

**Council: Tuesday, 8 December 2015**

**Opposition Motion: Cllr Arjun Mittra**

### **Protecting our Emergency Services**

Council has serious concerns about the state of emergency services in London. Despite the recent announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, previously announced budget pressures of £400 million to the Metropolitan Police that still need to be found could still result in the loss of all London's Police Community Support Officers. Barnet has already effectively lost 81 Police Officers and 121 PCSOs since 2010, with safer neighbourhood teams cut from 1 Sargeant, 2 PCs and 6 PCSOs down to just a PC and PSCO each. Current plans would leave ward safer neighbourhood teams with just one PC.

Council is also concerned about the plans to remove 13 fire appliances as the fire service is already stretched and further cuts could have more fatal consequences if it takes 13 minutes to respond to a fire instead of the target six minutes as happened during the recent fatal fire in Camden.

Council is further concerned that the London Ambulance service also continues to struggle due to funding cuts and a shortage of paramedics, with many leaving the service and posts left unfilled. Patients unable to book GP appointments are increasingly reliant on fewer ambulances and paramedics taking them to A&E departments that are full.

Council notes the announcement by the CQC that following a recent inspection of the London Ambulance Service they have rated it as Inadequate for being safe and well-led and are therefore recommending it is placed in special measures.

Council believes that cuts to public services are putting life-threatening pressures on our emergency services. After the recent tragedy in Paris, it is all the more important to recognise the importance of our emergency services and the need for faster response times.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urgently reconsider the proposed cuts to emergency services in London.