



Assurance Group
London Borough of Barnet,
2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale,
London NW9 4EW
25 October 2019
Our ref: 5705724

Thank you for your request received on 3 October 2019, for the following information:

Q1. Item 11: Creation of new post: Assistant Director - Capital Works

1. Why is it that as late as less than a day before the deadline for questions closes there is no publication of the report for this item, even though the exempt item is published? Why is this increasingly the case with politically sensitive reports, and how is this compliant with statutory obligations on publication?

2. Why is it necessary to create yet another senior post, what is the post's job description (fOI), what is the level of salary? How many Directors and Assistant Directors's posts will there now be, and what is the total cost of these posts to the public purse?

Q2. Item 9: Constitution Review

1. Appendix A, Article 2: Members of the Council 2.5, Allowances

As part of the Constitution Review, and being mindful of the need for financial prudence which has apparently driven the council to restrict questions by residents to committees, why is there no proposal to cut the allowance of Chairs of committees that do not meet for long periods of time, for example the Chair of Housing, a committee which for some reason, despite the current housing crisis, has not met for seven out of the last twelve months?

Q3. 2. Same Item Appendix B, Article 3, Residents and Public Participation

Questions to a Committee

A resident may ask one question per agenda item. A maximum of two questions from residents may be asked per agenda item. These will be accepted in order of receipt. Any additional questions received will be not be accepted.

How can questions be restricted to one per item, when that item, such as this one, Item 9, consists of several appendices, and multiple complex proposals?

Q4. Same Item Appendix C, Article 7 ' Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships

Why does the council persist in using non inclusive and gender specific terms such as 'Chairman' when the Chair of any committee may be a woman, or indeed a 'non binary' person? How is this compliant with an observation of equalities considerations? Will this issue be covered by the Constitution Review?

Q5 Same item. Appendix D, Full Council Procedure Rules
Annual Council Meeting

Does the proposed change here mean that the Deputy Mayor will now be elected, rather than appointed?

We have processed this request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Response

I can confirm that London Borough of Barnet holds some of the information you requested.

However, we consider that the following exemptions apply to some of the information requested. The remaining information is not withheld and is below.

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Further information

If you are interested in the data that the council holds you may wish to visit Open Barnet, the council's data portal. This brings together all our published datasets and other information of interest on one searchable database for anyone, anywhere to access. <http://open.barnet.gov.uk/>

Advice and Assistance : Direct Marketing

If you are a company that intends to use the names and contact details of council officers (or other officers) provided in this response for direct marketing, you need to be registered with the Information Commissioner to process personal data for this purpose. You must also check that the individual (whom you wish to contact for direct marketing purposes) is not registered with one of the Preference Services to prevent Direct Marketing. If they are you must adhere to this preference.

You must also ensure you comply with the Privacy Electronic and Communications Regulations (PECR). For more information follow this Link www.ico.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt the provision of council (and other) officer names and contact details under FOI does not give consent to receive direct marketing via any media and expressly does not constitute a 'soft opt-in' under PECR.

Your rights

If you are unhappy with the way your request for information has been handled, you can request a review within the next 40 working days by writing to the Information Management Team at: foi@barnet.gov.uk. Or by post to Information Management Team (FOI) London Borough of Barnet, 2 Bristol Avenue, Colindale, NW9 4EW

If, having exhausted our review procedure, you remain dissatisfied with the handling of your request or complaint, you will have a right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (telephone: 0303 123 1113; website www.ico.org.uk). There is no charge for making an appeal.