

Council: 4 April 2017

Agenda item 15.3 – Opposition amendment in the name of Cllr Kath McGuirk

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Brian Gordon – Mayor Khan: Redress
Barnet's Policing Deficit

Delete all and replace with (additions in bold):

Council calls on Mayor of London Sadiq Khan to **continue redressing** the policing deficit in the London Borough of Barnet **caused by former Conservative Mayor of London, Boris Johnson who cut the number of police officers, police community support officers and special constables in the borough by around 332 in total between 2010-2016.**

Our current Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has started to repair the damage caused by the former Conservative Mayor and this Conservative Government who have cut £600 million from the Metropolitan Police budget since 2013, by applying a small increase of 8p per week in the GLA precept which will be ringfenced for the police budget. This is to make up the £17.4m shortfall caused by maintaining central government police funding at last year's levels.

Council hopes that the Mayor will continue to work towards providing the officers our taxpayers have already paid for.

Crime is rising in Barnet. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) has itself recorded Barnet as the burglary capital of London. Gun crime is rising faster than in any other London borough and, last year, Barnet accounted for one sixth of all gun-related deaths in the capital. Against this Barnet – the largest borough by population – has the fewest police officers per capita.

Based on GLA statistics for 2016, there are 736 residents per police officer in Barnet, where the average for London boroughs, excluding Westminster is 529. With Barnet taxpayers making the single largest precept contribution to the Metropolitan Police budget, the borough's policing costs them £54,803.39 per officer, where the London average is £35,603.75.

In order to achieve the London average of 529 residents per officer, Barnet would need an additional 205 officers from the Mayor, bringing its total to 728.

Given this Council has been repeatedly criticised for aiming for London averages, this ought not to **have been** an unreasonable request **to former Mayor Boris Johnson and this Conservative Government.**

Council notes that Conservative Government funding decisions mean that the Metropolitan Police currently faces a total funding gap of £420m between 2017 and 2021, which can only otherwise be met by a combination of reducing police expenditure or council tax rises.

Council also notes that new funding reforms under consideration by the Home Office could result in further cuts of £700m to the Met's central Home Office grant, as money could be diverted to other regional forces under a new funding formula to address historic funding imbalances.

Council further notes the former Police Commissioner's comments that the proposed new funding reforms would result in "rationing" of police services and could result in thousands of police being cut.

Council calls on the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer opposing any further Government cuts to police budgets.

Council believes that extra police are worth the money, and with due regard to the Mayor's concerns about budgetary pressures on the Metropolitan Police, calls upon the Mayor to provide 15 additional Police Constables at no cost to the borough under his MOPAC 'Buy one get one free offer' with LB Barnet providing match funding to increase the total extra officers for Barnet to 30.

Barnet's contribution to these extra police should be funded by making the following efficiency savings which will more than cover the £990,000 cost - these savings have already been validated as available by the Section 151 Officer in the Labour Group budget amendment this year:

Reduce agency cover (129,500)

Stop Barnet First (75,000)

Reduce Commissioning Committees - 8-4 delete SRAs (61,332)

Delete 2 Governance Posts (106,000)

Make General Functions Committee a sub-committee of Policy and Resources - delete SRA for chair (15,333)

Reduce Chair of Licensing SRA (6,484)

Joint Chair of Residents Forums and Environment Subs (7,104)

Reduce Chair of Audit SRA (6,481)

Delete SRAs for Vice Chairs of Commissioning Committees (18,994)

Delete Commissioning Directors in Adults and Children's and reassign DASS/DCS designations (334,000)

Delete 2 Commercial, Performance & Development Managers (138,230)

Delete 1 Commissioning Policy Advisor (46,373)

Delete Internal Communications Manager (64,642)

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end I ask that it be voted on at the meeting.