

## **Council meeting 24 January 2023**

### **Amendment to Opposition Motion in the name of Jennifer Grocock: Cllr David Longstaff**

#### **Combatting Crime in Barnet- more police for Barnet**

##### **Council notes that:**

- 1) Barnet has experienced some horrific acts of crime recently with three stabbings and a shooting on our streets.
- 2) The Government increased its funding to the Metropolitan Police by £138.9m in 2021 and have committed to a further increase of £164.2m in 2022 with the additional announcement in December 2022 that in the 2023/2024 period the total funding for Policing will be up to £17.2 billion.
- 3) That the Mayor of London is the Police and Crime Commissioner of the capital. The Mayor of London cannot blame the Government for the state of law and order in London and Barnet when he is the Crime Commissioner for the capital and plays a hugely important leadership role in fighting crime.
- 4) Since 2017, violence against the person has risen 11%, muggings by 25%, rape by nearly 11% and other sexual offences by over 33.1% in London. In Barnet, between the same time, general crime rose by 21% with lockdown being the only respite in the continual increase.
- 5) The main increases in crime in Barnet are:
  - a) Violence and sexual offences
  - b) Vehicle crimes
- 6) The Mayor of London joined Barnet Metropolitan Police officers on 16<sup>th</sup> December for a walkabout with Labour Cllrs.
- 7) In his visit to Barnet, the mayor made clear his support for there to be an officer present at every domestic burglary
- 8) There is a strong association between police numbers and the reduction of rate for property and other acquisitive crimes; the College of policing notes that when police numbers were higher, crime was likely to be lower.
- 9) That in September 2022 an additional 3,109 officers were recruited into the Metropolitan Police.
- 10) Although he has been given more investment from the Government and has benefited in 3,109 new officers, Sadiq Khan has failed to combat crime, including violent crime with 8,159 cases reported in Barnet throughout his term in office as Mayor of London – both in Barnet and across London- with a yearly increase of crime since his tenure as mayor, except for 2020/2021 because of COVID Lockdowns.
- 11) The Community Safety Hub concept was instigated by the previous Conservative administration.
- 12) The Mayor of London's decision to close and sell the High Barnet Police Station was a regrettable mistake that has weakened the presence of Police in High Barnet.
- 13) Lack of police presence on our streets emboldens criminals and those who seek to commit crimes targeted at specific groups of people such as Barnet's large Jewish population.
- 14) Barnet taxpayers pay more for each police officer than the residents of any other London borough.
  - a) For each police officer in Barnet, the Mayor of London charges our taxpayers approximately:
    - i) 25% more than Enfield's
    - ii) 40% more than Camden's

- iii) 50% more than Brent or Haringey's
  - iv) 69% more than Harrow's
- 15) The Mayor of London spends 26% more on PR and 82% on staffing than his predecessor.
- 16) The Metropolitan Police Force has been put into special measures under Sadiq Khan's leadership.

**Council believes that:**

1. The people of Barnet should feel safe in their borough, their neighbourhoods and their homes.
2. Increased police presence decreases the frequency of property-related crimes and antisocial behaviour and increase the success rate of prosecution for these crimes.
3. In order to make our residents feel safe, it is important that there is a visible police presence across the borough.
4. Currently Barnet is under-policed, and that emboldens criminals to attack and rob residents. Recent events in Barnet show that increased police presence is needed. As a geographically larger borough, lower numbers of officers have a direct impact on response times; currently Barnet taxpayers have 7% fewer officers than those of any other Council.
5. Serious and Violent crime and motor vehicle thefts continue in Barnet. The residents of Barnet need to feel safe at home, work and at recreation.
6. To give our residents their fair share of officers, the increases to the Metropolitan Police's budget should filter through to a significant increase in police numbers in Barnet.

**Council resolves to:**

- 1) call upon the current Labour Administration to support the Conservative's continued requests to the Labour Mayor of London to provide the Borough of Barnet with more Police.
- 2) Urge the Mayor of London to:
  - a) Improve police officer numbers in Barnet, giving our residents value for money in their policing.
  - b) Get a grip on crime, in Barnet and across London
  - c) Spend more money on policing in Barnet.
  - d) Support Community Safety Hubs, which were proposed by the previous Conservative administration.
  - e) Step aside and let someone else take over for the good of all Londoners and especially for Barnet residents if he cannot fulfil his duties

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