

# Barnet staff



## Future Shape of the Council Programme

October 2008

### Frequently asked questions - Barnet Councillors

**Q. Have you informed the councillors?**

**A.** Yes, I sent all 6 Trade Union briefings to every Barnet Councillor and offered to meet with them. As a direct result of the trade unions raising concerns about the consultation process the Leader agreed to set up, as a matter of urgency, an all party group of Councillors including the trade unions to look at the Future Shape consultation process.

**Q. How many Councillors are there in Barnet?**

**A.** 63

**Q. How many are on the Cabinet Committee**

**A.** 10 councillors.

**Q. Who is on the Cabinet?**

**A.** Mike Freer – Chairman & Leader of the Council  
Fiona Bulmer, Melvin Cohen, Brian Coleman, Richard Cornelius  
Anthony Finn, Andrew Harper, Helen Hart, Lynne Hillan, Matthew Offord.

**Q. Do the remaining 53 councillors have a say?**

**A.** No, under the present system the Cabinet hold the decision making power.

**Q. Can we attend the 3 December Cabinet meeting?**

**A.** Yes, it is a public meeting. Make sure you attend. It is being held at Barnet House and starts at 7 pm.

**Q. Can Trade Unions speak at the Cabinet Committee**

**A.** No

**Q. Can members of the public speak at the Cabinet Committee**

**A.** Yes.

**Q. What is the procedure?**

**A.** The formal procedure for asking questions is set out in detail in the constitution. Here is a link to the relevant part, <http://www.barnet.gov.uk/cprules-4-section-publicparticipation.pdf>.

Anyone who lives or has a business in the borough may ask the Leader or Cabinet Member chairing the meeting of the Cabinet or Cabinet Committee, or Chairman of any committee, or sub-committee, a question on any matter within its terms of reference. Public questions may not be considered on any matter which has been the subject of a decision by the Council or any committee, or sub-committee in the previous six months, unless there has been a material change in the circumstances.

To make use of this facility the question must be sent to the Democratic Services Manager in writing (by post, hand, fax or email) by 10.00am on the 7th working day before the day of the meeting.

The Leader will reply to the question, and the questioner may then ask one supplementary question. Please note that questions must be asked and answered without discussion.

There's a separate facility for members of the public to speak to Cabinet at meetings. This is at the discretion of the Leader, who can issue invitations to address Cabinet upon application made to him. Any member of the public who wants to address Cabinet should therefore contact the Leader to request an invitation. This should be done by 10 am on the second working day before the day of the meeting. The Leader will usually impose a time limit on speeches and the speaker is normally asked to remain after speaking to answer any questions that Cabinet members may ask.

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