

Council: Tuesday, 5 November 2013

Non-Executive Business Item: Councillor John Marshall

Amendment in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton

Teachers' Strike

Delete first two paragraphs.

In the 3rd paragraph delete everything after "term".

Add the following:

Council regrets that teachers felt they had no option but to strike against current government education policy.

Council notes the largest teaching union, the NUT has listed the following reasons why government policy led to this decision:

- Introducing competition between teachers for pay progression will create a divisive system which will damage children's education.
- Introducing competition between schools over pay will further increase division and will leave those schools serving the most deprived communities unable to recruit the teachers they want because they cannot offer the same pay as neighbouring schools.
- Further cuts to teachers' pensions will have a negative impact on our ability to recruit the best candidates into teaching.
- Because most teachers will not be able to do the job to the best of their ability in their late 60s or early 70s and our children's education will suffer.
- Because 'teaching on the cheap' benefits no-one, least of all parents who care about their children's education

Delete 4th paragraph

Add the following:

Council notes an NUT commissioned ComRes opinion poll of 2,003 adults between 13 and 15 April clearly indicated that the British public values professional teaching qualifications. An overwhelming 86% believe that any school receiving public funding should only employ qualified teachers to teach pupils.

Delete all after "teachers" in 5th paragraph and add "and that non-qualified teaching staff degrade the entire teaching profession."

Delete second sentence in 5th paragraph.

Add the following:

Council supports the NUT in its fight against ill thought-out and untested changes to the curriculum, teachers' pay and conditions and the employment of unqualified staff.

Delete all after "support" in final paragraph.

Substantive Business Item to read:

Council expresses its concern at the unions' threat of a national teachers' strike before the end of the autumn term.

Council regrets that teachers felt they had no option but to strike against current government education policy.

Council notes the largest teaching union, the NUT, has listed the following reasons why government policy led to this decision:

- Introducing competition between teachers for pay progression will create a divisive system which will damage children's education.
- Introducing competition between schools over pay will further increase division and will leave those schools serving the most deprived communities unable to recruit the teachers they want because they cannot offer the same pay as neighbouring schools.
- Further cuts to teachers' pensions will have a negative impact on our ability to recruit the best candidates into teaching.
- Because most teachers will not be able to do the job to the best of their ability in their late 60s or early 70s and our children's education will suffer.
- Because 'teaching on the cheap' benefits no-one, least of all parents who care about their children's education

Council notes an NUT commissioned ComRes opinion poll of 2,003 adults between 13 and 15 April clearly indicated that the British public values professional teaching qualifications. An overwhelming 86% believe that any school receiving public funding should only employ qualified teachers to teach pupils.

Council believes that Barnet has talented and dedicated teachers and that non-qualified teaching staff degrade the entire teaching profession.

Council supports the NUT in its fight against ill thought-out and untested changes to the curriculum, teachers' pay and conditions and the employment of unqualified staff.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet Member for Education to work closely with the Borough's schools to support them.

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