

Council: Tuesday, 28 July 2015
Administration Motion: Cllr Helena Hart
Public Health Funding

Amendment in the Name of Cllr Barry Rawlings:

1st paragraph: Delete 2nd and 3rd sentence. Add 'Council also notes this is similar to the promise he made and failed to keep in the last parliament.'

2nd paragraph: Add new 3rd sentence. "Council is dismayed to learn that the Chancellor based this figure on the budget underspend in 2012/13, the first year of transferring Public health to Local authorities, when in Barnet there were several vacancies and new posts that were filled in-year, and not on the 2013/14 figures, thus breaking the Conservative manifesto pledge to protect Health spending."

3rd paragraph: Delete 'and welcomes' and add " Council urges the Leader of the Council to write again to argue against a cut that not only breaks a manifesto commitment but undermines the early intervention and prevention strategy vital to the NHS five year plan to which the Government has committed itself.

4th paragraph: delete entire paragraph.

Amended Motion to read:

Public Health Funding

Council notes the Chancellor's plan to eliminate the UK's budget deficit during this Parliament and the mandate given for this at the General Election. Council also notes this is similar to the promise he made and failed to keep in the last parliament.

Council is, however, concerned by proposals for an in-year cut to Public Health funding. A £200m cut across the Country equates to about 7% of the total Public Health budget. It is unclear how this cut would be apportioned, but effected on a pro rata basis could see a reduction in excess of £1m for Barnet. Council is dismayed to learn that the Chancellor based this figure on the budget underspend in 2012/13, the first year of transferring Public health to Local authorities, when in Barnet there were several vacancies and new posts that were filled in-year, and not on the 2013/14 figures thus immediate breaking the Conservative manifesto pledge to protect Health spending.

This would create significant challenges. In addition, whilst increases in the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases and TB further emphasise the necessity for vital preventative work, Barnet is already, per head, the third lowest funded Authority in London at the same time as experiencing rapid population growth in both young and older residents.

Council notes the fact that the Leader has already written to the Chancellor, the Health Secretary and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, arguing against a blanket cut. Council urges the Leader of the Council to write again to argue against a cut that not only breaks their manifesto commitment but undermines the early intervention and prevention strategy vital to the NHS five year plan to which the Government has committed itself.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 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.