

Council: Tuesday, 5 November 2013

Non-Executive Business Item: Councillor John Marshall

Teachers' Strike

Council condemns the NUT and NASUWT led teachers' strike of 17th October 2013 and regrets its impact upon pupils and parents in the Borough.

Council regrets that as a result of this strike 76 schools in Barnet and 3,500 nationally were either partially or fully closed. This meant a lost day of learning for many of our children and an emergency childcare bill of £1.2 billion for hardworking and often hard-pushed families. Council does note that 31 of our schools remained fully open and welcomes this fact.

Council expresses its concern at the unions' threat of a national teachers' strike before the end of the autumn term, believing that this would be damaging to the residents of Barnet. Council therefore calls upon the unions to reconsider this action.

Council further notes that the public does not support the strike action, with 70% of respondents to a recent poll opposing strike action by teachers and with more than six in ten also in favour of performance-linked pay.

Council believes that Barnet has talented and dedicated teachers and that their skill and endeavour should be reflected in their earnings. Council also believes that the Borough's strong school system can be furthered and highlighted by the Government's reforms.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Education to work closely with the Borough's schools to support them in implementing the reforms and offer what assistance the council can in keeping as many schools open in the event of a strike as possible.

Under Council Procedure Rule, Section 1, Standing Order 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.