

Full Council, 30 January 2018

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr David Longstaff

Council condemns Labour's decision to close Barnet Police Station

Council is concerned about the loss of front desk services, the loss of a base for police officers and the reduced visibility of a police presence in the north of our borough.

Labour closed Barnet Police Station's front desk services on 14th December 2017. The rest of the building will close in the coming months.

Almost every police officer serving the borough will be based at Colindale Police Station. This will significantly undermine the ability of local neighbourhood teams to operate effectively and efficiently in the areas for which they have responsibility.

Residents living in the east of the borough are also now as far from their only police station as they are to Edmonton's —a half hour drive or hour's bus journey... on a good day.

Council understands the Metropolitan Police Service need to make savings and operate efficiently, whilst maintaining public confidence and effectiveness. The closure of Barnet Police Station is not the way to do this. The full cost of closure, the replacement of secure facilities, IT and Communication infrastructure alongside the wasted travel time has not been fully calculated.

The police station reinforces to the public that there is a strong, visible and reassuring police presence and deterrent in the north of our borough. It is a place for officers to meet privately, write-up reports and to de-stress after harrowing events. It is also a building where other police services reside and officers are seen working in an active police station.

The previous London Mayor delivered efficiency savings and kept Barnet Police Station open. He also allocated £300 million of the £400 million savings the Mayor claims he has to make. Labour's decision is unjustified and will put the public in harm's way.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the London Mayor and ask him to re-evaluate his decision to close the station as it is putting Barnet residents' safety at risk, the police officers' safety and health at risk and increasing the fear of crime across Barnet.

[Under the relevant FCPR I request that my motion is voted on at the meeting.]