

Council: Tuesday, 20 January 2015

14.2: Councillor Alison Moore – Protecting the Vulnerable

Amendment in the name of Councillor Amy Trevethan

Add at the end:

Should Council have voted to adopt the recommendations from the P&R Committee to increase council tax support scheme contributions to 20%, Council instructs that a sufficient ring fenced discretionary fund is created to help those who cannot afford to pay the increase in council tax support scheme contributions voted for by Conservative councillors.

Council also instructs that any outstanding amounts of council tax support scheme contributions that have not been collected to date are written off where people have not been able to pay it.

Substantive motion to read:

Council notes that the Barnet Conservatives often play lip service to supporting the most vulnerable and those in need, enabling people to live independent lives and helping them live at home, and assisting people to get back to work.

Council also notes that the Barnet Conservatives say they are trying to tackle child poverty.

Council does not believe that the recently announced policy of increasing council tax for those least able to afford it will help.

Council notes that the Barnet Conservatives have failed to provide enough affordable housing, failed to provide sufficient affordable child care, have happily implemented the hated Bedroom Tax, and have cut crucial council services - all adding up to a perfect storm for people who are already struggling financially.

Council believes that more families will be forced into poverty if those on the Council Tax Support Scheme are asked to increase their council tax, and therefore, Council asks that this policy is abandoned or implementation halted until sufficient discretionary support is in place for those in most need.

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Council also instructs that any outstanding amounts of council tax support scheme contributions that have not been collected to date are written off where people have not been able to pay it.