

Press Release
18th June 2021



Enfield's Labour Leader reshuffles failing Cabinet and abolishes the Public Health portfolio

Less than one month after Enfield Council's Annual Meeting when the Cabinet portfolios for the year were presented, Cllr Nesil Caliskan, current Leader of the Council, has engaged in a sudden cabinet reshuffle, which sees two cabinet members relegated to having more minor portfolios, whilst others receive beefed up positions.

The most notable losers are councillors Guney Dogan and Rick Jewell, whilst the big winners are the Deputy Leader Ian Barnes, Alev Cazimoglu and Mahtab Uddin.

However, most controversially, the standalone Public Health portfolio has been abolished.

Cllr Dogan has lost the Environment & Sustainability portfolio, which he has held for the last three years and, in its place, received a new portfolio 'Commercial Services', comprising leisure services, cemeteries, trading standards, food safety, building regulations and land charges.

Cllr Jewell has lost the Children's Services portfolio, which he held for the last two years, and instead received a watered-down Environment portfolio comprised of waste & recycling, street scene, parks, sports pitches, allotments, and flood management.

However, most notably, the Public Health portfolio, previously held by Cllr Uddin, has been abolished and subsumed into the Adult Social Care portfolio held by Cllr Cazimoglu, Cllr. Caliskan's mother, in what now appears to be a two-tier cabinet.

The other big winners are Cllr Barnes, responsible for the deeply unpopular Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, has now taken complete control of highways, traffic, transport & sustainable travel, whilst Cllr Uddin has now taken on the substantial Children's Services portfolio, which includes Safeguarding.

Cllr Dinah Barry, Leader of Community First, said: *'Cllr Caliskan appears to have simply rearranged the deck chairs on the Titanic, in order to create a two-tier cabinet.*

'However, what concerns me most, and I suspect Enfield residents, is the inexplicable and reckless decision to abolish the standalone Public Health portfolio during the pandemic and replace it with a dog's breakfast alternative named Commercial Services.

'What it suggests is that Cllr. Caliskan is more worried about the parlous financial position she has steered Enfield into than about the health of its people.'

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