

## **Council 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

### **Administration motion in the name of Councillor Anne Hutton RAAC**

#### **Council Notes that:**

- Council Staff did an excellent job in ensuring that schools in Barnet were checked thoroughly for outdated Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) within days of Government informing schools on 31st August, in some cases only one full working day before the beginning on the School Term.
- Regrettably, the Government delayed informing schools of the crisis, even though officials first informed ministers of the need for action on the 21<sup>st</sup> August.
- If Schools had been informed on the 21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> August, this would have given a much greater lead in time to the start of the new term to deal with the crisis.
- The school affected in Barnet – Bishop Douglass – would have been revamped under Labour’s Building Schools for the Future Programme, as agreed by the then Conservative administration of Barnet, if it had not been cancelled by the subsequent Conservative-led Government
- That central government has communicated poorly throughout the RAAC crisis with local government, even as councils have many of the expertise needed to respond to situations such as this.

#### **Council Resolves to:**

- Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling up, Housing and Communities, to ask if there is a plan to deal with outdated RAAC in the wider public estate, and how the Government intends to communicate to and co-operate with councils in implementing that plan.
- Thank Council staff for their diligence and swift action in ensuring Barnet Schools were checked for outdated RAAC as quickly as possible.