

# **BRENT FULL COUNCIL**

## **Motion in the name of Cllr Paul Lorber, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group and Cllr Harshadbhai Patel, Leader of the Conservative Group**

### **Saving Brent's Libraries**

This Council notes:

- The massive support from local people across Brent for the campaign to save local libraries, as evidenced by local activities and the petitions presented to Brent Council.
- The alternative proposals made by local groups to save local libraries in response to the limited options agreed by the Executive as part of their 'Library Transformation' proposals.
- The willingness of local people to volunteer to help keep their local library open.
- That between 2006 and 2010 all existing (12) local libraries were kept open and received increased investment with a view to shared services and activities.

This Council resolves to:

- Support local community groups in their attempts to save their local library.
- Implement efficiency savings in the head office and support functions, the costs of which are currently recharged to local libraries (including the costs of ICT, stock purchases and development).
- Continue the programme of expanding shared use of library buildings and encouraging their use on days when the library building is closed.
- Expand library opening hours with the help of local volunteers while encouraging complementary activities.
- Provide financial support for those libraries where a viable business case has been made and where an effective local community group has shown a willingness to working partnership with the Council to deliver an efficient and community based library service.
- To recommend to the Executive to find additional efficiency savings from the central overheads of the library service and to allocate sufficient resources from the reserves to enable a proper community libraries plan to be developed.