

# **MEETING**

COUNCIL

## **DATE AND TIME**

# **TUESDAY 8TH APRIL, 2014**

#### **AT 7.00 PM**

# **VENUE**

# HENDON TOWN HALL, THE BURROUGHS, NW4 4BG

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
3.1	A Budget for Barnet - Amendment in the name of:  • Councillor Jack Cohen	1 - 2
3.2	Restoring Democracy and Fairness - Amendments in the name of:	3 - 6
3.4	Barnet's Outstanding Schools - Amendment in the name of:  • Councillor Brian Coleman	7 - 8
3.5	Falling Crime and Police Partnerships - Amendment in the name of:  • Councillor Brian Coleman	9 - 10
3.6	Putting Local Communities First - Amendments in the name of:	11 - 14
3.7	One Barnet Performing Well - Amendment in the name of:  • Councillor Brian Coleman	15 - 16
4.4	Report of the Head of governance - Collective Investment Vehicle for London Pension Funds:  • Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman	17 - 18



Administration Business Item: Councillor Richard Cornelius

Amendment in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen

**AGENDA ITEM 3.1** 

### A Budget for Barnet

### Delete all from "Council particularly welcomes" to the end and substitute with;

Council also welcomes other Coalition policies such as the generous pupil premium, free school meals, and creating 1.2 million apprentices.

Council also notes the support for the regeneration scheme for Grahame Park and Brent Cross Cricklewood.

However Council is aware that in implementing these schemes careful consideration must be given to ensuring existing residents are fairly treated, that local residents are listened to and that in particular precious green spaces are protected.

Therefore Council calls on any new Administration to review these regeneration plans to take account of the needs, aspirations, and future amenities of local people.

#### **Substantive Administration Business Item to read:**

Council welcomes the latest economic figures, which continue to tell a positive story about the nation's progress. The forecast for growth in GDP in 2014 has been revised up to 2.7%, inflation has fallen to a four-year low of 1.7% and the deficit is down by a third. Council believes this is a vindication of the government's approach, but recognises that there is still much to be done.

Council further welcomes the measures set out in the Budget, which will help the residents of Barnet:

- Raising the Personal Allowance to £10,500 by next year lowering income tax for hardworking people and complementing our local tax cutting policy.
- Help for savers by increasing the ISA limit to £15,000 a year and abolishing the 10p tax rate on savings income.
- Flexible pensions allowing people to receive their pensions how and when they like, without punitive tax restrictions.
- A 20% tax break on childcare for working households, worth up to £2,000 per year.
- Frozen fuel duty, contributing to the fall in inflation and helping people with living costs.

Council also welcomes other Coalition policies such as the generous pupil premium, free school meals, and creating 1.2 million apprentices.

Council also notes the support for the regeneration scheme for Grahame Park and Brent Cross Cricklewood.

However Council is aware that in implementing these schemes careful consideration must be given to ensuring existing residents are fairly treated, that local residents are listened to and that in particular precious green spaces are protected.

Therefore Council calls on any new Administration to review these regeneration plans to take account of the needs, aspirations, and future amenities of local people.

**Opposition Business Item:** Councillor Alison Moore

Amendment in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton

**AGENDA ITEM 3.2** 

# Restoring Democracy and Fairness

#### Add at the end:

Council also notes that the Conservative Administration is passporting a 25% cut in funding for subsidised places at afterschool clubs and holiday play schemes run by Mapledown School. These after-school clubs provide much needed respite for working parents of severely disabled children, and there are already not enough places to meet demand.

Council believes the decision by the Conservative-led government to impose this cut to the funding for these short-break schemes is callous and unfair, but also believes the council can do something about it.

Council therefore asks that in the spirit of fairness and putting local communities first the Administration should lobby government to reverse the cut in funding for these schemes, meet with the parents and children affected, and in the meantime the Administration should fund the shortfall of £45k by either reducing Councillors allowances, using public health funding or taking the money from reserves.

# **Substantive Business Item to read:**

Council notes that after 12 years of a Conservative council in Barnet many people are angry about the way the Administration has handled things from parking charges, library closures or mass-privatisation of council services.

Council remembers just some of the things Barnet's Conservative Councillors have done over the last few years:

- They voted to give themselves a bumper pay rise of up to £20,000 each right after the last local elections in 2010.
- They hiked up parking charges for residents by up to 300% in one year while.
   claiming free parking across the Borough for themselves and still continue to!
- They scrapped wardens for vulnerable older residents in sheltered housing.
- They tried to introduce new parking charges in East Barnet Village car park.
- They closed 8 children's centres and cut affordable child care funding.
- They removed all cash parking meters on high streets without consultation.
- They closed Friern Barnet Library, and then re-opened it a year later following public pressure and a court battle.
- They privatised critical frontline services on a mass scale without consultation.

Council further notes that many of these things had been done with very little or even without any consultation of local people, or despite consultation responses disagreeing with the proposals.

Council also notes that these things were done while the Administration was busy curtailing the public's rights to speak at Council committee meetings.

Council believes that we need an Administration that listens to local people and is fair. Council notes that there is no further Cabinet meeting before the local elections on May 22, and requests that Council and Policy & Resources Committee or the relevant commissioning committee where appropriate considers enacting the following measures to restore democracy and fairness in Barnet after the local elections:

- Establish a Fairness Commission.
- Draw up a robust consultation and community engagement policy to set out how the new council will engage with local people.
- Agree webcasting of all council and committee meetings.
- Establish 30 minutes of Public Question Time at Full Council meetings.
- Revoke all free councillor parking permits.
- Review the number of new committees and reduce them in order make savings of £200k in Councillors allowances.
- Bring forward proposals for at least 30 minutes free parking in all town centres.
- Bring forward proposals to cash-enable all current card-only parking meters.
- Bring forward proposals to establish free parking on weekends in December.
- Bring forward proposals to set-up an Oyster-style 'Barnet Card' as an option to pay for parking.

Council also notes that the Conservative administration is passporting a 25% cut in funding for subsidised places at afterschool clubs and holiday play schemes run by Mapledown School. These after-school clubs provide much needed respite for working parents of severely disabled children, and there are already not enough places to meet demand.

Council believes the decision by the Conservative-led government to impose this cut to the funding for these short-break schemes is callous and unfair, but also believes the council can do something about it.

Council therefore asks that in the spirit of fairness and putting local communities first the administration should lobby government to reverse the cut in funding for these schemes meet with the parents and children affected, and in the meantime the Administration should fund the shortfall of £45k by either reducing Councillors allowances, using public health funding or taking the money from reserves.

Opposition Business Item: Councillor Alison Moore

Amendment in the name of Councillor Jack Cohen

Restoring Democracy and Fairness

## Delete bullet point 6 "Review the number Committees...etc. Substitute with;

Review Members special responsibility allowances in order to make substantial savings.

### Add the following bullet points

- Enable the establishment of Neighbourhood forums
- Increase public speaking times at Planning Committees and reduce the number of planning objections required to refer to Committee

## **Substantive Opposition Business Item to read:**

Council notes that after 12 years of a Conservative council in Barnet many people are angry about the way the Administration has handled things from parking charges, library closures or mass-privatisation of council services.

Council remembers just some of the things Barnet's Conservative councillors have done over the last few years:

- They voted to give themselves a bumper pay rise of up to £20,000 each right after the last local elections in 2010.
- They hiked up parking charges for residents by up to 300% in one year while claiming free parking across the Borough for themselves and still continue to!
- They scrapped wardens for vulnerable older residents in sheltered housing.
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Council believes that we need an administration that listens to local people and is fair.

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- Revoke all free councillor parking permits.
- Review Members special responsibility allowances in order to make substantial savings.
- Bring forward proposals for at least 30 minutes free parking in all town centres.
- Bring forward proposals to cash-enable all current card-only parking meters.
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- Bring forward proposals to set-up an Oyster-style 'Barnet Card' as an option to pay for parking.
- Enable the establishment of Neighbourhood forums.
- Increase public speaking times at Planning Committees and reduce the number of planning objections required to refer to Committee.

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Andrew Harper

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

**AGENDA ITEM 3.4** 

#### Barnet's Outstanding Schools

### Add new paragraph after fourth bullet point:

Council further congratulates the work of our often forgotten Special Schools Oak Lodge and Mapledown.

## Add after penultimate paragraph:

Council also believes that outstanding schools (including Grammar Schools) should be encouraged to expand and that the Council should actively assist Governing Bodies that wish to do so.

Council however recognises that the era of LEAs is drawing to a close in the free market of Education and the recent failure to adequately address the problems of Edgware Junior School with a robust action plan and the sudden departure of several Headteachers in the Borough have demonstrated the inherent weakness of LA maintained Schools. Council therefore requests proposals be brought forward to the relevant Committee in the new civic year to devolve and dissolve the remaining LEA functions and to strenuously encourage the remaining LA schools to seek Academy status.

#### Substantive Non Executive Business Item to read:

Council welcomes the latest Ofsted data which shows that 90% of Barnet's schools are rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' and that these schools comprise 93% of all places. Council further welcomes the fact that Barnet has 47 schools rated as 'Outstanding', more than any other London Borough.

Council notes that more than 90% of our schools are rated as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' in each of the following areas: overall effectiveness; pupil achievement; behaviour; quality of teaching; and leadership.

Council further notes that in 2009 83% of our schools were 'Good' or 'Outstanding' and welcomes the improvement over the last council cycle.

When the Conservatives took over control of the council in 2002, education services were in significant trouble. Council welcomes the fact that our schools are now seen as a huge strength of the Borough by parents and families. Council notes that:

- 90% of our schools are 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.
- Barnet is placed in the top 5% of local authorities nationally for GCSE results.
- Barnet has 3 of the top 10 state secondary schools in the country, including those ranked first and second.
- £55m has been invested in providing new school places. Council is set to add another 1300 places this year, meaning we will have created 7852 over the last five years.

Council further congratulates the work of our often forgotten Special Schools Oak Lodge and Mapledown.

Council recognises that Barnet's diversity of schools including faith schools and grammar schools, alongside academies, exciting new free schools and LA maintained schools, is a large part of the success of our school system. Council asks the administration to commit to protecting the status of faith schools, grammar schools and free schools from those who would seek to remove them or undermine their models of education.

Council also believes that outstanding schools (including Grammar Schools)should be encouraged to expand and that the Council should actively assist Governing Bodies that wish to do so.

Council however recognises that the era of LEAs is drawing to a close in the free market of Education and the recent failure to adequately address the problems of Edgware Junior School with a robust action plan and the sudden departure of several Headteachers in the Borough have demonstrated the inherent weakness of LA maintained Schools. Council therefore requests proposals be brought forward to the relevant Committee in the new civic year to devolve and dissolve the remaining LEA functions and to strenuously encourage the remaining LA schools to seek Academy status.

Council congratulates the schools, their Head Teachers, staff and pupils for their hard work and achievements and calls on the council to work with them to ensure that our children and young people continue to receive the very best education possible.

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Andrew Strongolou

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

**AGENDA ITEM 3.5** 

## Falling Crime and Police Partnerships

### Add new paragraph after 2nd paragraph

Council notes that drunk driving remains an issue and a major cause of death and injuries on the Borough's Roads and urges the Police to take further robust action in detecting such offences.

#### Substantive Non Executive Business Item to read:

Council welcomes the significant local reductions in crime, with overall crime down 11% from February 2013 to February 2014. Council notes that Barnet has some of the largest reductions in burglary (down 21%) and robbery (down 33.5%) in London over the last year, meaning 747 fewer households were victims of burglary. Council further notes the substantial reduction in serious youth violence (down 18%) and knife crime (down 24%) and thanks the Police for their efforts in this regard.

Council believes our partnership with the Police, through the Safer Communities Partnership Board, is vitally important in achieving and sustaining such falls in crime and in securing the Borough as a safe place to live, work and study. Council therefore welcomes the council's collaboration with the Police in introducing the new and improved CCTV service and, alongside it, Automatic Number-Plate Recognition technology.

Council notes that drunk driving remains an issue and a major cause of death and injuries on the Borough's Roads and urges the Police to take further robust action in detecting such offences.

Council also believes that the public must have a strong partnership with our Police force. Council therefore recommends the extension of body-cams to Police Officers in Barnet, noting the positive effects such cameras would have for both the Police and the public. Body-cams would aid the collection of evidence and protect officers from false allegations of misconduct. Conversely, they would reassure the public and provide evidence in any allegations made against the Police. Council recognises that their use would need to be carefully regulated in order to protect civil liberties.

Council calls on the Administration to work with the Police towards these ends.

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

AGENDA ITEM 3.6

## **Putting Local Communities First**

### Add to final paragraph

Council further requests that relevant Committee investigate rolling out the Friern Barnet model to the rest of the Borough' Libraries.

#### Substantive Non Executive Business Item to read:

Council notes the Council's stated motto of 'Putting the Community First'.

Council notes the recent celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Friern Barnet Library, and congratulates the library on the success of its longevity.

Council believes Friern Barnet Community Library should enjoy a long and successful future, and therefore suggests that one way of really putting local communities first would be to grant the library Trustees a lease long enough to ensure they can secure funding to sustain the library's future.

Council therefore requests the relevant commissioning committee after May 22 to agree a lease long enough to allow the Friern Barnet Community Library Trustees to ensure they can continue to serve and put first the local community, and that they can start planning the 90th anniversary celebrations of the library.

Council further requests that relevant Committee investigate rolling out the Friern Barnet model to the rest of the Borough' Libraries.

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

Amendment in the name of Councillor Kate Salinger

**Putting Local Communities First** 

Paragraph 1: replace 'motto' with 'policy'.

Paragraph 2: delete all after 'the library' and replace with 'on its success in being transformed into a Community Library as well as its longevity.'

## Paragraph 3: delete all and replace with...

'Council believes that the Friern Barnet Community Library will enjoy a long and happy future, recognising the wonderful work achieved there by the trustees and volunteers.

Council looks forward to the review of the Asset Strategy which will enable Council to grant the library a long lease.

Council believes that this lease will be long enough to enable the library to secure the necessary funding to assist in its development.

Council therefore calls on the administration to consider the outcome of the review and act accordingly to support the library.'

#### Substantive Non Executive Business Item to read:

Council notes the Council's stated policy of "Putting the Community First."

Council notes the recent celebrations of the 80th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of Friern Barnet Library and congratulates the library on its success in being transformed into a Community Library as well as its longevity.

Council believes that the Friern Barnet Community Library will enjoy a long and happy future, recognising the wonderful work achieved there by the trustees and volunteers.

Council looks forward to the review of the Asset Strategy which will enable Council to grant the library a long lease.

Council believes that this lease will be long enough to enable the library to secure the necessary funding to assist in its development.

Council therefore calls on the administration to consider the outcome of the review and act accordingly to support the library.

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Rowan Quigley Turner

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

**AGENDA ITEM 3.7** 

# One Barnet Performing Well

### Add to bullet point 1 (second set of bullet points) on recycling

....Increase substantially, but has cost Council tax payers an additional £1,000,000.

# Add new penultimate paragraph

Council notes that residents and indeed some members struggle to understand the overly complicated and bureaucratic new structure and particularly the meaningless and pointless name and logo of "Re" . Council therefore requests that in the next Civic year proposals are brought forward to rename "Re" and ensure the words" Barnet Council" form a central part of all Council Services .

### Substantive Non Executive Business Item to read

Council notes the latest performance figures for the Customer Support Group (CSG) and welcomes the fact that they show the One Barnet contracts are performing well and that services are improving.

Council notes that:

- Customer satisfaction with Customer Services has already increased by 15% to 74%.
- There has been a 13% increase in the proportion of calls resolved at the point of first contact.
- £3.4m in procurement savings have already been identified, ahead of the target.
- 86% of HR queries are resolved at the point of first contact, compared to 73% previously.
- The collection rate for the Council Tax Support Scheme has exceeded its target by more than 10% and Business Rate collection now exceeds 99%.

Council recognises that delivering high quality services, in a climate of reduced funding, was the key driver behind the One Barnet transformation programme.

Council notes that the many bundles that make up One Barnet will deliver combined savings of £275m over ten years. Council welcomes the fact that 77% of savings so far have come from the back office and management costs. Council further notes that within the overall programme there are many different methods of service delivery:

• In-house e.g. the new recycling service was brought back in-house and has seen tonnages increase substantially, but has cost Council tax payers an additional £1,000,000.

- Outsourcing e.g. the CSG contract and Re joint venture. Together, they account for 8% of the council's budget (formerly 11% pre-transformation). These contracts are set to deliver combined savings of £165m over ten years.
- Shared services e.g. Public Health with Harrow. Barnet is now ranked 4<sup>th</sup> nationally for tackling health inequalities.
- Working with charitable trusts e.g. to deliver music services to schools.
- Engaging the community e.g. the Community Coaches scheme, which worked with residents facing significant life challenges and managed to reduce healthcare costs by 73% and homelessness by 80% within the first target group.

Council recognises that all these models focus on improving services whilst delivering efficiency.

Council notes that residents and indeed some Members struggle to understand the overly complicated and bureaucratic new structure and particularly the meaningless and pointless name and logo of "Re". Council therefore requests that in the next Civic year proposals are brought forward to rename "Re" and ensure the words" Barnet Council" form a central part of all Council Services .

Council recognises that funding challenges will continue for many years and therefore calls upon the council administration to continue in its drive to improve services and cut costs.

# Report of the Head of Governance

Collective Investment Vehicle for London Pension Funds

**AGENDA ITEM 4.4** 

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

#### Delete all recommendations and substitute with:

Council notes the discussions on collective investment vehicle for London Boroughs pension funds but having mind to the poor performance and often Labour majority and Party Political decisions of other Joint Committees such as London Councils TEC resolves to keep a watching brief at this stage.

Council also instructs Officers to enter into discussions with the London Pensions Authority which has a proven track record over many years about possible joint working.

Council would have deep reservations if any change in arrangements was being driven through in an attempt to use Pension Fund money to invest in controversial Capital projects such as HS2, "Boris island " Airport , substantial social housing or further Thames crossings all of which have been mentioned by Politicians as projects that Boroughs should be investing their pension funds in.