

Council: Tuesday, 8 April 2014

Non Executive Business Item: Councillor Andrew Harper

Amendment in the name of Councillor Brian Coleman

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.