

Council: Tuesday, 1 November 2011

Non-Executive Business Item – 3.6: Councillor Kath McGuirk

Boris Johnson's fare increases

Council notes that Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson has chosen to increase bus, tube and train fares above inflation for the fourth year running, and has introduced four year average fares increases amounting to 33% - hugely above the inflation rate of 13.9% over the same period.

Council also notes that Boris Johnson's fare increases have meant the cost of a single bus fare using Oyster has risen by 56% - from 90p in 2008 to £1.40 in 2012. A zone 1-6 travel card has increased in cost by 22% - costing residents of Barnet £509 a year more to get to work.

Council further notes that if elected Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone has promised to cut tube fares by 5% in October 2012, and that he has also committed to freezing fares in 2013 and not increasing fares by more than inflation after that. These plans do not involve reductions in service or investment.

Council notes that under Ken Livingstone's fares plans, the average commuter in London and Barnet would stand to be on average £800 better off over the next four years.

Council notes that a reduction in fares will reduce the cost of the Freedom Pass to London Boroughs.

Council welcomes Ken Livingstone's proposed fare package, which will cut the cost of travel for thousands of commuters here in Barnet and put ordinary Londoners, struggling with the cost of living first.

Council asks Cabinet to write to Boris Johnson and ask him to reconsider his fares increases before they come into affect on January 1 next year.

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.