

<u>Meeting</u>
Cabinet
<u>Date and time</u>
Tuesday 6th February, 2024
At 7.00 pm
<u>Venue</u>
Hendon Town Hall, The Burroughs, London NW4 4BQ

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
8	<p>Matters referred to the Executive (if any)</p> <p>Council Motions – 30 January 2024:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcoming extension of Universal Free School Meals Scheme and Requesting Government Support for Special Dietary Requirements 2. Barnet Council to continue with tackling climate change 3. Digital Blue Badges for Barnet 4. Banning profiteering in children's social care and education placements 	3 - 10

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London Borough of Barnet

Cabinet – 6 February 2024

The following motion has been considered a matter falling within the powers of the Executive and identified in the Council summons. As such, the motion shall stand referred to the next meeting of the Executive in accordance with the Council Constitution Part 3A, section 15.5.1.

Reference from Council: 30 January 2024

Motion: Welcoming extension of Universal Free School Meals Scheme and Requesting Government Support for Special Dietary Requirements

Proposer: Councillor Anne Clarke

Council Notes that:

- The positive impact of Universal Free School Meals in state-funded schools has been accepted by all major political parties for almost a decade.
- It was for this reason that Universal Free School Meals in state-funded schools were introduced for Reception Year, Year 1 and Year 2.
- Universal Free School Meals:
 - Reduce the impact of poverty
 - Help families during the cost-of-living crisis
 - Help reduce the impact that the withdrawal of benefits makes to parents who move into employment from unemployment, ensuring that work truly pays.
 - Help educational outcomes.
- That there is currently no additional support for those schools with particular dietary needs, such as Jewish schools, who need to supply kosher food.
- That the current Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, rolled out Universal Free School Meals in state funded schools in the capital for Years 3-6.
- That the Mayor of London is providing those schools which do require extra support due to dietary requirements, such as Jewish Schools, to supply free school meals to Years 3-6 with additional financial support.
- That the Mayor of London has extended the Universal Free School Meals initiative for Years 3-6 and has extended the additional support to those schools which require it.

Council Resolves to:

- To request that Cabinet take on the following actions:
 - To thank all those who worked with the Mayor of London to ensure the original scheme provided extra support for those schools who faced additional financial pressures due to dietary requirements such as Jewish schools, which included the leadership of our local Jewish Schools and councillors from both parties in Barnet.
 - To thank the Mayor of London for extending the scheme for Years 3-6 which will help thousands of Barnet families.
 - To thank the Mayor of London for extending his additional funding for those schools that face an additional financial burden in delivering the initiative for Years 3-6 so that pupils at schools such as Jewish schools can similarly benefit.

- To write to the Secretary of State for Education, Gillian Keegan, on a cross-party basis calling on the Government to match the Mayor's funding offer for Reception to Year 2, including an uplift for those schools facing an increased financial burden in delivering its Universal Free School Meals such as Jewish schools to ensure that this universal scheme is truly universal.

Council RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out above, be recommended to the Executive for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents:

Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 30 January 2024:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s81789/Administration%20motion%20in%20the%20name%20of%20Cllr%20Clarke%20-%20welcoming%20extension%20of%20free%20school%20meals.pdf>

Contact: Salar Rida – Governance Manager

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Reference from Council: 30 January 2024

Motion: Barnet Council to continue with tackling climate change

Proposer: Councillor Alan Schneiderman

Council notes:

- That the climate crisis is the single biggest policy challenge of today, with the risk that if we fail, this planet will be uninhabitable for future generations.
- The resignation of Chris Skidmore from the House of Commons, former minister for energy and clean growth.
- That Mr Skidmore has resigned over the Government's policy of opening up new oilfields and opposing international organisations' recommendations on how to tackle the climate crisis.
- That Mr Skidmore stated: "Where the UK once led in promoting climate change action at COP26, it now finds itself opposing the International Energy Agency, the UNCCC, the Committee on Climate Change, in promoting the opening of new additional oilfields and licenses for extraction that will not take place at best until decades from now."
- That Mr Skidmore adds "We should be taking the long term decisions for the future of our country that protect our citizens, our economy and our planet, not playing the short-term politics with achieves so little but does so much to destroy the reputation of the UK as a climate leader".
- That Barnet Council is playing its part in reducing the dependency on oil, by rolling out more than 1,000 electric vehicle charging points.
- Barnet Council is continuing this policy despite some industry analysts expressing worries that the postponement of the Government's proposed ban on the sales of new petrol cars would depress demand.
- That it is important that, even if the central UK government signals to businesses and households that tackling change is falling down the agenda,

other governmental organisations such as councils need to continue to communicate to employers and households that this issue is important to help drive behavioural change.

Council resolves to:

- That despite the Conservative Government embrace of dirty fuels that put our future at risk and damage the UK's reputation on climate change, to call upon the Cabinet to restate its mission of ensuring we are a Net Zero Council by 2030 and a Net Zero Borough by 2042.

Council RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out above, be recommended to the Executive for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents:

Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 30 January 2024:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s81787/Administration%20motion%20in%20the%20name%20of%20Cllr%20Schneiderman-%20Barnet%20Council%20to%20continue%20with%20tackling%20cl.pdf>

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Reference from Council: 30 January 2024

Motion: Digital Blue Badges for Barnet

Proposer: Councillor Alex Prager

Council notes that:

- Blue Badges are regularly lost or stolen, and they are an easy target for thieves to steal.
- Counterfeit paper Blue Badges are easily made.
- Over 100 cases of Blue Badge fraud have been investigated by the borough in the past 18 months alone.
- Three officers are employed full-time to investigate Blue Badge Fraud, who could be reallocated to support other CAFT investigations.
- Most cases of Blue Badge fraud do not result in a conviction or a fine.
- The rollout of additional CPZs across the borough alongside the ULEZ expansion is likely to create an increase in Blue Badge Fraud.
- Haringey Council became the first council in the country to introduce Digital Blue Badges in November 2022.
- Since the introduction of the scheme, Blue Badge thefts in Haringey have fallen by 65%.
- The Metropolitan Police reported 528 incidents of Blue Badge thefts, which fell to 185 in the period when the Digital Badges were introduced.
- In recent years Barnet has effectively introduced digital CPZ and pay-and-display permits, essentially establishing the infrastructure for digital Blue Badges.

Council resolves:

To ask the Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate Change to:

- Instruct officers to explore the implementation of a digital Barnet-focused scheme that also considers those who may not be technologically savvy.
- Brief members on the progress of any implementation, and
- If the system is to be implemented, report a full business case to cabinet.

Council RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out above, be recommended to the Executive for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents:

Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 30 January 2024:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s81785/Opposition%20motion%20in%20the%20name%20of%20Cllr%20Alex%20Prager-%20Blue%20Badges.pdf>

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Reference from Council: 30 January 2024

Motion: Banning profiteering in children’s social care and education placements

Proposer: Councillor Pauline Coakley Webb

Council notes:

- In 2022 the Competition and Markets Authority’s (CMA) final report on children’s social care reiterated several important issues that Barnet Council has been raising with the Conservative government for many years, specifically access to and costs of suitable placements for children in care, all while the largest providers make “materially higher profits”.
- Their report shares our concern that “children are not consistently getting access to care and accommodation that meet their needs”.
- Local authorities, as the sole purchasers of placements, pay thousands of pounds a week for placements for children in their care. Yet providers can pick and choose which referrals to accept and at what cost due to demand outstripping supply.
- The report rightly highlights the important role national government needs to play in contributing to these challenges being addressed.
- With concern regarding levels of risk in the system due to rapid changes in ownership and considerable levels of borrowing and debts held by some private companies. Should any of these providers fail, no single local authority could step in, and it would be children who suffer the greatest consequence. As the CMA notes, the current level of risk of disruption to children’s accommodation and care is unacceptable.
- Children’s services have long operated in a mixed economy with a range of providers involved in the delivery of services locally. However, multi-million pound mergers between providers are becoming increasingly common as is the use of private equity.

- Since the publication of the CMA no tangible action has been taken by Government to address profiteering in the children's sector.

That council agree that:

- Profiteering using public money based on meeting children's needs is unacceptable.
- To the aspiration of a not-for-profit model for children's placements
- To call on all political parties to, nationally, within their manifestos for the upcoming general election, commit to the introduction of legislation which prevents for-profit operations or as a minimum, caps the level of fees chargeable in fostering and residential services.

Council RESOLVED that the Motion, as set out above, be recommended to the Executive for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background documents:

Motion submitted to the Council meeting – 30 January 2024:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s81784/Administration%20motion%20in%20the%20name%20of%20Cllr%20Coakley-Webb-%20Banning%20profiteering%20in%20childrens%20social%20ca.pdf>

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