

Council: 25 January 2022

**Opposition Motion in the name of Cllr Anne Clarke
Levelling-up in London and Barnet**

Amended by Cllr Alison Moore

Council notes:

1. The Government's stated plan to unite and level-up every part of the UK.
2. Unfortunately, London and its constituent Boroughs, including Barnet, do not seem to be part of this plan.
3. Last year the Conservatives put out fake news leaflets about the financial state of Transport for London (TfL) using similar TfL colours and fonts to make it look official.
4. The leaflets claimed that the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan had mismanaged TfL funding.
5. But they didn't detail the real reason TfL currently faces such an uncertain future: Boris Johnson.
6. As Mayor of London, Boris Johnson gave up TfL's £700M annual operating grant from the Treasury making London the only major city in Europe so heavily dependent on fares income.
7. When Covid-19 hit, passenger numbers on the tube plummeted by 97% and on the buses by 86%.
8. These numbers have struggled to fully recover since and have hit TfL's fares revenue hard.
9. Passenger numbers have dropped again following recent work from home advice, having never fully recovered to pre-pandemic levels.
10. The Government's emergency deals for TfL have all come with strings attached including above-inflation fare rises and restrictions on concessions.
11. In contrast, private train operators facing similar problems have had £10.4 billion in financial support from the Government, with no strings attached.

Council believes:

1. London and its Boroughs, including Barnet, are not being treated fairly.
2. The Government's strategy of forcing TfL to increase fares will discourage people from using public transport and further reduce revenues.
3. Without a serious and sustainable settlement, the Government will deal a real blow to our city and its Boroughs.
4. The Government talk about levelling up, but really all they are doing is levelling down London and its Boroughs, including Barnet, with an enforced managed decline.
5. The war on Londoners must stop now.

Council resolves to:

1. Lobby the Secretary of State to ensure that London, and its Boroughs, including Barnet, are not levelled-down.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 17.17: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting, I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.