



## **Full Council – 25 January 2010**

### **Motion selected for debate by Councillor Paul Lorber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

#### **Strangers into Citizens**

This Council:

- a) recognises the need to tighten UK borders;
- b) notes the GLA and LSE's assessment that 618,000 irregular migrants currently live and work in Britain, of whom 500,000 live in London;
- c) acknowledges the contribution of irregular migrants to our national economy and to our diverse local communities;
- d) notes that more than 69% of Brent's residents were born outside the UK;
- e) estimates that up to 20,000 irregular migrants are long-term residents of the borough of Brent;
- f) regrets that irregular migrants are not accounted for in the allocation of funding to Local Authorities;
- g) supports Citizens:UK's 'Strangers into Citizens' campaign for the one-off regularisation of long term migrants;
- h) notes the support of other local authorities for this campaign;
- i) encourages more Local Authorities to support the principles of the Strangers into Citizens campaign and urges the Government to adopt the Strangers into Citizens proposal for a 'pathway to citizenship': a work permit for migrants who have lived in the UK for more than a set period of time, following which they are granted 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' subject to an English test and positive references from an employer or person of standing in the community.