

**Council: Tuesday, 21 January 2014**

**Non-Executive Business Item: Councillor Brian Salinger**

Equalities Policy

Council notes and welcomes the publication of the council's updated Equalities Policy and Communities Together Plan, believing it to demonstrate the authority's ongoing commitment to the value of equality and community cohesion in its daily work.

Barnet is one of the most diverse local authorities in the country with many different religious and ethnic communities and residents of all ages, all living and working alongside one another. Levels of harmony are high, with 84% of residents in the latest Residents' Perception Survey believing that people from different backgrounds get on well together in Barnet. It is vital that no one section of the community feels alienated and it is a pre-eminent wish of the council that everyone is looked out for.

Council notes the proposed equalities measures set out for each corporate objective of the council and for each delivery unit and welcomes the opportunity for these to come under regular assessment. Council similarly welcomes the introduction of an annual equalities report of partner organisations, helping to ensure the council encourages best practice across the breadth of services in the Borough.

Council welcomes the adoption of this policy and calls on the administration to continue to promote equality and community cohesion through its policies and partnership work with external agencies.

*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.*