

Council: Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Non-Executive Business Item – 3.3: Councillor Rowan Turner

Drug Strategy

Following two recent and successful police raids on properties in which drugs were being cultivated in the Borough, Council commends the government's drug strategy and approach to policing this dangerous and widespread practice.

Council notes that the government's Drug Strategy 2010 promises to pass more responsibility to Local Authorities for the implementation of anti-drug strategies through the creation of Public Health England and the arrival in 2012 of Directors of Public Health, who will work at local level on health improvement initiatives. Council further notes that these changes constitute a significant step to achieving the stated goal of "bearing down relentlessly on those involved in the drugs trade".

Council welcomes the proposed changes and acknowledges that drug use represents a major challenge to local communities across the country, warranting appropriate policy and policing.

Council fervently supports the government's commitment to opposing illegal drug use and building local frameworks to combat drug culture. Council opposes moves to decriminalise an activity that destroys families and claims thousands of lives each year in the UK, and stands by the government's policy of reducing drug usage through intelligence-led policing and determination.

Council supports the Cabinet Member for Safety and Resident Engagement in the implementation of changes to the drug strategy in Barnet, and encourages individual members to support Safer Neighbourhood Teams in working within communities to combat drug supply and use in Barnet.

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 on at the meeting.