

Full Council, 30 January 2018

Agenda item 14.4 – Opposition Amendment in the name of Cllr Barry Rawlings

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr David Longstaff - Council condemns Labour's decision to close Barnet Police Station

Delete all and replace with (additions in bold):

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.

Council notes that because of Conservative government cuts to the Metropolitan Police, the Labour Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has taken the difficult decision to close Barnet Police Station - which receives less than one crime report on average per day - to protect police numbers. In Barnet, this will save the Met more than £230k per year – equivalent to the cost of more than four police constables.

Council also notes that the previous Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, also closed North Finchley, Golders Green and Whetstone Police Stations because of Conservative-led government cuts to the Metropolitan Police.

Council further notes that since 2010-11 the Met's funding from the Government has fallen by more than £700 million or nearly 40 per cent in real terms. In recent years the Metropolitan Police have had to find more than £600m of cuts with another £400 million over the Mayor's current four-year term. This has led to the loss of a third of police staff posts – down from 14,330 to 9,985, two-thirds of police community support officer posts – down from 4,607 to 1,591, as well as 114 police station front counters and 120 police buildings.

Under Boris Johnson police numbers in Barnet fell by the following:

- **Police officers: 112 (19%) - comparing May 2010 to Oct 2016**
- **PCSOs: 129 (75%) - comparing May 2010 to May 2016**
- **Sergeants: 48 (43%) - comparing May 2012 to May 2016**
- **Specials - 43 (25%) - comparing May 2012 to May 2016**

Almost every police officer serving the borough will be based at Colindale Police Station, **and Council notes the concern that** this will 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 therefore notes plans to tackle the issue of long travel times to the 24/7 front counter for some residents in Barnet, including:

- **additional dedicated contact sessions held twice a week for at least an hour at a predetermined location and time to provide a service for those members of the public requiring a face to face interaction,**
- **a Dedicated Ward Officer hub located at the Broadwalk Shopping Centre in Edgware**

Council understands the Metropolitan Police Service need to make savings and operate efficiently, whilst maintaining public confidence and effectiveness. **Council also understands that means they must make difficult choices like the closure of Barnet Police Station in order to prevent police numbers reducing further.**

Council notes the Mayor's actions to protect Londoners by prioritising neighbourhood policing, and that he is on track to deliver an extra dedicated police officer in every ward of London by the end of 2017.

Council also notes that the Mayor has launched a new knife crime strategy to tackle the rise of violent crime in the capital head on, as well as developing a new policing plan for London.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council **and the Leader of the Opposition** to write to the London Mayor and ask him **to continue to fight to get the funding the Met desperately needs from Government and to stop the Government cuts that are** 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.]