



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.

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?

This public question was responded to at the committee meeting and the response is available on the webpages for the meeting which can be found at:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=9855&Ver=4>

and:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/b33380/Public%20Questions%20and%20Responses%2007th-Oct-2019%2019.00%20Constitution%20and%20General%20Purposes%20Committee.pdf?T=9>

2. Why is it necessary to create yet another senior post, what is the level of salary?

We consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 21 (Information accessible by other means) applies to the information requested because the information requested is already reasonably accessible elsewhere. Please see formal refuse notice at the end of this response. The reason for creating the post is set out in the public report to the committee. See 'Why this report is needed' and 'Reasons for the recommendation'

Details of the meeting can be found at:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=9855&Ver=4>

The new AD for Capital Works was established at the Constitution and General Purposes Committee on 7th October 2019:

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=9855&Ver=4>

Director and Assistant Directors are listed in the Senior Management Restructure on 17th January with the exception of any created separately – e.g. AD for Capital Works and as part of Finance Restructure (also 7 October committee):

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s50825/Senior%20Management%20Restructure%20Final%20Published%20Amended%20JH.pdf>

What is the post's job description (fOI),

Not held- the JD is not yet finalised.

How many Directors and Assistant Directors' posts will there now be, and what is the total cost of these posts to the public purse?

Details of senior staff salaries can be found at

<https://open.barnet.gov.uk/dataset/london-borough-of-barnet---senior-staff-salaries>

Assistant Directors are Grade 6: £88,434 - £108,202 (with exception of AD for Service Delivery (Streetscene) which is a 7 (£74,460 - £83,640).

Assistant Directors: 15 including Deputy Chief Finance Officer

Directors: 10

Executive Directors: 3

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COMMUNITY&PERFORMANCE	ADULTS & HEALTH
DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE	ADULTS & HEALTH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ADULTS AND HEALTH	ADULTS & HEALTH
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JCU	ADULTS & HEALTH
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH & PREVENTION	ADULTS & HEALTH
DIRECTOR OF ASSURANCE	ASSURANCE
ASSIST DIRECTOR COMM SAFETY & REG SERV	ENVIRONMENT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GREENSPACES & LEISURE	ENVIRONMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT	ENVIRONMENT
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS	ENVIRONMENT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES	FAMILY SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL CARE	FAMILY SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR COMMISSIONING	FAMILY SERVICES
DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	FAMILY SERVICES
DIRECTOR CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE	FAMILY SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	FINANCE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	FINANCE
DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER	FINANCE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE	FINANCE
DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL AND ICT SERVICES	GROWTH & CORPORATE SERVICES
DIRECTOR OF GROWTH AND NEW BUILD	GROWTH & CORPORATE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ESTATES	SERVICES
DIRECTOR OF GROWTH	GROWTH & CORPORATE SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR _ CAPITAL WORKS	GROWTH & CORPORATE SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HR & OD	GROWTH & CORPORATE SERVICES
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR STRATEGY & COMMUNICAT	GROWTH & CORPORATE SERVICES
STREET SCENE DIRECTOR	STREETSCENE
ASSIST DIRECTOR STREET SCENE (SERV DEL)	STREETSCENE

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?

Full Council on 29 October 2019 are expected to merge the Housing Committee and Assets, Regeneration & Growth Committee and instead have a Housing & Growth Committee. This is expected to result in the savings of one Band 3 Senior Responsibility Allowance and one Band 1 Senior Responsibility Allowance.

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?

This is within the Constitution and General Purposes Committee meeting held on Tuesday 25th June. The agenda pack can be found at the following link: See Item 7, "why this report is needed"

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=174&MId=9854&Ver=4>

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?

No information held.

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?

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This public question was responded to at the committee meeting. The response is available on the webpages for the meeting which can be found at:

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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.