

Artsdepot, Barnet Museum & Church Farm House Museum

Delete all and replace with:

“Council notes the level of support amongst local residents for the artsdepot, Barnet Museum and Church Farm House Museum, with hundreds of signatures already registered on local petitions calling for the three organisations to retain their funding from LB Barnet.

Council believes that these organisations will inevitably close if the cuts to their funding go ahead resulting in a loss of local heritage, and a poorer arts and culture offer to local people.

Council notes that the saving for withdrawing funding from these three much loved organisations is £334,000. Council funding for these three organisations could continue if other savings were made within Barnet’s budget, for example by re-structuring council scrutiny and area planning and environment committees to make a saving of £55,474 from councillors allowances (eg. Streamline scrutiny by reducing the number of committees to one main committee that commissions task and finish groups and takes call-ins, plus one Health scrutiny committee; also by merging Area Planning and Environment committees – a reduction of 3 committees).

Cabinet could also reduce the circa £10m p.a. budget for external consultants to make up the remaining saving of £278,526 to continue funding the artsdepot, and the Barnet & Church Farm House Museums.

Council asks Cabinet to consider including the above savings in their draft budget instead of withdrawing the funding from the artsdepot and Barnet & Church Farm Museums.

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. Sachin Rajput

Amendment: Cllr. Barry Rawlings

Right to Control

Delete all and replace with:

Council believes that disabled residents should have choice and control over the support they need, freeing them from state control and improving outcomes for them, and is proud that Barnet was one of the first councils to introduce individual budgets and direct payments under the last Labour-led administration, and is now one of seven trailblazers in the UK, working with JobCentrePlus to put Right to Control into practice and test it out.

Council is concerned that the easyCouncil proposal to outsource Adults Social Care is just a ruse to increase charges to social care clients, and that with the cuts being imposed by the Tory-led Con-Dem coalition government on Disability Living Allowance, Housing Benefit and other benefits many disabled people will be worse off, and less able to live independently.

Council believes that joined-up working is good, but there is a danger that it will just be about cuts and broken promises.

Council calls on Cabinet to work to ensure that disabled people are not adversely affected by these cuts and increased charges.

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 (4.2): Cllr. Kath McGuirk

Amendment: Cllr. Alex Brodtkin

Parking in Barnet

Delete all and replace with:

Council notes the Secretary of State for Communities' statement (Parking space limits for new homes and higher parking charges guidance scrapped, Department for Communities and Local Government, 3 January 2011) that local councils will be given new freedoms to set local parking charges, but that this should not be used by local councils as an opportunity to push up parking charges to raise income.

Council also notes that according to the Department of Communities & Local Government website *"The Department for Transport's Operational Guidance on Parking Policy and Enforcement maintains that charges should not be used to raise revenue or as a local tax and an authority is likely to be acting unlawfully if it were to do so."*

Council further notes that under Section 55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 any surplus income from on-street parking places must be used for local transport purposes and not to help plug Barnet's budget gap.

Council believes that, in the absence of any detailed budget proposals showing exactly what the increased parking income in Barnet will be spent on, these parking charge increases may be open to challenge.

Council notes that under Cabinet's current proposals residents' parking permits will increase as follows:

- 1st permit by 138% - from £42 to £100
- 2nd permit by 66% - from £75 to £125
- 3rd permit by 100% - from £75 to £150
- Visitors' vouchers by 300% from £12 per book to £48 per book
- Green permit by 233% from £15 to £50

Council also notes that on-street pay and display, and off-street car parking charges are set to go up by 100% in some cases.

Council further notes that Cabinet is proposing to remove CPZ 'free bays' which are an integral part of many CPZ schemes in the borough, with the final decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member in consultation with the three Area Environment Sub-Committee Chairs rather than in public at committee. Council is scandalised that such eye watering parking charge increases are being imposed on local residents while Barnet's Conservative administration are still planning to offer free parking permits to councillors.

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
- ensure all councillors pay for parking in the borough, just like local residents

Council also asks the Leader of the Council to delegate the determination of proposals to remove free parking bays to a joint meeting of the three Area Environment Sub-Committees rather than to the Cabinet Member in consultation with the three Chairs in order to allow open and transparent consideration of the issues in public, and to allow any members of the public who wish to, to speak at those committees about their views and concerns before a decision is taken.

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