

OUR BARNET

Barnet Alliance for Public Services

Summer 2012

THE BILLION POUND GAMBLE



**CAN THE PEOPLE
OF BARNET REALLY
AFFORD THE ONE
BARNET PROGRAMME?**

The One Barnet Programme

What it means and why it's wrong

Barnet Council is planning to award two contracts worth a total of £1billion over the next 10 years to private companies to deliver our public services. These services are essential to the running of the council. This is supposed to save the Council money, but these points suggest otherwise:

- 1.** One Barnet Programme private consultants will cost £23 million – equivalent to the cost of running 13 Children's Centres for the next 5 years.
- 2.** Barnet Council paid Catalyst, to which elderly care homes were privatised, £10.8 million for not making the profit Catalyst expected to make.
- 3.** Barnet Council gave a contract worth £25 million for our public parking service to NSL, which moved the administration of the service out of Barnet, thus potentially depriving Barnet residents of jobs.
- 4.** Between 2006 and 2011 Barnet Council paid security firm MetPro £1.3 million without carrying out basic security checks or having a proper contract. In March 2011 MetPro security guards prevented residents from exercising their democratic right to attend a council meeting.
- 5.** Aerodrome Road Bridge, built by the private sector, went £11 million over budget.

LEAVE

Local Power Gone

- 1.** Signing large contracts with private corporations ties Barnet Council's hands for the next 10 years.
- 2.** The companies will be self-monitoring, so the Council will not be aware of failures to deliver the required quality and will have little power to do anything about it.
- 3.** Freedom of Information does not apply to privatised services, making it difficult to establish facts.

**TOTAL COST: OUR SERVICES,
OUR FUTURE, OUR BARNET**

TAKE ACTION ... TAKE ACTION ... TAKE ACTION

You can stop the One Barnet Programme



**Join our call for a referendum by signing
'Our Barnet' Petition at BarnetAlliance.org**

**Attend the weekly Barnet Alliance for Public
Services meetings**



**Collect signatures on the enclosed petition
and**

**Join our text alert service with the TUC by
texting 'Our Barnet' and your postcode to
85515 (texts cost standard network rate)**



**Write a letter, email or meet one of your Councillors at their
monthly surgeries. Questions you could ask your councillors:**

- Will the council consult with the residents of Barnet about the One Barnet DRS and NCSO projects before they make a decision as to who to give these contracts?
 - If yes, when and how will residents be consulted?
- How will services change? Will I have a say on the options for change?
- What is the evidence that privatisation of this type has succeeded elsewhere?
- Have you see the business case for one Barnet and do you agree with it?
- How will the companies ensure equal access to services regardless of age, disability, race or gender?
- Will the council do a social economic & environmental assessment before giving the contact to the private sector contractor?
- Why won't the Cabinet meet with Unison and APSE to discuss an alternative to One Barnet

OUR BARNET NOT ONE BARNET

Barnet Council Services at risk

**FOR
SALE**

*Public Services
not Private Profits*

**Barnet Council is selling off
the following services:**

Trading Standards & Licensing,
Land Charges, Planning &
Development, Building Control
& Structures, Environmental Health,
Highways Strategy,

Highways ,Network Management,
Highways Traffic & Development,
Highways Transport & Regeneration,
Strategic Planning & Regeneration,
Hendon Cemetery & Crematoria;
Parking Services, Revenue and
Benefits Services,

Financial Services, Property
Services, Estates Services,
Social Care Direct,

Children's Services front line calls,
Health and Safety, Customer
Services,

Pension's Service. Legal Services,
Housing Services

BARNET ALLIANCE FOR PUBLIC SERVICES

We are an active, broad alliance of local residents and community organisations who want to stand up for effective, publicly owned and accountable public services in Barnet.

We believe that public services strengthen our community and should not suffer through privatisation or closure because of political ideology or the global banking crisis.

We have open meetings every Wednesday from 6pm at the Greek Cypriot Centre, Britannia Road, London N12 9RU. Please come and join us and if you want to know more email BarnetAlliance4PublicServices@gmail.com or see our website:

BarnetAlliance.org