

Council: Tuesday, 22 January 2013

Opposition Business Item: Councillor Alex Brodtkin

Barnet's Emergency Services

Council believes that the safety and security of Londoners and the residents of our borough is being put at risk as a result of cuts to emergency services being pushed through by the Mayor and the Conservative led coalition government to our key emergency services – the Metropolitan Police Service, the London Fire Brigade alongside the London Ambulance Service and the city's Accident & Emergency Departments.

Council believes that the cuts are going too far and too fast and that the many millions of pounds being cut from the budgets of the NHS, the Metropolitan Police Service and the London Fire Brigade will inevitably endanger families and communities across the capital.

Council believes that the cuts are being carried out without consideration of the impact on Londoners' safety. In particular, the closures of police front desks at Barnet Police Station and Whetstone Police Station will mean Chipping Barnet constituency has no police station accessible to the public. The closure of Chase Farm A & E department will mean additional pressure on Barnet Hospital, and could see the safety of residents threatened by longer response times.

Council does not agree with the Mayor of London's position that the scale of the cuts are necessary and acceptable.

Council calls on the Mayor to stand up for Londoners against the cuts being imposed by the Conservative-led coalition government and to think again about his own draconian cuts to the emergency services on which we rely to keep Londoners safe, including the scandalous closure of Barnet and Whetstone Police Station front counters.

Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London expressing LB Barnet's outrage at these proposals, and demand that he withdraw the proposals immediately.

Council also asks the Leader to write to the 3 Barnet MPs calling on them to lobby the government for more resources for Barnet Hospital, the police and our other emergency services, and calling on them to lobby the Mayor of London to withdraw his proposals for police station closures in Barnet.