

Appendix 2 - Poverty Commission Feedback on the Interest Free Loan Proposal

- 1.1 A draft of the interest-free loans proposal was submitted to members of the Brent Poverty Commission in May 2020 for consideration.
- 1.2 Below is a summary of the key themes of feedback received from representatives. The feedback received was considered when developing the proposal further.
 - An interest free loan scheme in Brent is welcomed
 - There is a clear demand for this type of support in Brent
 - This would be a particularly beneficial form of support for those residents who have been furloughed and are fortunate enough to have jobs to return to and may have built up debts during the pandemic
 - A loan period of longer than 12 months would be beneficial for those residents who have larger debts and would otherwise struggle to pay of loan whilst managing their other monthly payments (such as rent and utility bills)
 - The offer of money management advice is an integral part of the proposal and will be beneficial in helping residents determine the most suitable routes for financial support and ensuring that they can access the full range of support available to them
 - A financial assessment is crucial in determining that residents don't borrow more than they need and they are able to make loan repayments
 - The Council should carefully consider the steps it would take to recover money owed if a resident failed to make a loan repayment