Non Executive Business Item – 3.5: Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

<u>Friern Barnet Library</u>

Amendment in the name of <u>Councillor Kath McGuirk</u>

Add at the end

Council believes that the Library Strategy is now in tatters and calls on the Cabinet Member, Councillor Robert Rams, to resign.

Substantive Business Item to read:

Council notes the extraordinary events that have unfolded since the Conservative administration closed Friern Barnet Library in April under the One Barnet programme. These events include:

- Over 4,300 residents signing a "re-open Friern Barnet Library" petition.
- The failure of the administration to open a Landmark Library at the artsdepot that was supposed to be a replacement Library for Friern Barnet residents.
- The occupation of the Library by campaigners who have re-built the book stock from donations from the public and are opening the Library to the community.
- The Library campaigners making it known to the Council that they want a Library in Friern Barnet
- The moves by LB Barnet to evict the Library campaigners who are occupying Friern Barnet Library, and the Judge's view that it was in the public interest for the matter to go to a full trial

Council believes that it would be better to keep the Library at Friern Barnet open than continue spending the huge sums of money on the 4th floor Library with very limited opening hours that LB Barnet has opened at the artsdepot as a temporary solution to the closure of Friern Barnet Library.

Council also believes LB Barnet should enter into mediation with the residents and Library campaigners occupying Friern Barnet Library to find a solution acceptable to all
in order to save on costly legal and court fees.

Council asks Cabinet to instruct officers to enter into this recommended mediation with immediate effect

Council believes that the Library Strategy is now in tatters and calls on the Cabinet Member, Councillor Robert Rams, to resign.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by
the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted on at the meeting.