



DRAFT Manifesto for Public Services in Barnet

The 2010 general election will deliver a government committed to cutting public services, in order, they say, to improve the national finances. We, on the other hand, believe that cuts in public services are something we cannot afford. We believe that well funded and fully staffed, democratically accountable public services, including housing, are the best way the majority has to ensure its own health, education and wellbeing.

Therefore, we will campaign to defend and extend provision across all public services in Barnet. We outline our vision below and also suggest ways to pay for the public services we need. We will use this manifesto in the run-up to the general and local elections as a benchmark to assess the proposed policies of the political parties, and as principles for our own political campaigning.

We reject the current media campaign which is placing the blame for the recession on public sector workers. The recession has been caused by the rampant, unchecked workings of the financial market; public services should not pay the price of bailing them out.

We reject and abhor the attacks by politicians from all three mainstream parties who are trying to compete with each other as to who will deliver the most savage cuts to public sector workers' pay, terms and conditions, and pensions, and to public services. Especially since these are the same parties whose politicians were found with their "snouts in the trough" during the expenses scandal only a few months ago.

We deplore the fact that with the ink barely dry on the cheque for billions of pounds of public money to bail out the banks, the banks are trying to justify bankers' bonuses again.

We reject the "public bad, private good" mantra coming from policy makers in government and from those who seek to form the next government.

We support high quality, public services, delivered by workers employed by public sector bodies.

We call for all PFI projects to be called in and re-assessed and for any monies saved to be put back directly into frontline services.

We call for all privatised services to be re-assessed and for any monies saved to be put back into frontline services.

We believe that the commitment and active participation of staff, trade unions and Barnet residents is essential to determining the future of the borough's public services.

We will work with the Public Sector bodies to respond to these challenges.

We will seek to ensure that:

- Services and jobs are kept in-house.
- Pay and conditions are maintained or improved.
- Workforce development and training, and career pathways, are available to all staff.
- There is equal access to training and promotion opportunities.
- There are no compulsory redundancies.
- There is no privatisation of public services.
- There is positive involvement of staff and trade unions in service reviews and managing change.
- There is additional investment in workforce development and training and developing career pathways.
- The commitment to equalities and improving the diversity of the workforce in relation to gender, ethnicity, disability, age and sexual orientation across the public sector is carried out.
- Levels and quality of public services are maintained and improved in consultation with residents.

Our message to central government is:

Social justice

We demand help for those facing redundancy, repossessions and poverty - not bonuses and tax cuts for millionaires and big business.

Good jobs

We demand environmentally sustainable and socially useful jobs, with decent pay and pensions and a strong union voice. **We** demand the repeal of the anti-trade union laws.

High quality public services

We demand an end to privatisation, and increased investment in democratically accountable public services including health, education and housing.

We call on the government to raise the funds needed to deliver this agenda for social justice by increasing taxation on the rich and big business who have pocketed the benefits of the pre-recession boom whilst seeking to avoid their responsibilities to contribute to a fair and just society.