

Council: Tuesday 28th January 2020

**Amendment in the name of Cllr Sara Conway
Policing in Barnet**

Delete all and replace with **(additions in bold, no deletions)**:

This Council notes that:

1. Crime has risen in Barnet **each year since February 2014. This follows sustained cuts to police numbers and police budgets under David Cameron and Boris Johnson starting in 2010.**

Each year since Sadiq Khan became Mayor of London in 2016 **he has stood up for London and pressed the case for the Government to halt and reverse their damaging cuts to police budgets that have now resulted in cuts to the Met of £700 million and led officer numbers in London to drop to their lowest level per head in 20 years.**

2. **The Government cuts to the police have had many consequences for Barnet. For example,** the Mayor of London closed the Vivian Avenue Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) hub in July 2019 despite having made a promise to keep it open - **a result of these Government cuts to the Metropolitan Police budget.**

3. The Government have pledged new police officers for Barnet from 2020, **but have so far failed to deliver on their election promise to restore London's policing.**

Sadiq Khan and the Police Commissioner have said that London needs 6,000 of the new 20,000 officers promised by the Government nationally, and 2,000 of the 6,000 announced for 2020/21. This would bring the Met's total force strength to 37,000 – on par with New York, a comparable (though smaller) global city.

The Government has allocated only 1,369 new officers for London, on top of the additional 1,300 officers that Sadiq has already funded and recruited.

Anything less than the 6,000 officers the Commissioner has said she needs is a failure of the Government to get a grip on violence and crime.

4. Barnet residents currently pay more per police officer than those of any other borough, **and this was also the case when Boris Johnson was Mayor of London.**

5. Barnet has the fewest number of police officers per person of any London borough, **and this was also the case when Boris Johnson was Mayor of London.**

6. The most recent data shows an increase of crime in 19 of Barnet's 21 wards, **so we need our share of the 6,000 extra police officers as soon as possible.**

7. **The London Conservatives' like to engage in deliberately misleading attacks that the Mayor of London spends 26% more on PR and 82% on staffing than his predecessor, Boris**

Johnson. **In fact, Sadiq has only one more press officer than Boris Johnson did in his final term in office.**

The PR budget is used to deliver major events like the New Year's Eve Fireworks and Notting Hill Carnival, and to communicate to Londoners about issues and services that can benefit them - such as encouraging young people not to carry a knife or about homelessness services.

In many cases, the staff to deliver priorities from extra powers the Mayor has received, including for housing, skills and healthcare, have been funded by money Sadiq secured from the Government.

This Council believes that:

1. The people of Barnet should feel safe in their borough, their neighbourhoods and their homes.
2. In order to make our residents feel safe, it is important that there is a visible police presence across the borough.
3. The SNT hub on Vivian Avenue should be restored.
4. It is unconscionable that despite a rising crime rate in Barnet, the borough's residents pay more per police officer than the residents of all any boroughs and in turn receive the fewest officers.

This Council resolves to:

1. Urge the Mayor of London to **continue to stand up for London and press the Government to fully reverse their damaging cuts to the police budget since 2010, and to**
 - a. Re-open the SNT on Vivian Avenue.
 - b. Not close High Barnet Police Station.
 - c. **Continue to** spend more money on policing and less on PR
2. Support **Londoners by joining the Mayor of London in calling for** the government's plans to increase police numbers in London **by at least 6,000 and to increase police numbers** across the UK.
3. Continue to steadfastly oppose any reduction **by the Government** in policing.

Council also resolves to do the following to help the police in the fight against crime locally:

1. **Improve their liaison with the police for quicker deployment of CCTV.**
2. **Improve cross-borough working to mirror and work more effectively on tri-borough issues with the BCU, particularly on 'border' areas such as the A5 corridor.**
3. **Improve liaison between the Safer Partnerships Board and CLL Committee for councillors to raise major community safety issues in their wards (if necessary in closed session).**
4. **Look at innovative practices in other local authorities.**

5. Improve safety on housing estates with better collaboration for more effective outcomes between the Council and Barnet Homes, eg Marsh Drive.