

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Policy and Resources committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>17th May 2016</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Title</b></p>	<p><b>Member's Item – Cllr Barry Rawlings - Disabled persons' Freedom Passes</b></p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Report of</b></p>	<p>Head of Governance</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wards</b></p>	<p>All</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Status</b></p>	<p>Public</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Enclosures</b></p>	<p>None</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Officer Contact Details</b></p>	<p>Faith Mwende <a href="mailto:faith.mwende@barnet.gov.uk">faith.mwende@barnet.gov.uk</a> 02083594917</p>	

## Summary

The report informs the Policy and Resources Committee of a Member's Item and requests instructions from the Committee.

## Recommendations

1. That the Policy and Resources Committee's instructions in relation to this Member's item are requested.

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Councillor Barry Rawlings has requested that a Member's Item be considered on the following matter:

*'Following a number of residents' enquiries about the cancellation of disabled persons' Freedom Passes by the Assisted Travel service managed by Capita-run CSG, I request that P&R be provided with a written briefing on the issue including answers to the following:*

- when was the decision to cancel or withdraw Freedom Passes from disabled people made and by who - were administration members made aware of this decision?*
- on what basis and why was the decision made (budgetary/policy)?*
- why were passes cancelled without notice, and have the council now apologised to the individuals affected for this error?*
- what legal implications are there arising from the cancellation of passes, including those cancelled without notice - TfL often conduct checks on passes on public transport, has the council exposed vulnerable people whose passes were cancelled mid-journey to the risk of criminal conviction or arrest?*
- which disabilities are no longer included in the eligibility criteria?*
- are these disabilities part of the London Councils set eligibility criteria?*
- if so has London Councils been informed of Barnet's decision?*
- please confirm what the eligibility criteria is for both London Councils and Barnet Council?*
- why do renewal letters state that renewal will be automatic where there has been no change in the recipients condition, yet many pass holders have had their pass withdrawn following a reassessment despite no change in their condition?*
- is the decision to cancel / withdraw the passes lawful?*
- how much money does this new policy save Barnet council?*
- have Capita benefited financially from this in any way?*
- how many people are affected?*
- how many people had their passes cancelled without any notice?*
- how many people had their passes withdrawn following a reassessment?*
- pass holders are being told they are only eligible if they are known to Adults Social Care - doesn't making this a requirement undermine the council's stated policy of encouraging people to be as independent as possible?*
- how will the council compensate pass holders including those whose employment or training opportunities were dependent on being able to use a Freedom Pass?*
- please confirm that no further passes will be cancelled /withdrawn and that all cancelled /withdrawn passes will be reinstated with immediate effect.*

*I also request that the relevant Commissioning Director bring a full report back to the next committee on the outcome of the council's investigation into this issue and the review that is taking place on eligibility criteria, so that members can discuss the issue and make any future decisions.*

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee are therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.3 Legal and Constitutional References**

- 5.3.1 The Council's Constitution (Meeting Procedure Rules, Section 6) states that a Member, including appointed substitute Members of a Committee may have one item only on an agenda that he/she serves. Members' items must be within the term of reference of the decision making body which will consider the item.

### **5.4 Risk Management**

- 5.4.1 None in the context of this report.

### **5.5 Equalities and Diversity**

- 5.5.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equalities and diversity implications.

### **5.6 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.6.1 None in the context of this report.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.